MINUTES - Regular Meeting

Thurston County Planning Commission
Wednesday, May 3, 2000
County Courthouse Complex
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Building 1 - Room 152
Olympia, Washington  98502

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Bower, followed by introductions of Planning Commission members.

   a. Attendance

      Members Present:  Leo Deatherage, Bob Bower, Tom Cole, Peggy Paradise, Janet Reiner, and Liz Lyman
      Members Absent:  Brian Fagernes, e.j. Curry and Barbara Frost
      Staff Present:  Fred Knostman, Jennifer Hayes, Sandy Norton

   b. Approval of Agenda

      The agenda was approved as submitted.

   c. Approval of Minutes

      April 19, 2000 minutes:

      **Commissioner Deatherage moved, seconded by Commissioner Paradise to approve the minutes for April 19, 2000. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Reiner abstaining due to being absent.**

      Commissioner Bower requested a summary of the issues being discussed and type of change being asked for to be included in the minutes.

2. Public Communications

None.
3. **Briefing: Transportation Funding**

Ms. Hayes introduced Thera Black from Thurston County Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to talk about the ongoing development of our regional transportation funding strategy. Ms. Black gave a brief background of TRPC. Ms. Black stated that she is staff to the Planning Council for which is made up of elective representatives from all of the Cities, Towns, County, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Intercity Transit, the Port, School Districts, and Timberline Regional Library. Thurston County representative for the Planning Council is Judy Wilson. Ms. Black stated that TRPC works on a wide range of issues that the policy makers direct them to work on. Ms. Black stated that transportation is important to the planning council. Ms. Black also stated that transportation is not the type of government service that lends itself to jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction work programs. TRPC gives all the jurisdictions a forum in which to collaborate on different issues.

Ms. Black gave an overview of the items to be discussed, including: background of transportation funding, funding strategies being worked on, problems we are trying to address as a region, and where we are in the process. Ms. Black stated that one of the most pressing issues for TRPC is transportation finance. Ms. Black stated that a few years ago TRPC adopted a regional transportation plan that guides the work done at the County and cities. This plan gives direction on where we are going to go in the next 20 years as a region to make sure that what happens in one jurisdiction makes sense relative to what is going on in the next jurisdiction. One of the things that came out of the regional transportation plan is recognition that what we say we want as a region is going to cost a lot more in revenue (245 million dollars - pre I-695) then we have. Ms. Black stated that in order to continue to receive federal money for transportation programs for projects we have throughout the region, a transportation finance strategy needs to be prepared. Ms. Black also stated that by law the Region must say how we are going to close that funding gap.

Ms. Black handed out three items of information. Those three items are as follows:

1. Fact sheet titled “Intercity Transit, Impacts of I-695" dated February 15, 2000 which outlined a comparison of Intercity Transits revenue, operating expense budget, transit service, ridership -- boardings per year, and Intercity Transit fleet size prior to I-695 being adopted and after the passage of I-695.

2. Regional Transportation Finance; Evaluation of Draft Funding Packages; ISSUES LOG dated April 6, 2000. This 45 page handout outlines next steps and major messages, funding package costs, funding package revenues, package development concepts, communication, and other issues and comments.

3. Handout tilted AGUIDE to Financing the Regional Transpiration Plan@ dated October 7, 1999 which is divided into three sections. This first section of this document summarize the regional transportation plan costs, revenues, and gaps. The second section explains revenue compendium, and the third section is the appendices which identifies transit funding, developer fee mechanisms, privately funded transportation projects, roadway costs, update
on the 1998 transportation plan cost estimates, funding anatomy of a road project, grant game, and recommended resources.

Ms. Black discussed the regional transportation funding strategies, 2000 - 2007 funding gaps, funding alternatives, and summarized some transportation needs considered for funding packages based upon the information that was made part of the Planning Commission agenda package.

Ms. Black, Mr. Knostman, Ms. Hayes, and the Planning Commission engaged in a discussion about the above mentioned items and about transportation priorities - regional road projects, public transportation, locally identified projects, and inter-urban bike corridors. Other items discussed were needs vs. wants, and what is good and what is not good in terms of transportation. Ms. Black developed an outline of the Planning Commission ideas and suggestions (attached). Ms. Black assured the Commission that she would create a summary of Commissioners= input to add to the development of the funding strategy.

4. Planning Commission and Staff Updates

Ms. Hayes asked the Planning Commission if they had any questions regarding the changes/revisions to the Development Regulation Amendments outlined in the April 24, 2000 Memorandum to the Planning Commission. These changes/revisions were suggestions from the April 19, 2000 regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting. Commissioners had no questions.

Mr. Knostman gave a brief update on the Growth Hearings Board for Cooper Point Appeal. Mr. Knostman stated the Growth Hearings Board heard their first oral arguments today, May 3, 2000, which concerned a motion from the County to dismiss the appeal. Mr. Knostman also stated that the Growth Hearings Board indicated they should have a written decision on the dismissal request on May 4, 2000. Mr. Knostman and Ms. Hayes indicated that the Planning Commission would be notified of the decision in the next Planning Commission mailing. Mr. Knostman stated that if the Growth Hearings Board does not dismiss the appeal then the next set of oral presentations/arguments would be June 13, 2000.

Commissioner Lyman asked if the appeal was dismissed what other avenues do they have? Mr. Knostman responded by saying they could probably appeal to Superior Court during the allotted appeal period. Mr. Knostman also stated that a number of permit applications would need to be filed by Water and Waste Management to do the actual construction of things so if they are wanting to slow down the process they could appeal those permits.
Commissioner Cole asked where the County monies are generated from if the County loses a suit. Mr. Knostman replied by saying the County is self insured. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Cole asked about the Thurston County Landfill and the class action suit. Mr. Knostman stated that before the Board on Monday May 3, 2000 there was a request by the Prosecuting Attorney to have a Senior Deputy Prosecutor be full-time on this case and hire another Prosecuting Attorney and support person on a temporary basis to work on other cases. They would only be on the County payroll until the lawsuit is settled.

5. Calendar (Tentative)

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2000.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Bob Bower, Chair