



Western States

**Rural Transportation**

Consortium

[Western States Rural Transportation Consortium](#)

# **Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC)**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Corvallis, Oregon**

**Meeting Minutes**

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in Corvallis, Oregon, in conjunction with the Northwest Transportation Conference.

## **WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting**

**March 10, 2020**

**Meeting/Teleconference  
Northwest Transportation Conference  
Corvallis, Oregon**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Prepared by

Leann Koon

Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

Sean Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Introductions were made by everyone at the meeting site in Corvallis, Oregon, and on the telephone. Sean welcomed everyone and reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the planned agenda.

*The meeting agenda, presentation, and minutes are posted on the Consortium website at:  
<http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/Default.html>.*

#### **Western States Forum**

Leann Koon provided an update on plans for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum. The event is scheduled for June 16-18, 2020, at the Holiday Inn Express in Yreka, California. Eight abstracts were selected out of the record 17 submissions. Speakers will come from six states including all five of the WSRTC member states. Meeting participants gave an overview of each presentation as appropriate. Registration will be opening soon. Watch your mailbox and your inbox for materials and instructions on how to register on Eventbrite. We have placed a 50-person cap on attendance and are expecting a full house.

#### **WSRTC Pooled Fund Updates and Discussions**

Sean Campbell updated the group on the status of the Pooled Fund and the associated task orders. The WSRTC is in a good position financially with approximately \$84,000 that can go towards future travel task orders. There will be approximately \$12,000 remaining in Task Order 12 when it ends at the end of the month. The Statement of Work for Task Order 13 WSRTC Meeting Coordination, Website Maintenance and Western States Forum Support will include a budget of \$96,000. This will cover meetings and travel support for the 2020 Western States Forum (13 WSRTC members), 2020 ITE Annual Meeting (NRITS) (9 WSRTC members), and 2020 ITS World Congress (5 WSRTC members). It will provide support for the 2020 Western States Forum and a portion of expenses for the 2021 Forum. It is projected that approximately \$130,000 from Caltrans will be available for Task Order 14 in 2021-2022, with a portion remaining for Task Order 15 in 2022-2023.

Sean further reviewed the budget and discussed state commitments and related. The second phase of the WSRTC Pooled Fund is set to expire on 12/31/2020. The group agreed to seek a time extension of two years. The new end date would be 12/31/2022. The group expressed interest and support for a third phase of the WSRTC TPF which would start in 2023. It was noted that with a shifting focus it is

taking more time to justify the type of projects the WSRTC undertakes. It was also noted that the WSRTC is held up as a model TPF within Caltrans.

Sean Campbell reported that he went through the Consortium documents (i.e., Charter, Mission Statement, Goals) and made some edits. He shared the edited documents with the group and changes will be ready to review at the annual meeting in June 2020.

### **WSRTC Projects**

Doug Galarus gave an update on the three current, multi-phase, WSRTC projects: Automated Safety Warning System Controller (end date 8/2020), One-Stop-Shop for Rural Traveler Information (end date 8/2020), and WeatherShare (end date 6/2021). All of the projects are moving along well. The Controller system is being ported to the Caltrans 2070LX ATC (with Linux operating system). Caltrans District 2 has been testing the system and the project team will release another update soon. The OSS project team has been investigating methods for maintaining the long-term viability of the system. They are finishing a unified version (desktop and mobile) that should be ready in the next month. The WeatherShare system is being moved to Caltrans IT. The project team has developed an installer and is working on documentation for the system.

Doug will be moving to Montana Tech in Butte starting in August of this year. Sean Campbell wished him well and recognized Doug for being a crucial part of the WSRTC and its projects. The entire group echoed those sentiments.

Remaining funds from these three projects will go towards the travel task orders in 2021-2022.

### **Emeritus Membership**

Emeritus membership will be an agenda item at the annual meeting in June 2020. Sean Campbell and Leann Koon nominated three individuals for Emeritus status if those individuals so desire:

- Ted Bailey, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Chris Strong, formerly of WTI, now with the City of Gresham, Oregon
- David Veneziano, formerly of WTI, now with Iowa State University

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The Consortium will meet for its annual meeting in Yreka, California, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, just prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum. WSRTC members will also attend the ITE Annual Meeting + Exhibition and ITS World Congress.

- Annual Meeting, Yreka, California, June 16-18, 2020
- ITE/NRITS, New Orleans, Louisiana, Aug. 9-12, 2020
- ITS World Congress, Los Angeles, California, Oct. 4-8, 2020

### **Roundtable of Recent ITS Activities**

#### **Sean Campbell – Caltrans DRISI**

- The recently appointed director of Caltrans has been getting up to speed and has listed five initiatives he will be promoting.
- The new research cycle saw 102 proposals for \$20 million. Pavement related projects are a focus this year.
- All of the research projects' final reports are available to review on the DRISI website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/research-innovation-system-information>.

**Jeremiah Pearce – Caltrans District 2**

- They are working on a project to mitigate the impacts of power shutdowns that affect public safety systems. The solution they are developing is solar powered, can be deployed quickly, and is low cost.
- Keith Koeppen and Sean Campbell will present the RWIS Info Relay and WeatherShare at the 2020 ITE Annual Meeting / National Rural ITS Conference in New Orleans in August.

**Justin Belk – Washington State Department of Transportation**

- The Vancouver area is adding a weather module to the variable speed limits system on the ATMS.
- WSDOT has been involved with the national Work Zone Initiative. They have developed a work zone data base tool that is now a web application. It is designed to be a one stop shop for increased real time work zone information.
- WSDOT has been working with the Washington State Patrol using unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technologies. Some of this work will be presented at the Western States Forum this June.
- The Olympic Region and the Southwest Region are running some cone-based projects using WAZE data.
- WSDOT is developing a policy for creative messaging on variable message signs (VMS).
- Ron Vessey is currently the Acting Director of Traffic Operations.

**Jim Whalen, Seth Daniels – Nevada Department of Transportation**

- The agency is starting to act on their TSMO plan; they are excited to have it being put into place and hope the districts will use it.
- Vehicle occupancy on the HOV lanes in and around Las Vegas is being studied.
- NDOT is testing different systems on routes 390 and 395.
- Telematics – AV is being incorporated into the fleet, including NIMO data from snowplows.
- Solar sites are being monitored remotely. Communication sites are being moved to remote control of HVAC.
- Work has started on the first few sites of the \$110 million radio upgrade/overhaul project. Infrastructure sharing was modeled after Utah DOT's plans.
- New full color dynamic message signs (DMS) are being deployed along the resort corridor with the variable speed limit systems.

**Galen McGill, Doug Spencer, Justin Guinan – Oregon Department of Transportation**

- Oregon DOT also has a new director.
- Portland Transit bus priority system
- RWIS weather system interface
- Telematics
- Data portal project – the data feed for OSS will be changing.
- Improved collection of lane closure information
- Network equipment contracting
- Updates for adaptive signal systems
- Connected vehicles, adaptive signal information
- Downhill signaling into Ashland, Oregon
- 2070 ATC still being deployed statewide

**Nathaniel Price – Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Division**

- Changing jobs but will still be with FHWA in Oregon.

**Announcements**

Sean Campbell expressed his thanks to those participating in the meeting; for support of the Rural Research Program, Rural ITS, the Western States Forum, and the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium.

**Action Items**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>
1. Ron Vessey will work to get Phase 2 of the TPF extended for two years so that the new end date will be 12/31/2022.	Prior to 12/31/2020
2. Sean Campbell will share the edited Consortium documents with the group. Changes will be ready to review and finalize at the annual meeting in June 2020.	As soon as possible
3. Group members will submit names of individuals to be considered for Emeritus Status.	Prior to the next meeting
4. Those attending the ITE Annual meeting in New Orleans should make their hotel reservations and submit the confirmation to Leann Koon. (Registrations and travel arrangements will be completed after April 1, 2020.)	As soon as possible

### Meeting Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact</u>
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