

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
May 17, 2006
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Don MacDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Tom Arnold.....	City of Spokane
Bob Brueggeman	Spokane County
Ron Edgar	SCAPCA
Mike Gribner.....	WSDOT
Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Ross Kelley	Spokane County
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park
Don MacDonald (Chair).....	City of Cheney
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley

Guests/Alternates.

Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Mike Frucci	WSDOT
Louis Meuler.....	City of Spokane
Councilman Bob Apple.....	City of Spokane
Carl deSimas.....	Downtown Spokane Partnership

Staff.

Glenn Miles	Transportation Manager
Ed Hayes.....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Air Quality Transportation Planner
Judy Hazard	Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of March Meeting Minutes.

Ross Kelley made a motion to approve the March 15, 2006 meeting minutes. Katherine Miller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Technical Member Comments.

Katherine Miller indicated the City of Spokane has completed their Six-Year Street Plan and is awaiting approval from the Planning Commission and City Council. This should be all completed the first part of June.

Roger Krieger said Deer Park is working on its Six-Year Street Plan. They are getting their road construction projects underway.

Ross Kelley said the County Commission approved the County's amended 2006 Construction Program. It will be June before they do their Six-Year Program for the next six years. This will be their largest construction program ever if they can get past the high price of certain building materials and the lack of certain other materials. They will possibly pave over 30 miles of gravel road this season.

Bob Brueggeman said the County's gravel roads are receiving a lot of complaints due to dust.

Tom Arnold said the City of Spokane started five projects this week. Last week they opened bids on Bernard Street. They have seen an approximate 20% increase in the cost of hot mixed asphalt but are hopeful that prices will drop down shortly.

Steve Worley said they went before their City Council last night and gave a presentation on possibly restriping Broadway to three lanes. They will be holding a public hearing on June 13th. Also, they are doing an overlay project from Bates to Sullivan and are looking at taking the area from Pines to Sullivan from four lanes to three. The Barker Road project is underway, Dishman-Mica project is complete, and Argonne Rd. (Indiana to Montgomery) will go to bid in a couple of weeks. The City of Spokane Valley is just starting on their Sub-Area Plan (Sprague/Appleway Corridor Sub-Area Plan). A consultant has been hired to look at zoning, land use and transportation and the potential development of a city center.

Mike Frucci thanked Andy Schenk and the City of Spokane for all his hard work on the signal timing for the viaduct project. This project has been a great example of partnership agencies working together for a common cause. The structures project for the North Spokane Corridor will go out to bid again the end of the month. WSDOT is also seeing a 20% cost increase in asphalt.

John Mercer said the City of Spokane met with Spokane County to discuss several potential cooperative projects.

Ron Edgar indicated SCAPCA is looking at 3rd and Washington regarding CO levels. At

this time everything is okay. The federal government is cutting back on funding of monitoring; it is possible all CO monitoring in the state will be pulled out. He is not sure what impact this would have on the region. This issue will be discussed at a later date dependant on what occurs. The comment period has ended for the proposed new standards for particulate matter; it will be adopted in September. SCAPCA sent in comments on both the standards itself and how it would be monitored and the exceptional event policy. All of SCAPCA's ongoing legal issues have been settled. SCAPCA's budget must be adopted by the end of June, and a budget hearing will be held June 1st. The search for a new Director is continuing with interviews being conducted next week for the final candidates. The Board of Directors is being reorganized in order to include representation from the City of Spokane Valley. Ozone season has started with an air stagnation last Saturday so they have started a campaign to get people to reduce emission of pollutants that cause ozone (fill cars up later in the day when it is cooler, etc.).

Gordon Howell stated the STA Board is hopefully adopting its Seven-Year Plan tomorrow night. Also, STA went out to ad on the Community Transit Plan which is a long-range strategic (15 year) plan.

Don MacDonald agreed with all the other members about the high price of asphalt at this time. They opened bids on their residential street and sidewalk project, which is being funded with a tax for electricity and natural gas voted on in 1998. He asked what other jurisdictions are doing to absorb the additional cost for the asphalt on projects using federal funds if the cost does not go down. According to Mr. Miles, there is no additional funding available from the federal government at this time.

Mr. Miles indicated that the MPO's and RTPO's around the State had a meeting with the senior staff of the House and Senate Transportation Committee. The MPO's and RTPO's were advised that starting in the 2008 program year, MPO's and RTPO's will no longer be under their control; they will be under the sole discretion of the State Legislature in association with the Governor's Office. Prior to this discussion, this region was receiving funds associated with the STP Competitive Program (approximately \$1.5 Million) and now the State Legislature will decide where that money goes. Even though there is a 34% increase in funding to the State of Washington the amount attributable to the metropolitan areas is going down. It is important that this region speak with one voice through its legislators to make sure that which was taken away is returned for important projects.

5. Old Business.

a) Bridging the Valley Update

Mr. Miles reported the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation for the State of Washington has signed off on the Bridging the Valley project as having no adverse affects. Federal Highways is now in a position to approve the documented Categorical Exclusion, which is important because there is \$1 million from the Federal Railroad

Administration that can be accessed to begin acquiring right-of-way and no right-of-way can be purchased until the Categorical Exclusion is approved.

The 50% design plans on the Havana Street over crossing have been submitted to BNSF. BNSF has given SRTC the go-ahead to work with WSDOT to do the construction and maintenance agreement. This project should be able to start in 2007.

SRTC met with the BNSF on the Rathdrum Main Street underpass. The final scope is done and the State/Local Agreement with Idaho will be signed next week. This is a funded project also.

Mr. Miles reported on his trip to Washington DC with the Regional Chamber Alliance. While there, Senator Crapo from Idaho said that as far as Bridging the Valley goes the Idaho and Washington delegations stand united in support on that project. Senator Murray's office is looking at this project as being a pilot project for how to do it right. If this comes to fruition, this project will get \$40 million in the '07 Appropriations Bill and a full funding grant agreement, which would provide the balance of the funding for the project.

b) Regional Concurrency Update (Tech Memo #2)

A copy of the Regional Transportation Concurrency Feasibility Study Technical Memo #2 prepared by the consultant, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff was distributed to the TTC Members. This memorandum was a literature survey on various concurrency implementation strategies. SRTC staff has reviewed it and it was given to the TTC members for review and comment. A copy was also given to the SRTC Board Members at their last meeting. A workshop will be held with Bucher, Willis & Ratliff on June 14th from 1-4:30 pm at the Regional Chamber Office. Two additional memorandums will be distributed prior to the workshop (technical feasibility and legal analysis). Mr. Miles urged everyone to read the technical documents as the purpose of the workshop is for everyone to digest the information in those documents and have questions, comments, and concerns ready so they can deal with them before they move onto the next section of the study. If there are questions ready at any time prior to the workshop the Board was asked to advise SRTC staff so the questions could be forwarded to Bucher, Willis & Ratliff to prepare a response in advance.

c) Demography Update

Ed Hayes gave an update on the Travel Demand Model. SRTC has received a final technical memo from Dale Rosebrock of Intermountain Demographics. The memo was not received in time for today's meeting but the final memo will be distributed at the next TTC meeting. The 2030 land use has been completed and the interim model is complete. The base will be ready to go in late June. The model will be looked at annually to reevaluate land use; course corrections will be made as needed.

d) Travel Demand Model Progress Report

Ed Hayes gave a presentation on SRTC's Travel Demand Model. He indicated this is a 4-step model, which will be complete in July. He thanked everyone for their Synchro files that are used for node geometry. Ed said it has been a great help to be able to use the Home Interview Survey in putting the model together. A large amount of traffic counts have just been received from WSDOT's data office in Olympia, which will be used in the model also. The counts will be distributed electronically next week to all the jurisdictions. The model user's group has been meeting weekly and will continue to do so for several more weeks. Once everything is completed, a forecast will be built and the SRTC Board will then make a decision on whether SRTC should undertake the Tour (Activity) Based Model.

6. New Business.

a) West Plains Traffic Circulation Study

SRTC Board Member Brenda Redell requested the TTC discuss the potential future traffic problems in the West Plains area. She is concerned about a variety of activities that are going on the West Plains (bottom of Sunset Hill to Cheney/Medical Lake). That area is seeing growth development, and industrial growth around the airport. The airport has expressed interest in closing McFarland Road as well as some other roads and Spokane County is working on the extension of the Geiger Spur. It is becoming more and more difficult for local traffic to get into and out of the area. Mr. Miles indicated the best place to obtain funding for this study would be in SRTC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Redell has asked that SRTC consider doing this study under the 2007 UPWP. The UPWP has been adopted for the 2007 program year, which begins July 1st but there is an item called "Corridor Studies" which might be a good fit for this study.

b) Regional Street Standards

SRTC Board Member and County Commissioner, Todd Mielke along with City of Spokane Mayor, Dennis Hession have requested SRTC look at the regional street standards. The first step would be putting together a matrix of where the standards are common and where the standards diverge. SRTC has agreed to convene a subcommittee of the TTC to put this matrix together. A small contract may be issued once the matrix is established to finalize it. They are asking for information related to sidewalk, curb, street width, and design. As projects are developed that cross-jurisdictional boundaries it is desired they have the same look and feel regardless of which jurisdiction a person is in. It was agreed this project would start in July 2006 so a sub-committee will be formed at the July TTC meeting.

c) City of Spokane Valley Request to Substitute STA Cooperative Project

City of Spokane Valley received an STA Cooperative Funding Grant for construction of sidewalks on Mission Avenue from Mullan Road to University Road. Due to

circumstances, this project cannot be completed in the immediate near future. They are requesting to be able to use these funds to construct a concrete intersection at Appleway Avenue and Barker Road as part of their current Appleway Avenue Reconstruction project. This intersection is used by bus route 90.

STA's grant is for \$303,964 and the project they wish to substitute will cost \$379,000. The difference (\$75,036) will be covered by the City of Spokane Valley.

John Mercer made a motion to recommend this project be forwarded on to the SRTC Board at their next meeting. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

d) Global Gateway Concept

Glenn Miles indicated Avista has been making presentations in Spokane County, Kootenai County, and as far south as Lewiston about a regional global gateway approach. There is a lot of interest in making this happen. The presentation was given to both Idaho and Washington delegation members as well as to their legislative directors and transportation aides while in Washington DC.

Senator Murray's office has asked that a \$500,000 request be given to them in order to try to look at doing a feasibility study. A letter was sent asking for \$500,000 and a reply was received saying this has been put into the '07 appropriations request. Avista has made this a priority as something that can stimulate economic development in this area and have agreed to put some corporate financial support to make this happen. The SRTC Board gave authority last month for SRTC to be involved with Avista in a staff support position. The support and interest from the community, corporate, and congressional level has been very high. Avista will be giving a presentation at the June SRTC Board meeting. The TTC members indicated they would also like to receive the presentation at their June meeting.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

JUDY HAZARD
Recording Secretary