

## MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board  
Thursday, January 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 1:05 pm.

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

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Allan Gainer, Spokane Transit Authority Representative  
Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT - Eastern Region - Regional Administrator  
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 Council Member  
Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member (Chair)  
Dale Stedman, Washington State Transportation Commission

#### Board Members Absent:

Brenda Redell, Small Towns Representative  
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)  
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

#### Guests Present:

Tom Arnold, City of Spokane  
E. Susan Meyer, STA  
Jim Plaster, STA  
Diana Wilhite, City of Spokane Valley  
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley  
John Vlahovich, Spokane Public Radio  
Richard Bryant  
Dale Smith  
Ken Garceau  
Paul Kropp  
Richard Schoen

#### Staff Present:

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

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

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to approve the December 14, 2006 meeting minutes. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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

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

No TTC meeting took place in December so no report was given.

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

#### **a) Approval of December Vouchers**

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to approve the payment of the December, 2006 voucher list in the amount of \$21,536.42. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### **b) Disposition of Joint Light Rail Steering Committee**

Mr. Mark Richard arrived at 1:10 pm.

Mr. Todd Mielke arrived at 1:20 pm.

As there are several new Board Members, Mr. Glenn Miles gave a short history of the SRTC involvement with the Light Rail Steering Committee (LRSC). He indicated in June 2000 there was a joint meeting of the SRTC and STA Boards in which the two agencies agreed to create the LRSC to be comprised of two representatives from the SRTC Board, two representatives from the STA Board and one representative from the WSDOT. Those five individuals would identify two at-large position appointments for the oversight committee that would last through the duration of the project. The SRTC Board has, since August of 2000, approved two Board Members to be SRTC representatives to the LRSC. In December 2006, the STA voted to dissolve the LRSC. In light of the above, it is necessary, with the Board's approval for the SRTC Board to take action to dissolve SRTC's portion of the LRSC.

**Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion to dissolve SRTC's portion of the Light Rail Steering Committee. Mr. Mark Richard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.**

This motion was followed by a question and answer period between the Board Members and Mr. Miles regarding the future of light rail in the area. It was agreed this matter is a separate issue and should be brought up under new business.

Mr. Shogan asked if the Board could discuss the role SRTC would now take in regard to Light Rail either today under new business or next month as a new agenda item. Mr. Miles suggested he would like to sit down and talk with the STA staff regarding the response letter written to STA by Mr. Rick Krochalis of Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Miles would like to see the two agencies meet and discuss this letter so a common understanding can be taken to both Boards rather than the potential two different opinions. The Board concurred.

### **c) DKS Inc. Contract**

Mr. Miles explained that DKS Inc. has been working with the City of Spokane. It has come to the attention of SRTC that there are some things they would like to do with the Travel Demand Model. City of Spokane staff did not feel comfortable taking the request to the City Council as a contract amendment. It does affect the overall Travel Demand Model and it is believed changes will improve the overall performance of the model by about 20%-30%. As time was of the essence, Mr. Miles spoke to the SRTC Board Chair and with his approval prepared a contract with DKS Inc. in the amount of \$20,000 to supplement what is already being done by the City of Spokane. This will provide some additional quality control and quality assurance on the Travel Demand Model. The Board concurred with the action taken by Mr. Miles.

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

Mr. Mark Richard advised the members that both he and Mr. Todd Mielke have been reaffirmed to the SRTC Board.

Mr. Dale Stedman reminded the Board about the Hub Analysis, which takes a look at the region's ability to become a major transportation hub in a variety of environments (air, rail, highway). Approximately 12 months ago the federal government was asked for a grant to do this analysis. The money was not received at that time. now, the Legislatures (through the Governor's office) of both Washington and Idaho are being asked for \$250,000 each to use for the Hub Analysis. If this money is received, it can be used as a local match for an additional \$500,000 of federal money.

Mr. Jerry Lenzi announced the west bound side of the viaduct will be closed starting in mid-May. They will be working with the City of Spokane, law enforcement, and businesses in the area to make a smooth transition. He also advised the Portland Cement concrete will be replaced on Sullivan (Mission to Indiana) this year. That part of Sullivan will be totally shut down for approximately 3 weeks. The work will be done 24/7 in order to complete in that timeframe.

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

Mr. Miles reported SRTC has been advertising for the positions open at this time. There has been a good response and it appears two of the positions will be filled shortly.

During the last legislative session, a financial note was prepared by the Transportation Committee to study concurrency and its effect on the Growth Management Act (GMA). Therefore, during the past year they have done a review of the GMA concurrency goals and the State Transportation System. Mr. Miles has a copy of this concurrency report prepared by WSDOT. He is attempting to get copies of this report for the Board members. SRTC was able to participate in this report as this area was working on its own concurrency study.

## **8. Old Business.**

### **a) Call for Projects**

Under federal guidelines for MPO's SRTC is responsible for conducting a Call for Projects in order to prioritize and select projects for funding. Mr. Miles advised that at this time a Section 5307 (FTA funds) Call for Projects can be released with the Board's approval. The projects must primarily benefit public transportation in the Spokane urbanized area, be on a transit route, and must have a transit component. They can be used for preventative maintenance, capital construction, road improvements, bike lockers, etc. STA projects will be viewed as a priority. There is an allowance for the transfer of federal funds from one program to another as long as the conditions are met. These projects are received, scored, prioritized, and then brought to the Board for consideration.

**Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to allow SRTC to release the Section 5307 Call for Projects. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.**

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

The draft final report entitled Regional Transportation Concurrency System in Spokane County – A Feasibility Study was distributed to the Board Members for their review; Mr. Miles read excerpts from the study and gave an overview of the report. This was followed by comments from the Board Members.

The consultant, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff will be attending the February SRTC Board meeting to both ask and answer questions. They will be providing additional information on some legal aspects of the study and have indicated that if this were to be approved and started in February it could be completed by June.

### **c) Street Standards**

The Transportation Technical Committee has been advised the SRTC Board would like them to come up with a minimum acceptable design standard for the various classifications of road for the Joint Planning Areas (JPA). The TTC will be working on this in 2007.

#### **d) Bridging the Valley**

The Havana overpass portion of the Bridging the Valley project has received its environmental clearance; therefore, the right-of-way plans have been approved and the right-of-way acquisition funds have been released. WSDOT is now meeting with the consultants who will be doing the right-of-way acquisition. An August ad date for this project is anticipated.

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

##### **a) Role of SRTC in Regard to Light Rail**

It was requested this item be added to today's meeting agenda as an outcome of the discussion that took place under Item 5b.

Mr. Miles stated that regarding the discussion about SRTC fitting or not fitting into the long-term right-of-way acquisition and preservation of the corridor he recommended he meet with STA and see what roles and responsibilities make sense. In terms of SRTC's role in the bigger picture of transportation, it would be a good idea to hold a study session regarding SRTC's roles and responsibilities are as a region.

Mr. Richard asked that Mr. Miles and Ms. Myers attend a future SRTC Board meeting together and share their findings.

Mr. Shogan asked that the Board review SRTC's Interlocal Agreement at the next Board meeting.

#### **10. Public Comments.**

No public comments were received at this time.

#### **11. Adjournment.**

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary