

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Transportation Technical Committee  
February 15, 2006  
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor  
Spokane, Washington

**1. Call to Order.**

Don MacDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

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

Ron Edgar .....	SCAPCA
Mike Gribner .....	WSDOT
Gordon Howell.....	Spokane Transit Authority
Ross Kelley .....	Spokane County
Don MacDonald (Chair).....	City of Cheney
John Mercer .....	City of Spokane
Katherine Miller .....	City of Spokane
Steve Worley .....	City of Spokane Valley

**Guests/Alternates.**

Mark Rohwer .....	WSDOT
Mike Frucci .....	WSDOT
Bill Hemmings .....	Spokane County
Councilman Bob Apple .....	City of Spokane
Scott Eggar.....	City of Spokane
Dan Rennick .....	

**Staff.**

Ed Hayes.....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa .....	Air Quality Transportation Planner
Jeff Selle.....	Manager Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard .....	Administrative Assistant

**3. Approval of January Meeting Minutes.**

**Ross Kelley made a motion to approve the January 18, 2006 meeting minutes. Ron Edgar seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**4. Technical Member Comments.**

Mark Rohwer explained that WSDOT is moving forward with the SR 291 Route Development Plan. The final set of open houses will be held in mid-March; the completed report should be out the end of April. They are also working on identifying future improvements at the Medical Lake interchange. This effort is being coordinated with Spokane County.

Steve Worley said the Valley has three projects ready to go. Dishman-Mica between Appleway and Sprague went out to bid last Friday. Broadway Avenue resurfacing is out on the street, and Barker – Boone to River Bridge will go out this Friday. Steve asked that the Valley Corridor project be put on the TTC agenda for the next several months under “Old Business” so he can give an update on its status as the Valley is looking to get a preferred alternative on that project into the MTP by July 2006. In order to do that they need to get the concurrence of the TTC.

**Steve Worley made a motion to put the Valley Corridor project on the TTC agenda for the next several months. Ross Kelley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

Mike Gribner indicated WSDOT went out to ad with the viaduct project this week.

Ross Kelley asked if all the jurisdictions had their construction schedules into the County to go on the 2006 regional construction map. The deadline was yesterday but asked them to make sure they had their information in. Also, he said that there are public open houses tonight and tomorrow night for the Bigelow/Forker Environmental Assessment. The comment period is up March 12, 2006.

Bill Hemmings said the County is continuing to work on their Six-Year Plan.

John Mercer noted the City is busy getting projects out to ad. There is an open house scheduled regarding the Bernard Street tree issue. He also said the City is very disappointed in the TIB funding in Eastern Washington. They are interested in partnering and having a collective voice to speak to TIB.

Ron Edgar stated the Department of Ecology announced the diesel retrofit awards were awarded to the City of Spokane and Spokane Transit Authority. The City received grant money to retrofit 120 vehicles and STA 69 vehicles. \$2 million was available statewide and Spokane received the second highest with \$600,000. The most likely use of the money will be putting diesel oxidation catalysts on the vehicles.

Don MacDonald said Cheney is getting projects ready to go to bid. Eastern University is preparing to build a new recreation center on campus. It will be an 88,000 s.f. complex. The University is asking Cheney for vacation of a street. They feel it is integral to the design of the center. This is a big issue as this is a street used by emergency vehicles to reach dorms and residential streets. No decision has been made.

Ed Hayes introduced a new SRTC employee. Mr. Jeff Selle has been hired as the Manager of Transportation Relations. He will be working with the legislative community

both at the state and federal level as well as other local decision makers and the public to make sure there is fairness and equity in funding issues.

## **5. Old Business.**

### **a) Bridging the Valley Update**

SRTC has received a letter from the Idaho State Office of Historic Preservation clearing the Bridging the Valley route on the Idaho side. This will be formalized and sent to Federal Highways Administration in the next week. The last document to go the Washington State Office of Historic Preservation was delivered last week. With those two final pieces in place, the entire 42-mile corridor had no adverse effects environmentally. The Army Corps of Engineers has signed off on the 404 Permits. A final documented Categorical Exclusion is expected by the end of March or the beginning of April.

HDR is working on the final design of the Havana Street Project. This will take about 16 months to construct.

HDR has provided the final scope of work and fee for the Rathdrum Main Street Underpass.

Funding issues were discussed for the Bridging the Valley project

### **b) Regional Concurrency Update**

The SRTC Board unanimously approved the proposal received from Bucher, Willis and Ratliffe Corp. which the TTC had recommended to them. A contract was faxed to them today for them to conduct a study assessing the feasibility of the regional transportation concurrency system in Spokane County. The contract is for \$107,331 and to be for a period of 8 months. They are looking for a kick-off meeting of possibly March 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ed Hayes will be contacting the members of the Concurrency Sub-committee for dates. They would also like to have a meeting with elected officials also.

### **c) Demography Update**

Ed Hayes reported Dale Rosebrock, Intermountain Demographics, presented the draft findings from his demographic analysis of this region to the SRTC Board. At this time, comments are being requested regarding these findings. Comments have been received from a couple of jurisdictions for possible changes to the population allocations. More comments are expected. Mr. Rosebrock also gave the presentation to the Growth Management Act (GMA) Steering Committee and Mr. Hayes gave a rundown on the way the vote went at that meeting.

### **d) Travel Demand Model Progress Report**

Ed Hayes gave an update on the travel demand model. He indicated they are waiting for

land use information. Until they have this information they are working on the supply side of the model (i.e. adding counts, modes of travel). The regional model users group will be starting up again shortly; members will be contacted. Mr. Hayes thanked the jurisdictions for providing the electronic data, as it would take years to enter all the information in by hand. Traffic counts will be done the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> so all jurisdictions were asked to advise Ed if they have any projects due to start that week and where they are to prevent the counts from being skewed. Also, definitive land use is requested from the jurisdictions.

## **6. New Business.**

### **a) STA Cooperative Project – Scope Revision Request**

The City of Spokane has identified two projects selected through the STA Cooperative Funding process that have been delayed and/or will not be constructed before 2008. When the Cooperative Agreements were signed off on, both projects were anticipated to be constructed in 2006. In an effort to support STA's funding program and their desire to have these funds spent by 2006/2007, the City proposes to eliminate the following two projects:

- Market Street and Wellesley Avenue Concrete Intersection (STA Funding \$71,900)
- Monroe Street and Bridge Avenue Concrete Intersection (STA Funding \$160,000)

The City of Spokane proposes moving the STA money from these two projects to two other projects that will begin construction in 2006 and are located along STA routes. The two proposed projects are:

- 29<sup>th</sup> Ave and Southeast Blvd Concrete Intersection (Proposed STA Funding \$87,700)
- Crestline St and Francis Ave Concrete Intersection (Proposed STA Funding \$144,200)

It was agreed that at the time of the STA Cooperative Funding Program prioritization, enough money was available for all projects that were submitted. Therefore, there are no projects left on the list unfunded.

**Katherine Miller made a motion to move this request forward. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**7. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary