

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
May 21, 2008
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Mike Gribner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Bob Brueggeman	Spokane County
Chad Coles	Spokane County
Teresa Eckard.....	Spokane Airports
Mike Frucci	WSDOT
Mike Gribner (Chair).....	WSDOT
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
John Pederson	Spokane County

Staff.

Val Melvin.....	Traffic Engineer
Stacy Lehman	Pub. Info./Education Coordinator
Jeff Selle	Manager of Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Ryan Stewart.....	Spokane Transit Authority
Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Mark Rohwer.....	WSDOT
Keith Martin	WSDOT
Ross Kelley	HDR, Inc.
Chaz Bates	
Andrew Rolwes	
Andrew Staples	
Paul Kropp	

3. Approval of April Meeting Minutes.

John Pederson made a motion to approve the April 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Teresa Eckard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) SmartRoutes Project Review

Ross Kelley, a member of the SmartRoutes technical advisory committee gave an overview of the SmartRoutes project list which was distributed to the TTC members. At last month's meeting the members received a presentation given by Cindy Green, of the Spokane Health District explaining SmartRoutes.

In March, several jurisdictions were asked for their recommendations for trails, bike routes, etc. Five jurisdictions did submit several projects. City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, Spokane County, Liberty Lake, and Airway Heights submitted projects. Approximately 48 projects were received. All the projects were ranked by a committee using specific criteria. One of the most important goals everyone is looking for is to achieve a modal shift (out of single occupant vehicle onto a bike/walk/transit mode). The final list of projects has 17 projects. There is also a list of approximately 10 planning projects. The prioritized list of construction projects is as follows:

1. Downtown Spokane Bicycle Network with Pedestrian Improvements
2. Ben Burr Trail connection to the Centennial Trail
3. Centennial Trail: Mission Street Underpass
4. Kendall Yards to Boone & Summit
5. Fish Lake Trail, Phase III
6. City of Spokane Sidewalk Infill Program
7. Trail from Ben Burr to Moran Prairie Elementary School
8. Urban Trail: Millwood to Spokane Valley
9. 37th Avenue Project from Grand to Real on the South Hill
10. Post Street Bridge
11. Bicycle Boulevards in City of Spokane
12. Cheney Bicycle and Sidewalk Improvements
13. Gleneden Trail Paving Project
14. City of Airway Heights Sidewalk Infill Program
15. Little Spokane Trail Completion
16. Liberty lake Trails
17. Liberty Lake Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge

This list is being proposed to the Rails to Trails group to take to Washington DC with all the other 49 cities lists in order to have a stack of projects to show Congress the need is there for funding for bike-ped projects. The members discussed various projects.

A motion was made and seconded to support this list of projects. The motion was unanimously carried.

b) MTP Existing Conditions (Section 2)

The members received a final draft of Section 2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). All the edits made by the members have been incorporated into the document. Staci Lehman, SRTC staff, said two additional edits were made since they saw it last and she explained what these edits are.

One additional edit was given during the meeting which Ms. Lehman will incorporate before giving it to the Board.

John Pederson made a motion to recommend approval by the SRTC Board of Section 2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Ryan Stewart seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

c) West Plains Sub-area Transportation Modeling

At last month's TTC meeting a recommendation was made that SRTC resources be used to develop a sub-area planning model. This recommendation was taken to the SRTC Board who adopted the recommendation.

Teresa Eckard of Spokane Airports explained that she has been waiting until the Board gave approval before undertaking any traffic counts. Now that developing the model has been approved, she is beginning to check their resources for doing the traffic counts. Before any traffic counting is started she will coordinate with SRTC.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Eldon Brown gave an update on the City of Spokane's road construction projects. The Broadway Realignment project came in under estimate.

Inga Note gave an update on the City of Spokane Valley's road construction projects. She indicated they opened bids for the Barker Bridge project. Their citywide controller replacement is under way.

Mike Frucci brought up the washout of SR 206 from the fast melting snow from the hot weather. It is anticipated it will be passable to local residents by Friday. He also reported that an employee of a contractor had an accident today at the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) project. Due to purchasing right-of-way for the NSC project, WSDOT owns approximately 40 houses in the east central neighborhood which are being used as rentals. These have become problematic for the neighborhood and WSDOT is looking into having them demolished or moved.

John Pederson said that last week Glenn Miles spoke to a joint session of the Board of County Commissioners and the City of Spokane Council. He explained the need for additional information needed to run SRTC's model. In a separate meeting that same day, Jeff Selle, SRTC staff, met with Spokane County's GIS person. They are now working with Sylvia Ferrin, SRTC's GIS person to get the information to SRTC in the format required for the model.

Bob Brueggeman stated the County is moving forward with a neighborhood open house on two projects: Old I-90 Bridge by State Line (design project) and Wall Street -north of Francis – (construction project). He also gave an update on Spokane County's road construction projects. Mr. Brueggeman said car tab discussions are not moving forward very rapidly at this time.

Chad Coles said the County has opened bids for the Geiger Spur Realignment project.

Jeff Selle indicated a meeting is scheduled for June 25th for the car tab discussions to start again in earnest. He also said SRTC has been asked by a large group of civic leaders to look at regional planning. SRTC has made an inventory of regional projects and the price of those projects. They have also looked at funding (how much money is coming in to region for transportation and for what purposes, etc.). Also, funding sources not being utilized are being looked at. The civic group will go through a process of honing in on a direction the region should head. One "pup tent" meeting has been held and ultimately a "big tent" meeting will be held. The public will be attending this one. The June 25th meeting mentioned above will be the second "pup tent" meeting.

Mark Rohwer said WSDOT is moving forward with its US 2 Route Development Plan (Lincoln County Line to I-90). This is an effort to determine short term, mid-term, and long range improvements for US 2. They will be having a meeting next month and open houses following that meeting. WSDOT is also undergoing an update of their Highways of Statewide Significance.

Teresa Eckard gave an update on the Airport's construction projects. She indicated also they plan to close a section of Spotted Road later this year for construction improvements.

Ryan Stewart was pleased to announce that the voters have given STA the 0.3% (three tenths of one percent) from the sales tax renewal that they requested with no sunset clause. Also, STA has selected a consultant for the ITS Smart Bus project. IBI Group is being recommended by the selection committee but the Board meeting for award of the contract has not yet taken place.

6. New Business.

a) Update of Highways of Statewide Significance

Mark Rohwer gave a presentation on the 2008 update of the Highways of Statewide

Significance (HSS).

He gave the background and history of the HSS. In 1993 WSDOT made recommendations to the Legislature. In 1998 Legislature passed the Level of Service bill which contained the following:

- Declares certain types of highways and other transportation facilities as “statewide significance”.
- State is the lead for planning these, sets higher priority for state improvement funding.
- Amends GMA to require locals:
 - Reflect state highway plans in local plans
 - Cannot preclude the siting of HSS and other statewide significant transportation facilities
 - Can exempt highways of statewide significance from concurrency (local request)

In 1998 in response to requirements of the Level of Service Bill, the Washington Transportation Commission (WTC) designated specific routes as highways of statewide significance.

In 1999, Legislature affirmed the WTC designation recommendation and requested the WTC and WSDOT to update the HSS system at least every five years.

In 2007 Legislature removed the language requiring the WTC to give higher priority to correcting identified deficiencies on the HSS.

Mr. Rohwer also gave the purpose of the 2008 update which is to comply with the request of Legislature in 1999 to update the HSS at least every five years; to allow jurisdictions, RTPO's, and WSDOT to review the current HSS and consider changes, and to adjust for changes the Legislature has made in statute over the past five years.

He asked that the HSS be an agenda item at next month's TTC meeting in order to discuss any changes members feel are needed to be made to the system.

b) Unified Street Standards

At the last SRTC Board meeting the Board asked TTC Chair, Mike Gribner to resurrect the Unified Street standards committee and have that committee come to a conclusion on a unified standards resolution. Val Melvin, SRTC staff, reviewed the status of this issue with the members. Many of the small towns and larger jurisdictions have representatives on that committee. Ms. Melvin has contacted the chair, Matt Zarecor, Spokane County, who will resurrect the committee which has not met since February 2007. During the prior meetings, agreement had been reached regarding some standards for sidewalk widths, etc.

It is hoped that the committee can now reach agreement on a simple set of standards for all jurisdictions not just the joint planning areas. It is anticipated something will be brought back to the TTC in July. Discussion took place regarding the City of Spokane Valley and the status of their citywide street analysis.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm

Judy Hazard
Recording Secretary