

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, June 8, 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:

Bob Apple, City of Spokane Council Member
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)
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission

Board Members Absent:

Brenda Redell, Small Towns Representative
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Don MacDonald, City of Cheney, TTC
Tom Arnold, City of Spokane
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
Mary Ann Ulik, DSP
Judy Cole, Avista
Latisha Hill, Avista

Staff Present:

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

A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting so general business was taken first until a quorum was available for voting purposes putting items out of numerical order.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee Report

Mr. Don MacDonald reported that the TTC discussed the high cost of asphalt, a West Plains Traffic Study, a global gateway concept, and Regional Street Standards. They received updates on Bridging the Valley, regional concurrency, and the travel demand model. The City of Spokane Valley requested a recommendation for a substitution for some STA funding to another project.

Mr. Mark Richard and Mr. Bob Apple arrived at 1:36 pm and there is now a quorum.

3. Approval of May Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the May 11, 2006 meeting minutes. Mr. Brian A. Says seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of May Vouchers

Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the payment of the May, 2006 voucher list in the amount of \$151,949.62. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

b) City of Spokane Valley Request to Substitute STA Cooperative Project

City of Spokane Valley received an STA Cooperative Funding Grant for construction of sidewalks on Mission Avenue from Mullan Road to University Road. Due to circumstances, this project cannot be completed in the immediate near future. They are requesting to be able to use these funds to construct a concrete intersection at Appley Avenue and Barker Road as part of their current Appley Avenue Reconstruction project. This intersection is used by bus route 90.

STA's grant is for \$303,964 and the project they wish to substitute will cost \$379,000. The difference (\$75,036) will be covered by the City of Spokane Valley.

This was brought before the Transportation Technical Committee at their May meeting and they made a motion to recommend it forward to the SRTC Board for approval. If it approved by the SRTC Board it will then go forward to the Spokane Transit Authority Board for ratification.

Mr. Todd Mielke arrived at 1:43 pm.

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve the City of Spokane Valley's request to substitute STA Cooperative Funding from the Mission Avenue (Mullan Rd. to University Rd.) project to the Appleway Avenue Reconstruction (Appleway Ave. and Barker Rd. intersection) project. Mr. Mark Richard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

c) ITD SH-97 Corridor Plan Cooperative Agreement

SRTC received a Cooperative Agreement from Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) as part of its role for KMPO to do a State Highway 97 Corridor Plan. This area is seeing an extremely high amount of growth (2,000 to 3,000 lots being platted at this time). ITD and the local jurisdictions have provided \$220,000 for a consultant to be hired to do a corridor study of that route. This agreement sets that money in place for SRTC to hire a consultant. It is being handled through SRTC for accounting purposes. There is no financial responsibility on the part of SRTC but is wholly funded through ITD as well as developers in the area.

Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to accept the ITD SH-97 Corridor Plan Cooperative Agreement as presented. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. New Business.

a) Global Gateway Concept Presentation (Avista)

Ms. Judy Cole and Ms. Latisha Hill of Avista Corporation have been working on the concept of a global gateway for the Inland Northwest and have given a presentation regarding this subject to a number of groups. The Board requested they give this presentation at this meeting.

Their presentation was on a new conceptual plan that is designed to enhance the region's transportation infrastructure in a fashion that will promote economic development in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. The Global Gateway presentation takes a hard look at the region's existing infrastructure and the international air cargo market. The presentation begs the question as to whether this region could, in fact, develop an inland port to increase the amount of international air cargo that we are already beginning to see at Spokane International Airport. At the request of Senator Patty Murray's office, the SRTC has submitted a federal request for \$500,000 to do a full-scale feasibility study to determine if an international Global Gateway is a good fit for Spokane.

7. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Mark Richard asked about the Washington Transportation Commission's meeting regarding tolling roads scheduled for Thursday, June 29 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Center Place. Mr. Stedman explained about the reason for the meeting and where it was going to be held around the state.

Mr. Joe Shogan remarked about the importance of concurrency and he is very interested in the meeting on concurrency scheduled for June 14th.

Mr. Brian A. Sayrs reported the Light Rail Steering Committee met earlier this date to discuss funding options for the project. They voted to recommend that a Transportation Benefit District (rather than Spokane Transit) be used as a funding jurisdiction for any project.

8. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Glenn Miles reported Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has a project through the State of Washington to look at multimodal concurrency. They has asked that SRTC participate in the statewide look at multimodel concurrency. Mr. Ed Hayes has been asked to be on the technical group and SRTC's concurrency consultant team (based out of Seattle) has been asked to keep a watch on this project/study.

9. Executive Session.

At 2:38 pm, Chair Schimmels called an Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter and an employment matter. Mr. Miles was asked to stay for the real estate matter and everyone except the Board Members and Mr. Miles were asked to leave the room for approximately 20-25 minutes.

At 3:07 pm everyone was invited back into the room.

The Board indicated no Board action was taken during the executive session on the real estate matter.

At last month's SRTC Board meeting the Board discussed the fact the Board is directed to do an annual performance review on the Transportation Manager. This is to be completed in the fall of each year in order to incorporate it into the annual budget. This was not done in the fall of 2005. At last month's meeting the Board did a salary adjustment with the caveat that more data was needed and reserved the right to make a further adjustment. Since last month's meeting, more salary data has been collected on what similar positions receive in compensation.

Mr. Mark Richard stated the Board publicly apologizes to Mr. Miles for not having met the timeline of the contractual agreement for Mr. Miles review. He also said that for the past 4-6 years this pattern has been consistent and therefore Mr. Miles has not been compensated commensurate with positions of his like and kind throughout the region. He indicated that Mr. Miles has been very patient and gracious in this regard. He has also taken on a great deal of new responsibility with the task of Bridging the Valley and the KMPO. A question was asked about the SRTC budget and its ability to absorb this increase in salary. Mr. Miles responded that it was able to.

Mr. Todd Mielke made a motion to further adjust Mr. Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager of SRTC, salary from \$7,500.00 per month to \$8,333.33 per month effective July 1, 2006. Mr. Brian A. Sayrs seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

10. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley

The Idaho State Historic Preservation office signed off on the cultural resource inventory. That and the categorical exclusion will now be sent to Federal Highway Administration for signature. This will put the Bridging the Valley project in a position to begin right-of-way acquisition. Mr. Miles gave an update on the federal funding appropriation possibilities for the project.

b) Regional Concurrency Study

Bucher, Willis & Ratliffe (BWR) have prepared Technical Memo #3 (performance measures for concurrency) and Technical Memo #4 (the legal assessment). These will be topics of discussion for the Feasibility Study of Regional Transportation Concurrency System in Spokane County Workshop to be held the afternoon of June 14th. The technical staff will be meeting with BWR in the morning to go over technical issues. Mr. Miles urged the Board members to attend the afternoon workshop.

c) Travel Demand Model Development Update

Mr. Ed Hayes reported they are just finishing up with the Travel Demand Model putting the final details in it. Edits have been made which have been sent to SRTC by the jurisdictions. Completion of the base model is still anticipated by the end of June.

11. Public Comments.

No public comments were made at this time.

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary