

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Transportation Technical Committee  
December 19, 2007  
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor  
Spokane, Washington

**1. Call to Order.**

Steve Worley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

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

Steve Blaska .....	STA
Ron Edgar .....	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
Mike Frucci .....	WSDOT
Mike Gribner (Vice Chair) .....	WSDOT
Gordon Howell .....	STA
Roger Krieger .....	Small Town Representative
Don MacDonald.....	Small Town Representative
John Mercer .....	City of Spokane
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Harold White .....	WSDOT
Todd Woodard .....	Spokane Airport Board
Steve Worley (Chair) .....	City of Spokane Valley

**Staff.**

Glenn Miles .....	Transportation Manager
Stacy Lehman .....	Pub. Info/Ed Coord.
Jeff Selle .....	Manager Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard .....	Administrative Assistant

**Visitors and Alternates.**

Bill Hemmings .....	Spokane County
Mark Serbousek, .....	City of Spokane
Kerry Brooks .....	WSU
Mark Brower	
Paul Kropp	

### **3. Approval of October Meeting Minutes.**

A correction was noted on Page 6, Paragraph 1, last sentence. The word signals needs to be added after "left-turn lane". The sentence should read "There are no left-turn lane signals there now but have been discussed over the years."

**Harold White made a motion to approve the October 17, 2007 meeting minutes with the noted correction. Mike Gribner seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **4. Old Business.**

#### **a) Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) has been out for review; the public comment period ends on December 20<sup>th</sup>. A current draft has been provided to the SRTC Board. They will be meeting December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 am to consider the MTP for approval.

The jurisdictions were asked to provide any further comments, changes, or additions to the MTP as soon as possible in order for staff to incorporate this information and get them copied for the Board meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Glenn Miles said that SRTC staff is committed to annually updating the MTP; it will be amended in 2008.

In answer to a question Mr. Miles responded the MTP is not financially constrained to actual dollars. The Transportation Plan is what could be reasonably available from now to 2030. In regards to the priority list, the links of those roads with deficiencies and intersections with deficiencies have been ranked by severity by jurisdiction but they have not been prioritized regionally.

#### **b) Transportation Improvement Program**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been through its public comment period which ended November 15<sup>th</sup>. The TIP has been sent to WSDOT and has been incorporated (as required by statute) into the STIP verbatim, and has been transmitted to the Governor's Office for review on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The TIP will be given to the SRTC Board on December 21<sup>st</sup> for their consideration for approval. Before the TIP can be adopted the MTP must be adopted because SRTC must certify that the TIP is consistent with the MTP. If the Board does not adopt the MTP and therefore the TIP before the end of the year, WSDOT will have to remove every project in Spokane County from the STIP (all WSDOT projects, transit projects, local street and road projects) that receive State or Federal Aid funding.

The TIP requires financial constraint to actual dollars that exist and are committed to

projects.

**Mr. Ron Edgar made a motion that the TTC recommend adoption of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program trusting the SRTC staff will address any additional comments that come in and with the understanding that it will be annually reviewed and updated. Mr. John Mercer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **c) East Valley/West Rathdrum Prairie Transportation Study Update**

The 2005 land use on the 2005 base, the 2015 land use on the 2005 base, and the 2030 land use on the 2005 base models were sent out to the jurisdictions a couple of weeks ago. HDR was sent the 2030 land use on the 2030 base for their review and it will be sent to the stakeholder group next week for their review. A stakeholder group meeting was held to go over the work product and staff will be meeting with Post Falls tomorrow to go over their network coding.

### **d) Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan**

SRTC and Spokane Transit Authority have been working collaboratively with stakeholder groups and have developed a Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan for the Spokane region. This document is a requirement of SAFETEA-LU and is a prerequisite to receive a variety of funds through the Federal Transit Administration for social service providers, rural public transportation funding as well as Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funding. It has been out for public comment and a public meeting has been held. All the public comments have been incorporated into the document .

During the development of the Plan comments were received related to developing service between Spokane and Kootenai Counties for JARC. There has also been interest from the Calispel Tribe for service from Chewelah down through Spokane and out to the Airway Heights Casino. SRTC Board Member Micki Harnois who is a Councilperson from the Town of Rockford, would like to see the region look at integrating the Coeur d'Alene Casino service to include Rockford, Valleyford, Freeman, and into the City of Spokane Valley.

### **e) Enhancement Projects**

Mr. Miles reported he received confirmation that all requests for enhancement funding on this region's list have been funded. In July, the SRTC Board took action to submit the Spokane County's Ben Burr Trail, Spokane Valley/WSDOT 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pathway, and Airway Heights/WSDOT Highway 2 Pedestrian Crossing. These projects have been funded. The Board recommended using STP Urban funds for the small overrun projects. There are no further projects on this region's list.

This was followed by a discussion of funding in general.

