

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, February 8, 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
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

Board Members Absent:

Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane Council Member
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner (Vice-Chair)
Bill Brannon, Private Sector Representative (Alternate)
Pat Dalton, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Tom Arnold, City of Spokane
Neil Kersten, City of Spokane Valley
Susan Meyer, STA
Brian A. Sayrs, Liberty Lake Councilperson
Mary Ann Ulik, DSP
Mike Pawlak, BWR
Dr. Virginia Sapkota, BWR
Dr. Ruth Steiner
Heather Smith, Esq
Richard Schoen

Staff Present:

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager
Staci Lehman, Pub. Info/Ed Coordinator.
Val Melvin, SRTMC Traffic Engineer
Jeff Selle, Manager Transportation Relations
Deborah Napier, Transportation Planner II
Judy Hazard, Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of January Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion to approve the January 11, 2007 meeting minutes. Mr. Mark Richard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

a) Transportation Technical Committee Report

Mr. Tom Arnold reported that at the last TTC meeting the members elected chair and vice-chair for 2007, and discussed the Section 5307 funding Call for Projects, regional construction maps, street standards, concurrency, and a funding request from SMS.

5. Administrative Matters.

a) Approval of Month 13, 2006 and January 2007 Vouchers

Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to approve the payment of the Month 13, 2006 voucher list in the amount of \$82,029.88 and January 2007 voucher list in the amount of \$99,480.79 Mr. Allan Gainer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. SRTC Board Member Comments.

Mr. Dale Stedman explained to the Board that the Transportation Commission has completed the four studies they were given 18 months ago. They are all now at the Legislature. The four studies are:

- Tolling Study
- Rail Capacity Study
- Washington Transportation Plan
- Public Private Initiative (PPI) There are no active PPI's in the State of Washington at this time. Mr. Stedman explained how the PPI operates.

Mr. Jerry Lenzi reminded everyone that the west bound side of the viaduct will be closed starting in mid-May and Sullivan (Mission to Indiana) will be totally shut down for approximately 3 weeks this year. Also, there are two contracts out for bid on North Spokane Corridor projects.

Mr. Joe Shogan said several members of the Spokane City Council went to Olympia several weeks ago and learned a lot about the funding needs on both the east and west side of the State.

Mr. Mark Richard indicated the Council of Governments has received resolutions on the North Spokane Corridor from several jurisdictions. The Valley City Council along with others, will be going to the Association of Washington Cities meeting next week. Mr. Richard would like to send them with all the resolutions and ask them to deliver the resolutions to the Legislators and the Governor. He would like to show them the Spokane region feels the North Spokane Corridor is a regional priority.

Mr. Richard also noted that when the Chamber of Commerce contingent went to Olympia last week, in his presentation, the Governor included the topic of tolling. Mr. Richard wants to know what role this Board would play in the discussion of tolling. He would like to see the Board talk about the feasibility of tolling in the region. After discussion, it was agreed that tolling would be placed on the March SRTC Board agenda.

7. Transportation Manager's Report.

Mr. Miles distributed the Executive Summary of The GMA Concurrency Goal and the State Transportation System dated December 2006 put out by WSDOT. The full text of the analysis is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/concurrency. This document was given to the Board Members for review. This topic will be covered in future Board meetings.

Mr. Miles announced that Ms. Brenda Redell has resigned from the SRTC Board. Letters have been sent to the small cities and towns in Spokane County asking for nominations for a representative to the Board as a replacement for Ms. Redell.

A letter was received from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) indicating the State Transportation Improvement Program for 2007-2010 has been approved. The January amendment which incorporates many of the projects the Board approved in the last Call for Projects will be submitted for FHWA and FTA approval very shortly now that the TIP has been approved.

Mr. Miles introduced a new employee, Ms. Deborah Napier who has been hired as a Transportation Planner.

8. Old Business.

a) Call for Projects

The Call for Projects for Section 5307 funds has been released. A coordination meeting has been scheduled for February 15th with jurisdictions that have an intent to apply to coordinate their projects with Spokane Transit Authority.

b) Regional Concurrency Study

Bucher, Willis & Ratliff gave a presentation of the study findings of the Regional Transportation Concurrency System in Spokane: A Feasibility Study. Mr. Mike Pawlak, the project manager on this study explained what study tasks have been done to reach this final stage of the study and what the purpose of the study was. Ms. Ruth Steiner gave an overview of concurrency, Ms. Heather Smith explained the difference between concurrency mitigation and impact fees, and Ms. Virginia Sapkota gave the significant study findings which included BWR's recommendations for our region's concurrency system.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

Mr. Mark Richard made a motion to accept the Regional Transportation Concurrency System in Spokane: A Feasibility Study as presented by Bucher, Willis & Ratliffe. Mr. Dale Stedman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Now the report has been accepted, there needs to be a policy level discussion on whether there is an interest to move forward with taking the recommendations within the report and if there is an interest, to begin the process of implementing them.

The presentation and report will be provided to the Growth Management Steering Committee this month. If they agree with the report and indicate their desire to move forward with this concept, and if there is an interest at the policy level, the report should be taken to the Planning Commissions.

SRTC Staff member, Ms. Val Melvin reminded everyone that Dr. Ruth Steiner will be giving a brief presentation tomorrow, February 9th at 11:15 am at City Hall in the City Council Chambers on all three of the studies mentioned at the presentation today, Statewide Multi-Modal, Statewide Concurrency, and SRTC's Regional Concurrency Study. Everyone is invited. The focus will not specifically be SRTC's study but rather how all three studies can work together.

c) Light Rail Project Update

Last week, Mr. Miles, Ms. Meyers of STA, and several SRTC/STA Board Members met to talk about the Light Rail project. They came to the conclusion it would be appropriate to send a letter signed by both Ms. Meyers and Mr. Miles to Administrator Krochalis with the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), Region 10, posing two questions.

- Knowing the body of work done already on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), what needs to be done to reach a record of decision through FTA?

- Could Mr. Krochalis give a pros and cons analysis from FTA's perspective of completing the EIS and getting a record of decision as opposed to just leaving it in its draft form?

9. New Business.

a) SMS, Inc. – Support Request for Continuing North Spokane County Transportation Service

Specialized Mobility Services, Inc. (SMS) provides North County Transportation Service which is regular service between the area of Deer Park, Elk, and Spokane. They have been using rural transportation funding for approximately 18 years. They are in need of replacement of vehicles, and operating assistance and they have submitted an application for 2007-2009 Section 5310/5311 rural funding. They have approximately 11,000 riders per month and plan to use some FTA funds, state funds, and they receive assistance from the City of Deer Park in providing that service.

The Transportation Technical Committee has recommended that this application be supported by the Board.

Mr. Richard asked whether there is funding available for rural bus service in the south portion of Spokane County. Mr. Miles explained that so far there is no provider willing to provide the service in that area. It would be necessary to create an environment where there is enough revenue being generated from the service in order for someone to run this business. He told them how the Kootenai Tribe has solved this problem for the rural areas of Kootenai County. He said the tribe (through the Casino) buses do end up on the South Hill, the North side of Spokane, and in the Spokane Valley. At this time they do not stop at any of the small communities along their way in the Spokane area. If Section 5310/5311 funds were available to them, it is conceivable service could become available to those rural areas.

Mr. Gary Schimmels made a motion that the SRTC Board support the application received from Specialized Mobility Services, Inc. (SMS) to assist in continuing the North Spokane County transportation. Mr. Mark Richard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

b) Review of Interlocal Agreement

Pursuant to a request at last month's SRTC Board meeting, Board members received a copy of the Interlocal Agreement that creates Spokane Regional Transportation Council and a copy of Policy Topic 5 – Transportation (from the Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County). These documents explain how Metropolitan Planning Organizations and SRTC in particular came to exist

and defines SRTC's roles and responsibilities clearly defined as part of the Growth Management Act. SRTC is responsible for regional transportation planning for Spokane County. Local jurisdictions' comprehensive land use plans should be consistent and compatible with the Regional Transportation Plan and SRTC's roles and responsibilities are looking at the 20-year vision of transportation in Spokane, how those land use plans fit into a regional transportation context, and how a capital program is built at the regional level which insures those transportation investments are done cross-jurisdictional and are reasonably available financially to occur. The Interlocal Agreement was signed by every jurisdiction in Spokane County.

Mr. Stedman stated that page 3, Section 5, Paragraph 1 states in part there will be a representative from the Washington State Department of Transportation and appointed by the Chair of the Transportation Commission. He indicates this is not entirely accurate anymore and wonders if the wording should be changed to reflect the change.

c) East Valley Transportation Study

In November 2006, SRTC agreed to evaluate the transportation component of Liberty Lake's Comprehensive Plan. In December, SRTC received the land use changes for Liberty Lake needed to evaluate their transportation projects. Many of these changes were not inside Liberty Lake and impacted other jurisdictions. SRTC wanted to make sure the jurisdictions to be impacted were notified and coordinated with. It was discovered that Liberty Lake had not coordinated some of those improvements. It is imperative that Liberty Lake have closer coordination with other jurisdictions surrounding Liberty Lake including WSDOT and Spokane County.

In January, SRTC released draft 2015 results to WSDOT and Liberty Lake and received word that a major developer inside Liberty Lake has proposed a major land use change that would materially affect the analysis SRTC completed. A letter was received from WSDOT (a copy of which was distributed to the Board) indicating there is concern about Liberty Lake's Comprehensive Plan and requested SRTC have a scoping meeting to discuss a broader transportation analysis. This analysis is now called the East Valley Transportation Study because it does affect City of Spokane Valley, Spokane County, WSDOT, City of Liberty Lake, and probably Post Falls and Kootenai County.

A transportation analysis has already been done but in light of new information changes should be made to the analysis.

There is an interest on the part of several groups of individuals and probably some jurisdictions regarding a break in access on Interstate 90. The transportation analysis that must be done by SRTC in conjunction with the local jurisdictions and WSDOT says that the purpose and need for a break in access is

only allowed if there is no other option and it serves a regional need rather than creating a break in access to serve a local need. The initial analysis says there is no need for the break in access but it needs to be looked at in the bigger context of what other jurisdictions are doing and what other improvements could be done.

Mr. Dale Stedman made a motion that SRTC staff begin a scoping process for the East Valley Transportation Study. Mr. Jerry Lenzi seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Joe Shogan left at 2:50 pm. No quorum is present from this time forward.

10. Public Comments.

Mr. Brian A. Sayrs, Liberty Lake City Council Member, commented on two issues. The first was regarding the Harvard Road Mitigation Plan. He indicated it is not an impact fee, it is a SEPA mitigation and is voluntary. The second is regarding the East Valley Transportation Study discussed by the Board. He indicated that it is all tied into the TIF area that is there and the LIFT that has been approved for that area as well. Time has become of the essence and with the obligation to plan for 22,500 residents, the majority of which are immediately adjacent to that area, a great deal of the County's growth is being funneled to this area. He said if you are going to concentrate a great deal of development effort in one area, a commitment must be made to do the transportation activities for that area. Mr. Sayrs commends the Board for moving forward with a study for that area. He agrees this is not a one jurisdiction issue.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary