

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
June 18, 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 Airport Board
Ron Edgar	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
Mike Gribner (Chair)	WSDOT
Gordon Howell (Vice-Chair)	STA
Don MacDonald	Small Town Representative
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Inga Note	City of Spokane Valley
Harold White	WSDOT
Steve Worley	City of Spokane Valley

Staff.

Glenn Miles	Transportation Manager
Stacy Lehman	Pub. Info./Education Coordinator
Val Melvin	Traffic Engineer
Judy Hazard	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Gloria Bennett	Transportation Improvement Board
Mark Rohwer	WSDOT
Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake
Paul Kropp	
Dale Smith	

3. Approval of May Meeting Minutes.

Bob Brueggeman made a motion to approve the May 21, 2008 meeting minutes. Mark Rohwer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) West Plains Sub-area Transportation Modeling

Teresa Eckard said that she and Val Melvin have had a meeting. She now has a preliminary stakeholder's list and people are being contacted. She and Ms. Melvin have set the model parameters but need more input before finalizing. The stakeholder meetings will start shortly and will meet once a month.

b) Highways of Statewide Significance

Mark Rohwer gave a presentation at last month's TTC meeting on the 2008 update of the Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS). He asked for comments or changes on the HSS; none were made.

c) Unified Street Standards

Val Melvin indicated the Street Standards sub-committee met last week. They are now looking to develop a single set of street standards for the metro area. The committee is questioning whether the Board wants them to include free standing areas such as Cheney, Deer Park, etc. The Board indicated the stand-alone areas can be on their own. If they want to adopt the standards for the metro area they can. The areas in the metro UGA (Liberty Lake, Spokane Valley, City of Spokane, Airway Heights, and Spokane County) would be the areas affected. She indicated there was concern in the sub-committee whether they were headed the direction the elected officials wanted them to head. The members are to go back to their elected officials, inform them what the intentions are and how they feel about it, and return to the committee with a report which will then report these findings to the Board. The Board members were sent a listing of who the sub-committee members are so they could discuss it with the representative from their particular jurisdiction. The next meeting will be July 2nd. The committee feels that it can come up with a unified set of standards.

5. Technical Member Comments.

A question was asked about the status of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. Glenn Miles responded that it is on hold at this time until the land use/population/employment forecasts are resolved at the local jurisdictions. When that is completed SRTC will re-model Sections 3 and 4 for future deficiencies. Sections 1 and 2 have been given to the Board for informational purposes. It is anticipated the MTP will go out for a 30-day public comment period in August for SRTC Board adoption in September in order for everything to be in order for the Transportation Improvement

Program (TIP) approval process to conclude in October.

Ron Edgar said Spokane Clean Air's Budget has been approved. Also, they received approval to buy a new building; they will be moving some time in the Fall near the intersection of Mission and Greene.

Teresa Eckard remarked that although airlines are dropping flights all over the country, Spokane International Airport (SIA) is not dropping flights but may be adding flights. SIA has been able to attract significant new business to the region, a company from Canada. This will attract more flights through Spokane as well as providing 130 skilled jobs with benefits to the area. Both the City of Spokane and Spokane County have partnered with SIA in helping to bring this company to the area.

Don MacDonald stated that Cheney has awarded the bid for the 2008 Road and Water project. Also included in the bid was the Presley Drive project. They should be starting shortly. They are also working with STA to finalize the design for Cheney's SR 904 Enhancement project.

Steve Worley gave an update on the City of the Valley's construction schedule. They started the 24th Avenue project (east of Sullivan); have a bid opening for Pines-Mansfield project tomorrow; and Barker Road bridge project is starting shortly – the road will be closed June 30th.

Katherine Miller said the City of Spokane received federal funds for study monies. They are doing the Hatch Road study (57th down to Hwy 195). The first public meetings were held last week. Spokane County is involved due to the City/County boundary. They have requested a Spokane County planner be on their stakeholder group.

Gordon Howell said STA has seen a ridership increase of 13% over last year and last year was a record year. They are seeing requests for service from all around the region. The one problem they are seeing as a result of the increase is that the park and ride lots are full and STA is seeking a solution.

Eldon Brown gave an update on the City of Spokane's construction schedule. Also, their impact fee process is ongoing.

Bob Brueggeman said there was a groundbreaking last week for a regional stormwater facility on the north side of Spokane and there are groundbreakings coming up for Geiger Spur and a regional stormwater facility on the south side of Spokane. They had two open houses last week (Wall Street neighborhood and old I-90 Bridge at Idaho State Line).

Harold White reported that construction will start in the next several weeks on Deep Creek Bridge. There will be a temporary traffic signal and the speed will be dropped. Also, Hwy 27 Traffic Safety Corridor (Rockford to Trent) is underway. Mr. White met with the State of Idaho regarding ITS systems. Idaho is very cooperative and wants to

share across the state line in communications on incidents and access for fiber-optics if needed. Also looking at sharing 511 access and shared incident response notification to the Transportation Management Center. WSDOT hopes to add more ITS devices along I-90.

Mike Gribner stated the revenue is down for WSDOT. This will affect many programs.

Gloria Bennett, Project Engineer for the Northeast Region at Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) attended the meeting today. She was in town holding the Urban Funding Workshop this morning. She brought some extra workshop books if anyone was interested. TIB will be having funding programs this year in spite of the revenue forecasts. For urban programs there is \$25 million each statewide. The distribution to this area is not large but there is some money available to this area. They will have a sidewalk program too. For small cities they have small city arterial program (\$10 million statewide – half goes to east side of state). TIB is soliciting for applications right now. They are available on TIB's website; applications are due to TIB by August 29th.

Andrew Staples, City Engineer for Liberty Lake introduced himself to the members.

Glenn Miles reported that at their last meeting, the SRTC Board approved SRTC entering into a contract with HDR Engineering to provide on-call travel demand modeling support. As questions come up for the jurisdictions using the VISUM software as related to the model SRTC is running, they should forward the question to SRTC and SRTC will forward it on to HDR. This is to prevent the same question being asked by several agencies to HDR. The questions can be consolidated. The contract with HDR will be effective July 1st. Mr. Miles informed everyone that SRTC has signed a lease for the office space next door. That also becomes effective July 1st.

Staci Lehman, SRTC staff, indicated SRTC is teaming with Spokane County Health District on a pedestrian plan. A survey is being taken at this time on this subject. It is available at SRTC's website; the deadline is June 23rd. There have already been over 900 people take the survey. She asked that everyone get the word out.

6. New Business.

No new business was brought up at this time.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Judy Hazard
Recording Secretary