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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017
4:00 PM -5:30 PM
1300 FRANKLIN STREET PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER
6TH FLOOR - BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM 679

Members Present:	Dan Weaver, Lloyd Lycan, Dave Nelson, Dick Clairmont, Jeff Swanson, Jack Melton, Dick Clairmont, John Shaffer
Excused Members:	Patrick Sweeney, Elizabeth Scott, Eric Fuller, Neil Chambers, Kent Cash, Eric Temple, Will Pickering
Absent Members:	
Ex-Officio:	
Public:	Doug Auburg (BYCX), Randy Williams (BYCX), Amber Carter (conf. call-in), Wayne Harner (POV), Mark Nickerson (WSDOT), Michael O'Connell, John Hansen
Staff:	Jerry Barnett (Clark County) , Penny Monett (Clark County)

Agenda Item	***Facilitator***
Meeting called to order @ 4:06pm	**Dan Weaver**
Roll Call/Introductions	**Dan Weaver**
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	**Dan Weaver**
• Moved for approval (Dan Weaver), seconded (Jeff Swanson), unanimously approved.	
Communications/Announcements/Citizen Input	**Dan Weaver**
• Seven candidates to be interviewed. • Interviewing for the Railroad Advisory Board open positions, there are resumes in the back of the room for your review.	
PVJR Activities	**Eric Temple**
Eric Temple Not Present See Attachment from Amber Carter	
BYCX Activities	**Doug Auburg**
• In winter mode, working on equipment. • Contract from the state for the building, Contract with the Engineering firm, waiting for the surveyors report. Need separate lease for the parcel, and trying to get additional grant monies to complete the building. Currently have funds for the building only, not the electrical, plumbing, concrete floor, & heating. • Tunnel Scaling, inspected the tunnel with the engineering group.	
County Activities	**Jerry Barnett**
• Tunnel Scaling, we are requesting $72,000.00 from general fund for this repair, the staff report will be going forward in two weeks. We need this completed before Mothers' Day. Public Works Director aware of the request and asked him to speak with the BOCC before the staff report is on the agenda.	

- Bridge 12, contract being finalized, Surveyors and Geotechnical work starting February 22nd. Hope to set up a meeting with Cedars Golf representative this week. Reviewed the site with Will Cahill, Consultant, Hamilton (Contractor), Access and permitting will be a challenge. Currently there are two to three cars a week running the rails. Per Hamilton, it will cost around 2.5 million. Can not use a culvert because we can not get by the river, this is a fish passage river. They will complete the design and do an alternative analysis.
- 503-Bus Lane, the County's legal department is reviewing the agreement from WSDOT. There will be no cost to the county.
- Emergency Notification Signage – Gave Will Cahill the go ahead to get the signs installed. It was last year's budget, so a staff report has been submitted for this budget, as soon as this is Okayed, Will can move forward with installing these signs.
- Meeting with Mark the Freight Rail Coordinator for the State of Washington, Mark's main focus is on the 4 PCC lines for eastern Washington, liaison for the railroads and short lines in Washington.
- E-mail received from Jack Dunn with Anderson Plastics, they would like to purchase a parcel off Caples Road in Brush Prairie and would like a guarantee that they have access over the County right-of-way and the rails. We would need to work with Eric Temple, Jerry has forwarded this on to the County right-of-way staff and to Eric. They will be working with Jack on the private roadway that goes over the RR ROW, they just want an agreement from the County that this access will remain.
- Bridge 20, Hamilton Construction suggested removing the timber mud seals and pour concrete footings. The remainder of the bridge is in good condition.

Port of Vancouver	**Kent Cash**
• Kent unable to report.	

Subcommittee Reports	
• None	

Unfinished Business	**Dan Weaver**
• Website update, Jerry needs to work with Jeff Mize to get this updated.	

New Business	**Dan Weaver**
• New Members resumes here for review. They will conduct interviews on February 22nd and make the recommendations to the Board. • John and Dan met with the Battle Ground School District superintendent Marc Headaway regarding the Lagler property getting approved, this property is located within the school district. Discussed tax revenues that would benefit the district. District representatives were excited by the possibility. Dan and John intend to meet with the Fire Department; they would also benefit from increased tax revenues. • Boundary expansions need to be looked at. Battle Ground wanted to expand the boundaries but were unable to do this at that time. Zoning changes need to be reviewed. This will need further review and investigation. There are not a lot of short line railroads that want to change, so this may favor us.	

Good of the Order	**ALL**
• None	

Round Table	**ALL**
• None	
ADJOURNMENT @ 5:02 pm	

Attachment:

SB 5517 – Freight Rail GMA

- Passed Senate Local Government Committee and now in the Rules Committee.
- This bill is on the priority list for the Majority Coalition Caucus and we have every reason to believe it will pass with great support.
- WSDOT and Department of Commerce are NEUTRAL.
- Labor unions, farmers and other railroads are supporting our efforts.

HB 1504 – Freight Rail GMA

- Scheduled for a vote in the House Environment Committee on Thursday, February 16.
- The chair of the committee is working on an alternate approach and we are waiting on language.
- The goal of his amendment is to define freight rail access as a urban service and if a parcel of land has this characteristic then it would not have to go through the de-designation process. Future wise is expected to oppose this approach.
- The county association is asking for a small wordsmithing change that does not have any material impact on the bill.

- The bill may not come out perfect but it will come out of the House Environment Committee which was a huge obstacle last session in getting out of the House Local Government Committee.

Funding Request

- Lawmakers have been meeting 3-4 times a week on the transportation budget with the Senate and House Chairs and ranking members.
- Our $7 million funding request has been presented several times to the chairs and members of the transportation committees with good response but no promises. The bridge funding is better positioned due to last year's appropriation. We are making the case on the low price of steel and have recently given staff information on prices from a recent quote that Eric was able to get for me.
- The FRAP application is expected to be supported without controversy. It is ranked as the #1 project for the Freight Rail Assistance Program.
- Budget is expected early March.

Oil by Rail Contingency Plan (HB 1135, HB 1136, SB 5137 and SB 5123)

- House and Senate bills have been introduced to address oil by rail rules adopted by DOE for short line railroads.
- These rules have caused Eric to turn away the single carload of non-crude oil that he has previously shipped to Bonneville Power. The rules are also creating problems for food grade oil and other biological oil transport in Eastern Washington.
- The bills are not perfect for Eric's situation based on definitions and other drafting problems but we have the sympathy of the chair and a number of democrats who helped write the underlying law in 2015 for the absurd situation we are facing.
- Amendments are being offered to address Eric's problem and for other biological oils.
- DOE has recently offered language to remove the requirement for drills and contracting for an equipment cache but would still require a plan to get

developed. For PVJR those costs are still in excess of any financial benefit and are not likely to change the situation.

- The bills have passed committee deadlines in the House and Senate – we will work to perfect them when they are before the house and senate for a full vote.