

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
March 16, 2023

**1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE**

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Chairman Jim Sorensen at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- Mayor Pete Schave (City of Aberdeen)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Victoria Rivera (Timberland Regional Library)
- Library Manager Susan Howlett-Leite (Timberland Regional Library)
- Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- City Councilmember Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
- Commissioner Phil Papac (Port of Grays Harbor)

➤ Guests:

- Kris Koski, Engineer (Port of Grays Harbor)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director

A quorum was established. Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen) was excused from tonight's meeting with Mayor Schave attending in her place. Zana (GHCOG staff) was also excused from tonight's meeting.

**3. GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**

Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

*Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Pete Schave. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Action: Approval of February 2023 Minutes**

Jim Sorensen asked for approval of the February 2023 Minutes.

*Kevin Pine made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Vicki Cummings reported a Sub-Council meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday after the Full Council meeting.

➤ **Action: Approval of March 2023 Claims Batches #23-02 and February 2023 Payroll**

Kevin Pine asked for approval of the February 2023 Claims Batches #23-03 in the amount of \$37,791.59 and March 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$12,256.89.

*Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, Kevin Pine. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Presentation: Terminal 4 Expansion and Redevelopment Project**

Presentation by Port of Grays Harbor Engineer, Kris Koski.

Kris Kosi gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Port and AGP facilities expansion and redevelopment.

The project is currently at 30% design. Construction is estimated to begin 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024 with completion estimated 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025. The project is funded with \$46.85 million in public funds (Port) and \$123 million in private (AGP) funds. Expected impacts include a doubling of incoming rail and vessel traffic.

AGP will build a new bulk agricultural commodity transload facility on land leased at the Port of Grays Harbor's Terminal 4B, which will transfer soymeal and other agricultural products from railcars to ships at berth.

The Port will construct 50,000 feet of new rail including a third rail loop; redevelop the former pontoon basin site into a cargo yard; provide a new fendering system at the T4 dock; and install new and upgraded stormwater collection and treatment systems.

Puget Sound and Pacific Rail has committed to building new storage tracks east of the City of Elma.

For more information, please visit the Port of Grays Harbor project webpage at <https://www.portofgraysharbor.com/t4-project>

➤ **OLD BUSINESS**

None

➤ **NEW BUSINESS**

None

4. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Working on close out of Brownfield Grant. Completion is 5 months early. Should have news of next grant award in about 6-8 weeks.
- Provided a report on the need for planning funds needed to get projects to shovel ready status to Representative Barkis (Transportation Committee).
- Working with our Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) on the continuing update to the Regional Transportation Plan, a state and federal requirement.
- The RTPO lead, CWCOG, has funded a regional trails planning effort for all five counties. Participated in the interview process and a highly qualified firm has been chosen. Work is beginning immediately and should wrap up by December of 2024.

- Zana submitted our Obligation Packet for annual STP Admin to WSDOT, all has been approved. She is also working on programming our STP funds with WSDOT for fiscal constraint.

## 5. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- City of Westport, City Councilmember Troy Meyers
  - Old City burn site is closed and being turned into a park.
  - Established a new Economic Development Committee.
  - Hired a new Officer.
  - Beach clinic has closed. The city has no medical or dental.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Phil Papac
  - Things are going well.
  - Traveling to D.C. next week.
- Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Susan Howlett-Leite
  - Introduced the new Aberdeen Library manager, Victoria Rivera.
  - Partnering to sign kids up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, books by kids for kids.
- City of Ocean Shores, Council Member Kathryn Sprigg
  - Started another Citizens Academy. Great opportunity for citizens to learn all about the way the city functions.
  - Bringing back citizen patrols.
  - Annual spring clean-up is returning.
  - WSDOT slope stabilization on SR 109 is beginning.
- City of Cosmopolis City Administrator Darrin Raines
  - Promoted the Deputy Chief to Police Chief, hired new Deputy Chief.
  - Went out to bid on our new City Hall and Police station.
  - Cosmo opening has been delayed until about July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
  - Hired a new Fire Chief.
  - Roglin's donated the rebuilding of bleachers at Vessey Field.
  - Finalizing construction plans for the new economic development site.
  - Working on House Bill dealing with tax change for municipalities taking possession/buying private lands; private forest land to city ownership.
- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
  - Still looking for drivers and mechanics.
  - Received three new 40-foot busses.
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
  - Update of the Capital Facilities Plan is beginning soon.
  - Looking to start a Transportation Benefit District to help with roadway funding.
  - Seeing grant opportunities at Commerce open up with very short turnaround time.

