PRTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 15, 2021 | 10:00 – 12:00

Remote meeting via Zoom
Login found on Agenda Page 2

10:00	**Chair's Welcome and Introductions**	
10:10 – 10:15	**Approval of Agenda** **Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2021 *(Attachment)***	ACTION *Chair Clark-Getzin*
10:15 – 11:00	**Olympic Discovery Trail – Potential for USBRS Designation *(Attachment)*** *The TAC will discuss a proposal to designate the Olympic Discovery Trail as a part of the US Bike Route System, the other system connections also being considered, what it would take to get designated, and how that work could get done. The Board will be briefed on this in August with an outline of what support, if any, PRTPO might be able to contribute to the effort.*	DISCUSSION *Thera Black, PRTPO Coordinator* *Brian Wood, WSDOT Active Transportation*
11:00 – 11:05	**2022-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program** *Development of the 2022-2027 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is underway. This is an update on the six-year RTIP development process and coordination needs, the schedule for completion, and answers to member questions.*	BRIEFING *Edward Coviello, PRTPO Coordinator*
11:05 – 11:15	**Coordinator Updates on Work Program Activities** *This is a quick check-in on recent work program and discussion items: status update on the electric vehicle inventory and follow-up work in May and June; 2021 FGTS update; and follow-up to the TAC discussion in May about sharing safety planning resources and experience.*	BRIEFING *Thera Black, PRTPO Coordinator*
11:15 – 11:30	**Member Updates** *This is a chance to share information with colleagues about activities of interest.*	DISCUSSION *All*
11:30 – 12:00	**Local Programs Overview of Project Management with FHWA Funds** *This is a training opportunity from Local Programs – Olympic Region to support local agencies using FHWA funds. Bryan Dias will be joined by Brian Moorehead and Bob Berg to cover key points of the obligation and project management process. This training is of primary interest to city and county staff. TAC members are welcome to invite colleagues to join this part of the meeting.*	TRAINING *Bryan Dias, Local Programs Engineer with Bob Berg and Brian Moorehead*
12:00	**ADJOURN**	

Remote Zoom Meeting Information

PRTPO TAC Meeting – Zoom Login

Join Zoom Meeting

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PENINSULA RTPO

PRTPO.org

Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization

TAC Meeting Summary

Meeting Location:

Remote Meeting via Zoom software per Washington Governors order #20-28-15 of the Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act

An audio recording of the meeting is available upon request

May 20, 2021

Attendees

Technical Advisory Committee Member

Bek Ashby, Port Orchard and EB Chair
Wendy Clark-Getzin, Jefferson County and TAC Chair
Chris Hammer, City of Port Orchard
Chris Grewell, Lower Elwha Tribe
Jayme Brooke, Jefferson Transit
Dennis Engel, WSDOT Olympic Region
Ted Jackson, Port of Allyn
Sara Crouch, Jefferson Transit
Steve Gray, Clallam County
Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit
Melissa Mohr, Kitsap County
Annette Nesse, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Mike Oliver, Clallam Transit
Chris Hartman, Port of Port Angeles
Marty Allen, Skokomish Tribe
Michael Pegarsch, Skokomish Tribe
Ken Gill, City of Shelton
Laura Parsons, City of Port Townsend

Staff/Guests

Thera Black, PRTPO Coordinator
Edward Coviello, PRTPO Coordinator
Michael Cardwell, Quinault Indian Nation
Elizabeth Safsten, WSDOT Public Transportation
John Pope, WA Coordinator USBRS

Welcome & Introductions

TAC Chair Wendy Clark-Getzin opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and initiated self-introductions.

Approval of the May 20th 2021 TAC Agenda and the January 21st TAC Meeting Minutes

The TAC approved, with a motion and seconded.

Draft SFY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program Obligation Status Check-in for TAP Projects

The draft UPWP identifies work PRTPO will undertake over the 2022 and 2023 state fiscal years (July 1 – June 30). The Board considered the attached draft work program in April. The TAC is asked to help refine needs described in Appendix A and offer other suggestions on the work program before recommending the Board approve it in June.

