

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
May 18, 2005
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Bob Brueggeman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Tom Arnold	City of Spokane
Bob Brueggeman (Chair)	Spokane County
Larry Chatterton	WSDOT
Ron Edgar	SCAPCA
Neil Kersten	City of Spokane Valley
Ross Kelley	Spokane County
Don MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	City of Cheney
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Jerry Sinclair	City of Spokane
Harold White	WSDOT
Todd Woodard	Spokane International Airport
Steve Worley	City of Spokane Valley

Guests/Alternates.

Mark Rohwer	WSDOT
Margaret Watson	CACT
Ryan Stewart	STA
Bob Turner	City of Spokane
Scott Egger	City of Spokane
Louis Meuler	City of Spokane
Inga Note	City of Spokane Valley

Staff.

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

3. Approval of April Meeting Minutes.

Ross Kelley made a motion to approve the April 20, 2005 meeting minutes. Don MacDonald seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Technical Member Comments.

Ross Kelley reported that Spokane County had a groundbreaking for Bigelow Gulch/Argonne on May 12th. They are finding that bid prices for several projects have been higher than anticipated possibly due to the price of cement and steel. They have several large asphalt projects about to start and find that asphalt prices are okay. Spokane County had its first utility coordinating council meeting. The meeting went very well; they are not meeting again until September.

Ron Edgar said the final public notice on the CO Attainment Plan has been published in the Federal Register and is open for public comment for about two more weeks. He has not received any information on when the Maintenance Plan will be out for public comment as it is still being reviewed by EPA. Oxygenated fuel cannot be eliminated from the regulations until the Maintenance Plan has officially been approved. He indicated the Air Toxic Community Assessment Study is going well.

Mark Rohwer stated the WSDOT Planning Department has been working with two regional transportation-planning organizations on preparing enhancement criteria for the next round of enhancement projects once funding becomes available. WSDOT is also moving forward with SR 291 Route Development Plan. They are working with the attorney general's office on an agreement for the jurisdictional transfer of SR 290 (Division to Hamilton).

Harold White indicated that Division Street (repaving from Spokane River to Euclid) will be going to construction in early July and Division (Francis to Farwell) will be repaved. ITS trunk line communications will be added at the same time. Harold also gave a legislative update. He said there was recent legislation from which the seven counties of the eastern region received \$2 million from the 10-year program. Two projects in the Spokane area were funded this biennium.

Jerry Sinclair said the Monroe Street Bridge project is moving forward. It is hoped they will be finished soon.

Tom Arnold stated the City of Spokane has also been experiencing problems with the cement shortage. They have had two shut downs on Third Avenue due to this problem. The City has had two workshops on impact fees.

Don MacDonald reported the City of Cheney is dealing with an issue where a subcontractor on Cheney's residential road and water contract declared bankruptcy right before the water main work was due to start. The contractor is

trying to find a replacement but it is possible the contract may have to be terminated. Also, there is talk of a hotel coming to Cheney and developers are discussing right-of-way issues. Cheney is working with the UTC to exempt the spur lines crossing for the school buses.

Neil Kersten said the City of Spokane Valley is working on passing a regional utility cut policy similar to that passed by Spokane County. They are also talking about impact fees.

Steve Worley reiterated last month's concerns about being able to move forward on the City of Spokane Valley's federally funded projects because the STIP has not been amended to include those projects yet. Mr. Miles advised that the STIP was signed by the Governor on May 5th and sent to Federal Highways and Federal Transit for sign-off. It is anticipated it will be signed in the next day or two. Steve introduced the City of Spokane Valley's new Traffic Engineer, Inga Note.

Todd Woodard reported the airport's taxiway "C" project is underway. Their Board approved pre-engineering dollars for Spotted Road so this project will go to ad very soon. Last week, they opened a wait-free cell phone zone. This allows people to wait in their car in an area until called by a passenger to pick them up at the door.

Margaret Watson gave a report on the last CACT meeting.

Glenn Miles stated Kootenai County, through KMPO, has prepared a regional 2005-2007 Construction Map patterned after Spokane region's construction map. The map is being made available to the general public and was distributed to the TTC members.

5. New Business.

a) Federal Functional Classification Change Request

i) Spokane County Request – Columbia Drive

Spokane County requested a Federal Functional Classification change request for Columbia Drive (Argonne to the west end of the road) from an Urban Minor Arterial to an Urban Collector.

John Mercer made a motion to forward the Federal Functional Classification Change Request to the SRTC Board and recommend approval. Harold White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. Old Business.

a) VISUM Model Update

Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) are evaluated from time to time and have been evaluated at this time for the Home Interview Survey. Ed Hayes distributed a draft map showing the new TAZ splits. In another two years they will be reevaluated. Also, SRTC is working with the GIS people of both the City and County to determine the attributes that are available for building the new model.

i) Spokane Valley Model Request

Steve Worley and Neil Kersten expressed concerns with the modeling SRTC has done for and regarding the City of Spokane Valley. Instead of using SRTC's model they would like to just use a 2% growth increase. Glenn Miles responded that according to federal statute, the City of Spokane Valley must use the regional land-use based travel demand model, a travel demand network based on the latest land-use planning assumptions, and population and employment information in order to develop their future travel demand forecasts which the regional emissions budget is based on, that the projects have to be based on. If the City of Spokane Valley does not use the regional model, SRTC cannot certify their projects.

Glenn Miles requested the Spokane Valley's Planning Department look at TAZs for existing employment and existing land use to make sure they are comfortable with it. If population and employment in TAZs is grounded and everybody says it is solid, then SRTC would start changing the transportation network to move things around so that it more closely represents 2003 traffic. Only then will SRTC adjust the model to drive traffic where it needs to go.

Valley representatives indicated they would do that and verify the information was acceptable so that SRTC can proceed with adjusting the model to line up with 2003 traffic counts. They said they would get the answer to SRTC right away.

The committee expressed the need for City of Spokane Valley to continue working with SRTC and the regional travel demand model during development of their Comprehensive Plan.

b) Bridging the Valley Status Report

Mr. Miles said the final paperwork for the Havana Street crossing has been submitted to WSDOT. It is hoped HDR will be given the go-ahead on this project shortly. It is anticipated it will be completed in 18 months.

c) Regional Concurrency

At this time, the regional concurrency committee has not met. The members of this committee are as follows:

- Bob Brueggeman Spokane County
- Gordon Howell STA
- Tom Arnold City of Spokane
- Bill Bennett WSDOT
- Inga Note City of Spokane Valley

Mr. Miles reported the SRTC Board would like to see the Growth Management ACT (GMA) Steering Committee active once again. He also suggested that Dale Rosebrock be invited to a future TTC meeting. He is a demographic planner with Intermountain Demographics and works with land use and population forecasts.

Also, due to the heavy construction going on this summer, traffic counting will be delayed until spring of 2006.

d) Home Interview Survey

Nustats Inc., the consultant hired to conduct the Home Interview Survey successfully completed the pilot program and cognitive interview tests for the survey. The survey travel days started May 3rd and will continue through June 10th. There will be several bulk mailings during the months of May. Nustats anticipates approximately 7,500 to 10,000 households to be contacted and recruited into the survey in Kootenai and Spokane Counties.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary