

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board  
Thursday, August 10, 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 10:30 am.

### **2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance**

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Bob Apple, City of Spokane Council Member  
Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT - Eastern Region  
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner  
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  
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner  
Brian A. Sayrs, Spokane Transit Authority Representative  
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)  
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

#### **Staff Present:**

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager  
Ed Hayes, Sr. Transportation Planner  
Jessica Hill, Transportation Planner  
Val Melvin, SRTMC Traffic Engineer  
Judy Hazard, Administrative Assistant

#### **Guests Present:**

Paul Kropp, Moran Prairie Neighborhood Assn.

### **3. Approval of June Meeting Minutes.**

**Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the June 8, 2006 meeting minutes. Mr. Bob Apple seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **4. Committee Reports.**

#### **a) Transportation Technical Committee Report**

The Board was given a recap of the last TTC meeting. The TTC received a presentation on the new travel demand forecasting model and an update and clarification on federal funding. They also set up a sub-committee to meet and discuss street standards.

### **5. Administrative Matters.**

#### **a) Approval of June and July Vouchers**

**Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the payment of the June, 2006 voucher list in the amount of \$135,740.84. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the payment of the July, 2006 voucher list in the amount of \$117,791.84. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

#### **b) 2007 SRTC Budget**

The Board Members were given a copy of the draft 2007 SRTC Budget along with a narrative explanation of the budget showing significant changes between the amended 2006 Budget and the proposed 2007 Budget.

Mr. Miles gave an update on the status of the transfer of the Intermodal Facility building to SRTC and explained the plans for funding it. He indicated a separate budget would be prepared for operations and maintenance of the building to present to the Board. The building was designed to be a self-funded building. Before the Board's approval for the final transfer of the building is requested, a budget on the building and grounds will be brought to them for consideration.

Mr. Miles advised the Board that SRTC is on a long-term lease and the entire 15-year lease was paid in advance. The City of Spokane put that money into an investment fund. The maintenance and operations costs have been deducted from the long-term investment pool as a direct allocation and then back to the City. It is Mr. Miles' intent that when the time comes to redo this, the same funding strategy be used as was done initially using federal eligibilities we have

to front-load the long term maintenance and operation of this building and put it into an investment fund.

**Mr. Jerry Lenzi made a motion to approve the calendar year 2007 SRTC Budget. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was approved by all present with the exception of Mr. Mark Richard who voted nay.**

#### **6. SRTC Board Member Comments.**

Mr. Joe Shogan asked about the status of the Northwest Transportation Study and the way it would be funded.

Mr. Shogan also asked if there is a regional impact fee study. Mr. Miles responded there is the feasibility study which the Board received a presentation on about two months ago. It is anticipated Technical Memo #6 will be delivered to the Board at the September Board meeting. Bucher, Willis & Ratliffe will be meeting with the Transportation Technical Committee at their August meeting to go over that memo. The study should be completed this Fall.

Mr. Miles advised the Board that SRTC received a letter from Community Trade & Economic Development who have regional collaboration competitive grants available to increase and encourage regional collaboration on growth management. This grant program was established for collaborative planning and to yield multi-jurisdictional benefits such as joint planning negotiations, etc. (including regional impact fees). There is a lot of interest across the State on regional impact fees for transportation. As the feasibility study is winding down, and if the Board and local jurisdictions do find they are interested in moving forward with the implementation of regional concurrency and regional impact fees, this grant could be used to retain the services for writing the ordinance and writing the interlocal agreements necessary to put impact fees into place. This is a one-time grant up to \$75,000; grants are due by Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Mr. Miles asked the Board if they were interested in applying for this grant.

**Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion that SRTC apply for a \$75,000 regional collaboration competitive grant from Community Trade & Economic Development. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Schimmels thanked Mr. Stedman and Mr. Shogan for attending SRTC's audit. Mr. Miles advised the Board there were no audit findings or exceptions. A recommendation was made regarding consultants being chosen through the Request for Proposal process. In the past, SRTC has always checked the appropriate website for status of consultants regarding debarment. It is recommended a printout be made of the results of the status. This is to be placed in the file and affirms the website was checked and the consultant's name does not appear on it.

Mr. Stedman reported the Washington Transportation Commission is having a Spokane version of the Washington Transportation Plan Outreach Meeting. The meeting is being held at Spokane Transit Authority Board Room from 2-4 pm this afternoon, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Spokane is the seventh city in the State to host this meeting. It is a federal and state requirement that the State do an ongoing 20-year outreach of transportation projections for the state. The draft document is now out for public comment. The final document will be presented to the legislature in January 2007.

Mr. Lenzi gave an update on the Rutter Parkway and Viaduct projects. Rutter Parkway is open but still gravel and rocks; the temporary barrier will be off the viaduct next week and will be back to normal by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The other side will be done next year. Mr. Lenzi stated the State Senate Transportation Committee will be in town September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the area. It is hoped they will be able to visit the Transportation Management Center while they are in town. SRTC Board Member Mr. Bill Brannon will be providing a bus for the tour at a discounted price.

Mr. Mark Richard commended SRTC staff for the audit results and the fact that SRTC continues to operate without any negative findings. He asked this be forwarded on to the staff from the Board. Mr. Richard also commented on his opposing vote on the budget. He indicated it has nothing to do with the performance and is appreciate of the job being done it was his discomfort with moving so fast without having time to digest it. He said "great job in putting that forward."

## **7. Transportation Manager's Report.**

Mr. Miles introduced Ms. Val Melvin, a new SRTC staff member. She is the Spokane Regional Traffic Management Center (SRTMC) Traffic Engineer.

Mr. Miles attended the Pacific Northwest Economic Region annual conference in Edmonton, Canada at the request of Senator John Geodde, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He gave presentations on several Kootenai County projects as well as a presentation on the Global Gateway concept. A lot of interest was shown in the concept from both Canadian Pacific Railroad and the Alberta region. He indicated the national interest for the upcoming federal legislation and the next twenty years is freight movement and freight and rail capacity.

Several national organizations have been meeting to talk about the next transportation reauthorization bill, which will be in 2009. Indicators are that freight mobility will surpass congestion as the main topic of discussion due to its ties to economic development and trade.

WSDOT has advised SRTC of its previous three-year allocations for Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. CMAQ funds went up about \$1 million a year. SRTC held a 3-year Call for Projects in 2004 for 2004-2007. A high allocation was received in 2004 of about \$5.7 million. This has gone down to \$4.7 million in 2005 and \$4.6 million in 2006. WSDOT is recommending SRTC use the 2005 allocation for the benchmark for the next Call for Projects. Based on SAFETEA-LU legislation, the 2007 STIP must be a 4-year financially constrained Call for Projects. Therefore, the new Call for Projects will be 2007-2011 and will use the 2005 allocation of \$4.7 million for STP funds. Guidelines exist on how this money can be used. The most constraining one is that \$570,000 of the \$4.7 million must be used in the rural area and areas outside the Transportation Management Areas (TMA). The TMA area gets about \$2.8 million and there is approximately \$1.2 million that can be used either way. CMAQ funds total approximately \$12.5 million and must be tied to preventing congestion and derive some air quality benefit from it. It is aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the existing system without adding new capacity. Mr. Miles asked the Board for authorization to announce a Call for Projects and get the packets to the local jurisdictions. The Board agreed that the Call for Projects should be released.

## **8. Old Business.**

### **a) Bridging the Valley**

Phase II of the Bridging the Valley project was the completion of the preliminary engineering on all of the bridge crossings and the track design. FHWA has indicated they should have the documented categorical exclusion in the next several weeks. The final federal Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit has been received; All Corps permits have now been received. Bridging the Valley Phase III was a transition of the preliminary engineering and design, which was originally to go through the SRTC and has now gone to the City of Spokane who has contracted with the WSDOT – Eastern Region to work with HDR to do the final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) package for Havana Street. Phase IV project will be the Rathdrum Main Street Underpass project which has \$6.5 million allocated through the SAFE-TEA-LU legislation. It is anticipated the State and Local Agreement will be received by SRTC next week.

### **b) Regional Concurrency Study**

Mr. Miles feels there are a lot of great opportunities that lie in the Regional Concurrency Study if there is the political will to do it. Representative Alex Wood has been appointed to a subcommittee to look at concurrency in the next legislative session. Representative Wood was advised if the local jurisdictions can't fix their concurrency problems, the State may step in and adopt a top-down approach to concurrency. Some members of the Legislature have indicated growth management and concurrency will be one of the pillars of the 2007

Legislative session. Spokane's regional concurrency study is being watched closely by many people around the State to see how and if concurrency can be dealt with on a regional basis. If so, there may be a way of avoiding a top down process as used in some states.

### **c) Travel Demand Model Development Update**

Mr. Ed Hayes indicated the base model has been calibrated. At this time, a sensitivity analysis is being done on the model. The forecast land use has been entered. Once the final quality assurance has been completed, the forecast facilities will be built into the system. This will take approximately a week. He is hopeful with new technology due out in 2007 the program will be able to run faster than it does at this time.

### **9. New Business.**

No new business was brought up at this time.

### **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 11:40 am.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary