

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Transportation Technical Committee  
July 19, 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.**

Bob Brueggeman.....	Spokane County
Ron Edgar .....	SCAPCA
Mike Gribner.....	WSDOT
Don MacDonald (Chair) .....	City of Cheney
John Mercer.....	City of Spokane
Keith Metcalf .....	WSDOT
Susan Meyer .....	Spokane Transit Authority
Katherine Miller.....	City of Spokane
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Harold White.....	WSDOT
Steve Worley .....	City of Spokane Valley

**Guests/Alternates.**

Ryan Stewart .....	Spokane Transit Authority
Bob Turner .....	City of Spokane
Louis Meuler.....	City of Spokane
Councilman Bob Apple .....	City of Spokane
Bob Shull .....	PTV America, Inc.
Mary Ann Ulik .....	Downtown Spokane Partnership

**Staff.**

Glenn Miles.....	Transportation Manager
Ed Hayes .....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Eve Nelson .....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Jessica Hill.....	Transportation Planner
Jeff Selle.....	Manager of Transportation Relations
Staci Lehman.....	Public Info/ Education Coordinator
Judy Hazard .....	Administrative Assistant

**3. Approval of June Meeting Minutes.**

**Bob Brueggeman made a motion to approve the June 21, 2006 meeting minutes. Katherine Miller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**4. New Business.**

**a) Presentation of Travel Demand Model – PTV**

Bob Shull of PTV America, Inc. gave a presentation on Spokane's New Travel Demand Forecasting Model.

Mr. Shull gave an overview of the building of the model. He indicated they imported the Spokane Network from GIS and Navteq, link data attributes, Intersection Control Attributes and TAZ Structure and Land Use from GIS and node geometry from Synchro. STA routes and timetables were also added. The data from the Spokane and Kootenai County Regional Travel Survey done in 2005 was entered into the model also.

He explained that this is a 4-Step Model. The steps are land use (employment and population), distribution or trip generation, choice of mode (car, bus, etc.), and assignment. At this time they are wrapping up the last adjustments to the calibration of the model.

**b) Federal Funding Update**

Glenn Miles reported 18 months ago the SRTC Board approved the list of projects from the last Call for Projects. The Board has an adopted policy that projects that are not to the point of having their final design and right-of-way certified within 18 months from that date are subject to reallocation. Mr. Miles went through the \$10 million worth of projects that were allocated in 2004 and received a status report on each of the projects in order to determine if there was any money to be reallocated for projects with cost overruns. It was determined the only project that was questionable for being able to be done within the timeline is the City of Spokane's Bridge Avenue project. At this point there is \$777,000 unspent on the Bridge Avenue project.

Both the Washington State House and Senate Transportation Committees and the Governor's Office informed all the MPOs and RTPOs that from 2009 (the end of SAFETEA-LU) forward they would be selecting projects for all the money that is not allocated by congressional statute to a specific region. Historically, this has been an additional \$2 million to our area. Therefore, this region will get the approximately \$2 million in 2008 and 2009.

Mr. Miles gave an update on the status of the 2007 Appropriation Bill. He indicated the Senate version of this Bill is several hundred million dollars higher than the House Bill. Several earmark requests have been submitted for this area for additional funding.

It is anticipated the enhancement funding program will remain in the next iteration of SAFETEA-LU but there may possibly be changes to the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding program.

The next Call for Projects will probably be in September for 2008 and 2009.

### **c) Street Standards – Subcommittee**

The TTC was asked to look at regional street standards. They are going to be looking at 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.

The TTC formed a subcommittee to deal with this issue. The following people volunteered for the subcommittee:

Bob Brueggeman	Spokane County
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Steve Worley	City of Spokane Valley
Don MacDonald	Small Cities

Glenn Miles will contact TTC member Roger Krieger to ask if he is willing to serve on the subcommittee as a member also from Small Cities.

### **5. Technical Member Comments.**

Glenn Miles introduced SRTC's new Public Information Education Coordinator, Staci Lehman. Ms. Lehman started this week. Mr. Miles also informed the members that SRTC has hired Valla Melvin in the position of Transportation Engineer for the Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center. She will be starting August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ron Edgar stated the summer-time ozone information campaign is underway. Air quality numbers are looking good so far this summer.