- City of Aberdeen, City Mayor Pete Schave
  - The North Aberdeen Bridge rated a 14 out of 100%, a very poor rating.
  - The US 101 Safety Improvements project is in design.
  - Sumner Avenue sidewalk improvements will obligate design in the spring and construction in 2026.
  - Doing a pedestrian safety project at 1<sup>st</sup> and Market streets.
  - Reconstructing I & 8<sup>th</sup> streets.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
  - FEMA reimbursed the County for the Hoquiam quarantine facility.
  - The cannabis moratorium is ending with provisions.
  - Issued a \$1 million RFP for mental health services.
- WSDOT, Multimodal Planning Principal Senior Planner, Nazmul Alam – sent via email after the meeting, was not present or presented at the meeting.

### **WSDOT Project Update:**

#### **[SR 108 - US 101/Mason and Thurston Co Fish Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers](#)**

Administered by Lacey PEO. PE is Casey Fraisure.

Timeline: Spring 2023 - Fall 2024

As part of WSDOT's major efforts to remove barriers to fish, this project addresses multiple barriers to fish under SR 108 between McCleary and Kamilche and one location on US 101 near the Mason/Thurston County line.

#### **[US 101/SR 105/SR 105 SPUR – Aberdeen/Westport Signals and ADA](#)**

Timeline: Summer 2023

Aberdeen: This project will replace the signal system at the intersection of US 101 and SR 105, add cross walks and install ADA compliant curb ramps.

Westport: The signal system at the intersection of SR 105 SPUR and S Montesano Street will be removed and the intersection will be returned to an all-stop condition. Sidewalk, crosswalk and ADA curb ramps will also be improved.

#### **[SR 109/W of Hoquiam - Stabilize Slope](#)**

Timeline: The contract was awarded to Roglin's Inc. on 2/10/23. Construction will begin on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> with the closure of SR 109 being implemented on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The construction duration is estimated to be 16 working days. Crews will work to stabilize the hillside above SR 109 west of Hoquiam by removing approximately 400 trees from the slope that present a risk to the highway. This work will require an around-the-clock full closure of SR 109 with traffic detoured around via Powell Road to Ocean Beach Road to Highway 101.

Project status: Construction

**Project webpage:** [SR 109/W of Hoquiam - Stabilize Slope | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

#### **[SR 8 – US 12 to US 101 Paving](#)**

**Timeline:** The contract was awarded to Tucci & Sons, Inc. on March 10, 2023. Construction is estimated to begin in mid-May.

Workers will repave SR 8 between the US 12 and US 101 interchanges. In the eastbound direction, approximately 21 miles of the left lane will be repaved and approximately 6 miles of the right lane will be repaved. In the westbound direction, approximately 4 miles of the left lane

will be repaved. In addition, 0.5 miles of SR 108 will be repaved in both directions between the SR 8 intersection and the East Fork Wildcat Creek bridge. Travelers can expect reduced speeds and lane and shoulder closures. Lane closures are not allowed from noon on Fridays through Mondays at 5:00 am, or on holidays.

**Project webpage:** [SR 8, US 12 to US 101 Paving | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

### **US 101 - SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties - Remove Fish Barriers**

Administered by Tumwater PEO. PE is Kyler Kokenge.

**Timeline:** 2023 - 2026

This project will correct 29 identified streams and culverts that cross under US 101 and State Route 109 in Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Currently, the culverts under the highways do not allow fish to access vital habitat.

WSDOT and the Design-Build contractor are progressing preliminary design of the 29 sites, which have been separated into 5 bundles of approximately 6 sites per bundle. One bundle containing 6 or more barriers will be corrected annually beginning in spring 2023 to meet the project's deadline of fall 2026. Travelers can expect to see reduced speed limits, shifted lanes, one-way alternating traffic and detours during construction beginning in spring of 2023. Highway closures will be announced in advance.

### **US 101 – Grays Harbor Creeks – Remove Fish Barrier**

This is part of the US 101 – SR 109 Grays Harbor, Jefferson, and Clallam Counties – Remove Fish Barriers and is being administered by Tumwater PEO. PE is Kyler Kokenge.

**Timeline:** Spring 2023 to Fall 2023

This project will replace six culverts under US 101 in Grays Harbor County in 2023. The culverts are located under US 101 between mileposts 98.4 and 111.3, between Aberdeen and Humptulips. This is the first bundle of 5 that will correct streams and culverts in 29 locations under US 101 and State Route 109.

Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2023. Travelers can expect to see reduced speed limits, shifted lanes, and one-way alternating traffic.

Travelers using US 101 from July through September will see alternating one-way traffic controlled by a traffic signal at the three most northern work zones on US 101, at mileposts 111.3, 103.7 and 103. At the remaining three work zones on US 101 at mileposts 98.5, 99.5 and 100.7, travelers will use a 23-mile detour. The detour begins and/or ends in Aberdeen, rather than Hoquiam, using East Market Street, NB Street, Wishkah Road, East Hoquiam Road and Youmans Road. The detours will be in place for two-weeks at a time. While the detour is in place, crews will work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to replace the culverts. All detour routes and bypass routes include a wide shoulder for pedestrians and cyclists. There are no low bridges or weight restrictions on the detour route.

### **US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab**

**Timeline:** Work is scheduled to begin in late May/early June and run through the summer.

This project replaces and repairs two machine rooms that help operate the US 101 Hoquiam River Riverside Bridge in Grays Harbor County. Work includes repairs to the existing machine rooms and wall systems, removing the old machine room, and painting the operating room. To do this important preservation work, a large crane will lift materials, including new walls and a roofing system to the machine rooms on top of the bridge. The start of construction has been

delayed by long lead times for building materials, primarily metal siding and steel railings. The material procurement delays have pushed the start of construction into the late fall/winter season. Because of this, the start of construction is being delayed until late Spring of 2023, when the conditions will be more conducive for the work being performed and safer for the contractor and travelling public.

During the daytime, travelers may encounter intermittent lane and shoulder closures. The contractor is also permitted eight nighttime total roadway closures at the bridge. During the nighttime closures, both directions of US 101 will be routed across the Simpson Ave bridge.

Project status: construction

**Project webpage:** [US 101/Hoquiam River-Riverside Ave Bridge - Machine Rooms Rehab | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

### **US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers**

**Timeline:** Construction Spring 2023 - Fall 2026

This project replaces five outdated culverts under US 12 and State Route 8 between the Thurston/Grays Harbor County line and Montesano to improve fish migration.

During construction at each of the project sites, US 12 and SR 8 will be reduced to one-lane in each direction and travelers can expect around-the-clock shifted lanes and reduced speeds.

This project is currently advertised for bids.

**Project Webpage:** [US 12 - SR 8 - Grays Harbor County Fish Passage Barriers - Remove Fish Barriers | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

### **US 12 - Wishkah River Bridge - Mechanical Rehabilitation**

**Timeline:** Fall 2024 - Fall 2025

This project addresses worn mechanical components of the bridge that need replacement. In order to do this important work, the bridge will need to remain in the “down” position which prohibits larger marine vessels from traveling up or down the river.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

***Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Deborah Ross. Motion passed unanimously.***

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
115 S. Wooding St.  
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Sorensen  
Chairman

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Cummings  
Executive Director

Date