

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Transportation Technical Committee  
August 17, 2005  
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor  
Spokane, Washington

**1. Call to Order.**

Bob Brueggeman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

**2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.**

Bob Brueggeman (Chair) .....	Spokane County
Larry Chatterton .....	WSDOT
Ron Edgar .....	SCAPCA
Ross Kelley .....	Spokane County
Keith Metcalf .....	WSDOT
Susan Meyer .....	Spokane Transit Authority
Jerry Sinclair .....	City of Spokane
Harold White .....	WSDOT
Todd Woodard .....	Spokane International Airport
Steve Worley .....	City of Spokane Valley

**Guests/Alternates.**

Gloria Bennett .....	Transportation Improvement Board
Steve Blaska .....	Spokane Transit Authority
Ryan Stewart .....	Spokane Transit Authority
Mary Ann Ulik.....	Downtown Spokane Partnership

**Staff.**

Glenn Miles .....	Transportation Manager
Ed Hayes .....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Jessica Hill.....	Transportation Planner
Tiffany Brooks .....	Public Info. & Educ. Coordinator
Judy Hazard.....	Administrative Assistant

### **3. Approval of June Meeting Minutes.**

**Ron Edgar made a motion to approve the June 15, 2005 meeting minutes. Jerry Sinclair seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **4. Technical Member Comments.**

Susan Meyer introduced herself to the group. She is the new CEO of Spokane Transit Authority and is now a member of the TTC. She indicated that STA is working on their new service plan, which will go into effect October 2005. There will be a 12% increase in service.

Keith Metcalf stated WSDOT is attempting to recruit an environmental manager. They are continuing to work on the North Spokane Corridor south of the bridge at Wandermere. I-90 work is progressing.

Harold White discussed the ramifications if the Initiative to remove the recent gas tax passes on the November ballot.

Steve Worley said the Valley is getting a few projects done but several have been delayed until next summer.

Jerry Sinclair indicated the Monroe Street Bridge will be open in less than a month.

Ross Kelley gave a short report on the status of the County's construction season. The Bigelow Gulch project is moving along. They are hoping for a draft Environmental Assessment shortly to review.

Ron Edgar said approval of the Spokane CO Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request was published June 29<sup>th</sup> in the Federal Register and the PM 10 Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request was published July 1<sup>st</sup> in the Federal Register. They have gone through public comment without any adverse comments. They will become final on August 29<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> respectively. At that time Spokane will be considered an attainment area for all air quality standards. He also indicated that SCAPCA is in public comment right now and will have a public hearing September 1<sup>st</sup> for repeal of the oxygenated fuel rule. If that is approved, oxygenated fuel will not be required in the Spokane area this season. Mr. Edgar updated the group of the status of the North Perry Road pit issue. Inland Asphalt has now been issued a Notice of Construction and the Permit was issued on August 11<sup>th</sup>. However, due to the prior issues, SCAPCA's Board of Directors has called a special meeting for August 18<sup>th</sup> to hear the complaints by Inland Asphalt's attorney.

Ryan Stewart stated that STA is working on the Park & Ride at 31<sup>st</sup> and Southeast Boulevard. Completion is anticipated the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

Todd Woodard gave a status report on the projects at the airport. Their largest project is the Taxiway C project, which will be completed in September. Later this month they will start renovating their main ticket area. Control Tower K construction is underway with completion anticipated in November 2006.

Glenn Miles gave an update on transportation funding issues. There is a grant program wherein each state is eligible for \$20 million per year and each state can put their \$20 million on one project. Therefore, Bridging the Valley could conceivably receive \$40 million per year. The project must be through preliminary engineering before the funds can be applied for.

Gloria Bennett, Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) was introduced and welcomed as a guest to the meeting. She indicated that TIB applications must be postmarked by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **5. New Business.**

No new business was introduced at this time.

## **6. Old Business.**

### **a) VISUM Model Update**

Ed Hayes indicated SRTC has been working with PTV (the developers of the software used to do the travel demand and simulations) discussing preliminary enhancements for the Spokane model set. NAVTEC data has been received; this data is updated twice a year. For the demand side of the model for Spokane SRTC is using lessons learned from KMPO. KMPO has been developing their model set and their model will be published later in August. Discussions will be taking place with PTV about a contractual arrangement to help them get the model up and running faster.

### **b) Bridging the Valley**

\$5.8 million was given in the Reauthorization Bill for the Bridging the Valley project. Senator Murray's office will be sending three people to Spokane to discuss how to supplement the funding for this project. The Havana Street overpass in Spokane County and the Rathdrum underpass project in Kootenai County will be the first two projects to be undertaken. The 106 Report is completed and given to the Historic Preservation Offices in Idaho and Washington.

### **c) Regional Concurrence**

The regional concurrence sub-committee has met several times; they have received a draft of the Request for Proposals to review and comment. Once they are through this process it will be brought to the TTC for review and

recommendation.

#### **d) Home Interview Survey**

In spring 2005, SRTC contracted with NuStats to conduct a Household Travel Characteristics Study. The goal of this survey was to create a database containing accurate information on trips, trip characteristics, household characteristics, and person characteristics for a representative sample of households in Spokane and Kootenai Counties. This data will be used to update travel demand forecast models, to identify Transportation Improvement Plan priorities, and to inform other transportation planning and policy needs of the counties.

2,545 households were recruited in Spokane and Kootenai Counties. 1,828 households provided full data retrieval with a 72% response rate from recruited dwellings. 69% of the sample was for Spokane County.

The survey has been completed and the results tabulated. Ed Hayes, SRTC staff, gave a presentation on the findings. The following were a few of the facts presented as important findings from the survey:

- The largest percent of daily trips were taken for shopping and errands (35%).
- 15% of daily trips were taken for commuting, and another 6% were work related.
- Most trips for commuting purposes were taken by single occupancy vehicles (83% in Spokane County and 87% in Kootenai County).
- Trips made in the region averaged 17.7 minutes.
- Approximately 439,000 personal vehicles were available for regular use among regional residents. This estimate equated to 2.09 vehicles per household in Spokane County and 2.14 vehicles per household in Kootenai County.

This survey also indicated certain model development implications. A few of these are as follows:

- The size of the survey was enough to develop models of trip generation and destination choice.
- The survey was robust enough to model non-motorized modes of travel if desired.
- Additional transit and future educational facility surveys augment the 2005 travel survey to model other modes and further split the home-based work trip purpose.

Mr. Hayes distributed the Executive Summary for the survey; the entire report is available at SRTC's website [www.srtc.org](http://www.srtc.org).

**7. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary