

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, April 13, 2006
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, Mr. Gary Schimmels, at 1:34 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT - Eastern Region
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner
Brian A. Sayrs, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley (Chair)
Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member (Vice-Chair)
Brenda Redell, Small Towns Representative
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission

Board Members Absent:

Bob Apple, City of Spokane Council Member
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Don MacDonald, City of Cheney, TTC
Harold White, WSDOT
Ken Knutson, SRTMC
Phyllis Holmes, Light Rail Steering Com.
K. C. Traver, STA
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
Scott Eggar, City of Spokane

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Ed Hayes, Sr. Transp. Planner
Tiffany Brooks, Pub. Info/Ed Coord.
Jeff Selle, Manager Trans. Relations
Judy Hazard, Administrative Asst.

3. Approval of Minutes.

a) Approval of March SRTC Board Minutes

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the March 9, 2006 SRTC Board meeting minutes. Ms. Brenda Redell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) Approval of SRTC/STA Special Joint Meeting Minutes

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the March 30, 2006 SRTC/STA Special Joint Meeting minutes. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Report

Mr. Don MacDonald, Chair of the TTC, reported that the TTC met in March and was provided updates on Bridging the Valley, Regional Concurrency, and the Travel Demand Model.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of March Vouchers

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve the payment of the March, 2006 voucher list in the amount of \$185,916.76. Mr. Todd Mielke seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) Approval of Month 13 Vouchers

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve the payment of the Month 13, 2005 voucher list in the amount of \$63,028.94. Ms. Brenda Redell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Mark Richards arrived at 1:40 pm.

Mr. Brian A. Sayrs arrived at 1:43 pm

c) 2006 SRTC Title VI Plan Update

The Title VI Plan that was adopted in 2003 has been updated and was distributed to the Board at the meeting. The Title VI Plan is a requirement for both Federal Highways Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The Plan is an outline of what SRTC's general rules and responsibilities are, how public comments are addressed, the outreach tools to be used, as well as a

demographic profile of the Spokane area. Mr. Miles thanked Ms. Tiffany Brooks for all her hard work on this update.

Mr. Miles explained that each jurisdiction, as a recipient of federal aid funds, will be required to prepare their own Title VI Plan. As the jurisdictions are contacted by WSDOT for their Plans, they should contact SRTC and SRTC will provide the regional maps required for their Plan.

d) Bridging the Valley II – HDR Request for Extension of Contract

HDR Engineering, Inc., consultant on the Bridging the Valley project, has requested an extension of their contract to September 30, 2006. This extension would allow the agencies to review and approve the Bridging the Valley environmental document and also allow the railroads to complete their future Operation Agreement between Spokane, Washington and Athol, Idaho. The contract has been extended three times over the last 18 months to allow the railroads to complete the future Operation Agreement. The prior contract extension extensions have not included any request for additional fees for management and administration services. They are now requesting additional fees for administrative services and for additional non-administrative services in the amount of \$33,000.

Mr. Todd Mielke made a motion to extend HDR Engineering, Inc.'s contract to September 30, 2006 and award a supplement of an additional \$33,000 for the Bridging the Valley project. Mr. Brian A. Sayrs seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Dale Stedman reported the Washington Transportation Commission is involved in two important studies that are almost at an end. The first is a rail study that is important to this region; a rail listening session will be held in Spokane on April 25th. The second is a tolling study due to be completed at the end 2006.

Mr. Todd Mielke said the County is going through an update to the Comprehensive Plan as mandated by the Growth Management Act. They have received a number of requests from property owners throughout the region who either want zone reclassifications or to have their properties added to the urban growth boundaries. As they move toward a decision on these requests, they want a better recognition of the status of transportation corridors through the region. They are interested in knowing which ones are at capacity, which ones are beyond capacity, and which ones still have capacity left. Spokane County's building and planning staff will be contacting SRTC staff shortly to set up a meeting to discuss this issue. Mr. Mielke also would like to have discussions between jurisdictions to compare road standards for inconsistencies. It is

