

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Planning Commission Regular Meeting

September 24, 2024

6:00 PM – 7:28 PM

Please refer to transcript and video recording of the Planning Commission meeting for in-depth information about these meeting minutes. Meeting materials, the full transcript, meeting agenda, and referenced video recording of this meeting can be viewed at the Planning Commission Schedule and Agenda page:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>

Summary of Meeting

Roll Call

Tim Raschko, (Chair): present

Tammy Candler, (Vice Chair): present

Amy Hughes: present

Vincent Henley: present

Kathy Mitchell: present

Jen Hutchison: absent

Joe Woodmansee: absent

Angela Day: present

Kiera Wright: present

The Planning Commission Chair Tim Raschko called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Raschko asked if there was approval for the September 10th meeting minutes.

Commissioner Vince Henley moved to approve; Commissioner Kathy Mitchell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Commissioner Angela Day asked if staff included requested corrections to minutes. Staff confirmed that changes were in the minutes.

Public Remarks

Chair Raschko opened the public remarks section of the meeting and asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Commission. No public remarks were provided.

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update – Preliminary Draft Policy Amendments for the Transportation, Capital Facilities, and Utilities Elements

Erin O’Kelley, Kimley Horn Consultant, Lead Project Consultant, provided a brief overview of the project schedule and preliminary policy drafting schedule. Where the public can find draft polices and how to comment. Ms. O’Kelley shared the results of community feedback, emphasizing themes like preserving agricultural lands, environmental preservation, and enhancing transportation options.

Chris Comeau, Transpo Consultant, went over the history of the transportation policies and that in the past that it was primarily vehicle oriented and is now shifting to multimodal levels of services and providing more transportation options for individuals with limited mobility. Another key strategy is the complete streets principles for state highways. It is required in this periodic update to reduce vehicle miles traveled and addressing land use patterns are the key factor of reducing vehicle miles traveled. Key policy updates included integrating multimodal transportation systems and focusing on pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and automobile needs. There is emphasis on creating networks that accommodate pedestrians and bicycles, aligning with recent legislative changes.

Ms. O’Kelley presented the Capital Facilities and Utilities element draft policy revisions explaining that policies reviewed under any applicable state laws. There are no new or substantial bills that are noted in the draft revision policies. Capital facilities and utilities reviewed under projected growth numbers to be compatible with the Countywide Planning Policies, removed time-bound policies that have been implemented or no longer applicable. Language modified to make policies in an active voice, as recommended by best practices.

Transportation Improvement Program

Forrest Jones, Public Works Transportation Programs Section Manager, presented the draft TIP. Explained that it is required by state law and includes projects that are regionally significant and The project section criteria that address high risk and collision locations, infrastructure needs, LOS issues, and ability to leverage grant funding. The TIP aligns with the Comprehensive Plan, ensuring infrastructure projects and expenditures are planned effectively for roads, bridges, and active transportation. Projects listed are determined by County reports and assessments. Detailed data is collected by Public Works to identify road improvements to identify and reduce crash reduction strategies throughout the network. This is in addition to regular modeling and annual bridge inspections. Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) is looking at adopting a countywide complete street. The proposed TIP includes 6 new projects, 46 projects will remain/carryover, and 6 projects will be removed. Mr. Jones provided a short summary of the

new projects. Provided summary of notable projects that will be carried over. 10 million secured to work with WSDOT on the Cook Road/I-5 vicinity. Some of the projects include working with developers to address multimodal improvements. Mr. Jones provided a summary of projects that have been removed from TIP, those removed are not to be anticipated to be completed within the 6-year span of the TIP. Although they are removed from the TIP does not mean that it won't be addressed, just added on another workplan/TIP. Mr. Jones provided a map of the locations of the 2025-2030 TIP. The draft TIP will be posted to the County website and available for public comment from October 1-31st. Mr. Jones went over the TIP schedule, October will be a work session with the BoCC, November Public hearing, and December recommended adoptions.

Planning Commission Comments/Announcements

Commissioner had no comments other than welcoming Kiera Wright to the Planning Commission.

Robby Eckroth, Senior Planner, noted that the Board of County Commissioners adopted an Interim Ordinance Imposing Moratorium for Energy Projects on Skagit Farmland. The interim ordinance, which took effect September 23, 2024, imposes a moratorium on the acceptance of permits for electrical energy generation or storage facilities on Skagit farmland. The moratorium lasts for six months but may be extended by the Board if necessary. Post adoption public hearing is scheduled for Monday, October 21st at 1:30 p.m.

Adjourned at 7:28 PM

[A full transcript of the discussion is available on our website:](https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm)

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>

Tim Raschko, Planning Commission Chair

Date

Jack Moore, Secretary

Date