

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Transportation Technical Committee  
January 18, 2006  
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor  
Spokane, Washington

**1. Call to Order.**

Bob Brueggeman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

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

Tom Arnold .....	City of Spokane
Bob Brueggeman (Chair) .....	Spokane County
Larry Chatterton .....	WSDOT
Ron Edgar .....	SCAPCA
Gordon Howell .....	STA
Roger Krieger .....	City of Deer Park
Ross Kelley .....	Spokane County
Don MacDonald (Vice-Chair) .....	City of Cheney
John Mercer .....	City of Spokane
Keith Metcalf .....	WSDOT
Katherine Miller .....	City of Spokane
Harold White .....	WSDOT
Todd Woodard .....	Spokane International Airport

**Guests/Alternates.**

Joe Southwell.....	SCAPCA
Paul Jensen .....	Spokane County
Val Melvin .....	City of Spokane
Louis Meuler.....	City of Spokane
Scott Egger .....	City of Spokane
Councilman Bob Apple.....	City of Spokane
Mary Ann Ulik.....	Downtown Spokane Partnership

**Staff.**

Glenn Miles .....	Transportation Manager
Ed Hayes .....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa .....	Air Quality Transportation Planner
Jessica Hill .....	Transportation Planner
Jenny Wash .....	Administrative Clerk
Judy Hazard .....	Administrative Assistant

**3. Approval of November Meeting Minutes.**

**Ron Edgar made a motion to approve the November 16, 2006 meeting minutes. Harold White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**4. Old Business.**

**a) Bridging the Valley Update**

Glenn Miles advised HDR Consultants has been given the notice to proceed on the Havana Street Overpass project. It is anticipated the project will go out to bid by November of 2006. They have been in contact with Burlington Northern on the Maintenance and Operation Agreement that needs to be put in place and will be meeting January 25<sup>th</sup> to review that agreement.

On the Idaho side, the Rathdrum Main Street Underpass has been fully funded. SRTC is working on the scope and fee with HDR to move forward with that project. The Idaho State Office of Historic Preservation has signed off on the archeological and historical elements of the environmental clearance document. Only one requirement remains in Idaho. Also, the Idaho Department of Water Resources has agreed culverts can be installed without permits.

A preliminary notification has been received that the Washington State Office of Historic Preservation will complete their portion in the next couple of weeks and the City of Spokane Storm Water Department has signed off on their portion. The project is on track for having the documented categorical exclusion through Federal Highways by the end of March 2006.

The appropriations request is being prepared for Washington and Idaho for the Bridging the Valley project.

**b) Regional Concurrency Update**

Ed Hayes reported SRTC received one proposal from the Request for Proposals to Conduct a Study Assessing the Feasibility of the Regional Transportation Concurrency System in Spokane County. This proposal was received from Bucher, Willis and Ratliffe Corp. The technical sub-committee on concurrency met January 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposal. The findings were unanimous that the document was technically sound and the scope, budget and task analysis were in line with the RFP. The sub-committee agreed to come to the TTC with a recommendation to move this proposal forward to the SRTC Board.

**Tom Arnold made a motion to move the proposal received from Bucher, Willis & Ratliffe Corp. forward to the SRTC for approval. Larry Chatterton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **c) Demography Update**

Dale Rosebrock, Intermountain Demographics, is under contract with SRTC to derive an independent set of forecasts for the 2030 year. He was asked to develop these forecasts down to the Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) as this is the ultimate geographic unit looked at for the regional model. Ed Hayes presented Mr. Rosebrock's findings to the TTC members. Maps showing the findings were posted for everyone to see. Mr. Hayes indicated that Mr. Rosebrock will present his findings at the February SRTC Board meeting and would like to receive jurisdictional comments prior to the Board meeting.

### **d) Regional Bicycle Map**

Glenn Miles reported SRTC staff members, Sylvia Ferrin and Eve Nelson, have developed the new bike route map for Spokane County. The draft map was presented to the bicycle committee last night. The draft maps will be distributed to all the jurisdictions. A request was made for them to review the map and make sure the designated bike route information given by each jurisdiction is correct. Once the maps have been finalized they will be printed and distributed to the kiosks etc.

## **5. New Business.**

### **a) Election of Officers for 2006**

**Ross Kelley made a motion to appoint Don MacDonald chair of the Transportation Technical Committee for 2006. Todd Woodard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**Don MacDonald made a motion to appoint Tom Arnold vice-chair of the Transportation Technical Committee for 2006. Todd Woodard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

## **6. Technical Member Comments.**

Tom Arnold indicated the City of Spokane has a lot of projects for the 2006 construction season from the 2006 Street Bond Work. Maps are available for viewing at [www.spokanestreets.org](http://www.spokanestreets.org). Most construction this year will be on the south side of Spokane and appears to be unbalanced as to the entire city. This is due to the Maple Street and Greene Street projects being done a year early, which would have been 2006 projects. 10 miles of construction are being done each year.

Ron Edgar gave the following comments:

- He introduced Joe Southwell, his alternate to the TTC meetings.

