

October 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."

New SRTC Director

SRTC has a new Executive Director and he's hitting the ground running.

Kevin Wallace comes to Spokane from the Maricopa Association of Governments in Phoenix, AZ where he was the Transit Planning Project Manager. He has also worked for the City of Mesa, AZ as the Deputy Transportation Director and served as the Transportation Planning Manager for the City of Vancouver, WA, which provided Kevin with knowledge of how Washington State's transportation system and planning process works.

Kevin says he's looking forward to not only a new climate, but new challenges as well. So far he hasn't been disappointed; within a few weeks of starting at SRTC, he went through a Federal Certification Planning Review process for Metropolitan Planning Organizations, led a huge effort to apply for a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, and tackled an update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan; all topics you will read about in this newsletter.

Welcome Kevin! And hang in there. We're looking forward to the new ideas and directions you're introducing our agency to.

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

SRTC partnered with the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Spokane Valley, Spokane Regional Health District, and many other local jurisdictions and agencies to apply for a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant in early October. Our application requested \$2 million to be used in developing a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) for the area covered by Spokane County.

Much planning has been done in recent years on a variety of topics including transportation, affordable housing, water quality, economic development, land use planning, and environmental conservation. The RPSD would work to align all those planning efforts into one overall Plan.

The City of Spokane was the lead agency in applying for the grant. If successful in our application, SRTC will take over the implementation phase of the Grant, working with a consortium of partners. A list of consortium members is included in the grant application, posted at www.srtc.org. Successful applicants will be notified in January 2012.

TAC Members Needed

SRTC is seeking members for its Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is a citizens' advisory group responsible for advising the SRTC Board on policy recommendations regarding plans, programs, and activities conducted by SRTC. The purpose of the TAC is to promote transparency and provide an opportunity for the public to be involved in SRTC's programs.

For more information on the TAC or to apply to be a member, go to www.srtc.org. There is a link on the home page. You can also call (509) 343-6370 for an application. The deadline to return applications is **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011**.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Every four years, SRTC is required by the Federal Government to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); a comprehensive, multimodal “blueprint” for the future of transportation and mobility needs of the Spokane area for the next twenty years.

A complete MTP update was last done in 2007, making it time to do it again. Staff is currently working on the Plan, which includes projects, programs, and policies recommended to improve the area transportation system in the long term.

As the MTP develops, we will be asking for public review and input, so check the SRTC website at www.srtc.org for involvement opportunities.

Urban Growth Area Review Public Meetings

SRTC recently worked with Spokane County and its cities and towns on a regional review of the Urban Growth Area (UGA). Now the County is asking for your input on the subject through a series of open houses this month.

The UGA is the area designated to accommodate projected urban growth and development. The review will determine its ability to do so over the next twenty years. Analysis of potentially expanding or retracting the existing UGA is also a part of the review.

Three public open houses will focus on the impacts of the projected growth on the natural environment, services, and facilities, including transportation, police, fire, parks, water and sewer. For more information, go to www.spokanecounty.org/bp. The open house dates and locations are:

Monday, Oct. 24, 2011, 5-7 p.m.
City of Spokane Valley City Hall, Council Chambers
11707 E. Sprague Ave., Spokane Valley

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, 5-7 p.m.
Waste-to-Energy Facility, Administration Building
2900 South Geiger Blvd., Spokane

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011, 5-7 p.m.
Northwood Middle School Library
13120 N. Pittsburg St., Spokane Valley

Central City Mobility Open House

SRTC will take part in the third City of Spokane-sponsored Central City Mobility Open House on Oct. 25, from 5-7 p.m. at the Bookie Building, 410 E. Spokane Falls Blvd., on the Riverpoint Campus.

The Central City Mobility Open Houses are a one-stop opportunity to provide input and get information about transportation initiatives. The meetings bring local jurisdictions and agencies together, each to showcase their own projects.

This month’s Open House features SRTC’s Inland Pacific Hub project, the University District-Sprague Corridor Study, Complete Streets, the North Monroe Study, the Division Street Gateway Project, and more. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Check www.SRTMC.org before driving

Use the Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center (SRTMC) website to avoid accidents and road closures this winter.

Www.srtmc.org tells you areas to avoid using real time information from pavement sensors, live traffic cameras, officers on patrol, and highway crews. A map on the home page shows trouble spots and traffic issues, such as accidents or construction projects. You can also customize the site to highlight your commute route.

New SRTC Website

SRTC has a new, more user-friendly website for members of the public looking for transportation information. The new site, at www.srtc.org, replaces an older site at the same address. It is formatted to make a large amount of information accessible, while being easy to navigate.

The wide variety of services provided by SRTC requires a website that can host a substantial amount of information over a broad spectrum of topics. The new site does this by providing an easy-to-use drop down menu format. Several other features that make it convenient include a page specifically for maps for those looking to quickly access clear, concise geographic information services data; direct links to major projects and documents SRTC has developed, contributed to, or is currently working on; and a page devoted to transportation modeling for those not familiar with it.

The new SRTC site also makes it easier for fans of social media to find SRTC on Facebook, Twitter, and SRTC's Transportation Blog.

Contact SRTC at:

www.SRTC.org

contact.srtc@srctc.org

509-343-6370

Follow SRTC on Facebook and Twitter



SRTC has increased its' social media presence. In addition to our website and blog at <http://srctctransportation.blogspot.com/>, we have two relatively 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 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Regional-Transportation-Council/228562827158324>. Or you can follow SRTC's activities on Twitter at http://twitter.com/@srctc_spokane.

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



IPH Update

SRTC staff and the consulting team for the Inland Pacific Hub (IPH) are getting ready to introduce the general public to this project. The IPH is a project to establish the Inland Pacific Region as a multi-modal global gateway to increase domestic and international commerce. The IPH region is 19 counties in both Washington and Idaho.

To date, outreach efforts for the IPH have concentrated on stakeholders such as freight movers, elected officials, railroads, manufacturing companies, regional chambers of commerce, and area ports. As part of Phase 2 of IPH (which is focused on identifying and recommending actions, strategies, and programs to strengthen the competitive position of the IPH region) the project is being introduced to the larger public for support.

Staff has met with local groups and is working to identify small communities and outlying areas of the IPH region to reach out to. The IPH will also be showcased at the upcoming Central City Mobility Open House (see article in this newsletter) from 5-7 p.m., Oct. 25th at the Bookie on the Riverpoint campus, 410 E. Spokane Falls Blvd. Come to the meeting to learn more about IPH or go to the website at www.inlandpacifichub.org.