

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
July 16, 2008
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Mike Gribner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Teresa Eckard	Spokane International Airport
Ron Edgar	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
Mike Frucci	Washington State Dept. of Transportation
Mike Gribner (Chair).....	Washington State Dept. of Transportation
Gordon Howell (Vice-Chair)	Spokane Transit Authority
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Harold White	Washington State Dept. of Transportation
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley

Alternates and Guests.

Neil Kersten.....	City of Spokane Valley
Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Steve Blaska	Spokane Transit Authority
Jim Plaster	Spokane Transit Authority
Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake
Paul Kropp	

Staff.

Debbie LaCombe	Sr. Transportation Planner
Stacy Lehman	Pub. Info./Education Coordinator
Val Melvin.....	Traffic Engineer
Judy Hazard	Administrative Secretary

3. Approval of June Meeting Minutes.

Teresa Eckard made a motion to approve the June 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Ron Edgar seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) West Plains Sub-area Transportation Modeling

Teresa Eckard and Val Melvin met regarding the West Plains modeling to go over the preliminary details and to agree on a potential scope of study. They would like to schedule a kick-off meeting in order to finalize the scope. The primary stakeholders would be Spokane Airport, Spokane County, WSDOT, City of Spokane, and STA but anyone is welcome to participate. Teresa indicated the Canadian company moving into the airport park may want to participate also. Val will email the contacts at the jurisdictions to schedule a good time and date to meet.

b) Unified Street Standards

Val Melvin said the sub-committee had a meeting this morning. The main question raised was “what is the committee looking for?” Looking at regional standards is much more than looking at street geometrics and pavement depths. There are policy issues that are a concern for some. She presented the concerns of the group to the SRTC Board last week and explained that some of the “sticky” issues are private roads, connectivity, access points, etc. It was agreed that the policy issues would be brought to the sub-committee meeting and tackled first. The TTC members agreed it was a good idea to tackle the harder issues first and attempt to get to a position where a Memorandum of Understanding or some other sort of understanding can be reached.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Ron Edgar reported the recent fires in the Spokane Valley did not impact the monitors. There are no problems with the region’s attainment status.

Steve Worley gave a report on the Valley’s summer construction schedule. They are getting started on two big projects (Pines-Mansfield and the Barker Bridge) and are just about finishing the Appleway project (east of Sullivan).

Teresa Eckard said the airline business is not doing well. Express Jet is discontinuing service in September; Some routes might be picked up by Southwest. Horizon will be redoing their service over the next year. She also gave an update on the funding situation at the airport.

Steve Blaska said STA’s ridership is continuing to grow which is putting a stress on the system during heavy hours. They are looking at ways to remedy the issue without having to add service. Most of the park and ride lots are at capacity; they are looking for

alternatives for park and ride capacity adjacent to where the park and rides are now. They are making changes to their airport route. There will be regular hourly service to the airport throughout the day.

Eldon Brown gave a report on the City of Spokane's summer construction schedule. Several areas on the north side of town are under construction.

Katherine Miller said the City of Spokane's final draft on the Downtown Transportation Study is out and looking for comments. All comments are due by August 8th. Once the comment period is completed it will go to the City Council. Also, they have been working with STA on a couple of STA Cooperative Funding projects.

Mike Frucci gave an update on the North Spokane Corridor.

6. New Business.

a) FTA Section 5307 Criteria (by STA)

Gordon Howell distributed a handout regarding Section 5307 Eligibility Criteria. It states STA is proposing eligibility criteria to be used in evaluation and prioritization and possible inclusion into the annual Program of Projects and Budget for FTA Section 5307 formula funds of proposed preventive maintenance, capital and planning projects. It also provided a timeline for STA's public process for the eligibility criteria.

After discussion it was agreed that although any jurisdiction that has projects that meet the criteria can apply for the funds, there is very little likelihood that they can compete with STA applying for funding for preventive maintenance. Once they have the Section 5307 funding in hand they will make a decision as to whether they will conduct an STA Cooperative Road and Street funding call for projects.

The question was asked whether the projects selected for the last STA Cooperative funding call is still available. There was a caveat that the list was based on the vote on the tax (which since has passed). After a question about STA's current and future financial situation, it was stated that STA staff had no intention of asking their Board to unfund any project that has already been approved.

b) City of Spokane Valley – Request to Transfer Funds

The City of Spokane Valley provided a request to SRTC regarding reallocation of funds. Their request is as follows:

Broadway/Fancher PCC Intersection (Srtc06-8)

Total project estimate reduced from \$1,358,000 to \$811,186. Current federal funding available - \$502,600. Additional federal funds desired to maintain 86.5% program share = \$199,075.

Broadway Ave. Rehabilitation Project #1; I-90 EOff Ramp to park Rd. (Srtc06-9)

Current project estimate - \$406,810. Current federal funding available - \$641,100. Anticipated federal funds needed at 86.5% - \$351,891. Projected unused federal funds = \$289,209.

Based on the above, they request approval from SRTC for \$200,000 in federal funds to be transferred from Srtc06-9 to Srtc06-8.

Mike Frucci made a motion to approve the City of Spokane Valley's request to transfer \$200,000 in federal funds from Srtc06-9 to Srtc06-8. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Judy Hazard
Recording Secretary