

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, July 10, 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 1:08 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance:

Mike Frucci, WSDOT – Eastern Region - Alternate
Allan Gainer, Spokane Transit Authority Representative
Micki Harnois, Small Towns Representative (Vice-Chair)
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner (Chair)
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner
Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission

Board Members Not in Attendance

Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane Council Member
Diana Wilhite, City of Spokane Valley
Jim Williams, Private Sector Transportation Provider
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley (Alternate)

Guests Present:

Mike Gribner, WSDOT
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
Katherine Miller, City of Spokane
Margie Hall, City of Spokane
Richard Rush, Spokane City Council
Ryan Stewart, STA
Paul Kropp
Ron Kusler, CTR

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Val Melvin, SRTMC Traffic Engineer
Jeff Selle, Manager Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard, Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of June Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the June 12, 2008 meeting minutes. Ms. Micki Harnois seconded the motion, which was approved by all present with the exception of Mr. Alan Gainer who abstained.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Report

Mr. Mike Gribner reported that the TTC received updates on West Plains modeling and unified street standards. Mr. Mark Rohwer attended the meeting to give members an opportunity to comment on the Highways of Statewide Significance update.

Mr. Mark Richard arrived at 1:15 pm.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of June 2008 Vouchers

Mr. Joe Shogan made a motion to approve the payment of the June 2008 voucher list in the amount of \$180,153.18. Mr. Alan Gainer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Recap for June 2008:	
Vouchers: V118518 - V118546	98,415.52
Salaries/Benefits: Warrant Nos: 1306750-13067464 and 1309429 - 1309443	80,739.26
Interfund, other expenses, and reimbursements processed directly by the City of Spokane	998.40
	180,153.18

b) Draft 2009 SRTC/SRTMC Operating Budget

The Board Members were given a copy of the draft 2009 SRTC Budget showing significant changes between the amended 2007 Budget and the proposed 2008 Budget and a memorandum explaining many of the budget items. He also provided a visual presentation of the budget showing a categorical breakdown of where funds come from and where they go.

SRTC provided a listing of the cash reserves showing the cash balance and what is reserved.

The Budget will be brought back to the Board in August or September for action.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Shogan attended a 25th anniversary celebration for Horizon Airlines today. He gave an overview of what is happening in the airline industry today and how Horizon is doing in comparison to most. He said it was a very good celebration.

Ms. Harnois indicated the Sheriff's office is partnering with Sports Vehicle Specialties, Inc. to hold a class this weekend called "Teen Extreme Driving Seminar". This places teens with a parent in a car and teaches them how to respond and handle the car and themselves in an emergency situation. Also, she said she is involved in trying to organize a car pooling situation from the rural small towns. She is encouraging people in the outlying areas of the small towns to come to the City Hall of each town and put together a list of some sort for car pooling.

Mr. Stedman reported his term on the Washington Transportation Commission ended June 30th. They have not replaced him as yet, and he will continue to serve on the SRTC Board until someone replaces him.

Mr. Gainer said Cheney is gearing up for Rodeo Days weekend. Also, Mr. Miles met with him regarding the inevitability of increased rail traffic through Cheney as well as Spokane.

Mr. Richard advised there is an outdoor open house event happening to commemorate construction being underway on the Geiger Spur realignment on July 21st from 10:00-10:30 am at the north end of the alignment just off of McFarland Road. Spokane County has been approached by constituents in Cheney about the train traffic and are seeking engagement by the County in the discussion. Mr. Richard gave the information to Mayor Gainer.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Miles was asked to give a presentation to the transportation leadership of the House and Senate on the High Capacity Rail Corridor topic the Board received a presentation on at the last SRTC Board meeting.

Mr. Miles was notified that Senator Murray has said that the \$250,000 federal earmark for the Inland Pacific Hub made it through the mark-up today. This is a step in the process.

The SmartRoutes report prepared by Alta Planning and submitted to Rails to Trails was distributed to the Board Members. This report/application outlines how \$50 million would be spent in the Spokane region for bike/ped projects. Mr. Miles thanked Mr. Paul Kropp and Mr. Richard Rush for their participation in the committee assisting with its preparation. This entire team was led by Ms. Eve Nelson of SRTC and Cindy Green of the Spokane Regional Health District. Mr.

Shogan stated the City of Spokane is planning to budget approximately \$200,000 to fund a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator position for two years to enhance the application package and to show the Rails to Trails people that the City of Spokane is behind it all the way.

8. Old Business.

a) Street Standards Sub-committee Update

Ms. Val Melvin explained that a letter of support was received from Mayor Gainer, City of Cheney which was distributed to the Board Members.

The sub-committee met two weeks ago. Their tasking had been to go to their elected officials and see whether or not there was support for continuing to work to develop standards. At the meeting it was discovered that everyone was willing to participate with the support of their elected official with the exception of the City of Spokane Valley. The Valley will still be participating but passively. Their representative indicated they have no intention at this point in time of adopting any standards. Ms. Melvin asked them to bring their points of contention to the next meeting to be viewed and discussed. They have agreed.

Mr. Mielke encouraged the committee to continue to move forward. Once draft standards have been drawn up it will be easier for the various jurisdictions to have a clearer picture of what is being proposed.

9. New Business.

a) Regional Transportation Vision - Presentation

A “pup tent” meeting will be held on July 17th from 3-5 pm. This is an attempt for all the jurisdictions to take a look at their infrastructure needs for the next 20-year time frame. These “pup tent” meetings began in the Spring and the idea of these meetings was for SRTC to:

1. Identify the anticipated projects for all the jurisdictions in the next 20 years in all transportation categories (streets, rail, non-motorized, etc).
2. Report back what was found for current revenues and what the trend data looks like.
3. Find what additional funding options are available to the local jurisdictions.

Ms. Harnois is of the opinion that the small towns are not being included. Mr. Mielke said it will be communicated to Greater Spokane Inc. (GSI) to be sure to include elected officials of small towns in the meetings taking place.

Date and location are being facilitated by GSI and staff support is being provided by SRTC in conjunction with the TTC and the support drawn from all the local jurisdictions.

Mr. Miles indicated that Avista and GSI have pooled their resources to hire Ms. Laurie Isenberg to be the facilitator of the meeting.

Mr. Miles gave a presentation to the Board of the material that will be given at the “pup tent” meeting on July 17th.

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 3:12 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary