

WP-SIA Meeting Notes
11/17/09

Attendees:

Greg Figg	WSDOT
Mike Bjordahl	WSDOT
Derrick Braaten	Airway Heights
Joel Soden	STA
Kevin Picanco	David Evans & Assoc.
Jim Falk	Spokane County
Barry Greene	Spokane County
Teresa Eckard	Spokane International Airport

Staff:

Eve Nelson
Kevin Shipman
Mallory Atkinson
Staci Lehman

Eve Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. by introducing SRTC's new employee Mallory Atkinson and having meeting attendees introduce themselves. She then handed out study area volume to capacity (v/c) ratio maps of the 2030 network with the current traffic network.

Ms. Nelson explained the v/c ratios and asked if anyone had any questions about them. No one had any major concerns so Ms. Nelson said that the next step is to evaluate the study area based on the 2030 built network, which will be released to area jurisdictions in December. This will apparently give study participants an idea when it comes to brainstorming solutions to issues within the study area.

Ms. Nelson asked meeting attendees for updates on happenings within the study area. Teresa Eckard of Spokane International Airport said that business is down for Cascade Aerospace so they're cutting back financially. That means the company isn't sure if they are going to build a previously-planned hangar. United Airlines added a flight to Chicago and one to Denver, although flight boardings are down 15% from this time last year. Parking is down as well.

Barry Greene of Spokane County said he has been contacted by the consultant working on the site plan for the new jail, and the top three possible sites for the jail are within the study area, although they are in different transportation analysis zones (TAZs). He expects it to be 3 or 4 months before a definite site is chosen. Mr. Greene doesn't expect the new jail to have much of an impact on the transportation system as jails are very shift-oriented, and the shifts can be changed if they coincide with peak traffic hours.

Jim Falk of Spokane County said that the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is in the process of being wrapped up. The study is apparently going to recommend discouraging higher densities for industrial and residential zoning in the study area, which overlaps with the WP-SIA study area. The study is going to request not allowing more than 150 persons per acre. Ms. Nelson asked if the JLUS took climate change into consideration when making that determination. Mr. Falk said

it did not; the aim of the study is strictly to protect Fairchild Air Force Base from encroachment.

Greg Figg of the Washington State Department of Transportation said that work to install a signal at Highway 2 and Flint Road is almost complete. In the meantime, he's working with developers on a couple small projects on Highway 2.

Kevin Picanco, attending the meeting as a representative of the Spokane Tribe, said the tribe is in a holding pattern at this time and there are no updates to provide.

Joel Soden of Spokane Transit Authority (STA) reported that the number of riders using the revised airport route is up. He pointed out that the information is anecdotal at this point as it was gathered through passenger surveys. Mr. Soden said he has heard that the Davenport Hotel is promoting the airport bus route to its travelling clientele.

Mr. Soden also talked about the study that STA is partnering with the City of Spokane on; the Downtown Transit Alternatives Analysis. The study area is from Latah Creek/Spokane River on the west to Perry on the east and between 14th Avenue on the south and Mission on the north. It is aimed at developing an array of alternatives for improving transit around the downtown area and connecting activity centers such as the University District, the Medical District, the North Bank, Gonzaga, and Kendall Yards.

The study will include forming a 'Sounding Board' of people who have a stake in the downtown area.

Derrick Braaten of the City of Airway Heights reported that the new casino is taking reservations but doesn't have its certificate of occupancy yet.

It was decided that the group wouldn't meet in December as SRTC staff will be busy getting the model out. Instead, an email update will be sent out. The next meeting was set for the third Tuesday in January. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.