

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2023

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

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom was called to order by Secretary, Deborah Ross at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- Assistant General Manager Jean Braaten (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Victoria Rivera (Timberland Regional Library)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
- City Councilmember Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
- City Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- City Councilmember Rollin Caryl (City of Montesano)

➤ Staff:

- Zana Dennis, Office and Grants Coordinator, Planner II

A quorum was established.

**3. GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

Secretary, Deborah Ross, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Troy Meyers. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

Secretary, Deborah Ross, asked for approval of the March 2023 Minutes.

*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Troy Meyers. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Deborah Ross reported a Sub-Council meeting was held via Zoom.

➤ **Action: Approval of April 2023 Claims Batches #23-04 and April 2023 Payroll**

Secretary, Deborah Ross, asked for approval of the April 2023 Claims Batches #23-04 in the amount of \$20,234.30 and April 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$12,256.89.

*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Troy Meyers. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

### 4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

### 5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

#### ➤ **Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II**

- Working on STP Administration Fiscal Constraint.
- Completed the yearly SAM update so we are eligible for grant funding.
- Submitted the final Brownfield closeout documents to EPA & Ecology.
- Email reminder to the TAC to start working on your 2024 TIP's.
- Call for volunteers for a Regional Trails Committee for planning.
- TAC email to rank transportation projects for inclusion in the RTP.
- Did some mapping for the City of Hoquiam.
- Went on vacation in March!

### 6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### ➤ **Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Victoria Rivera**

- Gave the board an overview of the [Assistive Devices Collection](#). The collection includes items that assist people with vision, hearing, and communication limitations like voice activated light dimmers, the Amazon Echo, and talking timers so members are able to try the items before they go out and purchase them.

#### ➤ **City of Cosmopolis City Administrator Darrin Raines**

- Public hearing for Shoreline Master Plan final review.
- City will be meeting with Cosmo to discuss trying to assist with any hurdles that are keeping them from opening, which a current tentative reopening date of July.
- Do not forget to vote for the RFA by April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Council met to begin discussions for a potential assisted living facility project.

#### ➤ **Grays Harbor Transit, Assistant General Manager Jean Braaten**

- Still hiring but have almost all the driver positions filled.
- Hope to be back to full service by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Received 3 new coaches.
- Hope to have 5 new buses by June to expend grant funds.
- Union contract negotiations are under way but going much smoother this time.
- Sales tax took a dip in March, which is somewhat cyclical and expected.
- Working on redesigning the dispatch office and driver break room.

- City of Hoquiam, City Councilmember John Pellegrini
  - City received funding award for the West Fork of the Hoquiam River dam removal, which coincides with the city's water supply project.
  - City was also awarded more funding for the Levy.
  - More funding is needed for these projects, so the city also has an ask into Kilmer and Cantwell to appropriate further funding so these projects can get completed.
  
- City of Montesano, City Councilmember Rollin Caryl
  - City is working on new the Economic Development site plan.
  - City is concerned about increasing rail traffic with the Port expansion, although they acknowledge the impact is minor for them compared to other cities.
  
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Deborah Ross.
  - Homelessness Committee is meeting with people in the community to get feedback on solutions, including business owners.
  - The council is hoping to fill vacant buildings by exploring ways to update codes that would require owners to keep them to a certain standard for rentability.
  - It looks like the city may get funding from Commerce to start working on updating the old Sears building to turn it into a Museum and Visitors Center.
  
- City of Westport, City Councilmember Troy Meyers.
  - Update to the Shoreline Master Plan should be complete by June.
  - Developer contacted the city about a 40-acre housing development project.
  - Evans School is working on a Climate Change project focusing on sea level rise.
  - Economic Development Committee is proposing to update the short-term rental codes throughout the city.
  
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine
  - Hired a new Budget Director.
  - Recruiting a County Administrator, which is a new position.
  - The elevator project is almost complete.
  - Starting to work on the window replacement project.
  - Parks Plan is almost complete.
  - FEMA reimbursement for a quarantine facility was received but may not be able to use the funds flexibly so could have to return some.
  
- WSDOT, Nazmul , WSDOT Multimodal Planning Coordinator
- **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 will begin in early May 2023.** Travelers can expect to see reduced speed limits, shifted lanes, and one-way alternating traffic.

News release going out announcing the start of the project week of April 24.

Postcards to property owners along the detour route will hit mailboxes end of April.

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

**Timeline:** Construction is estimated to begin in **mid-May**.

Project administered by Aberdeen PEO, PE is Jason Mettler

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.

- **[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 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 \(wa.gov\)](#)

- **[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.

- **[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 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.

Project has been awarded to Cecantti Inc, WSDOT awaiting contractor's schedule of actual start date.

**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.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

***John Pellegrini made a motion to adjourn; second, Troy Meyers. Motion passed unanimously.***

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

115 S. Wooding St.

Aberdeen, Washington 98520

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Deborah Ross  
Secretary, in lieu of Chairperson

Date

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Vicki Cummings  
Executive Director

Date