

July 2011

SRTC

Spokane Regional Transportation Council

"SRTC provides for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods into, within, and through the Spokane Region with an integration of balanced multi-modal transportation choices."

Transportation Studies Approved

The SRTC Board approved two on-going transportation studies at their June meeting. The West Plains-Spokane International Airport (WP-SIA) Study was initiated to address the long-term transportation needs of the West Plains area and facilitate coordination and cooperation at the local, regional, and statewide levels. The final WP-SIA report includes bike and pedestrian recommendations, a list of suggested roadway alternatives, and safety recommendations for the study area. The report is posted at www.srtc.org on the 'Documents, Studies, and Plans' page.

The Transportation Vision Project was a year-long effort to develop a long-term vision and implementation plan for transportation across the Spokane region. The process looked at existing plans and policies regarding transportation; community values; patterns of physical, economic, and social development for the region; and the needs of the community. The Spokane Unified Regional Transportation Vision and Implementation Strategy includes a series of recommendations for a safer, more convenient and coordinated transportation system. That document can be found at www.SpokaneTransportationVision.com.

SRTC Expands Social Media Presence

SRTC is making it easier for members of the public to find out what's happening in local, national, and international transportation news. In addition to the SRTC website at www.srtc.org and blog at <http://srtctransportation.blogspot.com>, SRTC has two new options for those who get their news and information online: Facebook and Twitter pages.

To get transportation updates on Facebook, you can 'Like' SRTC at www.facebook.com/Spokane-Regional-Transportation-Council. Or you can follow SRTC's activities on Twitter at www.twitter.com/srtc_spokane.

SRTC is constantly searching for new ways to involve citizens in the public process. Like many public agencies, we have found that reaching people is becoming increasingly difficult in these busy times. Social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter allow people who may not attend public meetings or respond to traditional media sources, such as newspapers or television news, to stay up-to-date on SRTC's activities.

Executive Director Interviews

The SRTC Board, committee members, and staff recently interviewed three candidates for the Executive Director position at SRTC. All three were excellent and very knowledgeable about transportation in general and Metropolitan Planning Organizations in particular.

The Board has offered the position to one of the candidates. More information will be made available when an official hire is made.

Urban Growth Area Review

Pursuant to requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA), Spokane County and local municipalities are currently reviewing the County's Urban Growth Area (UGA) to determine the need for accommodating future growth. As part of the process, SRTC staff is analyzing regional transportation impacts resulting from various potential expansions to the existing UGA. The results of SRTC's analysis, along with a land quantity analysis and review of services and facilities, will be presented to the Growth Management Steering Committee, who makes a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on the Urban Growth Area Boundary.

Check out www.srtc.org for all SRTC's latest projects

Avoid Traffic Delays - Use www.SpokaneRoadFix.net



The construction season is in full swing now, with a number of major projects underway. Due to the slow economy and low contractor prices, local government jurisdictions were able to schedule additional projects for this summer. These construction projects will employ local people and help to spur our economy but may create more potential traffic impacts for you.

To avoid delays and backups caused by construction, check out www.SpokaneRoadFix.net. The website has all the resources in one place to help you avoid construction delays, including the 2011 Spokane Regional Road Construction Map; links to up-to-the-minute traffic information and live traffic cameras; suggested alternate routes to get around construction zones; ways to win prizes for using alternative transportation; information on area bike routes; and help for owners and managers of businesses within construction zones.

www.SpokaneRoadFix.net will be updated as new construction projects start, others end, and detour routes change, so check back often.

New TAC Members

SRTC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has new members. Four new members were chosen by the Board in June to represent the interest of the community on the committee. The new members are Sandra Jarrard of Greater Spokane Incorporated, Ross Kelley of consulting firm HDR, Inc., Wyeth Larsen of Mountain Gear and the Sustainable Business Network of the Inland Northwest, and Paul Kropp, a neighborhood activist.

The TAC is an advisory committee to the SRTC Board that makes recommendations on plans, programs, and activities conducted by SRTC. The group was formed to promote transparency and provide a means for the community to be involved in SRTC's activities.

INLAND PACIFIC HUB

A global reach for commerce

PHASE 2

Phase 2 of the Inland Pacific Hub (IPH) project is off to a strong start. The IPH is a project to establish the Inland Pacific Region as a multi-modal global gateway to increase domestic and international commerce. The objective of Phase 2 of the project is to identify and recommend actions, strategies and programs that can be implemented to strengthen the competitive position of the IPH region.

A workshop of IPH committee members and stakeholders held in June presented outcomes of an analysis of Phase 1 materials and evaluated a list of potential projects and strategies to pursue that would further the IPH mission. As a result of the workshop, a series of project proposals are being analyzed in detail.

Other task items in progress include an economic impact analysis and the finalization of a plan for a public meeting in late summer or early fall.

2010 Census Update

There are several recent developments with the 2010 U.S. Census. The US Census Bureau has begun to release Summary File 1 on a state-by-state basis. Information for Washington State is expected to be available within the next month. This summary file contains the most comprehensive and detailed information yet from the 2010 census, including cross-tabulations of age, sex, households, families, relationship to householder, characteristics of owners and renters, and detailed race and Hispanic or Latino origin groups.

State local and tribal area elected officials may now challenge 2010 Census counts within their jurisdiction. The Count Question Resolution (CQR) Program is the only way to challenge 2010 counts, and it must be submitted by the Highest Elected Official of that jurisdiction. There are guidelines as to what can and cannot be challenged, as well as how to submit a challenge and how they are processed. More information can be found at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about/cqr.php>.

The US Census Bureau announced a realignment strategy for the agency last month. The new structure includes closing six of twelve regional offices including the Seattle Region Office. The transition will take place over the next 18 months; with the new regions effective 2013. The realignment and field management reforms are expected to save \$15 to \$18 million annually.