important to know why the inconsistencies exist, if in fact they do. Rather than creating a new entity to review that information, it should be reviewed by SRTC's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC), which has representatives from all jurisdictions on it already. Mr. Mielke indicated he would like to see the finalized project some time between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Mr. Todd Mielke made a motion that the TTC review the various road standards that now exist amongst the various jurisdictions in Spokane County, build a comparison of their similarities and differences, and bring their findings back to the SRTC Board. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Jerry Lenzi reminded everyone that the viaduct project will be starting the middle of May and suggested people look for alternate routes around that area. He also stated that when Vice-President Cheney arrives on April 17th, traffic will be stopped on I-90 and WSDOT's cameras will be turned off for the period of time he is traveling to the Davenport for his appearance.

Mr. Mark Richard announced there would be a press conference for a ceremonial signing of a contract between WSDOT and Spokane County for lease of the State Line rest stop area on April 19th at 9:30 am. The Central Business District will be running the Convention and Visitors Bureau starting this Spring once they have the new roadway constructed that will allow access to the rest stop from the back.

Brenda Redell brought up the Small Cities of the West Plains. They are concerned about getting from Medical Lake to Airway Heights within the West Plains without going on the freeway as this area continues to grow. If the airport grows in the future and decides to cut off Craig or Hayford Road they will have no way to go without going on the freeway. She made a request that staff start looking at this issue and discussing the possibilities for remedies.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Ms. Tiffany Brooks will be leaving SRTC next week. She has signed a professional contract to play softball for a women's team in Sweden.

Mr. Miles informed the Board that SRTC has put in a request to Washington Trust Bank to request SRTC's VISA limit be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500. The Board had no dissenting comments.

Avista Utilities has been giving presentations on the global picture of transportation and economic development. The SRTC Board has been very supportive of developing an advocacy group for the North Spokane Corridor and getting it built. After several conversations with Avista along with conversations with several Board members and others, it is noted that there is interest in SRTC

working with Avista in trying to focus in on the big picture for the Inland Northwest. This would involve taking a look at more than just Spokane County. If Spokane can become more collaborative with Kootenai County and with our partners around us it would be a good thing for everyone. The projects (i.e. light rail, airport, Bridging the Valley, I-90, US 95) are not really in competition with each other but are rather complimentary to each other. They are all working to do two things – promote better transportation mobility in the northwest – promote economic development in the northwest. Mr. Miles would like to advise Avista that SRTC would wholeheartedly be happy to help them with framing this bigger picture and aiding in their vision. The only resources anticipated to be provided by SRTC at this time would be staff time. The community will need to provide the resources to get this vision moving. Mr. Miles was clear in articulating that this does not diminish SRTC’s need to keep a focus on getting the North Spokane Corridor into funding.

The Board discussed this subject at some length and came to the following consensus.

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to authorize SRTC staff to work with Avista to develop the regional strategy for dealing with transportation in economic development. Ms. Brenda Redell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

8. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley

Mr. Miles reported scope of work comments on the Rathdrum Main Street Underpass have been received from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (project #2 on the list). Work is now being done on the State Local Agreement to get that into final design and right-of-way.

b) Regional Concurrency Study

Mr. Ed Hayes said all the contractual wording issues have been resolved with Bucher, Willis & Ratliff. They are now at work on the first of their tasks related to the regional concurrency study. Mr. Hayes thanked all the jurisdictions for providing all the necessary documentation from their files for these tasks. A technical memorandum will be out sometime in May. Once this has been done, workshops will be held early to mid-June.

c) Travel Demand Model Development Update

Mr. Ed Hayes explained that approximately 150 traffic counters are on the streets in the region. Two to three weeks after counts are received back from the

transportation data office SRTC will have a calibrated model and from that develop a forecast.

The planners are in the process of finishing up coding signal timing data and demand analysis. PTV came to Spokane on March 27th and visited with all the people who use the model software and everyone had a chance to see what the new features of the model are and what has been implemented to this date. It is anticipated all of this information will be in the model so a draft version of the model can be distributed for quality assurance and quality control to each of the jurisdictions to review.

d) Valley Corridor Project Update

Mr. Neil Kersten said the City of Spokane Valley is moving ahead with doing the transportation analysis on the Valley Corridor. They are negotiating with their consultant to do the full environmental assessment (EA) and coordinate the schedule of doing the EA with the sub-area plan being done by their Community Planning Department (Sprague Avenue and Appleway Corridor). Public hearings will most likely start in the Fall.

At the March SRTC Board meeting, the Board made a motion that allowed the City of Spokane Valley to relinquish Transportation Improvement Board funding (approximately \$4.2 million) for the Appleway Extension, for a like amount of STP (Urban) funds to be used on the project(s) developed and approved by the FHWA at the completion of the environmental process and its inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. This matter will be taken to the City of Spokane Valley's Council's April meeting. Once they have approval by their Board they will bring it back to SRTC at the next meeting.

The Valley received approximately \$500,000 in PE money on the last Call for Projects for the Valley Corridor Project. They will be asking that some of those funds be released to assist in the EA process. This will be brought to the next Board meeting also.

e) Light Rail Project

Mr. Miles reported at the joint STA/SRTC Board meeting there was a lot of discussion about context and semantics of terms. In anticipation of preparing a resolution for the May Board meeting Mr. Miles wanted to discuss the locally preferred alternative proposed by the Light Rail Steering Committee. He stated the selection of a preferred alternative does not constitute commitment to build.

Mr. Miles asked the Board's direction on the preparation of a Resolution that recognizes the Light Rail Steering Committee's locally preferred alternative without a timeline, and direction to the Committee to prepare a financial plan and to begin moving towards the preservation of the corridor.

The consensus of the Board was to ask Mr. Miles to prepare a Resolution for the Board's signature without a timeline and with direction to the Light Rail Steering Committee to prepare a financial plan and begin moving towards the preservation of the corridor.

9. New Business.

a) Spokane Streetcar Feasibility Study

The Spokane Streetcar Feasibility Study report has been completed and distributed to the Board members. The results will be presented to the STA Board and the Downtown Spokane Partnership later in April. In part the report says:

- There are some good routes.
- The project cost in current year dollars would be approximately \$50 million to build, operate, and maintain the first year.
- It will cost \$4 million per year for subsequent years.
- The route will go from Kendall Yards to the U-District and take 12-13 minutes.

It is up to the downtown business owners and the community to decide whether this is a project they want to see move forward.

10. Public Comments.

No public comments were made at this time.

11. Executive Session.

At 2:35 pm, Chair Schimmels called an Executive Session to discuss an employment matter and asked everyone except the Board Members to leave the room for approximately 10 minutes.

At 2:50 pm everyone was invited back into the room.

Mr. Todd Mielke made a motion to extend the offer of employment to Mr. Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager of SRTC for an additional three years beyond the current term of his contract. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Todd Mielke stated the Board has an interest in making an upward salary adjustment to Mr. Miles that goes along with the motion just passed. The Board intends to research the matter and bring back a dollar amount for the raise in compensation for Mr. Miles at an Executive Session at the next SRTC Board meeting.

After the executive session there was no longer a quorum as several Board members left.

13. Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center Status Report.

Mr. Harold White, Chair of the Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center (SRTMC) Operating Board, indicated they has been doing some development within the Center and he wanted to bring the SRTC Board up to date on their activities.

An Implementation Plan was written in 2000 and they are working on updating it at this time. They have received input from all jurisdictions including fire, police, etc. They hope to have a draft Plan out by this summer.

With the assistance of SRTMC Manager, Mr. Ken Knutson, Mr. White gave a presentation of SRTMC's webpage that will be on-line in the very near future, hopefully May 27th. This is not the final page but is still in development with the assistance of Siemens ITS. Additional flow meters will be coming on line in the Valley as far as Sullivan Road. They will also be going out to the Geiger Interchange. New cameras are being purchased, some to replace old black and white cameras and some for the new locations.

14. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary