



Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC)

**Steering Committee Meeting
March 15, 2016
Corvallis, Oregon**

Meeting Minutes

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held March 15, 2016, in Corvallis, Oregon.

WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting

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**Meeting/Teleconference
Northwest Transportation Conference
Corvallis, Oregon**

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by

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Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

Sean Campbell and Ron Vessey called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, just prior to the start of the Northwest Transportation Conference in Corvallis, Oregon. They welcomed the group and introductions were made around the room and by those calling in. The group reviewed the agenda.

The meeting agenda and minutes are posted on the Consortium website at:

<http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/WSRTC/Default.html>.

Western States Forum Update

Leann Koon provided an overview of the 2016 Western States Forum. The event will be June 21-23, 2016, in Yreka, California. Registration opens in the next couple days and will close on May 20th. The technical agenda includes eight presentations, several of which will incorporate live demonstrations. All four Consortium member states will be represented with speakers, in addition to Idaho.

WSRTC Pooled Fund Updates

Sean Campbell reminded the group that the Pooled Fund (all states contribute) covers activities such as travel, the Western States Forum, incubator projects, website development and maintenance, and public presence of the Consortium. Contributions can be made yearly, but don't have to be done all at once. Member states can also add funds to be contracted out for specific projects. All intellectual property developed through this funding mechanism is shared between the four member states. For example, Caltrans will be contributing \$60,000 annually for the next three years to the general Pooled Fund. Additional task orders include \$100,000 for WeatherShare 4 (Task Order #6) and \$300,000 for One Stop Shop Phase 3 (Task Order #7). An additional \$250,000 will be directed towards the next phase of the Automated Safety Warning Controller project.

Task Orders 6, 7, and 8, will be executed soon. Oregon – Galen McGill will check on the obligation for 2014. Nevada – Rod Schilling will verify commitments and obligations. [Committed = State made a pledge to the TPF; Obligated = State moved money into the TPF]

The leads from each state decided previously to conduct a second phase of the WSRTC. Each member state will contribute \$5,000 per year; California will contribute \$60,000 per year; \$240,000 will go towards the general task orders leaving roughly \$60,000 for incubator project(s).

Incubator Project Proposals

Ian Turnbull indicated that he had put the incubator project information and proposal form out to the Rural PSC, individual contacts, and rural districts, and received one response in addition to one that he submitted. Ron Vessey indicated that WSDOT staff expressed interest but did not submit any proposals.

Two incubator project proposals were submitted for consideration by the Consortium: *Winter Travel Times from Mexico to Canada and Wendover to the Sea* (submitted by Ian Turnbull, Caltrans), *Automated Safety Warning Data Feeds and Virtual Changeable Message Signs* (submitted by Ian Turnbull on behalf of John Liu, Caltrans).

Each proposal was reviewed and discussed in depth. The group generally agreed that both proposals seemed reasonable but would need to be bounded financially. Rod (NDOT) and Galen (ODOT) indicated that they would be most interested in the travel time project at this time. Ron (WSDOT) said that either one would be worth pursuing.

The proposals and related discussion are on the Consortium's website at <http://www.westernstates.org/Projects/Default.html>.

For the next Steering Committee meeting at the Western States Forum in June, each state will do some investigation and discovery in regard to the best test segments for the travel time project. This includes identifying field elements in the segment of interest, the potential for data feeds and interoperability, and the willingness of locals to participate in such a project. Ian Turnbull and Jeremiah Pearce will flesh out the proposal, including expectations, steps, vision versus reality, potential questions to field personnel (to be further refined by the researchers), etc. Donner Pass and Snoqualmie Pass were both mentioned as good possibilities for test segments.

Ian made a motion to conduct the discovery investigations for potential research/test segments as outlined above and make appropriate modifications to the travel time proposal by the next WSRTC meeting in June. Ron seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The consensus of the group was to keep the other incubator project proposal at hand until resource requirements for the travel time project are determined.

Other Business

Ian Turnbull presented a proposal to formally establish a COATS-WSRTC Emeritus Status. The proposal is included at the end of this document.

Ian made a motion to proceed with implementing the Emeritus Status as proposed. Doug Spencer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the WSRTC Steering Committee will be June 21st, 2016, prior to the start of the 11th Annual Western States Forum.

The meeting was adjourned to the opening session of the Northwest Transportation Conference.

Action Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
1. Verify various funding commitments and obligations.	Galen McGill, Rod Schilling, others as needed; as soon as possible
2. Conduct investigation and discovery regarding potential test segments for the travel time incubator project.	All, next meeting – June 21, 2016
3. Flesh out travel time incubator project proposal.	Ian Turnbull, Jeremiah Pearce; next meeting – June 21, 2016
4. Implement COATS-WSRTC Emeritus Status.	WTI, all; Summer/Fall 2016
5. Share the preliminary investigation report for the Chain-up Delay Tracking with Bluetooth project north of Redding on I-5 near Fawndale.	Sean Campbell, as soon as possible

Meeting Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Ron Vessey	WSDOT	vesseyr "at" wsdot.wa.gov

Proposal for Emeritus Status

Brief Description

The California-Oregon Advanced Transportation System (COATS) and its successor the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC) have been very successful efforts in advancing rural transportation for almost twenty years. These significant efforts have relied upon the skill, effort, expertise, determination and leadership of many transportation professionals from all of the constituent agencies and states. For organizations such as these to remain viable and continue, it is important that current participants see that they are part of something that is useful and enduring - something bigger than the immediate. It is worthwhile to cultivate this culture and thinking in the organization to help bridge the occasional difficult times that inevitably develop. It is worth spending some time and effort on keeping the history of the organization alive and formally recognizing past contributors. Part of this we already do with our excellent web presence that keeps all who are interested apprised of current news and past events. We should do a little more. None of the impressive achievements of this group would be possible without individual action and effort. I believe it is proper to offer formal recognition to those participants who have moved-on through retirement or duty changes. I propose that a formal COATS-WSRTC Emeritus Status be established and that it be available to former participants if they desire it.

Proposed Requirements

- The candidate be a COATS-WSRTC consistent participant for a significant amount of time (regular attendance at steering committee meetings for a minimum of three years).
- The candidate was a contributing member of the COATS or WSRTC steering committee for all or some of their tenure.
- The retiring or leaving candidate formally request Emeritus Status during or after their tenure.

Proposed Benefits

- The Emeritus Member can participate in all future meetings as a non-voting member (both in-person or by telephone).
- The Emeritus Member is included on all general COATS-WSRTC steering committee correspondence (both electronic or mail)
- The Emeritus Member is included in the Listserv distribution list.
- The Emeritus Member is included in the review and comment distribution of future COATS-WSRTC reports and documents.
- The Emeritus Member has access to all past, present and future COATS-WSRTC documents.
- The Emeritus Member is listed as such with a brief biography on the WSRTC web page.