

BOUNDARY AREA TRANSPORTATION TEAM

MEETING NOTES/MINUTES

March 29, 2017

Voting Members in Attendance: Clint Kimball-Boundary County; David Sims-City of Bonners Ferry; John Nelson-City of Moyie Springs; Don Davis-Kootenai Tribe of Idaho; William Roberson-ITD; Marion Johnson-SPOT.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Commissioner Walt Kirby, Chair; Renee Nelson, Secretary.

Others in Attendance: Susan Kiebert-LHTAC; Ken Blockhan, Jr.-BC Public Library Trustee; Stephen Howlett; Mike Meier-BC Emergency Management Director; Patrick Conro-HMH Engineering; Ree Brannon-NRCS; Cassie Olson-Boundary Soil Conservation; Erik Olson; George Eskridge-Former Legislature.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Walt Kirby at 1:30 pm at the Bonners Ferry Visitor Center.

1. **New Business**

Bill Roberson-ITD informed members that the 129,000K comment period ends March 30, 2017; final decision after April 16, 2017. There is a meeting on March 30, 2017 on the 129,000K at the City of Moyie Springs City Hall. Mc Arthur Lake Project has been approved through the Strategic Initiatives Program for FY2022. The project will widen the bridge, possibly provide an animal crossing, shoulder work, and straighten the curve. It is estimated to be \$6.9 million project. Echo Drive project MP 515 constructed in 2017 mill and overlay project. FY18 seal coat has been advanced, will go to bid. Boundary County at Bonner County line to MP 505.36 and then a gap and start again at MP 515 to MP 521 almost MP 522 has also been added. The process for Emergency funding for Federal Aid Routes with damage will be with Bill Roberson, ITD District 1, as a point of contact, then forwarded to Mel Colter at ITD who will send to Federal Highways Administration. Jurisdictions should make roadway safe to pass and then will bring back up to standard. Estimates are to meet Federal Aid Standards.

Susan Kiebert-LHTAC discussed the 129,00K rule and the upcoming meeting with the City of Moyie Springs regarding approved routes, formal comment period, concerns for lowered speed and signage. Senate Bill 1141 for \$52 million appropriates and transfers \$2 million from the General Fund to the Disaster Emergency Fund; provides legislative intent; appropriates and transfers \$50 million from the General Fund to the Emergency Relief Fund. The Review Panel will be comprised of one representative each from ITD, LHTAC, Idaho Association of Counties, Idaho Association of Cities, The Association of Highway Districts, and the Governor's Office. The Deputy Chief of the Idaho Office of

Emergency Management in the Military Division will also be a member and the chairman of the review panel. Another funding source will be LRHIP (Local Rural Highway Improvement Program) Emergency Funds. These funds are being dispersed through an application process.

Don Davis-Kootenai Tribe of Idaho informed members that the Tribes Long Range Transportation Plan and also The Safety Plan were both complete. He read the Tribe's mission statement along with excerpts from the plan and their 20 year vision. Four roads of primary importance to the Tribe are Twin Rivers Road, Frontier Village Road, Little Bear Road and the road stretch to the Tribal Headquarters. A Road Safety Audit has been completed on Twin Rivers Road. The Safety Plan covers many issues. He read the vision statement from the plan and the Zero Death Plan. The Tribe does have safety concerns regarding Mc Arthur Lake and US 95 and they will be very glad to hear ITD's update regarding the project funding for that area.

Mike Meier-Emergency Management Director was welcomed into his new position by all present. He briefly discussed emergency funding available through FEMA for damage from the flooding and mud disasters in Boundary County along with the rest of the state. There is a change that just occurred for FEMA damage assessment that it will now cover the removal of debris to include trees and trash not just mud from slides. It will cover all the time spent in hauling the debris away from the damaged site also. Contact Mike Meier if there are any questions or assistance needed.

George Eskridge presented a legislative update to members. Senate Bill 1141 with the \$52 million for emergency disaster funding was discussed. Senate Bill 206 has \$320 million of transportation funding, including the Garvey funding. There are other bills on the Governor's desk regarding various tax changes and possible monies that may become available. He will present information on these as it is available. House Bill 334 will fund transportation projects through the Strategic Initiatives Program. Legislation provides the split to be 60% for state and 40% for local jurisdictions with LHTAC administering the program.

Construction Information – There were no utilities present.

2. **Jurisdictional Updates**

Boundary County - Clint Kimball informed members that the Riverside Road Improvement Application was being turned into Western Federal Lands this week. Road & Bridge is working on damage assessments for county roadways damaged from mudslides and flooding with both FEMA and with the State for Federal Aid Routes that have damage. He and Matt Hall, Engineer with HMMH, have set control points to

measure movement, expansion, sloughing on Deep Creek Loop at the damaged area south of the Golf Course. Movement is being noted, so it will remain closed until a determination is made on a temporary repair along with a permanent repair.

City of Bonners Ferry – David Sims expressed appreciation as he informed members that the City of Bonners Ferry had been awarded their Transportation Plan.

SPOT – Marion Johnson updated members that a pilot program was being tried for the months of April, May and June. There will be a SPOT bus running on each Saturday from Sandpoint to Bonners Ferry for 5 round trips starting at 9:45 then every 2 hours. Pickup in Sandpoint will be downtown and at Wal-Mart and the pickup in Bonners Ferry will be on the tunnel side of the Kootenai River Inn parking lot due to the Farmer's Market being in the City Parking Lot on Saturdays. Pickups in Samuels or Naples will be by request. This is a free ride and the cost of the pilot program is being paid for by the Kootenai River Inn. The Joint Powers Agreement has been signed by both the City of Bonners Ferry and Boundary County and a member will also sit on the SPOT Board.

City of Moyie Springs – John Nelson stated that all is quiet in the City of Moyie Springs and he is hoping to be able to open roads from break up closures soon as they are looking good.

USFWS – Dianna Ellis is out sick but has been working along with Boundary County on the Riverside Improvement FLAP application.

No further updates from jurisdictions were presented.

3. Public Comment –

Steve Howlett asked some questions regarding SPOT and how the pilot program was being paid for. David Sims answered that it was the vendor (Kootenai River Inn) not the Tribe that was paying for the program. SPOT route does include Tribal Headquarters however there has been no ridership yet. Steve also expressed concern for a right turn lane at the sand hill on Hwy 2 and left and right turn lanes at Kootenai Trail Road at the top of Peterson Hill. Is this on a plan or project to address this? Bill Roberson, ITD, said these things were the type of things they are looking at under the Strategic Initiatives monies.

Ken Blockhan, Jr. expressed a concern regarding the area along US 95 between the pullout for trucks and the turn off for Brush Lake. The cut slope side had water running down and was moving rock. He suggested armoring on the slope. He also mentioned

water was filling up behind the camera area at the top of the 95 hill and may possibly need a culvert. Bill Roberson, ITD, made notes on these.

Ree Brannon, NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) informed members that NRCS has some possible help for problems happening on private landowner property such as culverts, slumping, and stream bank problems. This is not an emergency Response program, but contact Ree at 267-3340, ext. 102. She also introduced Cassie Olson with the Conservation District. Discussion followed on the Emergency Watershed program thru the Farm Service Agency for debris removal.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm. (MSU Nelson/Johnson)

Respectfully Submitted,

S/Renee Nelson

Renee Nelson, BATT Secretary