Thera gave an overview and Steve grey provided a comment about the GHG item and the level of detail in the scope does not match the 15k provided. Wendy noted the participation of Jefferson County in the process along with Clallam County. She noted that Transportation is the main culprit of GHG contributions. Ken noted the regional safety assessment item. He noted that Shelton is doing this next year to help receive funding for projects from the State. He noted that assembling crash data is the first step. Michael Cardwell explained that this is an important task to help members gather the data needed to improve conditions including on the tribal lands. Some of the data gaps between the tribe and the state could be cleared up with this work. This will help focus on specific road segments. Projects could be simple or innovative at a low cost. The RTPO can be a platform to share this information. Wendy noted that the data can be presented in GIS to help the entire region. Thera asked if the UPWP is on the right track. Sara explained that there is a need to work on the transit system as identified in the UPWP. She noted that the UPWP is well built. Wendy thanked Thera for including the HSTP work into the local transit agencies to engage the human services providers. Ken sent information about the road safety plan process for distribution to the TAC. Wendy noted that connections outside the region need to be improved for transit. It would help us work better with neighboring RTPOs. Thera noted that they are working with the Grays Harbor RTPO on this and always looking to collaborate with other regions. Olympic Region noted that they do not want to set safety expectations without clear study. Melissa noted an issue in the scope. It was noted. PRTPO will look into it. Wendy had the TAC vote and it passed with member Lillie motioning and seconded by member Gill.

US Bike Route System Overview

Over the next two meetings TAC members will discuss a proposal to designate the Olympic Discovery Trail as a part of the US Bike Route System, or USBRS. This first meeting provides members with an overview of the USBRS: what it is, why it matters, and how designations are made. This is important background for the TAC discussion in July about efforts related to the Olympic Discovery Trail and PRTPO's role in that decision. She noted that this is the first step in possibly adding further work on this matter into the UPWP.

Thera introduced John Pope and John then presented to the TAC an overview of the US Bike Route System and the potential designation of the Olympic Discovery Trail. The slides are available on the

PRTPO website. Michael Cardwell explained that an opportunity as Native Sovereign Nations to expand the system to for example to get out to Makah, or get around Lake Quinault. The PRTPO can gain national status by the designation and even international investment through tourism. Mr. Cardwell asked if there is work with WSDOT and their scenic routes to the USBRS. He also expressed some safety concerns.

Federal Funding Target Delivery – Check-in on TA and Other Programs

Thera gave a status update for the four Transportation Alternative Projects regarding obligation. The Port Angeles Race Street project obligated. Also, there is now an August 1st deadline for obligation. Even for those outside MPO Regions. Steve Gray gave an update on the Clallam County project and that it will be submitted to be obligated in June. Chair Clark-Getzin offered an update on the Rhody Drive project and that they are on a path towards obligation this summer before August 1st. Jamestown S'Klallam's project is moving forward and that the funds have been transferred from FHWA to BIA and that should complete the obligation. The next Transportation Alternatives call for projects will be in the spring of 2022.

Update on EV Inventory Work

Coordinator Black provided an overview of the study being conducted for the PRTPO Region and requested to members asking to provide an inventory of known studies, policies. Etc. The firm DKS will be providing support and presenting to the Executive Board in June. The aim of the study efforts is to improve the readiness of the Region as the electric vehicle market heats up. The PRTPO website has a list of resources available. Chair Clark-Getzin asked for a bio for the consultant onto the PRTPO website. This will provide background on the project lead as they have extensive experience in EV work.

Freight and Goods Transportation System Update

The PRTPO is asking jurisdictions to review their freight routes from 2019 and provide needed updates to PRTPO staff. If any of the route data is incorrect, please let the staff know. This will be important for future grant requests to improve freight mobility. The WSDOT is asking for the data by the end of June as they update their network. This also includes Kitsap County as it is normally under the Puget Sound Regional Council. The PRTPO Board will be updated but does not require approval. PRTPO staff will provide assistance to members.

RTIP/STIP Update

Next amendment for the STIP is due by June 18th Please submit RTIP and STIP amendments to Edward Coviello at edwardc@kitsaptransit.com . The 2022-2027 RTIP projects are due to PRTPO on August 1st.

