

## MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board  
Thursday, April 12, 2007  
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. Joe Shogan, at 1:05 pm.

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

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Allan Gainer, Spokane Transit Authority Representative  
Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT - Eastern Region  
Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane Council Member  
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner (Vice-Chair) – arrived at 1:45 pm  
Micki Harnois, Small Towns Representative  
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner  
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley – arrived at 1:10 pm  
Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member (Chair)  
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission – arrived at 1:30 pm

#### Board Members Absent:

Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)  
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

#### Guests Present:

Councilman Al French  
Councilman Rich Munson  
Councilman Richard Schoen  
Mayor Matthew Pederson  
E. Susan Meyer, STA  
Laura McAloon Esq., STA  
Bob Brueggeman, Spokane County  
Tom Arnold, City of Spokane  
Katherine Miller, City of Spokane  
Neil Kersten, Spokane Valley  
Paul Kropp

#### Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager  
Jeff Selle, Manager Transportation Relations  
Judy Hazard, Administrative Assistant

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

**Mr. Jerry Lenzi made a motion to approve the February 8, 2007 meeting minutes. Mr. Mark Richard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

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

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

Mr. Tom Arnold, TTC Chair, reported on the last TTC meeting. He said they discussed Concurrency, Street Standards, and the jurisdictions gave reports of their summer construction schedule. The TTC discussed the 2007 Section 5307 Call for Projects ranking which had been done by a sub-committee. The TTC forwarded a recommendation to the Board.

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

#### **a) Approval of February Vouchers**

**Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the payment of the February, 2007 voucher list in the amount of \$89,291.44. Ms. Nancy McLaughlin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

#### **b) Approval of March Vouchers**

**Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the payment of the March, 2007 voucher list in the amount of \$136,339.01. Ms. Nancy McLaughlin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

#### **c) Renewal of KMPO Contract**

SRTC has been under contract with the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO) for the past 4 years. They recognize that as a result of the 2010 census the urbanized areas will most likely become one consolidated statistical area and rather than create two organizations which will one day become one, they elected to contract with SRTC to provide staff support. They pay for 100% of the work SRTC does for them. Last week, the KMPO Board approved a motion to renew the contract for another 2-year period.

**Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to approve the renewal of the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO) Contract. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.**

#### **d) SRTC/STA Memorandum of Understanding**

SRTC received a letter dated March 19, 2007 from Spokane Transit Authority (STA) signed by STA Board Chair, Al French and STA CEO, E. Susan Meyer indicating STA is terminating their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed May 13, 1999. STA did not officially adopt the MOU which would negate the MOU so they have terminated it and the agencies are working on the development of a new one.

**Item 5(e) was moved to the end of the meeting.**

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

Ms. Micki Harnois introduced herself to the members. Ms. Harnois has been elected to the SRTC Board as the representative of small cities and towns.

Mr. Mark Richard welcomed Ms. Harnois to the Board.

Ms. Nancy McLaughlin asked Mr. Miles about letters the City Council has been receiving in support of the Inland Hub project . She asked if the SRTC Board will be asked to endorse that project. Mr. Miles advised her that the Board has already endorsed it ; the Board initiated the Inland Pacific Hub concept.

Mr. Richard said he met with Senator Brown and she expressed her desire to have a regional commission to look at transportation issues. The SRTC Board is a regional commission. Mr. Richard asked that Mr. Miles contact Senator Brown and ask her how this Board could facilitate her in her focus on transportation issues. Mr. Miles indicated that it appears the Legislature will pass legislation for the Puget Sound area which brings all the policy and financial decision making under a 12-member Board that is both elected and appointed. Ms. Brown has been involved in that discussion. The Washington Transportation Commission is planning to have a transportation summit in Spokane this summer on transportation issues facing the region. Mr. Shogan indicated if the summit comes to Spokane that he and Mr. Richard should attend along with a Board member from a small municipality.

Mr. Lenzi thanked Spokane County for taking the lead in preparing the regional construction map.

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

Mr. Miles gave a short review of the status of funding for local projects now in the State Legislature. Regarding Bridging the Valley, the region has requested \$4.6 million but only \$300,000 is being allocated by the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB). The Executive Director of FMSIB will be in Spokane next week to discuss funding issues. At this time, in the State Legislative packet, there is approximately \$250,000 for the Inland Pacific Hub. Idaho will be providing \$25,000 for the same

project and will also be putting in for a community grant through their Department of Commerce to support that also.

A group of 60 people will be going to Washington DC this month from Spokane and Kootenai Counties. Kudos to Mr. Jeff Selle, SRTC staff, who was able to make an appointment with the Vice-Chairman of the National Surface Transportation Policy Research Commission. This commission has been tasked with coming up with recommendations for inclusion in the Transportation Bill. The Vice-Chairman has indicated this will be one of the first groups to hear the initial findings. While in Washington DC they will also be meeting with the Assistant Secretary of Transportation regarding the Inland Pacific Hub and the region's \$500,000 request.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) public comment period is now closed for the funding program for the capital relocation and assistance account authorized by Congress. SRTC has been working with FRA and the local congressional delegation to see if they can get an appropriation into that authorization account in order to fund Bridging the Valley. This would provide \$20 million per year per state for that project for a total of \$40 million a year between Washington and Idaho.

## **8. Old Business.**

### **a) Regional Concurrency Study**

A presentation of the findings from the Regional Concurrency Study will be given at the GMA Steering Committee on May 16<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated the presentation will be updated with the final bills that make it through the Legislature and how that affects GMA Concurrency in the region. It is anticipated Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) will move into Concurrency. HSS have been exempt in the past and it will require the region to look at the effects of growth and development on the highway systems.

The Board requested SRTC to provide a training session for impact fees. To that end, Mr. Arthur Nelson, a national authority on transportation impact fees, has been contacted regarding bringing a training program to Spokane. Two different versions of the training could be given, one for elected officials and one for staff.

Mr. Mark Richard asked if a sub-committee could be formed or have a discussion focused on where we go next with concurrency. Mr. Miles explained that at a previous board meeting the SRTC Board had given direction to go out into the community and give presentations. Mr. Miles will be meeting with the City of Spokane Planning Commission in May, the GMA Steering Committee May 16<sup>th</sup>, and is making arrangements to meet with the Homebuilders and other groups in the near future. Dialogue will take place with the various stakeholder groups and then SRTC will come back to the Board with the outcome and ask for further direction. Mr. Richard would like to see a specific timeline in the presentations to the various groups to indicate the next steps in the process.

Mr. Shogan would like to see the City of Spokane Impact Fee Study discussions to be dovetailed to coordinate with the regional effort.

## **9. New Business.**

### **a) East Valley Transportation Study**

At the February meeting the SRTC Board authorized SRTC to conduct a public scoping meeting for the East Valley Transportation Study. The local jurisdiction agency scoping took place two weeks ago. The agencies included City of Spokane Valley, Spokane County, and Liberty Lake. Around the same time, KMPO was asking staff to take a look at the transportation impacts on the other side of the State Line. Therefore, Post Falls Highway District, City of Post Falls, and Idaho Transportation Department have been included in the study. The public scoping meeting took place last night at Central Valley High School; approximately 21 people attended. The results of the scoping meeting will be recorded and recommendations will be brought back to the Board of the issues people see in the area.

Also, the Planning Directors have been working collectively on developing some of the alternatives for the Urban Growth Area (UGA) expansions. They have provided SRTC with draft population allocations by UGA.

## **10. Public Comments.**

Spokane City Council Member, and Spokane Transit Authority Board Chair, Al French, expressed concern relating to the cooperation between SRTC and STA. Discussion followed by the Board.

## **5. e) Executive Session – Real Estate Matters**

At 1:55 pm, Chair Shogan called an Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter and an employment matter. Everyone except the Board Members and Mr. Miles were asked to leave the room for approximately 20-30 minutes.

At 2:45 pm everyone was invited back into the room.

The Board indicated no Board action was taken during the executive session.

## **11. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary