

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, June 12, 2008
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. Todd Mielke, at 1:05 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

Keith Metcalf, WSDOT – Eastern Region
Micki Harnois, Small Towns Representative (Vice-Chair)
Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane Council Member
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner (Chair)
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley (Alternate)
Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission
Diana Wilhite, City of Spokane Valley

Board Members Not Attending:

Allan Gainer, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Jim Williams, Private Sector Transportation Provider

Guests Present:

Mike Gribner, WSDOT, TTC Chair
Richard Rush, Spokane City Council
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
Bob Brueggeman, Spokane County
John Mercer, City of Spokane
Gordon Howell, STA
Cindy Green, SRHD
Chris Bernhardt, Alta Planning
Barb Chamberlain
David Condon, Rep McMorris Rodgers Office
Paul Kropp

Staff Present:

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

3. Approval of May Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the May 8, 2008 meeting minutes. Ms. Micki Harnois seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Report

Mr. Mike Gribner informed the Board the TTC met in May and received a presentation on SmartRoutes. They recommended the document including the projects listed in it be forwarded on to the Board. They also recommended approval of Section 2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Board had requested the Street Standards sub-committee reconvene. Mr. Gribner advised that the sub-committee has started the process. They will report to the TTC in July and after that to the Board.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of May Vouchers

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve the payment of the May 2008 voucher list in the amount of \$132,281.89. Mr. Joe Shogan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Recap for May 2008:	
Vouchers: V118497 - V118517	51,462.48
Salaries/Benefits: Warrant Nos: 1300222-1300235 and 1302803-1302817	80,583.49
Interfund and other expenses/receipts processed directly by the City of Spokane	235.92
	132,281.89

b) June TIP Amendment

SRTC requested approval of the June Amendment to the 2008-2011 TIP. Spokane County requested the following project be amended:

Add – Harvard Road, Euclid Ave. to SR 290, reallocate obligated funds.

Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the June TIP Amendment. Ms. Nancy McLaughlin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Shogan said he just returned form a trip to the New England area and found toll roads in a lot of places. He stated that as gas consumption goes down in Washington, and if the state infrastructure is dependent on the gas tax, tolls

should become part of our lives. This was followed by a discussion of Board members about toll roads.

Ms. Wilhite arrived at 1:10 pm.

Mr. Keith Metcalf reported that the State is close to releasing the revenue forecast showing the impacts of reduced fuel consumption.

Mr. Dale Stedman said two SRTC Board Members were in the newspapers in the last few days - Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Metcalf.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Glenn Miles indicated the first SRTC Board “brown bag” lunch will be the hour before the July Board meeting. The subject matter will be financial – how SRTC is funded.

Also, Mr. Miles stated that SRTC’s efforts to bring a 5-day training session on travel demand modeling by a professor from MIT has been cancelled at this time for time and financial reasons. There was a lot of interest and it will be looked at again in 2009.

The SRTC office space lease has now been signed by both parties. It will now move to the design stage.

Mr. Miles attended a meeting in Southern California at the invitation of the National Academy of Sciences on freight institutional arrangements. He got a lot of very useful information from the meeting.

Congress (both the House and Senate) has passed its budget resolution. The resolution was to fund 100% of the authorized levels for 2009.

Ms. Val Melvin reported on the Street Standards sub-committee meeting. They reconvened after not having met since 2006. At their last set of meetings they were to bring a unified set of standards for the joint planning areas. Their direction now is to come up with a unified set of standards for the urban areas (areas within the urban growth boundary). The committee is questioning whether the Board wants them to include free standing areas such as Cheney, Deer Park, etc. She indicated there was concern in the sub-committee whether they were headed the direction the elected officials wanted them to head. It was agreed the committee members would consult with their elected officials and come back to the committee in two weeks with the wishes of their elected officials. They will reconvene July 1st. Ms. Melvin said the committee feels they can come up with a single set of standards if that is the direction everyone agrees to go. Another issue brought up is that a lot of money has already been spent in some jurisdictions on developing new standards. Mr. Todd Mielke said he is of the

opinion that the free standing UGA's are different (due to smaller population densities) and would not fall under the new set of standards being envisioned. The areas in the metro UGA (Liberty Lake, Spokane Valley, City of Spokane, Airway Heights, and Spokane County) would be the areas affected. It was agreed the Board members would speak to their staff regarding the issues brought up at the street standards sub-committee meeting and discussed here today.

Mr. Miles also brought up the subject of a regional transportation vision. At last month's Board meeting the Board was shown a very draft version of a presentation being prepared for a process being initiated by Greater Spokane Inc. Based on the Board's input and the input received from different groups this was shown to, items are being added and/or changed. At this time the presentation has 72 slides. It is anticipated the next small meeting will be June 25th and possibly a large meeting in August. The Board indicated they would like to see the finished presentation before it is released to the general public/agencies. It was agreed that a list of potential funding options will be given to the department heads of all the agencies in order to see if there are any options that were missed. The presentation will be given at next month's brown bag lunch prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Miles gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding rail freight across Washington State and what the future of that looks like. Prior to the presentation he explained that the Port of Tacoma and Port of Seattle are looking at growing from 4 million containers per year to 16 million containers in the next 20 years. However, there is a huge lack of rail capacity in Washington State. Therefore, the ability for Eastern and Central Washington shippers to get their product west will become ever more problematic. With the price of diesel getting higher and higher, and a loss of large numbers of independent truckers, the ability to ship will become more difficult.

8. Old Business.

a) SmartRoutes 2010 Presentation

At the May Board meeting, a contract was awarded to Alta Planning, Portland, Oregon to write a 10-page case statement for SmartRoutes, which statement is due June 30th. It is hoped the case statement will make a compelling case for this community. It will be sent to Rails to Trails who will then repackage all of the case statements, highlighting the ones they feel are the most compelling.

Mr. Chris Bernhardt of Alta Planning gave a PowerPoint presentation. He gave an overview of the materials that will be submitted at the end of June.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

Ms. Nancy McLaughlin and Mr. Joe Shogan left the meeting at 2:00 pm. A quorum was still present.

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion that the SmartRoutes campaign be moved forward to the next step. Mr. Mark Richard seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

b) On-call Modeling Support Services Request for Proposals

A Request for Proposals was issued for on-call modeling support services, which would provide technical assistance to the SRTC staff. They will assist with the annual update of the model as well as ongoing validation and questions from staff. Two proposals were received, HDR Engineering, Inc. and PTV America, Inc. A review panel consisting of Val Melvin, P.E., Inga Note, P.E., and Glenn Miles received presentations by the two firms followed by a question and answer period. Based on the submittals and their formal presentations, it was the consensus of the review panel that while both firms have the capability to provide the support services required in the RFP, the contract should be awarded to HDR Engineering, Inc. The contract will be for an amount not to exceed \$65,000 annually, which will be proportionally divided between KMPO and SRTC based on utilization of services. The term of the agreement is for three years with the option of renewal for a second three-year term subject to successful execution of the first three-year term.

Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the awarding of a contract for on-call modeling support services in an amount not to exceed \$65,000 annually for a three-year term with the option of renewal for a second three-year term. Ms. Micki Harnois seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

9. New Business.

a) MTP Section 2 - Review

At a prior TTC meeting, Section 2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was distributed to the TTC and their comments requested. Comments were received, incorporated into Section 2, and a final draft provided to the members in their May packet. At their May meeting, the members made a motion to recommend approval by the SRTC Board.

Once the Sections have been updated and brought to the TTC for recommendation to the Board the MTP will go out for public comment period after which it will be brought to the Board for a formal presentation and action from the Board later in the year.

10. Public Comments.

Mr. Dave Condon of Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers' office said she is very encouraged by the new SRTC presentation coming out. He gave an overview of what she is doing in regards to transportation as it impacts Eastern Washington.

Mr. Bob Brueggeman of Spokane County invited everyone to an open house tonight to discuss the Appleway (old I-90) Bridge as it moves into the design phase. The open house will be at the first station on Harvard Road from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary