

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, February 10, 2005
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center – Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Spokane Regional Transportation Council was called to order by Chair, Ms. Amy Jo Sooy, at 1:32 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

Dennis Hession, City of Spokane Council Member
Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT - Eastern Region
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley Council Member (Vice Chair)
Amy Jo Sooy, Small Towns Representative (Chair)
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission

Board Members Absent:

Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member
Brenda Redell, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)
A. Michele Maher, Washington State Transportation Commission (Alternate)
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Harold Vanderpool, CACT
Bob Brueggeman, TTC
Ross Kelley, Spokane County
Scott Eggar, City of Spokane
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
John Mercer, City of Spokane
Tom Arnold, City of Spokane
Jerry White
Mary Ann Ulik, DSP
Amy Cannata, Spokesman Review

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Jessica Hill, Transportation Planner
Judy Hazard, Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of January Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the January 13, 2005 meeting minutes. Mr. Gary Schimmels seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee Report

Mr. Bob Brueggeman, Chair of the TTC, reported the TTC members gave updates on their upcoming summer construction schedule and received a status report on the Bridging the Valley project and VISUM model. They discussed the new STA Call for Projects and Regional Concurrency.

b) Citizens' Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Harold Vanderpool, Chair of the CACT, reported the CACT members received an update on the Downtown Streetcar Study and were told about the Home Interview Survey, the Northside Transportation Study, and the STA Call for Projects.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of January Vouchers

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the payment of the January, 2005 voucher list in the amount of \$46,489.45. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) Approval of Month 13 Vouchers

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the payment of the Month 13, 2004 voucher list in the amount of \$77,860.54. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Dale Stedman talked about the nickel gas tax and explained how long it would last and talked about the ways the projects being funded by it could continue to be funded once the gas tax ends.

Mr. Todd Mielke arrived at 1:45 pm.

Mr. Jerry Lenzi reminded everyone to continue to go slow on I-90 in the valley. The speed limit is still 50 mph. He also reported the I-90 Idaho state line rest

area will be closing in the next two to three weeks. There has been a very low utilization of that rest area for quite some time. Mr. Lenzi stated that in 2006 the downtown viaduct will be resurfaced and rehabilitated. This will take two seasons to complete the job.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Glenn Miles gave a short synopsis of the Northeast Transportation Study underway at this time at SRTC. They have had a scoping meeting with the jurisdictions and are in the process of putting together interest groups in the study area.

The Home Interview Survey Request for Proposals is out and applications are due back to SRTC by the end of business February 14, 2005. Mr. Miles explained the purpose of the survey and the process by which it will be taken. He indicated the last survey of this type was done in 1985. They anticipate about 4,000 households will be surveyed. An arrangement has been worked out with Kootenai County to do their Home Interview Survey at the same time as there is a great deal of cross-county travel and their needs are the same as Spokane. Federal Highways Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Washington State Department of Transportation (through the Washington Transportation Plan) have provided funding for this Survey. It is anticipated the Board will receive a recommendation at their March meeting to enter into a contract with the chosen consulting firm.

Mr. Miles gave an update on the TEA-21 Reauthorization Bill.

8. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley

SRTC has met its deadline of getting the Reauthorization Bill request in on time. SRTC has received 18 letters of support for the Bridging the Valley project from people and agencies in Kootenai and Spokane Counties. These letters have been given to Congresswoman Cathy McMorris' office.

b) Spokane Downtown Streetcar Feasibility Study

At last month's SRTC Board meeting, the Board was given a presentation on the current status of the Spokane Downtown Streetcar Feasibility Study. At that time some of the possible streetcar corridors were shown. The steering committee met this morning and is starting to look at different alignments for routes in the downtown area focusing on getting from downtown to Riverpoint and up to the Arena and County campus. Shortly the consultant will have completed the alignment changes suggested by the steering committee and also will have an

operations plan and a possible vehicle. The consultant will be developing renderings and graphics to show what it will look like in the downtown area.

9. New Business.

a) Regional Concurrency

Mr. Miles explained that the TTC has been having discussions regarding the Growth Management Act requirement for concurrency recognizing that transportation crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Several years ago, the SRTC Board adopted a regional concurrency management system, which recognized there are two tiers of concurrency (local and regional). The TTC asked that the issue of concurrency be brought before the Board for guidance on establishing a program that would look at meeting concurrency as they occur with transportation improvements at the corridor level rather than just the intersection adjacent to the development.

As Ms. Kim Zentz was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Tom Arnold gave a short talk explaining the problems the City of Spokane has been facing for quite a while regarding concurrency. He indicated there is a value to partner with other jurisdictions on solving the regional transportation needs. One of the major issues is how to deal with development that occurs inside a city that has an impact on a regional corridor. Other jurisdictions gave their input indicating they also are having the same problems and are in agreement in needing answers to this dilemma.

After discussion and a question and answer period, the SRTC Board directed SRTC to:

- ❖ Move forward with inputting intersection geometries and signal timings into the regional model for the purpose of creating a regional concurrency system
- ❖ Attempt to find examples of regional concurrency approaches and financial models.

b) City of Spokane Request to Advance Havana Street Bridge Final Design & Right-of-Way

The City of Spokane is planning to reconstruct the Freya Street Bridge. In order for this construction to cause as few problems as possible for motorists, The City would like to use the Havana Street Bridge as a detour route for the Freya Street Bridge once it is closed.

SRTC received a letter from the City of Spokane requesting SRTC to exercise its option under the existing BTV contract to have HDR Engineering, the consultant on the Bridging the Valley project, complete the final design of the Havana Street

Bridge as soon as possible. This would save approximately six months in lag time. The City indicated they are committed to the local match for design of this project, and will continue to pursue additional federal funds for construction. They asked that the City's Engineering staff and Bridge Maintenance staff be included in the review of the bridge design and construction management.

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to advance the Havana Street Bridge portion of the Bridging the Valley project to final design and right-of-way. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

10. Public Comments.

Mr. Jerry White spoke to the SRTC Board regarding the upcoming visit of Mr. Alan Durning to the Spokane Region. He indicated the Unitarian Church and the American Planning Association are sponsoring a presentation to be made by Mr. Durning at the Spokane City Council Chambers on March 9, 2005 at 7 pm. His talk will focus on seven key trends critical to the future of the Northwest (health, economy, population, energy, sprawl, forests, and pollution).

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary