



1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Chairperson Troy Meyers at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. ATTENDANCE

- Members:
 - Councilmember, Joshua Francy (City of Aberdeen)
 - Mayor, Josh Collette (City of Elma)
 - Mayor, Tyler Trimble (City of Montesano)
 - Councilmember, Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
 - Commissioner, Rick Hole (Grays Harbor County)
 - General Manager, Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Staff:
 - Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
 - Natalie Jensen, Office & Grants Coordinator
- Guests:
 - Amy Rudko, Aggregate Mapper, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
 - Tricia Sears, Geologic Planning Liaison, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
 - J.R. Streifel, Grays Harbor County Commissioner
 - Don Williams, Community Member

A quorum was not established therefore no official actions were taken during the meeting. The following is a report of discussions during the meeting.

3. PRESENTATION

Amy Rudko and Tricia Sears from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided a presentation regarding aggregate resource mapping, geologic planning, and mineral resource protection efforts in Washington State. The presentation highlighted the importance of preserving access to aggregate materials for future infrastructure and construction needs, including roads, bridges, housing, and public works projects.

Staff discussed DNR's statewide aggregate mapping efforts and how local jurisdictions can utilize geological data and mapping resources in land use planning and comprehensive plan updates. The presenters also reviewed challenges associated with balancing resource protection, development pressures, environmental considerations, and long-term planning goals.

Discussion included the role of local governments in identifying and protecting mineral resource lands, coordination with Growth Management Act requirements, and the economic importance of maintaining access to construction materials within reasonable proximity to communities.

Members asked questions regarding local aggregate availability, transportation impacts, and the practical implications of mineral resource designation policies.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

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

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken on approval of the current meeting agenda.

➤ **ACTION: Approval of April 2026 Minutes**

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken on approval of the April 2026 meeting minutes.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings reported that the Administrative Sub-Council met prior to the full meeting and completed its routine business, including review of monthly bills and payroll. Additional discussion included ongoing organizational matters and preparation for items scheduled on the regular agenda.

➤ **ACTION: Approval of May 2026 Claims Batch #26-5 which includes June 2026 Payroll**

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken on approval of Claims Batch #26-5.

➤ **Grant Funding Opportunities Report**

Natalie Jensen presented the monthly Grant Funding Opportunities Report, highlighting several funding opportunities, training resources, and technical assistance programs available to member agencies. Staff introduced the Washington Fund Directory, a statewide funding search portal maintained by the Washington State Treasurer's Office that consolidates more than 140 state funding programs into a single searchable resource for local governments and project sponsors.

Staff shared information on the America250WA Event Grant Program, which provides up to \$1,000 for community events commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary, and encouraged interested organizations to register as official America250WA partners but reiterated that grant closes the following week on May 29th. Members were also informed of an upcoming History Preservation and Public Access Grant expected to provide up to \$8,000 for eligible projects, opening in August.

Jensen also highlighted the Federal Funds Grant Writing Assistance Program offered through the Washington State Department of Commerce and Hagerty Consulting, which provides free grant development support to eligible local governments and special purpose districts. Links to recordings will be provided in the PDF after the meeting. Members were encouraged to review the available recordings and supporting materials.

Finally, Jensen reported on the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Investment Program (BIP), noting a recent amendment to the funding opportunity that extends availability for both bridge planning and construction grants. Planning Grant applications are due June 15, 2026, and Bridge Project Grant applications are due June 29, 2026. Eligible applicants include local governments, tribes, metropolitan planning organizations, and other transportation entities, with a required 20 percent local match.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **DISCUSSION: Opportunity Zones 2.0**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings provided an update regarding the Opportunity Zones 2.0 initiative and ongoing coordination efforts related to potential census tract nominations within Grays Harbor County. Staff discussed outreach efforts, letters of support, and coordination with local jurisdictions, economic development partners, and stakeholders. Discussion also included the updated program structure and the importance of identifying investment-ready opportunities and supporting documentation.

Discussion followed regarding potential investment opportunities within the proposed Opportunity Zone census tracts and how the revised federal program differs from the original Opportunity Zones initiative. Members asked about existing development projects that could benefit from designation and whether successful projects from the original program had been tracked. Staff explained that the revised program includes substantially greater reporting, accountability, and investment requirements than the original program, including documented improvements and ongoing compliance reporting by investors.

Staff further noted that candidate census tracts were selected based on active development potential, project readiness, and their likelihood of meeting the state's competitive selection criteria. Examples discussed included tourism, housing, manufacturing, industrial, and airport-related development opportunities. Staff also remarked that several prospective investors had previously expressed interest in properties that were not included in the original Opportunity Zone designations, suggesting that expanded eligibility may increase future investment opportunities.

➤ **DISCUSSION: Safe Streets for All Grant Application Update**

Staff provided an update regarding GHCOG's regional Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application. Discussion included participating jurisdictions, local match considerations, development of a regional safety action plan, and anticipated project coordination efforts. Staff noted continued outreach to member agencies regarding participation and support letters and emphasized the submission of the application would be the next day, Friday, May 22, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **ACTION: Resolution #701 – Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2027–2032 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings discussed Resolution #701, adopting the GHCOG 2027–2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She explained that GHCOG is required to maintain a six-year TIP to remain eligible for reimbursement under its Surface Transportation Program (STP) Administration grant. The TIP includes GHCOG's STP Administration project as it is the only funded project, along with two unfunded regional planning projects related to coordinated trail system planning and rail crossing assessments. These planning projects are included as placeholders should future funding opportunities become available.

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken regarding Resolution #701.

➤ **ACTION: Resolution #702 – STP Funding Redistribution**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings discussed Resolution #702, which reallocates unused Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from two projects that were unable to meet federal obligation deadlines. She explained that timely obligation of STP funds is critical to maintaining the region's funding authority and eligibility for future allocations. To ensure the funds remained available within Grays Harbor County and could be obligated before the deadline, the funding was redistributed evenly between active projects in the Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam.

Both projects were able to readily accept the additional funding through project amendments, allowing the region to preserve its STP allocation and remain competitive for future redistributed funding opportunities.

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken regarding Resolution #702.

➤ **DISCUSSION: First Reading – Resolution #703 Amending GHCOG Bylaws Section 6.4 – Quorum Requirements**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings introduced the first reading of proposed Resolution #703, which would amend the GHCOG Bylaws related to quorum requirements. Discussion included ongoing challenges with achieving quorum and the intent to establish a more workable attendance threshold for conducting business. No action was taken.

5. ALL STAFF REPORT

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Mark Northrop is out of the office this week attending the Washington GIS Conference to maintain professional development, expand GIS networking opportunities, and stay current with industry tools and practices that support GHCOG's growing GIS program.
- Mark Northrop and Natalie Jensen provided extensive assistance to member agencies during the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process, including one-on-one support, training, and guidance on WSDOT submittal requirements and timelines.
- Mark Northrop and Natalie Jensen completed the research, outreach, and narrative development for GHCOG's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application.
- Participated in a series of Southwest Washington RTPO policy forums held throughout Grays Harbor County, including meetings in East County, Central County, Ocean Shores, and Westport, to gather localized transportation planning input and strengthen regional coordination.
- Continued outreach efforts with the City of Ocean Shores despite its non-member status, including invitations to participate in regional initiatives such as Opportunity Zones 2.0 and the SS4A planning effort.
- Participated in monthly statewide coordination meetings with WSDOT and regional partners regarding STP project obligations, funding deadlines, and potential redistribution opportunities.
- Met with WSDOT to discuss a future STP fund exchange program that would allow regional federal Surface Transportation Program funds to be converted into state funding, reducing administrative burdens and simplifying project delivery for local agencies.
- Attended the quarterly Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) meeting and was encouraged by the strong participation from Grays Harbor member jurisdictions.
- Attended a Safe Streets for All public meeting hosted by the City of Elma and observed continued progress on the city's safety planning efforts and public outreach initiatives.
- Joined Natalie Jensen in presenting information on Safe Streets for All and Opportunity Zones 2.0 to the Cosmopolis City Council during a workshop session, providing project updates and answering questions from elected officials.
- Continued extensive coordination with member agencies, state partners, and stakeholders through ongoing meetings, phone calls, and project-related communications..

➤ **Natalie Jensen, Office Coordinator**

- Completed monthly financial reporting and continued research and development activities related to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application.
- Coordinated a successful in-person federal grant workshop, providing local agencies and organizations with information on the federal grant process from project development through application and award management.
- Participated in multiple Washington State Department of Commerce training webinars focused on capital project readiness, governance, project management, and financial oversight.
- Attended EPA grant compliance training to support administration of the Brownfields Program and participated in Opportunity Zones 2.0 informational webinars to assist with the regional nomination process.
- Participated in meetings with member agencies and community partners, including the Cosmopolis Planning Commission, Grays Harbor Transit, and the Chehalis River Project, to discuss regional initiatives, partnership opportunities, and organizational coordination.
- Attended regional transportation policy meetings and continued coordination with staff and partners on transportation planning and grant-related activities.
- Continued supporting member agencies through grant research, project development assistance, outreach, and ongoing communication.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Chair Troy Meyers thanked WSDOT representative Joe Calodich, community member Don Williams, and Grays Harbor County Commissioners Rick Hole and J.R. Streifel for their participation in the meeting.
- Executive Director Vicki Cummings thanked members for their continued participation and emphasized the importance of regional collaboration, information sharing, and communication among member agencies to help identify common needs, opportunities, and priorities for future GHCOG initiatives.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

8. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

➤ City of Aberdeen, Councilmember Joshua Francy

- Reported that construction continues on Aberdeen's U.S. 101 corridor safety improvement project (road diet) between the Chehalis River Bridge and Cosmopolis.

➤ City of Elma, Mayor Josh Collette

- Reported that construction on the F Street improvement project is expected to begin within the next few weeks, improving access to nearby multifamily housing and Summit Pacific Medical Center employee parking areas.
- Announced upcoming maintenance work on Main Street, with assistance from Grays Harbor County to help maximize available funding resources.
- Provided an update on the City's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Demonstration Grant planning effort, which is focused on identifying safety improvements for downtown Main

Street, school zones, and areas surrounding Summit Pacific Medical Center and Eagles Landing.

- Announced a June 12 joint meeting involving the City of Elma, Summit Pacific Medical Center, the Elma School District, and community partners to discuss collaborative efforts aimed at building hope and improving community well-being.
- Reported that city staff and volunteers have been preparing local cemeteries and Veterans Memorial Park for Memorial Day observances and wished everyone a safe holiday weekend.

➤ City of Montesano, Mayor Tyler Trimble

- Nothing to report this month.

➤ City of Westport, Councilmembers Troy Meyers

- Reported that the City's Vertical Evacuation Structure (VES) project remains on schedule and within budget, with construction anticipated to begin in August 2026 and be completed within approximately one year.
- Announced a public meeting on May 28 at Ocosta Elementary School to provide information and updates regarding the Vertical Evacuation Structure project.
- Reported that the skate park and pump track project is back on schedule and moving forward.
- Discussed plans for a new pedestrian crosswalk on Montesano Street to improve connectivity between community amenities, including athletic fields, the library, youth center, and bowling alley.
- Provided an update on the City Hall renovation project, which continues to progress as planned.
- Announced approval of a Transportation Alternatives project to construct sidewalks between Patterson Street and Westhaven Drive, improving pedestrian access and safety.
- Highlighted the success of the community led "Seize the Day" volunteer project, which brought together more than 50 volunteers to beautify public planters along Westhaven Drive using locally sourced plants and materials.
- Announced the appointment of Rick Matura, a local surveyor, to fill the vacant City Council position following the passing of Councilmember Frank Eshpeter.

➤ Grays Harbor County, Commissioners Rick Hole and J.R. Streifel

- Commissioner Hole reported on the recent appointment of Commissioner J.R. Streifel and acknowledged the transition resulting from the departure of County Administrator Sam Kim. He expressed appreciation for GHCOG's continued partnership and support of regional projects throughout the county.
- Commissioner Streifel introduced himself to the Council, expressed appreciation for the organization's regional collaboration efforts, and stated his enthusiasm for participating in GHCOG activities and initiatives.

➤ Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin

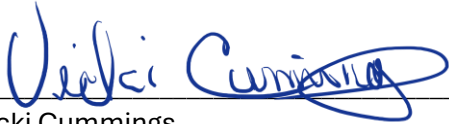
- Thanked GHCOG staff for meeting with Grays Harbor Transit staff to discuss grants, planning efforts, and opportunities for future collaboration.
- Reported that Grays Harbor Transit successfully relocated administrative operations to its new facility on May 11.
- Announced an upcoming open house scheduled for June 9, inviting members and community partners to tour the new facility.

- Welcomed Commissioner J.R. Streifel as the County's representative on the Grays Harbor Transit Board and noted that orientation materials and transit district information will be provided to support his onboarding.
- Recognized Transit staff for their efforts in ensuring a smooth and successful facility relocation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion and no quorum present for official action, Chair Troy Meyers adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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



Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date