

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

- The remote meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Chairperson Troy Meyers at 6:31 p.m. Attendance was called. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. ATTENDANCE

- Members:
 - Mayor, Linda Springer (City of Cosmopolis)
 - Mayor, Josh Collette (City of Elma)
 - Mayor, Tyler Trimble (City of Montesano)
 - Mayor, Bill Breedlove (City of Oakville) – Voted Remotely
 - Councilmember, Troy Meyers (City of Westport)
 - Commissioner, J.R. Streifel (Grays Harbor County)
 - General Manager, Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
 - Engineering/Planning Director, Kris Koski (Port of Grays Harbor) – Voted Remotely
- Staff:
 - Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
 - Mark Northrop, Senior Planner
 - Natalie Jensen, Office & Grants Coordinator
- Guests:
 - Councilmember, Sue Darcy, City of Cosmopolis
 - Joe Calodich, WSDOT Multimodal Planning Team Lead

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

- **ACTION: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**
Chairperson Troy Meyers asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Mayor Linda Springer made a motion to approve the current agenda; second, Mayor Josh Collette. The motion passed unanimously.

- **May 2026 Meeting Report**
Because a quorum was not present at the May 2026 Council meeting, no official actions were taken. A summary report of the meeting proceedings was distributed to Council members for reference.
- **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 reviewing and approving the monthly bills and payroll. No formal action was taken on the bylaws item at this time, and no other actions were reported beyond the standard approvals.

- **ACTION: Approval of June 2026 Claims Batch #26-6 which includes July 2026 Payroll**
Chairperson Troy Meyers asked for approval of the June 2026 Claims Batches #26-06 in the amount of \$35,480.08.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve the current agenda; second, Mayor Tyler Trimble. The motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Grant Funding Opportunities Report**

During the Grant Funding Opportunities report, staff highlighted several upcoming state and federal funding programs available to local governments and partner agencies. Natalie Jensen provided an overview of:

- **Washington State Public Works Board's Traditional Infrastructure funding programs**, support the repair, replacement, and construction of public infrastructure including roads, bridges, water systems, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste facilities. Construction applications are due July 31. Pre-construction funding opportunities remain available through multiple application windows extending into 2027.
- **Department of Commerce's Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program**, funds utility infrastructure associated with affordable housing developments. Applications due July 15.
- **HUD's Automated Permitting System Demonstration Grant**, designed to help jurisdictions implement and evaluate permitting software and related technology to streamline development review processes. Open to state, county, city, town, and tribal governments; closes July 13.

Mark Northrop provided updates on several transportation-related funding opportunities that recently opened for applications including:

- **Consolidated Grant Program**, supports transit operations, mobility management, planning, vehicle purchases, and small construction projects.
- **State Buses and Bus Facilities Program**, funds transit vehicle acquisition and facility improvements.
- **Green Transportation Capital Grant Program**, supports zero-emission vehicles, charging infrastructure, electrical system upgrades, and facility modifications. Applications for all three programs became available on June 16.

Before concluding the report, Natalie noted that one of the Public Works Board funding opportunities may be particularly relevant to Grays Harbor County bridge projects and encouraged members to review the distributed grant report and contact staff with any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **DISCUSSION: May 21st Action Items, Electronic Voting Results**

Executive Director Vicki Cummings reported on the results of the electronic vote conducted following the May 21, 2026 Council meeting, which lacked a quorum. Several action items required timely approval, including the claims batch and payroll, Resolution #701 adopting the Transportation Improvement Plan, and Resolution #702 approving the reallocation of STP funding.

Those items were distributed to the full board for consideration via email in accordance with GHCOG bylaws. The electronic vote received nine affirmative responses and no opposing votes, exceeding the seven votes required for a quorum. As a result, all action items were approved and adopted. No Board questions were raised.

- **ACTION: Resolution #703 Amending GHCOG Bylaws Section 6.4 – Quorum Requirements**
The Council considered Resolution #703 on second reading, proposing an amendment to Section 6.4 of the GHCOG Bylaws regarding quorum requirements. Vicki Cummings explained that bylaw amendments require two readings before adoption and reviewed the rationale for the proposed change. The amendment would modify the quorum requirement from a fixed seven members to a majority of members present, provided that no fewer than five members are in attendance. The change was presented as a means of improving organizational flexibility, particularly during summer months when attendance can be challenging, while reducing the need for electronic voting and associated record-keeping requirements.

Ken Mehin made a motion to approve the current agenda; second, Mayor Josh Collette. The motion passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

- **NONE.**

4. ALL STAFF REPORT

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Provided advance notice of several upcoming WSDOT roadway projects that may impact travel throughout the region, including lane reductions on US 101 near Arctic on June 25, alternating one-lane traffic on US 12 between Elma and Oakville on June 22–23, and extensive resurfacing work along US 101 from Ocean Beach Road to the Jefferson County line. Members were advised to expect delays, particularly during peak summer travel season, and staff will distribute additional project information.
- Continued regular coordination with the RTPD lead through monthly meetings to discuss RTPD activities, reporting requirements, and GHCOG transportation planning efforts.
- Reported that GHCOG successfully met and exceeded its annual Surface Transportation Program (STP) project obligation targets, obligating all available funding and additional funds ahead of schedule. Because the region has met its obligations, GHCOG may be eligible to receive redistributed transportation funds if other regions are unable to obligate their allocations before statewide deadlines.
- Provided an update on the SR 105 Corridor Management Plan and the effort to obtain National Scenic Byway designation. During the final review process, staff identified several areas where the plan could be strengthened to better meet USDOT evaluation criteria. GHCOG has met with WSDOT Southwest Region staff and is coordinating additional discussions with partner agencies to improve the plan before submission, increasing the likelihood of achieving National Scenic Byway status.
- Reported that GHCOG's Brownfields consulting team recently completed a three-day video case study documenting the success of the regional Brownfields Program. The project included interviews with local stakeholders, visits to project sites, and discussions of redevelopment efforts throughout the region. The completed video will be used by the consultant, shared with EPA, and incorporated into future Brownfields grant applications to demonstrate program success and support continued funding opportunities.
- Noted that GHCOG intends to pursue an additional EPA Brownfields grant this fall, continuing a successful multi-grant program that has supported communities throughout the region for several years. Staff expressed a commitment to maintaining the program as long as community demand and funding opportunities remain available.

➤ **Mark Northrop, Senior Planner**

- Provided an update on transportation planning and programming activities, member engagement efforts, GIS services, and recent training opportunities.

- Reported ongoing research and analysis of the proposed federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation, the **Build America 250 Act**, which would replace current transportation authorizations set to expire at the end of September. Staff are monitoring potential impacts to existing federal transportation programs, including the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program.
- Continued maintaining GHCOG's internal transportation grant tracking matrix and providing grant funding information to member jurisdictions.
- Provided an update on the development of local Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). Second and third reminders were distributed to member jurisdictions, and staff have been monitoring public participation and online submission activities. Members were reminded that TIP submissions are due by June 30 and encouraged to contact staff with any questions.
- Announced development of a public-facing TIP/STIP informational brief intended to simplify and explain the transportation programming process for elected officials, staff, and community members.
- Shared highlights from attendance at the Washington GIS Conference in Bellevue, where sessions covered topics including web accessibility, broadband mapping, wildlife risk analysis, sidewalk accessibility, flood warning systems, and GPS technologies. Members were reminded that GHCOG has in-house GIS capabilities and is available to assist jurisdictions with mapping and data-related projects.
- Reported attendance at the Grays Harbor Transit Open House on June 9, where staff toured the agency's new facility and meeting spaces. Staff also participated in Grays Harbor Transit's public hearing regarding its Transportation Improvement Program.
- Encouraged members and the public to participate in the ongoing Transportation Priorities and Issues Survey available through the GHCOG website. The survey, developed in partnership with CWCOC, is intended to identify transportation needs and priorities to help guide future transportation investments throughout the region. <https://ghcog.org/survey/>
- Reported completion of the third and fourth sessions of the Washington Department of Commerce's Capital Project Planning and Readiness webinar series, which focused on fiscal management and capital project requirements. Members were reminded that webinar materials and recordings are available through prior GHCOG reports.
- Attended an Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) safety webinar focused on integrating crash data into public-facing dashboards. This is a capability GHCOG may explore incorporating into its website in the future to improve access to transportation safety information.

➤ **Natalie Jensen, Office Coordinator**

- Continued routine monthly financial management activities, including preparation of GHCOG financial reports, grant research, and administration.
- Supported the regional Brownfields Program documentary project by capturing behind-the-scenes photos and videos during filming activities. Select images were shared through GHCOG's LinkedIn page to highlight the project and provide a glimpse into the documentary production process.
- Participated in several professional development and training opportunities, including the Washington Intergovernmental Self-Funded (WISF) insurance renewal meeting and a webinar focused on credit card fraud prevention and risk management.
- Began a multi-part ArcGIS training course through Udemy to gain a better understanding of GIS tools and applications and strengthen support for GHCOG planning and mapping initiatives.

- Attended a HUD grant information webinar to learn more about the Automated Permitting System Demonstration Grant program and its potential applications for local governments interested in permitting software and technology improvements.
- Participated in a CWCOC Public Transportation Stakeholders meeting featuring a presentation from the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Advisory Committee (CCAM TAC). The presentation focused on strategies for combining, or “braiding,” multiple funding sources to support larger-scale projects, particularly through partnerships involving public transit agencies, healthcare providers, and other community organizations.
- Encouraged member jurisdictions to consider collaborative project development opportunities with transit agencies, noting that transit organizations often have access to funding programs that may complement local government projects and expand funding opportunities.
- Reported upcoming participation in the State of Grays Harbor event hosted by Greater Grays Harbor, as well as potential volunteer support activities during Pirate Days.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None.

7. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- City of Cosmopolis, Mayor Linda Springer
 - Awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation to complete playground improvements at Lions Park, including a new play structure and spinner.
 - Announced the resignation of Fire Chief Coker, planning to recruit new volunteer Fire Chief.
 - Promoted Mackenzie Adams internally to serve as Clerk-Treasurer following a recent resignation.
 - Exploring the creation of a part-time City Administrator position to support city operations.
 - Hiring seasonal public works staff, with potential opportunities for permanent employment.
 - Completed restoration of the historic Fire Museum and executed a new agreement with Engine Company No. 1 to support future public events.
 - Entering the third year of partnership with the YMCA summer lunch program and continuing library programming.
 - Highlighted successful senior outreach efforts, including presentations on emergency preparedness by Grays Harbor Emergency Management and financial scam awareness by Aberdeen Police Department.
 - Reported continued success of the police services partnership with the City of Aberdeen.
 - Council safety and parks committee is developing traffic calming recommendations.
 - Construction activity continues throughout the city, including ongoing expansion at Cosmopolis School, growth at Pape Machinery, and progress on the River's Edge Townhome project.
 - Successfully adopted the City's Comprehensive Plan.
 - Received Planning and Urban Growth (PUG) grant funding and completed the first phase of critical areas planning work.
 - Preparing for upcoming discussions regarding increased EMS service costs and sewer contract negotiations.

- City of Elma, Mayor Josh Collette
 - Successfully completed the qualification process for funding under House Bill 2015 through the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC).
 - Became the first jurisdiction in Grays Harbor County to qualify for the associated 0.1% public safety sales tax funding program.
 - Plans to begin pursuing grant opportunities through the program during the next funding cycle.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Tyler Trimble
 - Reported that downtown construction continues to move forward rapidly, with work currently focused on Main Street in preparation for the annual car show.
 - Adopted the City's updated Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and submitted it to GHCOG.
- City of Oakville, Mayor Bill Breedlove
 - Announced the annual Independence Day Celebration, scheduled for June 27.
 - Event will include a parade, car show, vendors, beer garden, and community activities.
 - Noted that the celebration was moved from July 4 to June 27 to avoid conflicts with other regional events.
- City of Westport, Councilmembers Troy Meyers
 - Recognized the completion of a University of Washington Master of Urban Planning capstone project that produced a multi-part StoryMap focused on sea level rise, tsunami resilience, relocation planning, and community preparedness.
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/27b4e7ad4a6d458dad271635d6335c52?item=2>
 - Shared information about a Washington State tourism survey pilot grant opportunity and noted Westport's intent to pursue funding for resident and business surveys.
 - Scheduled a public hearing on the City's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.
 - Reported updates on the C-Link project, including a proposed electrical substation and related infrastructure improvements in the Westport area.
 - Nearing completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Westport Golf Links project.
 - Value-engineered the skate park and pump track project to bring costs back within budget and is preparing to begin construction.
 - Announced that the first Vertical Evacuation Structure (VES) project is transitioning from planning into construction, with groundbreaking anticipated in late summer.
 - Applying for funding to advance planning and design work on a second Vertical Evacuation Structure with a minimal local match requirement.
 - Preparing for the 128th anniversary celebration of the Grays Harbor Lighthouse lighting and related America 250 commemorative activities.
 - Expanded the City's Fourth of July fireworks budget by 50 percent.
 - Promoted upcoming Pirate Days festivities scheduled for June 26–28.
- Grays Harbor County, Commissioner J.R. Streifel
 - Reported that Grays Harbor County is actively reorganizing its organizational structure as part of ongoing operational improvements.
 - Completed development of the County's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
 - Finalizing an agreement with the City of Ocean Shores related to providing water service from the County's well system.

➤ Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin

- Hosted its annual Rider Appreciation Day, celebrating transit riders and community support for public transportation services.
- Reaffirmed support for maintaining the agency's fare-free transit program for as long as funding allows.
- Reported that the agency is fully settled into its new administrative facility and has transitioned to normal operations.
- Highlighted the benefits of the new office location, including improved proximity to transit operations and enhanced collaboration with staff.
- Invited members and the public to visit the new facility and noted the positive reception of the building's meeting and atrium spaces.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Ken Mehin made a motion to adjourn; second, Mayor Linda Springer. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Troy Meyers
Chairperson

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date