



Chelan County Transportation Element Update

Meeting Notes

Steering Committee Meeting #1

March 7, 2008 • 12:00 – 2:30 pm

Attendees

Connie Krueger Leavenworth Community Development Director

Dave Honsinger WSDOT / Planning Manager

Jon Pascal Transpo

Larry Toedtli Transpo

Marcia Wagoner ReadWagoner

Michael Read ReadWagoner

Greg Pezoldt Chelan County Public Works Director

John Guenther Chelan County Community Development Director

Buell Hawkins Chelan County Commissioner

General Project Update

Jon provided an update on recent meetings Transpo initiated with steering committee members and County staff to discuss project needs and available data.

- Transpo met with Leavenworth to discuss their needs. Now tasked with preparing a scope of work for the Transportation Plan update. Also will include a one-page proposal to complete the City's regional trails plan.
- Transpo met with WVTC staff to understand the issues they have heard about in each community. Also reviewed various data that is available from WVTC such as traffic counts, level of service analysis, and high accident locations.
- Transpo met with LINK to discuss data needs and general information about the transit system. A data request will be sent to LINK again to obtain the necessary information.
- Transpo met with Greg to identify locations in which intersection and roadway traffic counts are needed. Each area of the County was reviewed and specific locations were marked on a map. Transpo will summarize the locations in a list and also prepare a map. These locations will be cross-checked with counts that are already available.
- ReadWagoner met with County staff to discuss communications to stakeholders and the public, and also about developing the project web site.

Data Collection

Jon provided an update on the information that is still needed in order to continue moving forward with the project. Generally Transpo has much of the information that was originally requested in late January.

- The traffic count program is the critical path. The County will begin collecting roadway traffic counts as discussed with Greg. Transpo will coordinate with WVTC to collect needed intersection turning movements.
- Transpo submitted a request to Leavenworth to obtain more information on the Titus Road study and buildable lands analysis.

- The County will provide updated copies of the most recent County roadway design standards.
- The County to provide a copy of the old Cashmere to Wenatchee route study.
- The County to provide copies of recent traffic impact analyses, such as the developments in the Malaga area performed by TENW.
- Transpo to review the land use information submitted by the County and set-up a conference call with planning staff to discuss the data and any remaining needs.

Public Involvement Plan

The steering committee discussed the public involvement plan.

- It was agreed that a final copy of the public involvement plan can be released. Additional members for the stakeholder group and potential audiences for the speaker's bureau will be noted.
- The County will begin contacting groups and stakeholders that should be invited to participate in the process and which were identified at the SAG meeting.
- The County will assemble a schedule of speaker's bureau presentations based on the groups identified at the SAG meeting.
- The web site will be running in approximately two weeks with the meeting minutes and materials posted to the site.
- The SAG identified a potential public involvement strategy using an online survey. ReadWagoner informed the group that it can add great value to the project, but was not included in the scope of work. Preparing meaningful questions and then processing the information that is received are often the time consuming parts. It was agreed that the County would look into an online survey or comment form. ReadWagoner would review the visioning conducted by WVTC in 2004 to understand if there was anything that could be gained from it.
- The WSDOT communications officer could be used as a resource.
- The Commissioner's radio programs could announce the meetings and other relevant information.
- The transportation plan for Leavenworth will likely include separate press releases and public meetings.
- The public meetings will be in Wenatchee.
- Potential separate meetings also could be held in Chelan as part of another contract.

Review of Goals and Policies

Jon provided an overview of Transpo's efforts to update and revise the transportation goals and policies. A handout was provided that summarized the major changes and included the revised goals and policies. The steering committee members and consultant team had the following comments:

- John wanted the implementation section expanded. He will provide an example of what he is looking for.
- Safety should likely be the highest priority for transportation funding.
- Should mention how UGA issues will be a partnership between the County and Cities.
- Consistency with roadway standards. There are some roadways that could be narrowed without jeopardizing safety to maintain the rural feel.
- The term sustainable should be included somewhere.
- Access to the water should be part of the non-motorized policies.
- Implementation should focus on cost sharing, annexations, and identification of cumulative impacts.
- Needs to be a goal that includes coordination with all modes of travel.
- Discussion about voluntary SEPA mitigation requirements as a funding strategy for County and WSDOT needs.

- Public outreach programs for implementing and updating the plan should be included.
- Level of service standards will need to be reviewed and updated as part of the Plan.

Summary of the Main Themes

Larry summarized the issues that the group heard at the SAG meeting into seven main themes.

1. UGA transportation issues (connectivity within neighborhoods, facility needs for all users, safety, impacts of growth, etc.).
2. Multi-modal connectivity between communities and the need for alternative routes.
3. Connectivity between travel modes.
4. Future impacts from land use growth and increased economic development.
5. The function of the state highways and how they act as the backbone to the County transportation system - within rural areas, in the transition areas near cities, and within the cities.
6. The identification and prioritization of new transportation infrastructure countywide for all modes of travel – safety, road standards, capacity.
7. How impacts are measured and how projects are implemented. What is a deficiency? How do we fund the projects?

Next Steps

The meeting dates for the public meeting and next round of stakeholder and steering committee meetings were discussed. It was agreed that the public meeting would be held on May 28th from 4 to 7 and the stakeholder and steering committee meetings would be on the following day (May 29th). The meetings would be in Wenatchee and the County would reserve a room large enough to accommodate 30 to 40 people.