

**MEETING of the  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD**

**May 11, 2000**

**Puget Sound Regional Council, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Councilmember Richard McIver, Chair.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Councilmember McIver announced that Gretchen Hawkins will be leaving the Regional Council and moving to Arizona. He then presented Ms. Hawkins with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her assistance with the Policy Board.

Councilmember McIver noted that later in the meeting, Commissioner Aubrey Davis would provide an update on the work of the Transportation Pricing Task Force, and King Cushman would review the process that the Board will undertake over the next few months to authorize the release of the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan/SEPA document.

He also drew attention to an updated copy of the Policy Board Topic List through December 2000.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no communications or citizen comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were proposed for action:

- a. Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting Held April 13, 2000
- b. Routine Amendment to the 1998-2000 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Plan Certifications:
  - Certification of Local Plan Amendments for Cities of Snohomish, Bellevue and Bothell; and
  - Information on Local Plan Amendments for Mercer Island

**ACTION: Commissioner George Kargianis moved and it was seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **RECOMMEND APPOINTMENT OF JOHN WYNNE TO TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS COMMITTEE**

Karen Richter reviewed the purpose and composition of the Transportation Enhancements Committee (TEC) which was established by the Transportation Policy Board in 1992. Noting that appointments to the TEC are made by the Policy Board, she requested approval of the appointment of Mr. John Wynne to the TEC, replacing Mr. Travis Reed. Mr. Wynne is Chairman of the Snohomish-Arlington Trail Coalition, and has a strong background in several categories of the transportation enhancements program.

Nancy Keith, Chair of the TEC, noted that the Committee has needed someone from Snohomish County for two years, and expressed her opinion that “Mr. Wynne is an ideal candidate.”

**ACTION: Councilmember Dave Earling moved and Commissioner George Kargianis seconded to approve the appointment of John Wynne to the Transportation Enhancements Committee.**

## **2001 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE**

*(Councilmember McIver noted that Agenda Item 6b would be presented prior to 6a)*

## **MTP OUTLINE AND PROCESS FOR RELEASING DRAFT MTP/SEPA DOCUMENT IN JULY 2000**

Councilmember McIver briefly reviewed the MTP/SEPA outline at members' places. He explained that Chapters 1 and 2 had been discussed in past meetings, and suggested any questions on these chapters be directed to staff after the meeting. He also reviewed the three alternatives contained in Chapter 3 as follows:

- Alternative #1 - **Current Financing** - “A future with no new money” – the worst case alternative;
- Alternative #2 - **Current Metropolitan Transportation Plan** - “Current MTP as adopted in 1995 and extended to 2030”; and
- Alternative #3 - **Modified Metropolitan Transportation Plan** - “New and Improved MTP.” This alternative will be discussed further in June and July, and is to be released for a public review in August.

Referring to the *Transportation Policy Board Agenda Topics - June through December 2000*, King Cushman explained that this new schedule outlined the major steps needed for the adoption of the MTP document. He emphasized that members are not being asked to “approve or disapprove” the contents of the document for its release in August, but to agree that the document contains a good array of choices for public review.

Mr. Cushman reviewed a series of six topics which require continued analysis for a Draft MTP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document. These six topics are listed below:

1. **System management** - Looks at the total regional transportation system.
2. **Growth management** - Deals with the “demand side” of the transportation equation.
3. **Transit Station Development** - Looks at design and development guidelines around transit station areas.
4. **Demand Management** - Prioritization of Transportation Demand Management programs.
5. **Capacity Expansion** - Looks at strategic investments for the community.
6. **Finance** - Options for short- and long-term funding principles.

Commissioner Kargianis commented on the important role of ferry service improvements in the Puget Sound region.

Responding to a question from Senator Ken Jacobsen, Mr. Cushman said that public distribution of the document includes the Regional Council's normal distribution list – approximately 8,000 local officials, citizens, and jurisdictions. The document will also appear on the Regional Council's web page. He also noted that a public relations firm has been hired to assist the Regional Council in getting information out to the public.

Councilmember McIver suggested that staff give an MTP presentation to the City of Seattle's Transportation Committee. Mayor Dick Taylor suggested involving schools, Parent-Teacher Associations, senior citizens, etc.

Councilmember Doug Miller noted that the Tacoma City Council established a network of “neighborhood councils” and suggested this as a way to get the message out to the individual councils then out to the citizens. Commissioner Botkin, working with the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council, welcomed input on putting together a strategy on how to deal with the passenger-only ferry issue.

King Cushman suggested staff could brief the Policy Board on the ferry system later this summer.

