



## Meeting Summary

**Project Name:** QUADCO Regional Transportation Plan Update

**Meeting Date and Location:** October 14, 2014; Ellensburg

**Meeting Description:** Stakeholder meeting

### Meeting Attendees:

Jan Ollivier, Kittitas County  
Doug D'Houndt, Kittitas County  
Derek Mayo, City of Ellensburg  
Paul Gonseth, WSDOT  
Kell McAboy, SCJ Alliance

*Contact: Kell McAboy, SCJ Alliance 360.352.1465*

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Kell McAboy welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending the first of four QUADCO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update meetings.

### **Background and Plan Update**

Kell gave a brief overview of QUADCO, its members and the RTP update. Kittitas County is the current lead agency, and the plan will be updated in-house by Jan Ollivier. The expectation is that the plan will be updated and adopted by June 2015.

### **Vision and Goals**

Kell discussed the vision and goals of the plan, which are consistent with the state and are intended to guide local agencies in determining regionally significant transportation improvements when developing their six-year transportation improvement programs (TIP).

### **Regional Transportation Network**

Kell discussed the regional transportation network as including at a minimum, all state-owned facilities including roads, rail, airfields and trails.

Jan described the regional network as required by the RCW: 1. Crosses member county lines. 2. Is or will be used by a significant number of people who live or work outside of the county in which the facility, service, or project is located. 3. Significant impacts are expected in more than one county. 4. Potentially adverse impacts of the facility, service, program, or project can be better avoided or



mitigated through adherence to regional policies. 5. Transportation needs addressed by a project have been identified by the regional transportation planning process and the remedy is deemed to have regional significance. 6. Provides for system continuity.

### **Regionally Significant Projects**

Doug brought up Colockum Road, a gravel road that travels northeast out of Ellensburg to Wenatchee. If this road was paved it would add needed redundancy to the system.

Paul added that one of the outcomes of the RTP update could be to include Colockum Road as needing a planning corridor study to provide planning-level cost estimates to determine feasibility.

Paul talked generally about including a section on planning studies needed in the region. What are the overall growth needs of the region compared with the current system network?

Paul asked about the industry of recreation and the opportunities that forest service lands provide, not only for logging, but also recreation. He also mentioned the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) as a funding source for roads.

Jan mentioned that the City of Cle Elum has had interest in the past on providing another crossing over the Yakima River, but did not know if that is still a priority.

Paul stated that WSDOT is looking for additional park and ride lots to add capacity to I-90. Kittitas County has several thousand people that commute west to Seattle and south to Yakima. Where WSDOT owns the property, it can be used as leverage for grant match requirements.

Derek talked about the West Ellensburg Interchange roundabout as a regionally significant project.

### **Website**

Kell discussed that SCJ Alliance will be developing an independent website for QUADCO to be hosted with the State of Washington through their EZ View web service. She asked what information should be shared on the site.

Include the following:

- Current and past plans
- Call-for-projects
- Project status reports
- Links to member Counties, Cities and Towns, Economic Development Councils, Chambers of Commerce, MRSC

It was cautioned to not let the site get old, outdated and cluttered. Keep it simple. Put up the basics.

### **Survey**



Kell talked about the draft survey and its intent to be distributed broadly. The information collected should inform the update of the plan, therefore it is important that we are asking the right questions. Kell will send out an updated link to the draft survey next week for feedback.

### **Open Houses**

Kell talked about holding an Open House in late winter, early spring, once a draft plan is ready for public release. There will be one public Open House, or alternative in each county. Alternatives identified included tagging onto existing events like council/chamber meetings or:

- Fairs
- Art walks
- Community events that have booth space
- Homebuilders show at the Kittitas fairgrounds

It was discussed to have the County Commissioner/QUADCO Chair, Obie O'Brien talk about the event on KXLE talk-show radio.

### **Closing**

Paul stressed the importance of identifying regional needs and shortfalls.

Paul asked if Kittitas is experiencing complaints regarding increased rail traffic with the sending of empties eastbound (coal/oil cars). Neither Jan nor Doug have heard any discussion about it. Derek mentioned that Ellensburg consistently gets complaints about the timing to West Ellensburg due to train blockages, but nothing more than usual.

END OF MINUTES