

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
February 20, 2008
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Mike Gribner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Bob Brueggeman	Spokane County
Ron Edgar	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
Mike Frucci	WSDOT
Mike Gribner (Chair).....	WSDOT
Gordon Howell (Vice-Chair)	STA
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
John Pederson	Spokane County
Harold White	WSDOT
Todd Woodard	Spokane Airport Board
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley

Staff.

Glenn Miles	Transportation Manager
Debbie LaCombe	Sr. Transportation Planner
Stacy Lehman	Pub. Info./Education Coordinator
Val Melvin.....	Traffic Engineer
Jeff Selle	Manager of Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Bill Hemmings	Spokane County
Monica Harwood	Manager SRTMC
Paul Kropp	

3. Approval of December Meeting Minutes.

Ron Edgar made a motion to approve the December 19, 2007 meeting minutes. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) East Valley/West Rathdrum Prairie Transportation Study Update

Deb LaCombe, SRTC staff, gave an update on the East Valley/West Rathdrum Prairie (EV/WRP) Transportation Study. She indicated that on February 13th two individuals from HDR, Inc. came to SRTC and accepted the 2005 EVWRP model. They were provided with all the documentation for screenlines and regression analyses to show them how well it was performing. She said at this time SRTC is getting ready to “beef up” the 2030 model which should be ready soon.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Ron Edgar said Spokane Clean Air has established monitoring sites in Spokane Valley, Airway Heights, and Deer Park. These are PM 2.5 real time monitors. They are working on the telemetry which should be up on the website in the next month or so. Spokane is under an air stagnation advisory at this time. The PM 2.5 isn't climbing too fast, however, PM 10 is the concern.

John Mercer indicated the City of Spokane will be hosting a meeting tomorrow at 1:30 pm in the 5th Floor Conference Room with Karen Schmidt of FMSIB, WSDOT, and SRTC regarding the timing and financing of the Havana Street Bridge project, the Freya Street Bridge project, and Broadway Realignment.

Gordon Howell said STA's ridership is up. There have been several days with over 40,000 passengers. The new North Express Route starting at Hastings Park and Ride started in January and has been very successful so far. The only limitation at this time are parking issues. STA received a federal earmark for Smart Bus for AVL technology.

Katherine Miller said the Hatch Road study is underway. They will be doing a couple of stakeholder meetings followed by at least two public meetings in order to look at how to facilitate bike and ped facilities along Hatch Road and 57th down to I-95. Once they get a community understanding of what is possible they will come up with actual costs and put that into the program for future funding of the actual project. The other RFQ that opened yesterday is the continuation of the Streetcar Study. The original study identified that the route through Riverfront Park (or Howard Street alignment) was the route selected. However, during the original study there was no in-depth look at the actual structures. This RFQ is looking at the structures themselves to see what it would take to accommodate streetcars. Once they have that cost they can package it with the Streetcar Study itself. This is the first phase of many steps.

John Pederson indicated the County has selected a consultant (the Matrix Group) for the initial phase of the County's joint land use study with Fairchild Air Force Base and the Department of Defense. Also, they are working with WSDOT on their relocation of the Port of Entry/Weigh Station.

Todd Woodard reported the Spokane Airport's Standard and Poor ratings went up last week to an A+ which is very good. Bids were opened two weeks ago on a railcar project; It came in under the engineer's estimate.

Bob Brueggeman stated the County roads are being worked on. Potholes are being repaired and weight restrictions are being posted. Two projects went out to bid (second stage – completion of Denison-Chattaroy Road and a small bridge on Valley Chapel Road). They have been notified they might get a signature on a Finding of no Significant Impact (FONSI) for Bigelow Gulch.

Harold White introduced the new Manager of the Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center, Monica Harwood. Mr. White also complimented the TMC for the good job they did during the last many snow events in providing information to the media and the public. It showed that it can work really well as a central clearing house for information. He gave the members statistics on the financial impact this winter's snow and ice events have had on the state system.

Steve Worley indicated the City of the Valley had a joint city council-planning commission meeting on their consultant's recommendations for the Sprague/Appleway Corridor. This was a restudy of the corridor based on the new SRTC transportation model. The recommendation did not change; the recommendation is to eventually convert the entire system into two two-way streets. The Valley is still working on getting their Pines/Mansfield and Barker Road Bridge project out to bid.

Mike Frucci announced that as of February 1st, Keith Metcalf has replaced Jerry Lenzi as the Regional Administrator for WSDOT. He also announced that WSDOT will be doing a major road project the summer of 2009. This will be on I-90 from the viaduct to the Sprague Avenue Interchange. Starting in the fall of 2008 WSDOT will be doing the connection of the North Spokane Corridor to US 2. These two projects will have a big impact on traffic.

Inga Note said the Valley is working on replacing signal controllers. They hope to get them in within the next year. She advised that the City of Spokane Valley's Public Works Department has moved to the third floor of the City Hall.

6. New Business.

a) SRTC Board Retreat

A SRTC Board Retreat has been scheduled for February 29th. It will be held in the Fire Training Center from 8:30 am to 2 pm. The Board would like to review what SRTC does

in terms of its roles and responsibilities and also its governance. He gave an overview of what would be on the Agenda for the Retreat. TTC members are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided for the Board and the TTC members as part of a working lunch. Lori Isenberg will be the facilitator of the meeting.

There will be another big meeting held in April to talk about transportation and the broader regional vision of transportation. It will be similar to the Board Retreat with different attendees. Senator Brown and Senator Marr will be involved in the April meeting as well as Greater Spokane Inc., Association of General Contractors, STA, SRTC, etc.

If TTC members are interested in the discussion regarding governance both Chambers have been meeting at Marie Callender's on the 4th Thursday of every month. Elected officials have been attending these meetings and it would be very helpful for staff of the various jurisdictions to attend also.

b) SRTC Blog

Staci Lehman, SRTC staff, advised that SRTC has started a web log (blog) regarding transportation issues happening in this area. It was launched three days ago and has had pretty good response so far. There are not a lot of comments being made yet but there are a lot of people logging on and showing an interest. Something new is being added by staff daily.

c) MTP Goals and Policies' Review

It was agreed that SRTC would go through an annual review of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Every month, a section of the MTP will be emailed to TTC members for their input (additions, changes, etc.). Once their input has been received and discussed it will be incorporated into that section and then taken to the SRTC Board for their review. Ultimately, SRTC will update the MTP based on review of a section by section basis. It was agreed that jurisdictions would bring their input to the SRTC; SRTC staff would review them, make changes that can be made (editorial, grammatical, minor issues) at staff level, and then bring back items needing further discussion to the next TTC meeting. The next chapter would be sent out during this time so there is always a chapter being reviewed, being discussed, or being changed.

Section 1 (Goals and Policies) was sent to the jurisdictions earlier in the month and they brought their suggestions to SRTC at this meeting.

d) STP and CMAQ Funding Realignment

Glenn Miles distributed two spreadsheets re funding. One document shows all the projects that were selected in the 2006 Call for Projects; the other shows all the projects that were selected in the 2004 Call for Projects. The projects are highlighted in green, yellow, and red which indicate projects where the money has already been obligated,

projects that haven't moved, and projects that have committed dates when the jurisdictions said they promised to get them underway and haven't met their deadlines respectively.

He went through the spreadsheets with the members and explained that the projects from the 2004 Call for Projects are almost all green. The 2006 are mostly yellow and on schedule with the commitments made. The members were asked to look at the projects highlighted in red. If the project can't be done in the next two years they were asked to defer that project to the future to free up money to complete projects from 2004. They looked at finding money (\$4.3 million) to fully fund three projects (Havana Street Bridge, Broadway Realignment, and Pines/Mansfield) which are short on funds and are projects that are ready to move forward.

After discussion, it was agreed that certain projects could be deferred in order to release the money associated with that project. The projects to be deferred are:

- Srtc06-9 - Broadway Rehabilitation (City of Spokane Valley)
- Srtc06-16 - Crawford Ave (Deer Park)
- Srtc06-19 - Bigelow Gulch Project #4(Spokane County)
- Srtc06-24 - Francis (Div. To W. City Limits (City of Spokane)
- Srtc06-32 - (Fund PE defer remainder) US 195 - WSDOT

Mike Frucci made a motion to forward to the SRTC Board the recommendation that the above noted projects be deferred in order to utilize the money to fully fund three projects (Havana Street Bridge, Broadway Realignment and Pines/Mansfield). The \$360,000 in remaining contingency funds will also be applied to funding these three projects. This motion is made with the understanding each jurisdiction can then return to SRTC and reprioritize the projects within their list with a new dates for PE, R/W, and Construction. Harold White seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

e) Interoperability Lab

Part of SRTC's Board approved priority list to the Legislature this year was the idea of an Interoperability Lab for \$350,000. It appears from phone calls received that this item will be funded. If this funding is received it will be used to build out a room at the Intermodal Center to test ITS equipment.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Judy Hazard
Recording Secretary