

TTPO Meeting Minutes October 9, 2009

1. **Welcome/Introductions**

TTPO Chairman, Kirk Vinish, greeted the attendees and introduced Mel Sheldon, Tulalip Chairman and Bill Shelton, Chair of the Tulalip Planning Commission. On behalf of the Tulalip Tribe, Chairman Sheldon welcomed the TTPO.

TTPO Chairman, Kirk Vinish called for approval of the July 21, 2009 TTPO meeting minutes. Motion by Michael Cardwell, second by Jim Longley. Motion carried.

2. **Tulalip Tribes Transportation Activities**

- *Tribal Transit*

Mark Hamilton noted that there are \$17 million in ARRA transit funds available for capital acquisitions. Tulalip applied for regular transit and ARRA in order to expand existing transit service to the new administration facility, the outlet mall and to Tribal residences. Three 14 passenger vehicles were requested to increase service but not duplicate other community transit service routes. This free transit service serves the 8000 Tribal and non-Tribal residents living on the reservation. Mark shared a PowerPoint tour of the new administration facility.

- *TIGER Grant*

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant is a national competitive grant that is meant to fund large transportation projects. It requires a 25 page application that must be submitted electronically. Michael Cardwell reported that Tulalip is requesting \$43.1 million for the 116th Street interchange improvement project.

- *New Fuel Station/Gas Tax*

Michael Cardwell announced that the new Tulalip gas station is scheduled to open on October 12, 2009.

3. **How Washington American Planning Association (APA) can assist the TTPO**

Scott Greenberg, APA, took the lead in explaining how the APA might work with the TTPO. APA is interested in working with Tribal planners and indeed shares common planning goals with TTPO and Tribes: land use, housing, transportation, environment, economic development, and social services. They offer valuable services to APA members including lobbying, profession planner's certification,

and a technical assistance newsletter. Scott encouraged members of the TTPO to join the APA.

Jill Sterrett, APA, presented a PowerPoint on best sustainable management practices called for Washington State called "Sustainable WA 2009: Planning for Climate Change". She noted that the climate committee sustainability initiative is intended to raise planner's awareness of sustainability re: climate change and developing web based documents addressing actions planners can take to address climate change.

Paula Reeves, APA and a member of the WSDOT staff, spoke about the Community Planning Assist Team (CPAT). CPAT is a pro bono specialty planning team which provides assistance by request. This team works with a community's existing planning resources in order to meet identified needs. Assistance is generally provided within rural counties/areas. For more information contact Paula, Reeves@wsdot.wa.gov (360) 705-7258, or visit the APA website.

Nancy Eklund and Anna Nelson, APA, provided information about APA membership. The organization is divided into several levels, national, state and sections and anyone can belong. The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the professional arm with education and experience criteria including a code of ethics. CEU's available and are now required to maintain a certain number of credits to remain AICP certified.

For more information regarding the APA, please visit their website at www.apa-washington.org.

4. Cascade Land Conservancy – Allison Van Gorp (allisonv@cascadeland.org)

Allison Van Gorp, Cascade Land Conservancy, spoke to the group about land conservations efforts. The Conservancy has, to date, negotiated to conserve over 100,000 acres. Another 1.3 million acres of farm, forest and park lands are targeted for conservation. She stressed that traditional funding sources are insufficient and that new strategies for conserving critical parcels need to be explored.

5. TTPO Business Discussion – TTPO Officers

- Officers Report

1. Recap of Meeting with WSDOT Secretary Hammond – On October 7, 2009 the TTPO Officers met with Secretary Hammond and her staff in Olympia. The hour long meeting included discussion about TTPO's interaction and communication with WSDOT, coordinated with the

TTPO re: the transportation bill reauthorization, the TTPO work plan, FHWA Roadway Safety Audits and a “thank you” for WSDOT’s ability to rehire Megan Nicodemus. (See hand-out, Summary of October 7, 2009 Meeting with Secretary Hammond”).

2. The WSDOT handbook titled “How to Work with Tribes in your Region” is being developed as a guide for MPO’s and RTPO’s.
3. ATNI Transportation Committee Meeting - Richard Rolland reported that the IRR allocation formula revisions were discussed at the last ATNI meeting. 25 CFR, developed in 1994, begs the question, “Are all IRR transportation facilities in the IRR inventory counted in the CTC...?” No - only Tribal and BIA owned roads generate at funding at 100%. State and county roads only generate funds based on the jurisdictions match requirements (WA state = 13%). Richard urged that ATNI advance recommendations to the BIA that are best for Tribes nationwide, not just northwest tribes. This topic will be addressed next week at NCAI – TTPO supports including all roads in the BIA – IRR inventory

- TTPO Lobbying Rules I

Julie Rodwell, WSDOT, is developing ethics rules for RTPO’s/MPO’s. The TTPO needs to be aware of these rules if federal funds are accepted by TTPO. The rules will strictly apply to state employees. WSDOT received funding from FHWA which it uses to grant to Tribes. Julie is gathering questions and will be researching the answers to include in a “white paper” to distribute to MPO’s/RTOP’s/TTPO.

- Using Tribal Fuel Tax Funds for TTPO Expenses

Jim Longley, Nisqually, asked how can we use existing and/or future fuel tax revenues to support the TTPO? To-date Nisqually has contributed \$2,000.00 to help pay for meeting expenses for this meeting at the Tulalip resort facility. The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe pledged \$2,500 for fiscal year 2010 expenses. The next step is to develop a budget based on the work plan.

Colleen Jollie volunteered to take the lead on preparing the application to the WA State Secretary of State Office to establish the TTPO as a professional association in WA State. Jim Longley stressed that transportation planners need to be “in the mix” regarding the details of the gas tax revenues so that it can be budgeted for planning, TTPO support, etc. He asked the group “what is your Tribal process for accessing that money?” Greig Arnold suggested that a letter from the TTPO go out to all Tribes in Washington State asking them to consider providing a portion of their fuel tax funds to support TTPO activities.

- Funding the TTPO

Kirk Vinish, Lummi, asked “What other means can the TTPO employ to generate funding to support operations?” Registration fees for our monthly meetings may be a viable option to consider. Megan Nicodemus suggested that we use Survey Monkey to poll the TTPO membership to gauge how much people would be willing to pay. Julie Rodwell, Megan Nicodemus, Casey Stevens and Jonathon Ciesla volunteered to conduct the survey before our next meeting and present the results for discussion.

Additionally, both Casey and Kirk stated that they are including support for TTPO in their 2010 budgets.

6. How TTPO can better serve Indian Country Panel Discussion

Tabled

7. US Census/American Indian Data

Tobi Iverson and W. Duane Wakan, both Tribal Partnership Specialists with the US Census Bureau, presented information on the 2010 Census efforts and outreach to Tribes. Historically tribes have been the most under counted group of the “hard to count” groups. Census 2000 identified 4.1 American Indian/Alaska Natives by “self identification” on the census count (2.5 with AIAN heritage alone and 1.6 million AIAN heritage combined with other). Even with the efforts of the Census Bureau to improve count efficiency Tribes remain significantly under counted by approximately 6-20%. In 2008 the Census Bureau acknowledged government to government relations and has adopted an AIAN policy. The Census Bureau website, <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>, contains messages that can be shared with Tribal citizens regarding the importance of participating in the census count. The 2010 census date is scheduled to be released sometime in 2011. The Consolidated Federal Funds Report is a Census Bureau report that explains how federal funds are spent and can be accessed at www.2.census.gov/govs/cffr. The NWTTAP at Eastern Washington University offers a census planning course.

7. Announcements

• National Transportation Conference - November 16-19, 2009

This year’s National Transportation Conference takes place in Phoenix, Arizona from November 16 -19, 2009. The final agenda will be available by October 12, 2009.

• Tribal/State Conference - Oct 2010

Megan Cotton, WSDOT, is working with a group of WSDOT staff and Tribal representatives to plan the 2010 Tribal/State Conference. The goal is to have the 2010 conference in the NW region. Megan requested email input on venue

priorities. A survey is being developed to help determine the conference location preferences. This survey should be available within the next month.

- **Transportation Symposium – April 19-22, 2010**

More information pending.

9. **Good of the Order**

- Don Chartak – WSDOT Transit – invited a member of the TTPO to participate in the Federal Opportunities Work Group. Casey Stevens expressed interest in serving as the TTPO representative.
- Thank you Michael Cardwell for coordinating the conference facilities and to Jim Longley for contributing the funds to pay for meeting costs!

In 2007 the TTPO, at the annual Tribal/State Conference, raised \$1,000 to contribute to Evergreen State College's "Joseph Delacruz, Sr. Scholarship Fund" for Tribal planners. At the 2010 Tribal/State Conference the raffle prizes will include: a grand prize - Tlingit Throw Blanket; 2nd prize ceramic Rio Grande wastebasket and 3rd prize a Chief's crib blanket

- Next meeting - January 27, 2010 at WH Pacific offices in Olympia. It was noted that the following locations can be considered for future meetings:
Federal Lands Highways – Vancouver, WA
Neah Bay - Makah – Spring/Summer 2010
Kalispel – Summer 2010
Quileute – Fall 2010

Motion by Jim Longley to choose a meeting location that can accommodate teleconferencing so that those who can't attend the meeting in person can call and participate in the meeting. Second by Michael Cardwell. Motion carries.

The Salish-Kootenai Tribe produced a video called "The Rez We Live On" which documents how Tribal nations operate. It is a good resource for those unfamiliar with Tribes.

- **Adjourn**

Motion by Tom Washington, to adjourn. Second by Michael Cardwell. Motion carries.

