

Federal Policy Working Group

MEETING SUMMARY

AUGUST 2, 2021; 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

Meeting Objectives:

Working Group decision on inclusion of new federal policy opportunities in the shared StART federal policy agenda.
Develop questions for the FAA based on the shared federal policy agenda.

Meeting Summary:

- I. Facilitator welcome, introduction and meeting agenda, Brian Scott from BDS Planning & Urban Design
- II. Orientation + Federal Policy Update, Eric Schinfeld, Port of Seattle
 1. Orientation
 - Eric welcomed Jeff Harbaugh and Diana Smith, new community representatives from Burien, and Marielle Trumbauer, Outreach & Policy Coordinator from US Representative Pramila Jayapal's office to the StART Federal Policy Working Group.
 - Eric gave a short recap of the working group's function, its opportunities and limitations toward shared priorities and policy changes, and pointed out the StART agenda tracker to the new members, previously shared by BDS.
 2. Federal Policy Update
 - There is a tentative agreement on the Biden administration's \$1.2 trillion infrastructure deal.
 - A procedural motion with 67 votes supported the infrastructure deal.
 - Senate will vote on the infrastructure deal next week.
 - The passage of the infrastructure deal could also facilitate discussions about a special session on transportation investments in the WA legislation this year.
 - Work and negotiations also continue on Biden's \$3.5 trillion 'human infrastructure' package.
 - Actions on sustainable fuels will hopefully be in the human infrastructure package as this has been reasoned to be a climate related issue.
 - House may also want to pass their own infrastructure and human infrastructure packages. In that case both versions would have to be reconciled.
 - Both packages could be passed by October or November of 2021.
 - Both deals create opportunities for our communities.
 - StART will continue to look at and push issues around ultrafine particles and emissions.
- III. Community Feedback & Working Group Decision on New Federal Policy Agenda
 1. **EPA Grant Program**
 - Overview:
 - The goal is to introduce Congressman Smith's EPA Environmental Justice Grant program at the end of August.
 - The two-part grant program aims to bring the EPA back into the mix for discussion about aircraft noise and emissions.

- Many feel that noise and emissions are environmental issues and thereby should fall under the preview of the EPA.
- The bill wants to see community-based organizations working with other stakeholders and different service providers.
- The program is a two-step process. One piece is the studies, and the second step of the process is getting the funds.
- With the annual appropriations in place, it takes about six months to set up the program once the bills have passed.
- *Community Feedback:*
 - Mostly people of color are affected since they live around the airports, therefore, we should broaden our coalition to jointly advocate for the issues we share.
 - It would be nice if the legislation was written in a more equitable way.
 - Our cities should also focus on building codes to address the noise level.

The consensus of the group was to add the EPA Grant Program to the agenda and to continue to track it.

2. American Jobs Plan

- *Overview:*
 - The working group previously decided to strategically focus on the following:
 - Noise insulation funding
 - Sustainable aviation fuels tax credit
 - Healthy Ports Initiative (environmental justice grant program for communities of color - aligns with Rep. Smith's EPA's bill)
- *Community Feedback:*
 - The working group doesn't care in which bill (infrastructure or human infrastructure) these are included in, as long as they are indeed included.

The consensus of the group was that these three should be added to the StART federal policy agenda.

3. The Sustainable Skies Act

- *Overview:*
 - This is a standalone piece of legislation that proposes a blender's tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to incentivize the production of SAF and help the U.S. airline industry reach its goal of eliminating net carbon emissions by 2050.
 - The benefit of switching from diesel to sustainable aviation fuel is reduction in overall emissions, including all types of particulates such as the ultra-fine particulate.
- *Community Feedback:*
 - We should focus on this since 99% of aircraft emission comes from their fuel consumption.

The consensus of the group was that this should be added to the StART federal policy agenda.

- IV. Preparation for FAA Presentation at the next StART Meeting, Brian Scott, BDS Planning & Urban Design
Kevin Welsh, Executive Director of the Office of Environment and Energy at FAA will present at the August 25th StART meeting on their work involving Ultra Fine Particles (UFP). The working group suggested to capture the following items during the discussion:

1. In early 2021 the FAA released its Neighborhood Environmental Survey (NES), and requested input on research activities to inform aircraft noise policy. On March 12, 2021, in a joint letter, the Port of Seattle and the six StART member cities submitted their input into next steps regarding additional research and analysis that should be undertaken based on the survey's results. The working group would like a response to the joint letter.
2. An overview of FAA's relationship with the EPA.
3. How does the FAA feel about US Representative Smith's EPA Environmental Justice Grant Program?
4. Provide an update on FAA's studies and findings on the impacts noise have on human health.
5. Provide information on other emitted particulates other than the UFP.

V. Next Steps

1. Working group members to bring their questions to FAA to the upcoming StART meeting on August 25.
2. Eric will share some of the other earmarks and priorities other communities have.
 - o BDS will send this out in an email to the group.
3. BDS to send both the infrastructure and human infrastructure documents to group members via email again.
4. Revisit building codes and noise levels as a future discussion item.

MEMBER	INTEREST REPRESENTED	PRESENT
ALEX STONE	OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ADAM SMITH	✓
AMANDA WYMAN-BRADLEY	OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ADAM SMITH	-
AMY ARRINGTON	NORMANDY PART	✓
ANTHONY HEMSTAD	DES MOINES	✓
BILL VADINO	FEDERAL WAY	✓
BRANDON MILES	TUKWILA	-
BRIAN WILSON	BURIEN	✓
CHRIS HALL	FEDERAL WAY	✓
DIANA SMITH	BURIEN	✓
ERICA POST	TUKWILA	-
JEFF HARBAUGH	BURIEN	✓
JESSICA MULLIGAN	OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA	-
KYLE MOORE	SEATAC	✓
LANCE LYTTLE	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
MARIELLE TRUMBAUER	OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA	✓
MEGAN UTEMEI	OFFICE OF SEN. PATTY MURRAY	-
MICHAEL MATTHIAS	DES MOINES	-
ROBERT AKHTAR	SEATAC	✓
TOMMY BAUER	OFFICE OF SEN. MARIA CANTWELL	-
RESOURCES	TITLE	
ARLYN PURCELL	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
CLARE GALLAGHER	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
DAVE KAPLAN	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
ERIC SCHINFELD	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓

JUSTIN BIASSOU	FAA	-
KELLY SCHIMELFENIG	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
LESLIE LARDIE	FAA	-
MARCO MILANESE	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
PATRICIA LY	PORT OF SEATTLE	-
STAN SHEPHERD	PORT OF SEATTLE	✓
CONSULTANT		
BRIAN SCOTT	BDS PLANNING & URBAN DESIGN	✓

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 4, 2021- TENTATIVELY 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE