

**WP-SIA Study Committee Meeting
3/3/09**

Attendees:

Sarah Nemer
Tirrell Black
Barry Greene
Greg Figg
Derrick Braaten
Teresa Foster Eckard
Ken Stocks

Fairchild AFB
City of Spokane
Spokane County
WSDOT
City of Airway Heights
SIA
Kalispel Tribe of Indians

SRTC Staff:

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa
Staci Lehman
Kevin Shipman

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. with all participants introducing themselves.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss the Spokane Tribe's West Plains Development study that is currently underway. Anna Ragaza-Bourassa asked Greg Figg to talk a little about it since he was at that meeting. Mr. Figg explained that the Tribe is working to bring its' holdings into trust so they can eventually construct a gaming facility. To be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Tribe will be conducting a traffic study. Staci Lehman also attended that meeting and was concerned that the WP-SIA study and the Spokane tribe's study may overlap. The Tribe is expected to complete their master plan in the next couple weeks, so Mr. Figg's suggestion was to wait and see what comes out of that before determining the impact/overlap with the WP-SIA study. Barry Greene added that the WP-SIA study is a much broader look at the west plans area whereas the Spokane tribe will be looking more closely at the impacts of their specific development.

Next, Kevin Shipman showed the group some maps he had prepared for the meeting, including the study area and the County's Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) area. Mr. Shipman said he can email these maps to any of the study participants who are interested in seeing them in more detail. He did request that the committee mark them up if they see any changes that need to be made.

Teresa Eckard reviewed the study's 'statement of work' and 'goals and objectives' and asked for edits to either. It was determined that both were fine as-is. Ms. Eckard asked Ms. Lehman to post them on the website. Ms. Eckard asked committee members to review the study timeline as well. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa explained that the timeline would most likely be delayed at least a month because the calibrated model isn't expected back from the consultant, HDR, as early as anticipated. Mr. Greene suggested that more time be allotted to identifying alternatives, and when that step is complete, to add an update to

the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and SRTC Board as the next item on the timeline.

Mr. Figg reminded study participants that, because this study deals with two freeway interchanges, buyoff by the Federal Highway Administration will have to be obtained. It was suggested that someone from Federal Highways be brought into the study, or at least informed of the study at a later date.

The group discussed what would be the end product of the WP-SIA study. Ms. Eckard said it will be a planning document, not a design document, that would identify traffic/capacity issues and possibly mitigation strategies. Mr. Figg agreed that he'd like to see a proposal of possible mitigation measures. Mr. Greene suggested that it's important to show the problem areas because when the next call for funding comes up, there will be a document illustrating the problems and why funding is needed.

Mr. Figg suggested adding 'buyoff on the study by the TTC and SRTC Board' to the goals and objectives that had been discussed earlier. Mr. Greene suggested including impact fees as alternatives in the study report and possibly listing other funding options as well. Mr. Figg's idea was to make the study report an 'evolving' document and start with figuring out what the problems are out there before deciding if it's necessary to address funding options.

Modeling and GIS efforts were next on the agenda. As SRTC does not have a FTP site, Mr. Figg volunteered the WSDOT FTP site for transferring information and data for the WP-SIA study so that all committee members can access it.

Mr. Figg said he already has several studies to provide to SRTC that have been done in the past. Mr. Greene said he would provide SRTC staff with consultant contact information so they can request past studies directly from the consultants that conducted them.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said the base land use should be available by the next WP-SIA meeting in April. She will send it out by Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ). Mr. Shipman is going to put any information on future developments that SRTC receives into an Excel spreadsheet in order to avoid duplication of projects and to make it easier to review/discuss at the next meeting. It was agreed that a detailed discussion will have to take place at the next study meeting about what developments will be put into the projected land use. Special attention needs to be paid to this issue as some of the agencies involved (tribes, Spokane International Airport, and Fairchild Air Force Base) use a different planning process than agencies such as SRTC or Spokane City or County.

It was reiterated that the next meeting will be held on April 21 at 10 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.