- SCAPCA's director's position is now being advertised and applications are being accepted through the end of February.
- The monitoring portion of SCAPCA's air toxic study was concluded at the end of December. The results will be tabulated once all data is received from the analysis being done at the lab.
- December 20<sup>th</sup>, EPA released their proposed new particulate matter standards. They were published in the Federal Register this week and are now in a 90-day public comment period. Due to the new standards, sweeping and sanding will need to be watched very carefully. Mr. Edgar gave a very detailed explanation of the old and the new proposed PM standards. A question was asked if the TTC, as the technical committee to the Board, would like to send a message to EPA to not lower the standards any more than the new standards. The discussion did not result in a recommendation from the TTC.
- Three applications were received for the local government grant money for diesel retrofit: STA, Spokane County, and the City of Spokane. Selections will be made in the next several weeks. \$20 million in requests was received and about \$2 million is available.

EPA has approached SRTC about putting on a workshop in March called "Moving Down the Road to Cleaner Air". This is a pilot project EPA is attempting to start in Washington State. One of the major thrusts of the workshop is to promote the use of CMAQ funds for addressing PM 2.5. Mr. Miles asked if the TTC members would like to have this group come in and discuss PM 2.5 emission reductions and CMAQ funds. EPA and Federal Highway Administration would be the presenters. Mr. Miles asked the committee for a show of hands for interest in this workshop. There was general agreement among the members for having this workshop come to Spokane.

Todd Woodard said the airport plans to start its largest project in the last 40 years, a remodel of the terminal. This project will start in April and completed the end of October. In 2006 they will be developing taxi lanes. They are waiting for permission from the FAA to do a runway extension. They want to lengthen the runway an additional 3000 feet.

Roger Krieger said Deer Park is getting two projects ready for summer construction. They are hoping to get the bids out of the end of March.

Harold White said the updating of the ITS Implementation Plan is starting up. This is a multi-agency document so all agencies input is requested. Also, he will be attending a meeting to see how to measure and report congestion. This is an important issue as they construct the nickel projects and the partnership projects

from the nine-cent gas tax. They are concerned that not enough data exists at this time to demonstrate that something is being done with that money for the public to see. He will bring back information to the TTC as this issue moves forward.

Ross Kelley gave the following comments:

- The Growth Management Steering Committee met and has asked for a comparison of standards for all jurisdictions to determine what everyone has, especially for joint planning areas. Mr. Kelley will be contacting all the jurisdictions shortly to obtain this information.
- Spokane County's Public Information Office will put together the Regional Construction Map. Jurisdictions will be contacted for their projects for this upcoming construction season. Utility company projects that impact traffic will also be included on the map.
- The Utility Coordinating Committee will be meeting the first week of February which committee came about as a result of the County's pavement cut policy efforts. Their hope is to get together every quarter and compare major road, bridge, and street projects with what the utility companies are doing.
- Early weight restrictions have been placed on county roads.

Keith Metcalf gave the following comments:

- An adjustment has been made on the scheduled viaduct redecking. They are planning to try to keep the westbound off ramp to Maple Street open in 2006. It is understood that if extreme congestion occurs because of it being open they will close it down. They will attempt the same adjustment in 2007 for the Division eastbound off ramp. This project will go to bid in February with work starting in May after Bloomsday. They have agreed they will not inhibit parking under the viaduct structure during Lilac Festival and Hoop Fest.
- Mr. Metcalf also gave an update on the North Spokane Corridor. He indicated six bridges will go out to bid in early February. Another portion of the project will start in the Fall (grading, surfacing, paving). This will get the section from Farwell to Francis drivable in late 2008.
- WSDOT Eastern Region has several projects they will be doing the design work for that are from other regions of WSDOT. This is as a result of the Transportation Partnership Act. They will be doing the design work for eight bridge replacements in the Southwest Region, seven bridges for seismic retrofit, and two minor projects for the South Central Region.

Larry Chatterton reported that the members of the TTC from WSDOT now are:

Harold White, Keith Metcalf, and Mike Gribnor

The alternates are:

Larry Chatterton, Mark Rohwer, and Mike Frucci

Katherine Miller indicated the City of Spokane will be going out for general comments on their 6-year Program the beginning of March.

Gordon Howell said STA's South Hill Park and Ride is 90% operational. They are making some minor changes to their October service change, which was implemented October 16<sup>th</sup>. They are still gathering data on the ridership but it looks really good so far. STA's major capital investment in 2006 will be the purchase of 6 new 60' articulated buses. These buses are replacing buses purchased in 1986 and have 900,000 miles on them.

Bob Brueggeman stated Spokane County should have Federal Highway Administration's signature by the end of this week on the Bigelow Gulch environmental document. Documents will be available for viewing by the public by January 27<sup>th</sup>, which will start a 45-day comment period. Hopefully, they will soon have a Finding of No Significant Impact. Shortly, they should be able to start designing and buying right-of-way. They hope to have a contract out late this year to start building on the west end of Bigelow Gulch. It is anticipated it will be open for traffic in 2010. The entire corridor is 8.4 miles and is fully funded from various sources.

Tom Arnold reported on some staffing changes at the City of Spokane. He indicated that John Mercer has been named head of Capital Program section.

## **7. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary