

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109
Special Meeting**

FRIDAY

8:00 AM

June 28, 2024

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Vice Chairman Laura Osiadacz, and Commissioner Cory Wright.

Others: Mark Cook, Josh Fredrickson, Reid Burbank, Rebecca Cruse, Public Works; Mandy Buchholz, Commissioners Office; Stephanie Hartung, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Zack DeHaven, Auditors Office; 4 members of the public.

At 8:03 AM Chairman Brett Wachsmith opened the Public Works Study Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pat Kelleher provided exhibits and commented on Bureau of Land Management land acquisition in Yakima Canyon and had recommendations for interagency cooperation to manage the land.

ROAD FUND LEVY UPDATE

Josh Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on current Road Fund status and the potential impacts as the fund is becoming exhausted due to increase material cost and inflation. Josh Fredrickson introduced Clark Worth of Consor, and Devin Bales of DHM Research. Clark Worth stated Kittitas County was larger than King County in area and had more bridges, but significantly lower population and therefore the results of the focus groups and survey were important to understand what was important to Kittitas County voters. Devin Bales explained the methodology of the focus group and surveys and shared concerns and priorities stated the overall viewpoint amongst participants was that county roads are well maintained. Josh Fredrickson stated to maintain current service levels funding must increase or the alternative to funding is divesting from infrastructure. Josh Fredrickson shared three financial scenarios and included that majority of roads and bridge projects in our county have been fueled by grant funding, without a budget to match grants even those will be out of reach. Discussion pursued on the importance of educating voters and effectively communicating with voters in the public outreach efforts. The Board of County Commissioners directed staff to bring forward enabling documents for consideration at the next Agenda.

Meeting concluded at 9:00 AM

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rebecca Cruse, Administrative
Assistant



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman