

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
November 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
Ross Kelley	Spokane County
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Keith Metcalf	WSDOT
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Harold White	WSDOT
Todd Woodard	Spokane International Airport
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley

Guests/Alternates.

Dale Rosebrock.....	Intermountain Demographics
Mary Ann Ulik.....	Downtown Spokane Partnership
Paul Kropp	Moran Prairie Neighborhood Assn.
Ryan Stewart.....	Spokane Transit Authority
Mark Rohwer.....	WSDOT
Bob Turner	City of Spokane
Louis Meuler.....	City of Spokane

Staff.

Ed Hayes	Sr. Transportation Planner
Jessica Hill	Transportation Planner
Kayla Kruse.....	Transportation Planner
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Air Quality Transportation Planner
Judy Hazard.....	Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of September Meeting Minutes.

Ron Edgar made a motion to approve the September 21, 2005 meeting minutes. John Mercer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) VISUM model Update

Ed Hayes reported that SRTC is in contract negotiations with PTV America to do an update of the model. There are two parts to the update. One is developing the traditional four-step type of model and the other is constructing an activity trip chain model. If the activity-based model is too cost prohibitive, just the traditional model will be developed. If both are created, a side-by-side comparison will be undertaken for the next federal recertification. At that time they will evaluate both and select which methodology works the best.

SRTC has requested from Spokane County and the City of Spokane some large GIS data inputs that will be translated into the VISUM model. SRTC would like to use the County's road base as its base.

It is anticipated the four-step model will be completed by early summer 2006. If SRTC goes with the activity-based model, that portion will be complete by August 1, 2006.

b) Bridging the Valley

An Interlocal Agreement was signed between WSDOT, City of Spokane, and SRTC. WSDOT has assumed the lead agency for the final design and through right-of-way of the Havana Street Crossing. The paperwork has been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for approval on Havana. SRTC is waiting for approval from Historic Preservation in both Washington and Idaho.

c) Regional Concurrency Update

The SRTC Board approved the release of a Request for Proposals to Conduct a Study Assessing the Feasibility of the Regional Transportation Concurrency System in Spokane County. The RFP has now been released and the proposals are due to SRTC by 4 pm on December 16th. A committee created from TTC members will review the submitted proposals.

d) Transportation Enhancement Funding Program Status

The TTC recommended Transportation Enhancement funding projects to the SRTC Board. The Board approved all the TTC recommended projects. These projects have been submitted to the State. No funding is guaranteed until notice is received from

the State in February. The projects not approved for funding under SRTC's allowed funding allowance were forwarded to the State to compete in a Statewide Competition for funding. This will also take place in February.

e) Functional Classification Request Update

Kayla Kruse, SRTC staff, explained WSDOT and FHA have reviewed the functional classification requests that were submitted in May 2005. They have returned a spreadsheet showing what they will and won't approve with suggestions for resubmittal. The requests must be resubmitted with the suggested changes made. The percentages for functionally classified roadways are not in align with what they would like to see. Ms. Kruse asked that the members form a sub-committee to determine how to resubmit some of the suggested changes. The following people either volunteered or were volunteered for the committee:

Bob Brueggeman, Spokane County
Steve Worley, Spokane Valley
Mark Rohwer, WSDOT
Val Melvin, City of Spokane
Matt Breen, Spokane Airport

5. New Business.

a) Forecast Land Use & Demography

Ed Hayes introduced Dale Rosebrock, Intermountain Demographics, to the members. Mr. Rosebrock has been in Spokane all this week talking to jurisdictions and various businesses and entities regarding the allocation of land use and other information relative to developing his forecasts.

Dale Rosebrock presented draft data for population, housing unit, and employment forecasts for Spokane County. He described the methodology used to prepare the forecasts.

Spokane County's population is forecast to increase from nearly 418,000 persons in 2000 to almost 564,000 by 2030. Spokane County's housing inventory is forecast to increase from a total of about 187,000 units in 2005 to more than 240,000 units by 2030. Employment in Spokane County is forecast to increase from about 250,000 employees in 2000 to more than 339,000 by 2030.

The presentation was followed by a discussion of the material.

6. Technical Member Comments.

Ron Edgar stated that he has been named as Interim Director of SCAPCA to replace Eric Skelton who has left the agency. He reported air stagnation is moving in and will last through Saturday, which means the particulate numbers will be high. Trigger values for particulates are now based on fine particulate (PM 2.5) instead of PM 10 (which included road dust). The numbers are now based totally on smoke from wood stoves. \$2 million grant money is available from the Department of Ecology (DOE) for local governments for diesel retrofit programs. Applications are due in to DOE by December 2nd. They are hoping to get another \$6 million in 2006.

Todd Woodard said a food and beverage contract was awarded last week and a month ago a new retail contract was awarded. Food and beverage will invest \$5 million and retail will invest about \$4 million in tenant improvements into the terminal building. Their Board is putting in \$6 million in retrofitting their security areas. Due to construction, the terminal building will be inconvenient from about February through September 2006. Their ticketing wing project is substantially complete. The tower project is moving forward. The outside portion will be done in January 2006. When completed it will be 269 feet high.

Ross Kelley indicated the County has completed most of their projects for this year. They held an open house for Geiger Railroad Spur that was well attended. There are a few concerns from the neighbors near the railroad. He said the Watco Company has indicated it is not sure if they want to abandon the Palouse-Coulee City Line or stop service or sell. They had a good turnout for the Dennison-Chattaroy project. They are building a new connection between the state highways (2 and 395) at Dennison-Chattaroy. They hope to have it under construction in 2006. The County is looking at a lot of Road Improvement Districts next year. They are planning to pave a lot of gravel roads.

Tom Arnold stated the City of Spokane is working on modeling for the Kendall Yards project. The University District Downtown Traffic Study is also underway. The City of Spokane has been having open houses on several of their street bond projects. A suggestion was made for all projects from all jurisdictions in a construction season to be modeled from a regional perspective along with the regional construction map.

John Mercer said the City of Spokane has a task force working on the City's impact fee ordinance. He welcomes anybody from another jurisdiction who would like to attend the meetings. They are meeting every other Friday in the Council Briefing Center. Mr. Mercer introduced Katherine Miller who is replacing Jerry Sinclair, who has retired, both at the City and at the TTC.

Keith Metcalf reported WSDOT had a completion ceremony for the I-90 widening project. It is good news that Initiative 912 failed which is good news for the highways but the percentage of money this region received is lower than in previous funding packages. Hopefully, this area will form a group to work with legislators to see if this

area can't gain more monetary support. Work is continuing on the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) project. The Farwell to Francis section of the NSC will be drivable in 2008. WSDOT has the viaduct route repair project coming up in 2006. They have been working with businesses and agencies in trying to identify the anticipated impacts to the highway system and the city streets in downtown Spokane because of the closure of ramps and the reduction and narrowing of lanes.

Roger Krieger said Deer Park is working on readying projects for 2006.

Steve Worley said the City of Spokane Valley is readying themselves for next year's projects. He indicated there will probably be a roundabout at Pines and Mansfield. They have a 2030 model now from PTV America for the Valley Corridor project. Their consultant is working at analyzing that data compared to the base data. They are looking at alternatives for the Valley Corridor project. It is anticipated decisions on certain portions of the Corridor will be made by their City Council in the next few weeks. They are starting on the design of the Appleway project, which is east of Sullivan Road. The City Council is reviewing the draft Comp Plan.

Harold White stated the Implementation Plan for ITS infrastructure within the Spokane area is being updated by the various agencies. This will also be tied into a WSDOT sponsored Eastern Washington ITS Implementation Plan. The two plans need to be able to mesh with center-to-center communications. With the TMC in Spokane, the centers in Coeur d'Alene, Yakima, Wenatchee, etc. need to be able to talk to each other. This will help tremendously with managing the I-90 Corridor in the most efficient manner. Also, new cameras will be installed on the west side of the viaduct prior to the viaduct project starting. Mr. White advised that another crosswalk accident occurred in Airway Heights. They had been changing them to make them more visible to drivers. They will be working with the Traffic Safety Commission in Airway Heights in investigating its options in this regard. They also want to work with City of Spokane and Spokane County for managing the crossings. They will use Division as a test case.

Mark Rohwer said WSDOT is proceeding with SR 291 Route Development Plan (RDP). They are identifying future improvements. This RDP begins at Francis and Freya and goes west to Tum Tum. The City of Spokane was given a list of possible improvements, which they are reviewing. They will soon be meeting with Spokane County to review the list of improvements needed in the County. Counters were picked up last week, which counted all the ramps. These counts will be used for the Downtown Spokane Partnership study and also for analysis of impacts once the viaduct is under construction. New data will be available in the next several days.

Bob Brueggeman reported the environmental document is in San Francisco for legal sufficiency review. A conference call will take place next week to set a date to have Federal Highways Administration approve the document. Once this is complete, Spokane County will advertise in the Federal Register for comments.

Ryan Stewart said STA opened a Park and Ride a week ago on the South Hill.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary