

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, March 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 1:35 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members Absent:

Brenda Redell, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner
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
Bill McCammon, WSDOT
Keith Martin, WSDOT
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
John Mercer, City of Spokane
Kim Zentz, STA
Ross Kelley, Spokane County

Staff Present:

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

3. Approval of February Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the February 10, 2005 meeting minutes. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Citizens' Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Harold Vanderpool reported that at last month's CACT meeting the members received a presentation from Molly Myers regarding light rail. They also discussed concurrency and the STA Call for Projects.

b) Transportation Technical Committee Report

Mr. Bob Brueggeman reported that at the last TTC meeting the members all gave their agency reports. It appears it will be an extremely active construction season. They received updates on the VISUM model, Bridging the Valley, the STA Call for Projects and discussed concurrency.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of February Vouchers

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to approve the payment of the February, 2005 voucher list in the amount of \$144,468.94. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) HDR Contract Extension for Bridging the Valley

HDR and BNSF have been working on the Bridging the Valley project attempting to complete the necessary environmental documents and operating agreements. Completion was anticipated by March 31, 2005. It is taking longer than expected to complete this process. HDR is requesting an increase in time until May 31, 2005 to complete this portion of the project. This extension should provide sufficient time to complete the necessary reports and documents. There will be no increase in cost in this request.

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve a contract extension for HDR to May 31, 2005 with no increase in cost. Mr. Dennis Hession seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

c) BNSF Contract Extension for Bridging the Valley

HDR and BNSF have been working on the Bridging the Valley project attempting to complete the necessary environmental documents and operating agreements. Completion was anticipated by March 31, 2005. It is taking longer than expected to complete this process. BNSF is requesting an increase in time until May 31, 2005 to complete this portion of the project. This extension should provide sufficient time to complete the necessary reports, documents and agreements. There will be no increase in cost in this request.

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve a contract extension for BNSF Railway Company to May 31, 2005 with no increase in cost. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

d) KMPO Contract Renewal

For the past two years SRTC has provided MPO staff support to Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO). All costs incurred to provide staff support and ancillary services to KMPO are paid for entirely by KMPO through their local, state, and federal funding programs. The KMPO Board unanimously approved the contract be renewed for another two years and requested the SRTC Board author the renewal of the contract.

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the two-year contract renewal with the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Dennis Hession thanked Glenn Miles for the positive way the relationship with the KMPO is working. He stated cooperative planning is good for the region.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Miles gave an update on the status of the TEA-21 Reauthorization Bill. He also explained where Spokane is financially in regards to earmarks in comparison to the rest of Washington State.

8. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley

At this time the Section 4F and 106 Report is still being worked on. The Memorandum of Agreement between the two railroads is still in the negotiating phase and is expected to be completed March 5th.

b) Spokane Downtown Streetcar Feasibility Study

The Streetcar Steering Committee meeting took place this morning. The consultant, URS has come up with an initial segment map. The operating plan would be weekdays from 7 am to 10 pm (Friday to midnight), Saturdays 7 am to midnight, and Sundays 7 am to 7 pm with 15-minute headways all the time. The route would connect the Riverpoint campus through downtown, through Riverfront Park, in front of the Arena, over to the County Courthouse campus, and then down to Summit property and then return by the same route. Westbound would take 10 minutes and eastbound would take 13 minutes. The initial numbers indicate it would cost approximately \$1.6 million per year to operate three streetcars (with a fourth in reserve) at a cost of approximately \$47 million. This works out to be about \$13 million per mile, which by streetcar standards in a downtown urban environment is a fairly low price. This update by Mr. Miles was followed by a lengthy discussion by the Board Members.

c) Home Interview Survey

As part of the recommendations from the last Federal Certification review, SRTC was requested to update the regional travel demand model to reflect newer information on travel behavior and trip length distribution. This is accomplished by conducting a home interview survey through the use of travel diaries. A Request for Proposals was released and three firms responded. Two were qualified and of those two, only one, NuStats Inc., met the timeline requirement that is necessary for SRTC to accomplish the model update in a timely manner. Authorization to sign the contract was requested of the Board.

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the contract with NuStats Inc. to conduct a Home Interview Survey in the amount of \$228,000 with a completion date of July 31, 2005. Mr. Dennis Hession seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

9. New Business.

a) STA Cooperative Call for Projects

Spokane Transit Authority (STA) has \$6 million available to support projects that enhance STA's mission to provide public transportation within the Public Transportation Benefit Area. STA requested SRTC release a call for projects. SRTC received 23 projects, which equaled \$5,980,286. It was agreed by Mr. Miles and Ms. Zentz that since the submitted applications totaled the available money, the prioritization meeting scheduled for March 16th for the TTC and CACT was not necessary. SRTC asked the Board Members to approve the projects that have been submitted, since they collectively do not exceed the program level threshold.

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to recommend approval of the list of submitted STA Cooperative projects to the STA Board. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) Transportation Manager Evaluation

Ms. Sooy explained that it was past time to undertake Mr. Glenn Miles' evaluation. She appointed an evaluation committee who will be given blank evaluation forms to fill out and return to her. The committee consists of Dennis Hession, Gary Schimmels, and Dale Stedman. She would like to get this completed in the next two months.

10. Public Comments.

No public comments were made at this time.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary