The Island RTPO Policy Board met in the Island County Commissioners Hearing Room on April 23, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Chair Johnson.

Note: To listen to the audio recording of this meeting, go to the Island RTPO web page at: http://www.islandcounty.net/publicworks/SkagitIslandRTPO.asp. Click on "meeting recordings."

Approval of the February 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Chair Johnson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Price Johnson moved to approve the minutes, with Bob Clay seconding. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Draft 2015 SIRTPO Unified Planning & Work Program (UPWP)
Kevin Murphy attended the meeting to discuss the draft UPWP, which is a document that spells out the roles, work tasks, organizational structure and funding sources for the Skagit MPO and the Skagit-Island RTPO. He explained that most of the work items and budget amounts shown in the work program are consistent with prior years’ work programs. One noteworthy new item in the 2015 work program includes a rail crossing study in Mt. Vernon.
Proposed Surface Transportation Program (STP) schedule
Doug explained that the most recent STP call for projects resulted in enough projects to meet this years’ obligation target, but that another call will soon be required in order to develop a multi-year workplan. He asked that the board direct him to issue a call for STP projects immediately following the May 28th meeting. This will allow the board to approve the project list in August, and enable the projects to be included in the 2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

STIP Amendments
Doug outlined this month’s STIP amendments. Island County’s New County Road project was updated to reflect the STP funds that were recently awarded. Projects selected for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) were also updated to reflect the recent funding awards. These projects are Oak Harbor’s Waterfront Trail repair, Oak Harbor’s Whidbey Avenue Pedestrian Crossing, and Island County’s South Whidbey Bicycle Route.

Draft Letter of Support for Mukilteo Ferry Terminal Parking Feasibility Study
The board discussed sending a letter to Sound Transit to request the agency initiate a planned parking feasibility study as part of the Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal Project. Commissioner Price Johnson moved to approve sending the letter, with Bob Clay seconding. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Items
Doug shared a copy of a new scenic tour document that was developed as part of the four-county Historic Roads Historic Context report.

Todd Carlson told the group a bit about the new interim director of Washington State Ferries, Captain George A. Capacci.

Lastly Doug let the board know about the current call for grant applications through WSDOT’s Pedestrian and Bicycle program. The Clinton Community Council has asked the county to apply for the grant to obtain funding to develop a number of projects that could ultimately be constructed in phases as other funding opportunities allow. Doug asked that the board act as the project sponsor in order to increase the competitiveness of the application. Todd also offered to provide a letter from WSDOT’s Northwest Region Office in support of the application. Chair Johnson expressed concern that this agenda item was not included until the last minute, and therefore did not have sufficient opportunity for public notice. Commissioner Price Johnson made a motion to authorize Doug to begin work on the application, with Bob Clay seconding. Chair Johnson and Mayor Dudley opposed. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: May 28, 2014