Keith Metcalf reported the viaduct project is going well and is on schedule. The Gerlach grading project for the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) is finishing up. This is the second of six contracts from the nickel funding. The six bridges portion of this project has gone to bid again and a good bid has been received. WSDOT is suffering from funding problems due to cost overruns (asphalt, concrete, gas). They are doing very well with the right-of-way purchases on the NSC project. Mr. Metcalf advised that he has accepted a temporary long-term appointment in WSDOT headquarters for 1-2 years.

Ryan Stewart indicated STA has chosen a new fare box vendor; in December they will have all new fare boxes on their buses. In the near future, they will also be making changes to transfers and will be eliminating tokens. STA has selected a consultant team for their Comprehensive Transit Plan.

Harold White said WSDOT is working on a fiber-optic project at the Medical Lake interchange. Two large events will be happening the last week in July (Fairchild Open House and Orange County Choppers) that will impact traffic on I-90. They have made arrangements to mitigate the problems before they occur.

Bob Brueggeman gave an update on Spokane County's summer projects. There are still some projects that will go out to bid.

Steve Worley updated the members on the City of Spokane Valley's road projects. The

Argonne Road project (grinding and overlay) has gone to bid. Due to the high volume of traffic in that area, they will be doing night work.

Susan Meyer stated tomorrow night the Light Rail Steering Committee is recommending to the STA Board that an advisory vote be taken in September to give permission to STA to begin preliminary engineering on the light rail project without raising any additional money. She also gave an update on the position several local jurisdiction Board's have voted as it relates to light rail. Ms. Meyer also said STA would like to come to the TTC and present "Transit 20-20" which is STA's transit plan being done by Nelson Nygaard, the consultant. The project will begin in August and will end at the latter part of 2007. They have two objectives: (1) They have a go-forward plan for the future of transit in the community for the next 15 years. (2) They have an alternative for voters in 2008 other than shutting the system down if the three-tenths percent sales tax is not approved. This would essentially cut the system in half. It was agreed "Transit 20-20" would be on TTC's September agenda.

Glenn Miles said SRTC has been receiving requests for comment on some of the more significant developments in the region from planning departments of the local jurisdictions. These comment sheets suggest if no response is received the SRTC believes it meets concurrency requirements. SRTC will no longer **not respond** to these requests until the concurrency study is completed. SRTC's response will be that unless there is a complete traffic study attached to the SEPA checklist that demonstrates the transportation system can be sustained at an acceptable level it does not meet concurrency. Mr. Miles also advised the TTC that he met with Representative Alex Wood who has been appointed to a subcommittee to look at concurrency in the next legislative session. Representative Wood was advised if the local jurisdictions can't fix their concurrency problems, the State will step in and adopt a top-down approach to concurrency.

## **6. Old Business.**

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

The Bridging the Valley – Havana project is in the final design stage. Some additional traffic analysis is being done where Havana meets Trent and Mission.

The documented categorical exclusion has been at Federal Highways for a week. They expect to have it approved the second week in August for the corridor. It is anticipated Havana will go out to bid in November.

The response to the \$40 million appropriation request will be coming tomorrow.

The State and Local Agreement in Idaho will be signed next week for the Rathdrum Main Street Underpass.

Glenn Miles was in Edmonton, Canada giving a presentation on Bridging the Valley (BTV) recently. BNSF Railway Company was in attendance and made positive comments regarding the BTV project.

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

Ed Hayes indicated there are three studies underway in the State of Washington at this time;

two need legislative authority for them. Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is doing a multi-modal study; UW TRAC and WSDOT are working on that study which should be completed by the end of 2006. It deals with how to implement the new law and concurrency that looks at different time of day standards and different standards between different modes. Ed Hayes is participating in this study. The second study is the one that Representative Alex Wood is on mentioned by Glenn Miles earlier in this meeting. This study is evaluating whether or not state facilities should be explicitly in or out of the concurrency system. The third is the Regional Concurrency Study being done at SRTC. On this study, the Socio-Political-Economic Analysis should be received by the end of this week; it will be distributed at that time. Mr. Hayes indicated the final draft for this project is due in September so it would be a good idea for BWR to come to Spokane in August to present the last of the information gathered and get some initial feedback from the TTC members.

**7. Adjournment.**

Discussion took place regarding possibly changing the date of the August TTC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

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JUDY HAZARD  
Recording Secretary