

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, October 11, 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 1:03 pm. Mr. Shogan welcomed a new member of the SRTC Board, Mr. Jim Williams, the Private Sector Transportation Provider. Mr. Williams introduced himself to the group and told a little about himself by way of introduction.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

Micki Harnois, Small Towns Representative
Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT - Eastern Region
Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane Council Member
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner (Vice-Chair)
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley
Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member (Chair)
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission
Jim Williams, Private Sector Transportation Provider

Board Members Absent:

Allan Gainer, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Stan Schwartz, Esq.
Steve Worley, Spokane Valley
Judy Cole, Inland Pacific Hub//Avista
Mayor Diana Wilhite, City of Spokane Valley
Gordon Howell, STA
John Mercer, City of Spokane
Bob Brueggeman, Spokane County
Charlene Kay, WSDOT
Alfred Pili'Aloha, City of Airway Heights
Torsten Jenkins, CH2M Hill
Art Jenkins, CH2M Hill
Andrew Rolwes, DSP
Wayne Frost, Frost Consulting
Andrew Worlock, Greenstone Corp.

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Staci Lehman, Pub. Info/Ed Coord.
Val Melvin, SRTMC Traffic Engineer
Jeff Selle, Mgr. Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard, Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of August Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve the August 30, 2007 meeting minutes. Ms. Micki Harnois seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Report

The TTC Chair and Vice-Chair were unable to attend today's Board meeting. Mr. Miles reported that at the September TTC meeting they received updates on regional concurrency, the East Valley/West Rathdrum Prairie Transportation Study, and the Travel Demand Model. They discussed the STA Cooperative Street & Road Projects during which STA indicated there may be changes in the funding. They formed a Call for Projects subcommittee for reviewing the applications, criteria, and application process for the next federally funded Call for Projects. Ms. Judy Lorenzo, WSDOT headquarters, gave an overview of the upcoming Transportation Planning Symposium.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of September Vouchers

Mr. Miles explained that the State Auditor has requested a recap of the vouchers be included in the vouchers and the minutes each month. There is now a recap being included in the vouchers and the voucher section of the minutes.

Recap for September 2007:	
Vouchers:	59,546.09
Salaries/Benefits: Warrant Nos: 1245007-1245019, 1247511-1247523, and 1251206-1251218	112,228.36
Interfund and other expenses processed directly by the City of Spokane	2,317.34
	174,091.79

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to approve the payment of the September 2007, voucher list in the amount of \$174,091.79. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Dale Stedman said that the Transportation Summit was held in Spokane on September 19th and 20th sponsored by the Washington Transportation Commission. Approximately 250 people attended from the Inland Empire, along with several from Canada and North Idaho. The Commission has received many positive comments. All the information given was recorded at the Summit will be put into a report to the Governor and the Legislature (who funded the meeting). The report will be on the Commission's website.

The members had a discussion regarding funding issues. They indicated there needs to be new ways of funding transportation projects.

Ms. Micki Harnois said she has been involved in the Transportation Commission study along the Hwy. 27 Corridor from Trent to the south city limits of Rockford. That committee will be looking into some of the same things as SRTC. She indicated it would be a good idea for an SRTC staff person to attend the Hwy 27 Corridor Committee meetings. They meet once a month on a Monday or Thursday morning for about 2-1/2 hours at Centerplace in the Spokane Valley. Mr. Miles said someone will attend those meetings.

Mr. Jerry Lenzi told the members that there is a possibility there will be a \$117 million shortfall in transportation revenues in WSDOT's budget in this biennium which ends in 2009.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

SRTC's State Audit Report was distributed to the Board. There were no findings or recommendations that are reportable. They did ask that the recap be put on the vouchers and the minutes which has now been implemented. Also, SRTC sole sourced its contract with PTV America (travel demand modeling software) because of its unique nature. The auditor's office indicated that even though it has a unique nature, this should have gone out for bid. The auditor's office did say that even though it would have been the same result, it was important that it be done in this manner. From this point, all contracts will go out to bid regardless of the nature of the contract.

SRTC's Federal Recertification process is underway at this time. A two-volume binder has been prepared for mailing to both FHWA and FTA along with a 20-page questionnaire.

SRTC has been advised that Congress is anticipating a rescission in the upcoming appropriation cycle. It could be upwards of 25% of what would typically be allocated. There have been rescissions in the past but the State has been able to address the rescissions through other sources. This time it will probably go through with a possible net reduction in the total available funds to the region.

8. Old Business.

a) STA Cooperative Road & Street Call for Projects

SRTC has been working with STA to obtain their scoring of the additional projects that were submitted from jurisdictions outside the urbanized area. To date, this has not been received. During the September TTC meeting STA staff described to the TTC a potential alternative to the current process previously approved by the SRTC Board. The alternative would only fund projects in the 2007-2008 time frame, withholding a decision on the remaining projects pending the outcome of the 2008 reauthorization on the STA sales tax vote.

No action was taken by the TTC on the proposed alternative process. STA will be sending a letter to the TTC members describing their proposal. The letter would allow TTC members time to review the proposal and then contact their SRTC Board Member with any comments or concerns before the next SRTC Board meeting.

No letter has been received by the TTC members and therefore there is no action to be taken at this time.

Mr. Gordon Howell spoke to the Board and indicated it is STA's intention to take it to next week's TTC meeting.

b) Regional Concurrency Committee Charter and Timeline

At the request of the Board, Mr. Miles has prepared a draft Committee Charter that could be used for the establishment of a regional transportation concurrency committee. It was provided to the Board along with a draft Statement of Endorsement and a Timeline.

The Charter is to identify a broad range of interested stakeholders who will participate in the process who would report directly to the SRTC Board.

The Board discussed the various aspects of the Charter and it was agreed the Board Members would review the Charter and send any changes or suggestions to SRTC before the next Board meeting in order to get them incorporated into the draft for the meeting.

c) East Valley/West Rathdrum Prairie Transportation Study

SRTC staff has been working with PTV Inc. to continue with the merging of the Spokane and Kootenai County models within the study area. At this time they are putting the 2015 and 2030 networks into the model. The model will be available for review in the next week in preparation for forecast model runs.

Mr. Mark Richard arrived at 1:45 pm.

Mr. Todd Mielke arrived at 1:50 pm.

Mr. Miles indicated he has sent the next steps letter to Liberty Lake and met with Mr. Doug Smith, City of Liberty Lake, Mr. Bob Smith, Centennial Properties, and Jason Wheaton, Greenstone Corporation who indicated they are satisfied with the progress. They are having a meeting October 23rd to begin the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) process.

Mr. Lenzi stated he had spoken with Mr. Doug Smith and found there is some confusion about who gives the go ahead for IJR. It is not SRTC, it is WSDOT. SRTC's responsibilities are to provide the model. Mr. Lenzi gave the steps necessary for a jurisdiction to move forward towards an IJR.

Mr. Mark Richard asked if the SRTC Board should send a letter to Liberty Lake reiterating the information regarding the IJR. It was agreed it was not necessary.

d) SRTC/STA Memorandum of Understanding

Through its attorney, SRTC has returned the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to STA on September 19th with the latest suggested revisions. It is anticipated we will get it back around October 19th.

Mr. Schwartz indicated he has spoken to the STA attorney, Ms. Laura McAloon. She was very cooperative and indicated STA is reviewing the internal practice of STA. He hopes the MOU will be ready to bring to the Board in November.

Copies of the draft MOU were made available to the Board Members at this meeting.

e) Inland Pacific Hub Gateway Concept

Ms. Judy Cole, Avista, gave a short presentation on the Inland Pacific Hub. She said our region has transportation assets that are vast when combined with Northern Idaho when used with the influence areas of Western Washington, Canada, Southern Idaho. It can drive global commerce. When you match transportation and global commerce together you have a powerful way of getting new money and public interest.

At this time the Hub is looking to study how all these assets come together and what is needed to actually become the Inland Pacific Hub. The study is critical in its ability to get the money and interest to drive the Hub concept. The study process is being led by WSDOT and ITD as this is a cooperative effort between the two states.

In the past two years they have done their research, got \$250,000 promised from the federal government, \$250,000 from Washington State and they are working to get a \$500,000 match from Idaho.

Ms. Cole thanked Mr. Lenzi and Ms. Char Kay, WSDOT for the RFP that has been prepared and will be reviewed by ITD shortly.

Ms. Cole gave an overview of the next steps for the Hub.

The presentation was followed by Board discussion.

9. New Business.

No new business was presented at this time.

10. Public Comments.

No public comments were presented at this time.

11. Executive Session.

At 2:22 pm, Chair Shogan called an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Everyone except the Board Members and Mr. Miles were asked to leave the room for approximately 35 minutes.

At 3:10 pm everyone was invited back into the room.

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

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary