

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
February 16, 2005
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Bob Brueggeman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Tom Arnold	City of Spokane
Bob Brueggeman (Chair)	Spokane County
Ron Edgar	SCAPCA
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park
Ross Kelley	Spokane County
Don MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	City of Cheney
Keith Metcalf	WSDOT
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Kim Zentz	Spokane Transit Authority
Harold White	WSDOT
Steve Worley	City of Spokane Valley

Guests/Alternates.

Ted Trepanier	WSDOT
Margaret Watson	CACT
Bob Turner	City of Spokane
Scott Egger	City of Spokane
Melissa Cleveland	JUB Engineers

Staff.

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

3. Approval of January Meeting Minutes.

John Mercer made a correction to the minutes. He indicated that on page six at the third bullet of the second set of bullets the date February 29, 2005 should be changed to March 1, 2005.

Ron Edgar made a motion to approve the January 19, 2005 meeting minutes as corrected. John Mercer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Technical Member Comments.

Kim Zentz said STA is still working on their service plan improvements and realignments. This will result in an 11% increase in service. A public hearing will be held February 24th preceded by a workshop with the public. This plan will go before the Board for adoption in March with the improvements to take place in September or October or once the Monroe Street Bridge reopens. STA is also moving forward with its software implementation and new fare box project.

Ted Trepanier attended the meeting as an alternate for Larry Chatterton. Ted is working on a committee to update WSDOT's pedestrian crossing standards. Also, WSDOT has completed a two-year study of wildlife reflectors (deer mirrors). The study indicates these reflectors are not very effective. They may be removed after the study is completed but they will start ramping down on the maintenance of them sooner. He is working with another committee called the Congestion Working Group, which is putting together information related to congestion from around the state that is to be published in WSDOT's performance measures notebook. He also gave an update on the Transportation Management Center and ITS related issues.

Ross Kelley said a lot of things are going on at the Medical Lake interchange with I-90; and they are working on the Bigelow Gulch Environmental Assessment. The County wants to meet with the City of Spokane and WSDOT to talk about the situation that will occur when the North Spokane Corridor connects at Francis Avenue. Also, they are finished with their final draft of the utility pavement cut policy.

Keith Metcalf mentioned WSDOT is working with the City of Spokane regarding restricting some mid-block crossings. He updated the members on WSDOT's spring/summer construction schedule. About a month ago WSDOT held an open house at Farwell School on the North Spokane Corridor project; 200 people attended.

Steve Worley talked about the status of the Pines/Mansfield project. He indicated they have been able to get all 9 developers to participate financially in the project. Spokane Valley had a meeting last week with SRTC, WSDOT, and TIB regarding the Valley Corridor. They will be getting a discipline report to address some of the concerns being experienced at this time. They are moving forward with their comprehensive planning process. He indicated Spokane County Utilities is working on their septic tank elimination program and all the projects this year are in the Spokane Valley so there will be a lot of streets torn up.

Harold White said WSDOT will be paving Division from Spokane River to Euclid/North Foothills Drive, and Division from Houston to Center Road during the summer. Harold also gave an update on what is going on in the State Legislature that is transportation related. He also gave information on the status of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Roger Krieger indicated that 8 months ago Deer Park instituted a traffic mitigation ordinance area wide benefit for some intersections and at this point over \$6,000 has been generated. A study was done which identified intersections for traffic light improvements. This money will be used during next summer to install lights around the school areas.

Tom Arnold indicated the City of Spokane is interested in talking to SCAPCA regarding possible air quality issues that might be caused in the downtown area from planned construction. The City is working with the contractor on the Monroe Street Bridge. There have been major changes in the scope of work based on conditions found on the Bridge, which will delay the opening of the Bridge. He brought up the subject of Super Pave, which is a new technology, and Recycled Asphalt. These are major issues that will need to be addressed in their design standards.

Don MacDonald said Cheney has a Request for Qualifications out for a consultant to provide engineering services for the recently approved projects from the recent call for projects. He indicated that the Railroad Quiet Zone Analysis will look at what structurally needs to be put into place in order to meet the guidelines for a quiet zone. Cheney has a very big problem with train noise. Also, they are working on applications for the STA Cooperative Projects.

John Mercer said that the Spokane City Council recently completed the annexation of the Muirfield subdivision, which contains 39 homes and is located south of 37th Avenue, east Custer south of Chase Middle School. The Spokane City Council is also scheduled to take final action on the Shopko Annexation before the end of the month. The Shopko Annexation is located on the Moran Prairie and is located south of 44th, north of 53rd, west of Freya and east of Crestline. It contains approximately 229 acres and has a population of approximately 1650 people.

Ron Edgar said he still did not have sweeping and sanding plan revisions from Spokane County and the City of Spokane Valley. He would like to have those by the end of the month. Also, on February 3rd, road dust levels almost exceeded the standard. This is the closest Spokane has come in the last few years. As the conditions are similar right now, as of this morning there is a wood stove and all outdoor burning ban.

Margaret Watson gave a report on the last CACT meeting. They received updates on the Downtown Spokane Streetcar Feasibility Study, the Home Interview Survey, the Northeast Transportation Study, and the STA Call for Projects. Elections of officers was held and the chair for 2005 is Harold Vanderpool and the vice chair is Margaret Watson.

Bob Brueggeman mentioned that the County is putting together a 2005 Regional Construction Map as they have the past few years and asked that if any jurisdiction has anything they want to add to do it soon.

Tiffany Brooks, SRTC Staff, indicated SRTC is re-assembling and co-facilitating the Active Living Task Force (ALTF), which is part of the Active Community Environments (ACE) program. She distributed a handout that explained what Active Community Environments and Active Living Task Forces are. SRTC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, is involved in the ACE program in coordination with WSDOT, WSDOH, and Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED). At present, the ALTF is mostly comprised of jurisdictional and agency representation, but Tiffany is seeking to further expand the advocacy-based membership of the ALTF, hoping to eventually have a 50-50 mix of jurisdictional and advocacy-based groups. Tiffany asked the TTC members for suggestions for possible representatives, especially from the City of Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake. Additionally, she is also seeking people who are involved in aging and senior advocacy within the area, as the new ACE emphasis is on aging and senior populations. Tiffany anticipates having a firm ACE task force membership of 14-15 in place in the next several weeks. The first public function is tentatively scheduled at the Earth Day Celebration.

5. Old Business.

a) VISUM Model Update

Ed Hayes gave an update on the VISUM model. The interim model is being calibrated to 2003 using the same standard that FHWA and FTA used in SRTC's last certification process. The model is within 4% overall (2003 observed values compared to modeled values). Once certain target parameters are met, a draft will be delivered to the jurisdictions. It is anticipated this will take place tomorrow, February 17th. The model users group will meet on February 22nd and discuss the draft.

The deadline for the Request for Proposals on the Home Interview Survey was February 14th. Three proposals were received and they are being evaluated at this time. It is hoped the survey will be completed this spring and the data back to SRTC during the summer. The data will then be added to the model.

b) Bridging the Valley Status Report

Glenn Miles reported SRTC has met its deadline of getting the Reauthorization Bill request in on time. SRTC has received 19 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 McMorris' office and Congressman Otter's office. The SRTC Board approved SRTC working with the City of Spokane to move into final design and right-of-way for the Havana overpass. \$7 million is available now, to which the City of Spokane's local match and BNSF's contribution will be added. Other funding sources are possibly available also. The Section 106 (Federal Historic and Archeological Technical) report should be completed in the next two weeks. The Federal Categorical Exclusion is anticipated for March 23-24.

c) Regional Concurrency

The topic of regional concurrency was taken to the SRTC Board at their February meeting. The Board was asked if they would like SRTC staff and the TTC to put together a plan on how to do a multi-jurisdictional regional concurrency approach to try to capture the big projects that transcend jurisdictional boundaries and agencies. Several things were discussed including creating geographic areas where a capital facilities plan could be created. The consensus of the Board was to move forward in the direction of developing a regional concurrency approach to address the growth and development in those areas as well as coming up with that type of capital facilities plan that everyone can contribute to.

Mr. Miles suggested that as SRTC will be developing its next Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) shortly, they put regional concurrency into it as an item and then retain an out of state consultant with expertise in developing concurrency management plans. In order to get the credibility that the Board will need to make this happen an outside consultant is necessary. Collectively this committee can come up with the projects that are regionally significant that should be incorporated into a capital facilities plan but it is the basis and mechanism for making it all work that is of tantamount importance.

d) STA Cooperative Projects

The application packets have been sent to all interested parties. Applications are due back to SRTC by February 28th at 4:30 pm.

6. New Business.

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary