

GRAYS HARBOR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
June 15, 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:

- Councilmember John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
- Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Administrator Darrin Raines (City of Cosmopolis) – email
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Library Manager Victoria Rivera (Timberland Regional Library)
- Councilmember Deborah Ross (City of Aberdeen)
- Commissioner Kevin Pine (Grays Harbor County)
- Councilmember Rollin Caryl (City of Montesano)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Zana Dennis, Office and Grant Coordinator, Planner II

➤ Guests:

- Ruth Clemens, City Administrator for the City of Aberdeen

A quorum was established.

**3. GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

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

*Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

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

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

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Secretary, Deborah Ross, reported that they tried to have the Sub-Council meeting via Zoom, but due to audio issues one member was not able to join, so a quorum could not be established.

➤ **Action: Approval of June 2023 Claims Batches #23-06 and June 2023 Payroll**

Secretary, Deborah Ross, asked for approval of the June 2023 Claims Batches #23-06 in the amount of \$4,027.28 and June 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$12,256.89.

*John Pellegrini made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #675, Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2024 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Vicki explained this resolution is for the Grays Harbor Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and should not be confused with the GH Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (Regional TIP). The only funding secured projects in the TIP is Surface Transportation Program Administration for 2024 through 2029.

*Ken Mehin made a motion to approve; second, John Pellegrini. Motion passed unanimously.*

➤ **Action: Approval of Resolution #676, GHCOG contract with Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments**

This is the standard, annual \$35,000 contract with Cowlitz-Wahkiakum COG to cover Regional Transportation Planning Organization planning activities, which was changed to a two-year contract in 2021. This new contract will be for 2023-2025 and a total amount of \$70,000.

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

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Received \$1 million from the EPA for our third Brownfield Grant award. The funding will be released around October of 2023.
- GHCOG is signing a new 5-year, 3 time option to renew lease with the Port with a slight monthly increase in rent of less than \$65 dollars.
- Working with RTPO on the annual RTP update.

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

- Working with all GH entities to prepare and adopt their 2023-2029 TIPs.
- Working with STP funding awardees on obligating funding before end of July 2023.
- Helped review the new MOU with CWCOG and new office lease with the Port.
- Updated the Brownfield webpage and helped with administration for the new grant.
- Met with CWCOG to get insight on their payroll process with the County.

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- 13<sup>th</sup> Year of Libraries in the Park is starting. The program is done through a partnership with the Aberdeen School District, Parks Department, and the YMCA.

➤ **City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Deborah Ross**

- The Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam met with Ecology to discuss how the Levy funding will be utilized to complete the project.
- Interviewed engineering firms to work on the Aberdeen Bridge Project, which is a Curt Cobain Legacy, and many residents are opposed to it being replaced so looking at other possible solutions.
- City received a federal highway and safety grant for \$640K to do improvements on Market and 1<sup>st</sup>.

➤ **City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Kathryn Sprigg**

- High Dunes Trail ribbon cutting is Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Shilo Beach Entrance.
- The Vietnam Wall Project is on display at the QBR now thru June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Flag Day Parade is on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am.
- The Sand and Sawdust Festival is the weekend of June 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

➤ **Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin**

- A tentative agreement has been reached with the union, which will go to the Transit board in July for approval. Only 4 months and 5 meetings to get this negotiated vs 3 years for the last contract.
- Implementing new safety feature on bus that will sweep people out of the way if they fall under the wheels of the bus.
- Installing WIFI trash compactors to help reduce trash collection intervals.

➤ **Grays Harbor County, Commissioner Kevin Pine**

- The County Building's facelift is underway with new windows, HVAC, and entryway going in. Hope to be completed in about 6 months.
- Commissioners are considering possibly recruiting for a County Administrator Position.
- County purchased property on the edge of Montesano for a potential Criminal Justice Center.

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

- Was not in attendance but voted on action items via email prior to the meeting so we had a quorum.

- City of Montesano, City Councilmember Rollin Caryl
  - West Pioneer road improvements are underway so detours are in place.
  - A lot of work happening in the City Forest.
  - The Beehive Restaurant will be reopening in a couple weeks.
  
- City of Hoquiam, City Councilmember John Pellegrini
  - Riverside Bridge repairs are starting on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - City partnered with GH County to ship seal two miles of road on Broadway.
  - Road and sidewalk work on Emerson Avenue will start late summer/early fall.
  
- WSDOT, Nazmul Alam, Multimodal Principal Senior Planner

**WSDOT Project Update:**

**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.

**US 101 between milepost 102 and 103 north of Youmans Road – One-way alternating traffic**

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Monday through Friday through June

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and Saturday, July 1

**US 101 at milepost 111.3 north of McNutt Road – One-way alternating traffic**

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Monday through Friday through June

7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, June 10, Saturday, June 17, and June 24, July 1

**Around-the-clock closure planned for US 101**

About 2 miles of US 101 north of Hoquiam will close to all travelers from 8 p.m. Sunday, July 9 until 11:59 p.m. Monday, July 31 between Failor Lake Road and Larson Brothers Road. The detour begins and/or ends in Aberdeen using East Market Street, North B Street, Wishkah Road, East Hoquiam Road and Youmans Road.

**SR 8 – US 12 to US 101 Paving**

**Timeline:** Construction is Scheduled to begin **May 22**.

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.

Work has started with lane closures occurring nightly, Monday through Thursday.

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

**Timeline:** Work is scheduled to begin on June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 first overnight closure will start at 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 15. During the closure, northbound US 101 travelers will follow a signed detour over the normally southbound US 101 Simpson Avenue Bridge. A flagger will alternate traffic one direction at a time through a single lane. The Riverside Bridge is scheduled to close for four nights in June.

Riverside Bridge closures in June

- 9 p.m. Thursday, June 15 to 5:30 a.m. Friday, June 16.
- 9 p.m. Monday, June 19 to 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 20.
- 9 p.m. Thursday, June 22 to 5:30 a.m. Friday, June 23.
- 9 p.m. Monday, June 26 to 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 27.

An additional four overnight closures are planned in July. More information and the full closure schedule are available on the [WSDOT blog](#).

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: Summer 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.

Work during 2023 will focus on SR 108. Travelers can expect two separate around-the-clock closures on SR 108. Each closure will last 14 days. In September both directions of SR 108 will close at milepost 5.5 near McCleary. Travelers will detour via US 101, SR 8, and SR 108. In late fall a second 14 day closure will be placed at MP 9.47 to construct the supporting structures (shafts and shaft caps) for the bridge being constructed at this location, the remainder of the structure will be placed in the 2024 in water work window. (Milepost 9.47 is just west of West Hurley Waldrip Road). Travelers will detour via US 101, SR 8, and SR 108. Each closures is subject to change (map attached).

### US 101/SR 105/SR 105 SPUR – Aberdeen/Westport Signals and ADA

Timeline: This project is scheduled to begin on May 30. Work will begin in Westport and then move to the Aberdeen site.

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.

Work has started with the removal of the signal and new sidewalk construction in Westport. That phase should be complete by the end of June and work then moving to Aberdeen.

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

**Timeline:** Construction Summer 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. Work began Monday, June 12.

Crews will start replacing culverts at three locations on US 12 between Elma and Montesano and two locations on SR 8 near McCleary. Crews will then close the left lane in each direction while building a temporary crossover lane through the median. During that process, the right lane will remain open in each direction. A reduced speed limit from 60 to 50 mph will be in place on US 12 between mileposts 12 and 20 and on SR 8 roughly between mileposts 3 and 10.

US 12 Vance Creek and Wenzel Slough near Elma

Travelers will encounter two work zones on US 12 between Elma and the Satsop River over unnamed tributaries that flow into Vance Creek and Wenzel Slough. After completing the temporary crossover lanes at these sites, crews will close the second eastbound lane. Travelers in each direction will then use the westbound lanes of the highway through the work zones.

US 12 Camp Creek near Montesano

When the crossover lane is complete at the third work zone on US 12 for Camp Creek near Montesano, the second westbound lane will close. Crews will then shift traffic to the eastbound side of the highway, with one lane open in each direction.

SR 8 Wildcat Creek and Mox Chehalis Creek near McCleary

Travelers will see two work zones on SR 8 on either side of McCleary over unnamed tributaries that flow into Wildcat Creek and Mox Chehalis Creek. After crews build the median crossover lanes at these locations, traffic will shift to one lane in each direction on the westbound side of SR 8 through each work zone.

WSDOT will announce dates for the lane closures and traffic shifts in advance

**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.

Construction funds for this project have been unprogrammed in the last legislative session. Future dates are unknown.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

*Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, John Pellegrini Motion passed unanimously.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Ross  
In Lieu of Chair

Date

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

Date