



Washington State Transportation Commission

Edmonds Meeting Summary

April 16 & 17, 2024

April 16, 2024

Chair Debbie Young opened the meeting at 1 p.m. with introductions by Commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 2:

Local Welcome

Presenters:

- Mike Rosen, Mayor, City of Edmonds
- Ken Klein, Executive Director, Snohomish County

Mayor Mike Rosen gave an overview of transportation in the City of Edmonds, a multimodal hub with connections for trains, ferries, boats, and cars. Transportation is one of government's highest priorities, and in Edmonds, concerns exist over maintenance and preservation of roads, the ability to keep road users safe, and the transportation system's impact on the environment. Cities and regions will have to join with innovators in Washington state to find solutions to pressing problems. Ken Klein highlighted Snohomish County's Paine Field Airport as playing a large role in the future of transportation in the county as well as the first light rail station opening in the county in Lynnwood in August.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 2, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:42, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 3:

Transportation Update

Presenters:

- Reema Griffith, Executive Director, Washington State Transportation Commission
- Carl See, Deputy Director, Washington State Transportation Commission
- Paula Reeves, Senior Policy Analyst, Washington State Transportation Commission

- Aaron Halbert, Financial Analyst, Washington State Transportation Commission

The Washington State Transportation Commission staff provided an overview of the state transportation system, funding structure, and key Commission roles.

Presentation: [Transportation Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:11:44, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 4: Regional Transportation: The Big Picture

Presenter:

- Josh Brown, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council

Josh Brown gave an overview of growth and economic trends in the Central Puget Sound region covered by the Puget Sound Regional Council (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties). Job growth and air travel indicators demonstrate a speedier economic recovery for the region post-pandemic compared with other large cities. The construction of new housing is struggling to keep up with population growth, and multi-family housing makes up the bulk (72 percent) of the new housing constructed in the region since 2018. Transit ridership is still recovering, with light rail and ferry ridership faring better than buses and other modes dependent on workers returning to major employment centers. The region continues to be noted for the number of those who walk to work, and transportation decarbonization is assisted by a rising number of electric vehicle purchases and a continued reduction in vehicle miles traveled. PSRC is working with member governments through federal Safe Streets for All grants to address troubling traffic deaths, particularly in rural areas and on reservations.

Presentation: [Puget Sound Regional Council](#)

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:40:35, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 5: City of Edmonds: Transportation Challenges and Successes

Presenters:

- Oscar Antillon, Public Works Director, City of Edmonds
- Rob English, City Engineer, City of Edmonds
- Bertrand Hauss, Capital Programs Manager, City of Edmonds

Oscar Antillon, Rob English and Bertrand Hauss shared two planned improvement projects in the City of Edmonds: revitalizing a 2.5-mile corridor of Highway 99 in the city and adding adaptive signal management to State Route 104. The Highway 99 revitalization project aims to make the corridor more friendly for pedestrians and bicyclists and increase the potential for housing and mixed-use development. Additions during recently completed stages include center raised medians with trees and artwork, a traffic control signal that allows for protected pedestrian crossings, and city gateway signage. Proposed improvements for future stages include “Complete Streets” improvements, additional turn lanes to add capacity and reduce emissions through reduced intersection delays, and utility work. The SR 104 project will implement adaptive signal control for five signals within a nearly 2-mile stretch of the state highway. A traffic management center at the city’s public works building will adapt timing of the signals to improve traffic flows and manage vehicles, particularly during WSDOT ferry unloading. \$4.4 million in funding for the project has not yet been secured.

Presentation: [City of Edmonds](#)

For more detail on agenda item 5, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:36:12, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 6: The Future of Regional Transit

Presenters:

- Ric Ilgenfritz, Chief Executive Officer, Community Transit
- Don Billen, Executive Director, Planning, Environment, and Project Development, Sound Transit

Don Billen discussed the current and future service of Sound Transit. The current system includes two link light rail lines, two Sounder trains and 24 express buses that operate on regional freeway corridors. Voter-approved funding will enable the system to eventually expand to five light-rail lines, add stations and coverage for the Sounder train system, and introduce three Stride bus rapid transit lines on Interstate 405 and State Route 522. Two new light rail segments will come online in 2024 (South Bellevue to Redmond and Lynnwood to Northgate). Ric Ilgenfritz shared how Community Transit is leveraging the regional investment in light rail. The new Swift Orange Line forms a bus rapid transit network with the Swift Blue and Green lines and will be the core of transit service, connecting to the new light rail segment in Lynnwood. Changes to service with the new Lynnwood station will reduce routes, with a focus on higher frequency. Both transit agencies are working on plans to utilize 100 percent battery-electric buses, with Community Transit also working to deploy hydrogen fuel cell buses as part of its zero-emission fleet.

Presentations: [Sound Transit](#)
[Community Transit](#)

For more detail on agenda item 6, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:04:42, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 7: Snohomish County Transportation Needs

Presenter:

- Kelly Snyder, Public Works Director, Snohomish County

Kelly Snyder shared ongoing efforts to work with regional partners on transportation projects. Countywide priority projects are those that help facilitate the movement of workers to jobs at growing industrial and economic centers in different parts of the county, and funding must come through a combination of state and federal sources. Tolling could also be a source of funding, particularly for a second express toll lane on I-405 from the Brickyard to Interstate 5 and for the trestle replacement on US 2 from Lake Stevens to Everett. Among the recently completed projects that were highlighted was the Little Bear Creek Advance Mitigation Site that restored wetlands and stream habitat and that will compensate for impacts associated with future roadway projects. \$152 million in construction projects are funded in the 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Presentation: [Snohomish County Transportation Needs](#)

For more detail on agenda item 7, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:00:00, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Chair Debbie Young reminded the Commission that the meeting will continue Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and recessed the meeting.

DAY 2: April 17, 2024

Chair Debbie Young opened the meeting at 9 a.m. with introductions by Commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 9: Commission Business

- March Meeting Summary
- Appoint alternates to the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee – ACTION

Presenter:

- Carl See, Deputy Director, Washington State Transportation Commission

Commissioners approved the March meeting virtual meeting summary for posting and distribution.

Carl See explained that alternates to the two Commissioners serving on the Interstate 5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee are needed to fill in if there is a scheduling conflict during the meetings or if are otherwise unable to attend. Commissioner Nicole Grant has been nominated as an alternate to Commissioner Roy Jennings, and Commissioner JC Baldwin and been nominated as an alternate to Commissioner Jim Restucci.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 9, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:01:15, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: Commissioner Restucci moved to approve Commissioners Grant and Baldwin as alternates for the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee; Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Commissioners Grant and Baldwin excused.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 10: Transportation Support for Port Operations

Presenters:

- Angela Harris, Executive Director, Port of Edmonds
- Lisa Lefebber, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Everett

Angela Harris gave an overview of the Port of Edmonds, a transportation hub encompassing Amtrak, ferry, bus service and State Highway 104. The port makes up almost half of the Edmonds waterfront and supports recreation and commercial businesses. A project to reconstruct the port's boardwalk and seawall will improve waterfront access for the public, provide flood protection and resiliency, and set the stage to support electrification. Lisa Lefebber discussed the Port of Everett, the third-largest container port in the state and the largest public marina on the West Coast. An effort is underway to expand the port's boundaries to encompass all of Snohomish County (excluding the Port

of Edmonds) to expand its tax base and bonding capacity. Operating revenues have been invested in the Port of Everett Seaport to meet growing demand. The seaport supports military cargo, containers, breakbulk, bulk, energy, and rolling goods. The upgrades will support electrification and future shore power. The port is also investing in its recreational waterfront properties to draw tourists and visitors to restaurants and other businesses.

Presentations: [Port of Edmonds](#)
[Port of Everett](#)

For more detail on agenda item 10, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:07:13, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 11: Economic Development in Edmonds and Snohomish County

Presenters:

- Rashma Agarwal, Vice President of Global Affairs, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County
- Todd Tatum, Director, Economic Development Department, City of Edmonds

Rashma Agarwal gave an economic snapshot of Snohomish County, a county that supports a diversity of businesses in both urban and rural areas. Business sectors include manufacturing, international trade, aerospace and aviation, the military and higher education. Those moving both east-west and north-south to access business centers in different areas of the county create pressure on the transportation system. Existing infrastructure supports transportation connectivity (ports, airports, rail, ferries), and the addition of light rail in Snohomish County will improve connections to and from Seattle and King County. Investments in transportation infrastructure in the county are needed as the county's population and economy grows. Todd Tatum discussed the City of Edmonds becoming the state's first "Creative District," which highlights the city's arts assets to drive tourism to the city. A concentration of "creative economy" workers also contributes to the city's economic base, and the city is looking to position itself to draw more residents who work from home. Work on the city's Comprehensive Plan Update aims to direct growth in a way that increases access to transit.