Chair Cark-Getzin asking about the importance of the RTIP and the upcoming RTP work. A question was asked about how the Tribes use the RTIP and the PRTPO staff offered assistance to the members on adding projects to the RTIP or to STIP.

Member Updates and Adjourn

Elizabeth gave an overview of the State Management Review – for civil rights and CARES act funding.

Chair Clark-Getzin closed the meeting at 12:00 Noon.

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: PRTPO Technical Advisory Committee
From: Thera Black, PRTPO Coordinator
Date: July 8, 2021
Subject: **Olympic Discovery Trail – Potential for USBRS Designation**

REQUESTED ACTION

No action is requested but input from the TAC discussion will inform the Executive Board discussion and direction in August.

Overview

In May the TAC learned about the US Bike Route System (USBRS) and state interests in designating the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) as a part of that system. This discussion will dive into details associated with the designation process. The aim is to develop an understanding of how that designation process works, who would carry out the different activities to obtain designation, and the schedule for completion. From that we would like to gage the interest of members in pursuing USBRS designation. In August, the Board will get a briefing on the proposed designation and will discuss what role, if any, PRTPO should play in that process.

The WSDOT Active Transportation Program is interested in USBRS designation and has been involved in high-level discussions about statewide route connectivity with different groups across the state. The attached map depicts the actual and conceptual routes envisioned for the state. That includes an interconnected system that creates a loop around the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas. The ODT is but one part of that system; additional routes would need to be identified.

Designation itself does not have a cost associated with it nor does it impose any additional liabilities on agencies that own any of these facilities. USBRS designation does not entail any special design standards or signage requirements though it may open doors to some new funding opportunities.

According to WSDOT, routes do not need to be trails or dedicated facilities. Just like the ODT includes segments of state highways where a dedicated trail is not yet available, the USBRS includes many routes on state highways and local streets and roads. Route designations can be changed over time as new facilities come online that may be better suited to non-motorized travel than existing highways and streets.

While WSDOT is interested in seeing these designations made, its role is limited to submitting the formal request to AASHTO; WSDOT does not lead the route identification effort. Designation requires initiative from the owners/operators to identify specific routes and get regional support for designation. That is why this TAC discussion is so important.

How specific route connections would be identified is up to the agencies. Likely it would tap the interest and expertise of bike or trail advocacy groups like the Peninsula Trail Coalition. WSDOT's ATP at Headquarters as well as Olympic Region are logical stakeholders in this effort. Potential routes should be safe and minimize unprotected crossings of busy streets and highways, but there is not a set playbook for designation. Agencies have great latitude in identifying routes that make sense from a system-user and community perspective.

The ODT is not a suitable candidate for either USBR 97 or USBR 40 designation without connecting routes linking it to the bigger statewide system. What is the level of interest at the local level in evaluating potential routes and making recommendations on route designation?

Our understanding is that WSDOT would want a formal recommendation from PRTPO by next April requesting designation of the identified routes before proceeding with AASHTO on final designation procedures. Beyond that it is not clear what support PRTPO can provide in the route evaluation and process due to budget constraints. PRTPO does not have resources to lead a coordinated route evaluation and identification effort.

Brian Wood from WSDOT's Active Transportation Program will attend to talk about the designation process, what to consider when identifying specific routes, schedule, and any questions the TAC may have. Brian worked with the Island RTPO and John Pope in getting the USBR 97 route designated on Whidbey Island and brings that experience to this discussion. He is an avid cyclist with useful insights about route considerations and the value of USBRS designation.

We scheduled extra time to enable TAC members to talk about USBRS designation in general to understand what it entails as well as specific facility considerations for one or more priority USBR routes. This may align with other local planning activities, which would be useful information to consider. The goal is to get a sense of the effort this would entail and the level of interest in pursuing USBRS designation for the Olympic Discovery Trail and connecting facilities.

Next Steps

In August we will brief the Board about the designation opportunity and general interest in pursuing designation of one or more routes, as well as any viable activities PRTPO can undertake to support this effort. Board approval is necessary before we can commit PRTPO resources to support local efforts.

Attachment:

WA State USBRS Concept Map

For More Information:

Thera Black | 360.878.0353 | TheraB@PeninsulaRTPO.org

United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS): Existing and Proposed Routes in Washington State