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

Inga Note said the City of Spokane Valley is working on design projects at this time for future projects.

Harold White indicated WSDOT is ready to award the Division Street ITS project which will start next summer. There will be delays at night from Euclid to Francis as they run conduit. WSDOT is still looking for a new manager for the Transportation Management Center (TMC). Mr. White said there have been issues with upgrading some of the software in the TMC from Siemens Corporation. Siemens has responded to these concerns and their vice-president will be coming to Spokane in January to discuss these issues.

Bill Hemmings said Spokane County received TIB funding for their Freya project. They are also working on Farwell, Bigelow, and Harvard Roads.

Mike Gribner gave an update on the Governor's Budget. The Port of Entry Weigh Station project is fully funded in the Governor's Budget request. Also, the Governor's Budget requires WSDOT to do a Tolling Study for the North Spokane Corridor which is due to the Legislature in the Spring of 2009.

Don MacDonald reported that the City of Cheney will have a new City Administrator in January.

John Mercer said the City of Spokane is working on bond projects. Also, they did receive TIB money for the 5-Mile Road project; it is hoped this will be under construction in 2009.

Steve Blaska indicated he was there on behalf of Susan Meyer. STA wants to thank everyone working with them through the Cooperative Street and Road Projects. The STA Board voted at their last meeting and all the projects were approved with the exception of the Division/Hawthorne project. Mr. Blaska distributed a document entitled Cooperative Transit Funding Policy for the jurisdictions' information. Also, STA will be implementing a new express route on January 21<sup>st</sup> on the Monroe Corridor from Hastings Park & Ride directly downtown to the STA Plaza with only three stops.

Ron Edgar stated the Department of Ecology has completed a public hearing on the recommended designations for the 24 hour PM 2.5 standard. Spokane came in with a recommendation of attainment. Spokane has had two wood-stove bans so far this winter. Also, EPA has a new procedure for establishing National Ambient Air Quality Standards. They are now publishing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) and have come out with their ANPR for lead. The proposal is to drop the lead standard by one or two orders of magnitude. They are under court order to have the new standard by September 1, 2008. The ANPR replaces the Staff Report.

Todd Woodard said Spokane Airport had \$32 million in projects planned and due to recent legislation regarding funding have to scale back a third. The largest projects they have planned with their entitlements will be the reconstruction of their main taxiway. They had a project to rehabilitate their entire terminal ramp (FAA priority) but the taxiway scored higher in critical need. They also have a large rental car project to be funded. Their passenger numbers are up and continue to climb.

## **6. New Business.**

### **a) State and Federal Agenda**

Jeff Selle, SRTC staff, gave a short briefing of the draft SRTC Federal and Washington State Legislative Agendas.

On the federal agenda he indicated that Bridging the Valley is a priority for SRTC and the region. The goal is to appropriate \$360 million into a new account that has been authorized in SAFETEA-LU for Rail Line Relocation projects and to name Bridging the Valley as a high priority project in that account.

On Washington State's agenda, the region is asking for the following on the Bridging the Valley project:

- \$3 million additional for Havana Street grade separation and move prior \$4 million appropriation in the FMSIB budget from FY 13 to FY 08
- \$10 million additional for Park Road in FY 09-11 budget, and move prior \$5 million appropriation in the FMSIB budget into the FY 09-11 budget cycle
- Request \$24 million appropriation for Barker Road separation

Funding also being requested on the Washington State agenda is \$250,000 for regional concurrency and \$350,000 for an Interoperability Lab for Intelligent Transportation Systems.

### **b) Election of Officers**

**Harold White made a motion to appoint Mike Gribner chair of the Transportation Technical Committee for 2008. Todd Woodard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**Steve Worley made a motion to appoint Gordon Howell vice-chair of the Transportation Technical Committee for 2008. Harold White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **c) Sidewalk Inventory Presentation – Kerry Brooks, WSU**

Mr. Kerry Brooks from Washington State University gave a presentation on a Sidewalk Inventory he has been conducting for the past year for STA using JARC (Job Access

and Reverse Commute) funding. Mr. Brooks explained how he, along with a team of graduate students, inventoried the entire Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) using GPS, GIS, and a homemade tool that measures slope, to determine how many sidewalks are useable, how many are impassable, how many areas don't have sidewalks, etc. Mr. Brooks found that a large number of sidewalks within the PTBA are not accessible to people with disabilities or in wheelchairs. Eventually, this information will be posted to a website for job seekers, who can use it to determine if there is a safe and accessible way for them to commute to jobs or areas they may be considering for employment. In the meantime, officials who would like more information on the state of sidewalks within their jurisdiction can contact Mr. Brooks at (509) 358-7911 to set up a time to sit down and look over a map of the area, and other GIS data. Eventually, Mr. Brooks would like to expand his survey to cover all of Spokane County.

## **7. Adjournment.**

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

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Judy Hazard  
Recording Secretary