

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, September 8, 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 1:36 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

Dennis Hession, City of Spokane Council Member
Keith Metcalf, WSDOT - Eastern Region (Alternate)
Todd Mielke, 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:

Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT – Eastern Region
Brenda Redell, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Bob Brueggeman, TTC
Tom Arnold, City of Spokane
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
K.C. Traver, STA
Susan Milbank, STA

Staff Present:

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

3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to approve the July 14, 2005 meeting minutes. Mr. Dennis Hession seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee Report

Mr. Bob Brueggeman reported that at the last TTC meeting the jurisdictions gave the status of their summer road construction. The members received updates on the model and regional concurrency. A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) has been given to the subcommittee working on regional concurrency. They will be meeting in the next two weeks with a version to bring to the TTC. Once the TTC has approved it, the RFP will be brought before the SRTC Board for review.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of July Vouchers

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the payment of the July, 2005 voucher list in the amount of \$59,736.20. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) Approval of August Vouchers

Mr. Dennis Hession made a motion to approve the payment of the August, 2005 voucher list in the amount of \$93,808.84. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

c) 2005 TIP Amendment #4

WSDOT requested approval of Amendment #4 to the 2005-2007 TIP. They asked that the following two projects be amended into the TIP:

- I-90/Sullivan Road Interchange PCCP Intersection Rehabilitation; PE and CN phases
- US 395 and Hastings Road PCCP Intersection; PE and CN phases

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve Amendment #4 to the 2005-2007 TIP. Mr. Gary Schimmels seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Joe Shogan indicated the City has an increased emphasis on the north side of Spokane (Indian Trail and 5-Mile) and he would like to see anything related to those projects on the 6-year plan.

Mr. Dale Stedman stated the Transportation Commission is working on the Washington Transportation Plan. They are going around the State and visiting the 14 RTPOs to receive input from the regional administrators on their region. Mr. Stedman and a WSDOT staff member will be meeting with Mr. Glenn Miles next week followed by a trip to the Colville and Clarkston RTPOs. Mr. Stedman also discussed a newspaper item in which a recommendation has been made to eliminate a portion of the State's gas tax for the next three months to assist people with the high price of gas in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. This temporary reduction in gas tax would amount to \$260 million being taken from transportation revenue flow over the next 90 days.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Glenn Miles informed there will be a Rural ITS Conference in Spokane on September 12th and 13th.

Mr. Miles and Mr. Dale Stedman attended an MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee meeting last week in Seattle. A discussion took place regarding the distribution of funding throughout the State of Washington. The legislative leadership has indicated that if Initiative 912 passes and the 9.5-cent gas tax is repealed that they plan to reopen the nickel package because of the need to rethink the projects that were funded in the nickel package. The Legislature passed a transportation mobility grant program (approximately \$20 million), which will be affected also if Initiative 912 passes. The Request for Proposals for the program will be released September 9th and due in by the end of October. The mobility is to make capital or long-term operating improvements in congested corridors. Mr. Miles was told they would like to see at least two park and ride lots out of Spokane. Any jurisdiction can apply for those funds. Mr. Stedman acquainted the Board with the possible consequences to the Spokane area if Initiative 912 passes.

Mr. Miles stated applications for the Enhancement Funding Program are due to SRTC by the end of the day tomorrow.

8. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley

SRTC has been working with City of Spokane and WSDOT Eastern Region on a local agreement for the final design of Havana Street. It will be taken before the City Council next week. Once the agreement has been approved by the City Council all parties will sign it and the project can proceed. Spokane Valley has put in a TIB application for Park Road. Mr. Miles has been in contact with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and they will be advising him shortly how much money they will be putting into the project.

On the Idaho side of this project, Senator Crapo was able to get \$5 million from the Reauthorization Bill for the Rathdrum underpass. They are only \$1 million short of having that part of the project fully funded which they are attempting to find. At this time Idaho Transportation Department will be transferring that project to the WSDOT Eastern Region so it can be managed under Bridging the Valley at one location.

The Reauthorization Bill did have the hoped for language which creates a Rail Relocation Assistance Grant Program which allows each state to apply for up to \$20 million per year and states can commingle their \$20 million each to relocate class 1 railroads in urbanized areas. In order to be eligible, preliminary engineering and environmental work must be completed. The Bridging the Valley project fits the criteria.

b) Home Interview Survey

In spring 2005, SRTC contracted with NuStats to conduct a Household Travel Characteristics Study. The goal of this survey was to create a database containing accurate information on trips, trip characteristics, household characteristics, and person characteristics for a representative sample of households in Spokane and Kootenai Counties. This data will be used to update travel demand forecast models, to identify Transportation Improvement Plan priorities, and to inform other transportation planning and policy needs of the counties.

2,545 households were recruited in Spokane and Kootenai Counties. 1,828 households provided full data retrieval with a 72% response rate from recruited dwellings. 69% of the sample was for Spokane County.

The survey has been completed and the results tabulated. Ed Hayes, SRTC staff, gave a presentation on the findings. The following were a few of the facts presented as important findings from the survey:

- The largest percent of daily trips were taken for shopping and errands

- (35%).
- 15% of daily trips were taken for commuting, and another 6% were work related.
 - Most trips for commuting purposes were taken by single occupancy vehicles (83% in Spokane County and 87% in Kootenai County).
 - Trips made in the region averaged 17.7 minutes.
 - Approximately 439,000 personal vehicles were available for regular use among regional residents. This estimate equated to 2.09 vehicles per household in Spokane County and 2.14 vehicles per household in Kootenai County.

This survey also indicated certain model development implications. A few of these are as follows:

- The size of the survey was enough to develop models of trip generation and destination choice.
- The survey was robust enough to model non-motorized modes of travel if desired.
- Additional transit and future educational facility surveys augment the 2005 travel survey to model other modes and further split the home-based work trip purpose.

9. New Business.

a) Light Rail Update

K.C. Traver, Project Manager for the Spokane Regional Light Rail project gave a presentation on the status of the project at this time.

He indicated that the last report was given to the SRTC Board in July 2004 and itemized the tasks that have been completed since that last report.

The tasks still to be completed are as follows:

- Chapter 5 (Financial Summary) and Chapter 6 (Evaluation of Alternatives) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- FTA-10 Approval of public release/45 day review

Once these items have been completed, the Spokane community can select a locally preferred alternative and finalize an execution/funding strategy.

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 2:37 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary