

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
January 19, 2005
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Don MacDonald, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Tom Arnold	City of Spokane
Larry Chatterton	WSDOT
Ron Edgar	SCAPCA
Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Neil Kersten.....	City of Spokane Valley
Ross Kelley	Spokane County
Don MacDonald (Vice Chair).....	City of Cheney
Keith Metcalf	WSDOT
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Kim Zentz	Spokane Transit Authority
Jerry Sinclair	City of Spokane
Todd Woodard	Spokane International Airport
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley

Guests/Alternates.

Barry Greene	Spokane County
Margaret Watson.....	CACT
Scott Eggar	City of Spokane
Mary Ann Ulik.....	Downtown Spokane Partnership
Valla Melvin.....	City of Spokane

Staff.

Glenn Miles	Transportation Manager
Ed Hayes	Sr. Transportation Planner
Jessica Hill	Transportation Planner
Judy Hazard.....	Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of December Meeting Minutes.

Ross Kelley made a motion to approve the December 15, 2004 meeting minutes. Jerry Sinclair seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Technical Member Comments.

Keith Metcalf indicated the Wandermere/Gerlach project is back on track. Bids will be opening January 27th.

Gordon Howell said STA is still in the middle of the service planning process, with changes slated for September 2005. At this time they are receiving comments from the public. They plan to take this before their Board in February for a public hearing and hopefully adoption in March.

Larry Chatterton stated WSDOT will be closing the Spokane River rest area (I-90 at State Line) this spring, as it was one of the least used in the State of Washington. They were working with Spokane County Parks Department to turn those facilities over to them to utilize for development of a trailhead along the Spokane River. Spokane County has decided not to lease the area so WSDOT will look at razing it this spring.

Jerry Sinclair gave an update on the Monroe Street Bridge project.

Kim Zentz stated STA is moving forward with their technology improvements. They will be releasing a Request for Proposals for a new fare box system shortly and software conversion, which will give them better planning data and better routing and scheduling abilities. They are also emphasizing their pass programs; one with Spokane County is imminent and shortly thereafter one with the Community Colleges.

Ross Kelley introduced Barry Greene, a traffic engineer with Spokane County and the alternate to the TTC for Bob Brueggeman. Mr. Kelley indicated there is a long list of projects planned for 2005. They have received several bids for the railroad repair contract. He indicated they are looking at a mid-April opening for the intersection of Bigelow and Argonne.

Steve Worley gave an update on the projects City of Spokane Valley will be starting this spring.

Tom Arnold said the first Citizens' Streets Advisory Committee meeting was held two weeks ago. The City will be working through that group on the design and implementation of the 10-year street program. Two projects have been pulled forward from that program into 2005 (Greene Street – Mission to Spokane River, and Maple and Ash from north of Wellesley to the north city limits). The City is also

working to finalize the pavement cut policy. They have had several bid openings on projects, which should be awarded shortly. Mr. Arnold is in the process of putting together a map of all the City of Spokane's 2005 projects. He asked about the regional map that is put together each year and put out to the public. Spokane County is usually the lead agency in coordinating this map and hopefully will continue in this endeavor.

Ron Edgar reported the PM 10 and CO Maintenance Plans are still at EPA under review. The Air Toxic Community Assessment monitoring started the beginning of January. The sites are up and operating and samples are being collected. This will continue throughout the year. The Department of Ecology in the Puget Sound area is attempting to have the Legislature adopt California emissions standards for new automobiles in the State of Washington. Glenn Miles said the emissions budget has been accepted but can't be used until it has been published in the Federal Register, which will probably be the beginning of February.

Todd Woodard indicated the Spokane Airport has a lot of projects planned for 2005.

- ❖ \$9.5 million taxiway (8,100 feet)
- ❖ Air Traffic Control Tower
- ❖ General Aviation Relocation (relocating all facilities)
- ❖ \$3.5 million office building
- ❖ \$1 million convenience store/gas station going out for bid
- ❖ Environmental Assessment on runway extension project
- ❖ Park and Go facility (free lot to wait for passenger arrivals)
- ❖ Improving the capacity of main ticketing area
- ❖ \$1.5 million hanger facility

He also discussed the Air Bus.

Don MacDonald said Cheney is geared up for this year's projects. They have 6-7 miles of streets to be worked on.

Glenn Miles reported the Transportation Management Center Operating Board met last week. They are about to go through another series of acceptance testing on some newly installed equipment. They are coordinating the ITS projects that were selected. One of the recommendations is to try to keep the same design team working on these projects so there is consistency and compatibility in the designs. SRTC has talked to the City of Spokane about some of their projects having the design team from WSDOT who has been doing most of the projects to date. The TMC Board agreed with this recommendation.

5. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley Status Report

SRTC received a very large two-volume summary of design reports from every structure on the corridor (Spokane, WA to Athol, ID) from HDR Inc. Each jurisdiction having projects in this project will receive a copy. It is expected the environmental document will be completed by March. The 4F and Federal 106 reports have been drafted; Idaho State Historic Preservation Office is now in agreement with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office; Army Corps, Fish and Wildlife, and Noise issues have been resolved/addressed. It is anticipated Federal Highways will sign off the categorical exclusion in March for the entire 42-mile corridor. Mr. Miles gave an update on the funding possibilities for the project. Also, he indicated there has been some interest in the compilation of a 15-minute DVD presentation of the different parts of the Bridging the Valley project.

b) 3 Biennium List

Glenn Miles reported he has taken all the comments/suggestions made by the TTC members at last month's meeting and is entering them and the dollar figures into a spreadsheet format. He is hoping to take the List to the Board for approval in February so will be sending a completed draft to the TTC members for their final input shortly.

SRTC received a call from Karen Schmidt, the Director of the Freight Mobility strategic Investment Board, wanting to know if there is any interest on the part of the Spokane area to couple Bridging the Valley with the North South Corridor project they have been working on through the Cascade Institute and the Fast Corridor. There is an interest in creating the East/West Fast Corridor project. This would bring into play Puget Sound, Yakima, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities, and Spokane looking east from Puget Sound. They feel it would dovetail Bridging the Valley in with the Snoqualmie Pass Improvements, the Stampede Pass, etc. Mr. Miles asked the TTC members for their comments on this suggestion.

6. New Business.

a) VISUM Model Update

Ed Hayes reminded the members that training for advanced VISUM will be pushed back to mid-March as the PTV staff is being trained on some of the new features of the software. SRTC is working with City of Spokane Valley, Spokane County, and WSDOT on Bigelow Gulch modeling. Several of the enhancements will be incorporated from that process into the interim model. Before a new interim model is published, the City of Spokane will be asked for similar changes it would like to have made. SRTC is waiting for a complete set of building permit data for 2004 to update the land use file. Once that data is entered, a request will be made from

GIS staff of local jurisdictions for other additional road attribute information that can be linked to the County road file for the model set being constructed. A Request for Proposals will be going out this weekend for the Home Interview Survey. It is hoped the data will be collected from this survey by spring 2005 and tallied by summer. STA is in the process of finalizing a potential purchase of VISUM/VISSIM software. The upgrade of VISUM (9.2) coming out in February has a hotlink with GIS information.

b) Regional Concurrency Discussion

Tom Arnold asked that this item be put on the agenda for discussion. Mayor West has asked the City to solicit options for local concurrency. Also, the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce has been having discussions regarding the same issue. This is not just a City of Spokane issue; concurrency has an impact on all jurisdictions in the region. The Chamber has asked the question on how to collectively address this issue as a region. If all the jurisdictions work together, this can be a positive action, which will be a benefit to the transportation system. Kim Zentz stated it makes sense to regionally pool all resources to have the very best transportation modeling and modeling data and then everyone use them to make the local decisions all jurisdictions are tasked with making. Ways to fund concurrency issues and situations was discussed at some length. A request was made that all input and feedback on options be given to Tom Arnold at the City.

Tom Arnold made a motion to take to the SRTC Board the interest of the part of the TTC for an opportunity for regional funding strategies and the opportunity for adopting a uniform local transportation planning process for concurrency. Kim Zentz seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

c) STA Cooperative Projects for Call for Projects

The Spokane Transit Board of Directors has approved \$3 million in the 2005 budget for Cooperative Transit Street and Road Projects in the Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA). An additional \$3 million is planned for 2006. STA is requesting jurisdictions in the PTBA to submit projects for both 2005 and 2006 and the projects will be prioritized against a total of \$6 million for the two-year period.

The Call for Projects is for projects that can be cooperatively funded to “enhance the efficiency and quality of public transportation service by providing tangible and accountable public transit benefits”. Emphasis will be on current and/or partially funded projects that can be fully implemented within the next two years.

Ms. Zentz provided the TTC members with the following draft documents:

- ❖ Memo regarding Spokane Transit Cooperative Street Funding Call for Projects
- ❖ Project Selection Process
- ❖ Eligible Project Examples
- ❖ Scoring Criteria Transit Cooperative Projects

Ms. Zentz asked the TTC members to review these documents and provide SRTC with any recommended corrections, suggestions, or additions/deletions by the end of next week.

The timeline for the Call for Projects is as follows:

- ❖ Announcement of the Call for Projects February 1, 2005
- ❖ Project Application Due to SRTC February 28, 2005
- ❖ Projects Reviewed for Eligibility March 1, 2005
- ❖ Project Presentations to TTC and CACT March 16, 2005
- ❖ Board Review of Proposed Project Priority Array and Project Selection for funding April 14, 2005 SRTC Board and April 21, 2005 STA Board

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary