



Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties

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TAC Meeting of the Palouse RTPO Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MINUTES – meeting held via ZOOM

1. **Welcome – Call to Order/Introductions.** Mark Storey (Whitman County), Sean Wells (City of Pullman), Russ Pelleberg (Asotin County), Shawn Turpin (Garfield County), Charlene Kay (WSDOT, Regional Administrator), Phil Nugent (WSDOT), Greg Figg (WSDOT), Rebecca Couch (Palouse RTPO).
2. **Approval of meeting minutes from August 27, 2024.** Sean moved to approve. Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **2411 AMENDED Palouse RTPO RTIP 2024-2029.** Sean moved to approve. Phil seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Palouse RTIP has been updated with the following September STIP Amendments. There were no August or October STIP Amendments for Palouse RTPO agencies. TAC is asked to review and recommend for adoption by Policy Board.

- City of Pullman
 - addition of WA-16277 Arterial Streets Resurfacing 2026
 - WSDOT – South Central
 - addition of 501217W07 US 12/Turner Rd Vicinity to Messner Rd Vicinity – Chip Seal
4. **Scope of Work for Pullman/Whitman Freight Alternatives Study.** Rebecca introduced Melissa Cleveland with Welch Comer, explaining that following the formal RFQ process, Welch Comer was selected by the Technical Advisory Group for this project. Melissa presented the draft Scope of Work. Mark commented that the RTPO should have a list of freight contacts from previous projects that they could provide to Welch Comer. Char asked about using miovision cameras for corridor or intersection data. Melissa responded that cameras would not be used due to the timeframe of the project and need for data outside of project dates. Char suggested that Jim Mahugh with WSDOT may have useful data with commodity flows for this area with his work on the LSRD study. Whitman County (Mark) commented that the county restricts loads on bridges during winter months, so data collected during the winter season wouldn't be accurate for this study. Char asked if elements of cost could be brought in earlier in the study schedule (and brought to the TAG) as it could influence community/stakeholder input. Mark commented that Whitman County had no requested additions for the scope and they are satisfied with the proposed fee. Mark emphasized that the study must keep focus on practical solutions. Sean motioned to approve the scope of work as presented and recommend approval to the Policy Board. Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **RTPO Director Comments.** Rebecca reminded folks to complete survey #2 for the Rural Transportation Factors study. LCVMPPO administration by Rebecca/Palouse RTPO is in full swing, taking effect October 1, 2024.

6. **Member comments relative to the RTPO**

a. **Project Updates from Member Agencies.** Sean informed that Pullman was awarded \$348,664 in TIB funds for Orchard Valley Road. Main Street in Pullman opened about 2 weeks ago following major downtown revitalization/infrastructure project. Char informed that WSDOT is in a period of transition, state budget is facing a \$10-12 billion shortfall. Revenue stream has been reducing due to change in patterns, less gas being used, cost escalation. As a result, WSDOT is pausing all projects, has implemented a soft hiring freeze (does not include seasonal maintenance staff), new Secretary of Transportation in January. WSDOT has begun celebrating safety/maintenance projects in alignment with goals to increase safety and achieve Target Zero Mission.

b. **General Comments for the Good of the Order.** Nothing further.

7. **Adjourn – next meeting scheduled for February 25, 2025.** Adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

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