## **UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION PRICING TASK FORCE WORK**

Commissioner Aubrey Davis addressed the Board on the work of the Transportation Pricing Task Force. He noted that “our major ongoing problem with our transportation system is that supply and demand are imbalanced, particularly in peak periods.”

The major points of Commissioner Davis' presentation were:

- Our present tax-based system isn't working;
- Peak period hours of delay will triple between 1998 and 2030;
- Due to the passage of Initiative 695, the estimated 2020 shortfall for all planned system needs is approximately \$25 billion;
- Our region currently spends \$26 billion annually on transportation, counting all public and private expenditures;
- Our present finance system encourages us to use our transportation system without regard to the cost that use imposes;
- Other states and countries are moving toward pricing reform that seeks a greater connection between use of the system and costs;

- The Task Force is looking at measuring and costs for public review to determine what is reasonable;
- Analysis is being done on testing broad pricing approaches and will be presented in two to three months;
- The Task Force's goal is to achieve public and political support for preferred market approaches.

Commissioner Davis said the draft of the third pricing paper should be available this summer and opened the floor for discussion.

Councilmember Linda Bird said that “the public *perceives* that transportation costs too much, and that our system is more expensive than in other parts of the country.” Commissioner Davis responded that this perception is a large part of our problem and the Blue Ribbon Panel is studying this issue.

Councilmember Maggi Fimia noted that the “U Pass” program at the University of Washington and New York's MTA system are both positive examples of programs that work. Matthew Kitchen explained the process of modeling assumptions in response to a question about how the Regional Council is quantifying the pricing analysis.

Councilmember Chris Vance asked, “How do we know when we have public support?” He said he “looks forward to a real debate” on the subject.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Transportation Policy Board meeting will be Thursday, June 8, 2000, with a Transportation Policy Board business meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., followed immediately by a joint meeting with the Growth Management Policy Board from 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**MEETING of the  
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**May 11, 2000**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

**Councilmember Richard McIver, City of Seattle,  
Chair**

David Allen, Transportation Choices Coalition  
Councilmember Linda Bird,  
Pierce County Cities & Towns  
Commissioner Tim Botkin, Kitsap County  
Councilmember Pam Carter,  
King Co. Cities & Towns (Alt.)  
Councilmember Mike Creighton,  
Metropolitan Center - Bellevue  
Barbara Culp, Bicycle Alliance of Washington  
Commissioner Aubrey Davis,  
WA State Transportation Commission  
Councilmember Dave Earling,  
Snohomish County Cities & Towns  
Councilmember Maggi Fimia, King County  
Councilmember Mark Foutch,  
Thurston Regional Planning Council  
Steve Gorcester, Regional Staff Committee  
Richard Hayes, Kitsap Transit  
Senator Ken Jacobsen,  
Legislative Transportation Commission  
Commissioner George Kargianis,  
WA State Transportation Commission  
Nancy Keith, Transportation Enhancements Committee  
Helena Kennedy Smith, WSDOT - OUM  
Omar Meyhar, Transportation Improvement Board  
Councilmember Doug Miller,  
Metropolitan Center - Tacoma  
Councilmember Bob Overstreet,  
Metropolitan Center - Everett  
Mayor Dick Taylor, King County Cities & Towns  
Councilmember Chris Vance, King County  
Mayor Jim White, King County Cities & Towns

**alternate present)**

Councilmember Carol Arends,  
Metropolitan Center -Bremerton  
Senator Jim Horn, Legislative Transportation Committee  
Councilmember Rick Larsen, Snohomish County  
\*Councilmember Linda Montgomery,  
King County Cities & Towns  
\*Secretary Sid Morrison, Department of Transportation  
Councilmember Harold Moss, Pierce County  
Representative Ed Murray,  
Legislative Transportation Committee  
Commissioner Clare Nordquist, Ports Representative  
\*Councilmember Dale Pope,  
Metropolitan Center - Everett  
Representative Renee Radcliff,  
Legislative Transportation Committee  
Councilmember Heidi Wills, City of Seattle

**GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT for all or part of  
the meeting**

(As determined by signatures on Attendance Sheet)

Kim Becklund, City of Bellevue  
Ralph Cipriani, PSRC  
King Cushman, PSRC  
Gretchen Hawkins, PSRC  
Nathaniel Jones, Pierce Transit  
Matthew Kitchen PSRC  
Paul W. Locke, Citizen  
Karen Richter, PSRC  
Ed Switaj, City of Seattle  
Mike Wong, King County

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**MEMBERS ABSENT (\*jurisdiction member or**