Presentation: [Economic Alliance of Snohomish County](#)

For more detail on agenda item 11, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:41:05, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 12: Regional Airport Growth and Development

Presenters:

- Dawson Frank, Deputy Director, Operations, Paine Field Airport
- Pete McGuire, Deputy Director, Business, Engineering, Maintenance, Paine Field Airport

Dawson Frank shared work done to update the Airport Master Plan for the Paine Field Airport and plans for future development of roads, parking, airfield improvements and expansion of the existing terminal. Total capital investments for improvements through 2040 are estimated at \$313 million, and funding sources are the Federal Aviation Administration, local airport funds and private, third parties. The planned route for light rail will bring riders to the entrance of Paine Field Airport. Pete McGuire shared details about Paine Field Airport's economic impact, which is larger than Seattle-Tacoma International Airport thanks in part to Boeing and other businesses on site. The airport is working on a partnership with Washington State University to host a research and development center for sustainable aviation fuels, with money in the Move Ahead Washington funding package dedicated to the effort.

Presentation: [Seattle Paine Field International Airport](#)

For more detail on agenda item 12, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:22:00, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 13: Tribal Transportation Challenges and Successes

Presenters:

- Ryan Miller, Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs, Tulalip Tribes
- Andrew Gobin, Treaty Rights Manager, Tulalip Tribes

Ryan Miller and Andrew Gobin discussed tribal sovereignty in the context of transportation and how that sovereignty influences the tribe's involvement on projects spearheaded by the county, state and other governmental partners. Collectively, tribes are the largest employer in the state and their gaming operations provide economic development for adjacent counties and cities. Congestion on roads leading to those operations can hinder economic development, and partnerships between tribes and local and state governments are important to overcome traffic challenges. Tribes need to be at the table to ensure their treaty rights are accounted for when planning new transportation projects.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 13, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:54:15, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 14:

Washington State Department of Transportation Regional Overview

Presenter:

- Robin Mayhew, Northwest Region, Assistant Regional Administrator, Washington State Department of Transportation

Robin Mayhew gave an overview of WSDOT’s Northwest Region (Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Snohomish and King counties) and an update of construction projects in Snohomish County. Work planned in 2024-25 includes fish barrier removal, widening, bridge maintenance and repair, and intersection improvement at points throughout the county. In addition, WSDOT is working on a planning study to be completed in 2025 for the US 2 Trestle that examines capacity improvements and a westbound replacement. Work on Interstate 5 from downtown Seattle to Northgate begins in the fall and includes rehabilitation to pavement, joints, drainage and the bridge deck of the Ship Canal Bridge. The work will extend to 2027. Out of 179 fish passages in Snohomish County, 15 have been corrected and 129 remain to be corrected.

Presentation: [WSDOT Northwest Region Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 14, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:32:32, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 15:

Public Comment

Phillip Hoyt — Mr. Hoyt reported on his visit to the Washington State Transportation Commission office in Olympia on Feb. 21.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 15, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 03:00:02, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 16:

Commission Business

Commissioners shared the following reflections and recommendations from the meeting:

- A highlight of the visit to the area was seeing the Lynnwood light rail station and learning all the ways it will be a transit hub for the region when it opens later this year.

- Hearing from the representatives of the Tulalip Tribes was informative, and it's imperative to learn how to bring members of all the 29 federally recognized tribes to the table as well as publicize opportunities for tribal representation on state commissions.
- It was exciting to hear about the infrastructure upgrades going on at the Port of Edmonds and the Port of Everett and how Paine Field is planning for growth to its operations.
- It's good to see that the regional partners – Edmonds and other cities, along with Snohomish County – are coordinating their plans as they manage growth challenges in the area and work toward innovative solutions.
- The City of Edmonds and other regional cities have ambitious plans for transit-accessible neighborhoods, gentrifying traffic-centered corridors. The economic sectors in the region are reliant on the ability to move freight easily. A balance must be struck.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 16, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 03:05:17, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m.

The next meeting will be held virtually on May 15 & 16, 2024.