

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
April 16, 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
Chad Coles	Spokane County
Mike Frucci	WSDOT
Mike Gribner (Chair).....	WSDOT
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Harold White	WSDOT
Todd Woodard	Spokane Airport Board
Steve Worley	City of Spokane Valley

Staff.

Val Melvin.....	Traffic Engineer
Staci Lehman	Pub. Info./Education Coordinator
Eve Nelson.....	Sr. Transportation Planner
Jeff Selle	Manager of Transportation Relations
Judy Hazard	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Teresa Eckard.....	Spokane Airport Board
Cindy Green	Spokane County Health District
Paul Kropp	
Dale Smith	
Caz Bates	

3. Approval of March 2008 Meeting Minutes.

It was noted that the word FONZI was incorrectly spelled PONZI on page 2, second to last paragraph.

Harold White made a motion to approve the March 19, 2008 meeting minutes with the noted correction. Bob Brueggeman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) Draft Regional Bike Plan

The TTC received a presentation on the Bike Plan at their March meeting. They were given a copy of the Bike Plan and asked for comments and spreadsheets of projects to be returned to SRTC by April 7th. It is out for public comment at this time which will end April 29th. The SRTC Board received a presentation on the Bike Plan at their last Board meeting. The TTC was asked to give a recommendation to the Board for their meeting in May.

Bob Brueggeman made a conditional recommendation that the Regional Bike Plan be forwarded to the SRTC Board for approval. The recommendation is made on the condition that between this time and the time the public comment period ends that there are no negative comments [regarding technical merit] made about the Regional Bike Plan. John Mercer seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

b) MTP Goals and Policies' (Section 1)

The TTC members went over the comments received from the jurisdictions at the March TTC meeting. The comments have been incorporated into Section 1 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the members were asked to recommend this Section be forwarded to the SRTC Board.

Steve Worley made a motion to recommend approval by the SRTC Board of Section 1 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Todd Woodard seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

c) MTP Existing Conditions (Section 2)

Edits to Section 2 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan received from the jurisdictions have been incorporated into that section and distributed to the members. They were asked to review them. They will be asked for a recommendation to the Board at the May TTC meeting.

d) West Plains Transportation Modeling

A meeting was held several weeks ago attended by Spokane County, City of Spokane, WSDOT, and Teresa Eckard of the Spokane Airports to start discussions about issues brought up at the last TTC meeting regarding an area around the airport. The consensus at the end of this meeting was that SRTC should be asked to conduct a sub-area planning model. Glenn Miles has indicated he is willing to do this but wants a recommendation from the TTC to take this to the Board.

Spokane Airports is planning to do some traffic counts and gather other pertinent data. Val Melvin asked Ms. Eckard to coordinate their traffic counts with SRTC. The general concern is at the Geiger Interchange due to changes in location of various businesses at the Airport. Spokane Airports is anticipating all the moves on their property (UPS, Fed EX, etc.) will be done by 2010.

Mike Frucci made a motion that a recommendation be made to the SRTC Board that SRTC resources be used to develop a sub-area planning model. Steve Worley seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Bob Brueggeman said Spokane County is starting their road construction jobs for the season. They have also opened a bid for a paving job today that has come in under estimate. A FONZI has been received on Bigelow Gulch the second time.

John Mercer indicated the City of Spokane has started the Maple/Ash project and the Wall Street project. The Broadway Realignment project will be going to bid next week.

Steve Worley said the Valley's Barker Road Bridge project is going to bid at the end of the week.

Todd Woodard spoke about funding challenges the Airport is having. They will be programming half of their projects. If they receive the balance of their funds on or before June 25th they will finish the remainder. Runway Safety Action Committee is in town and very pleased with the Spokane Airport.

Teresa Eckard said several small projects are starting at this time.

6. New Business.

a) SmartRoutes 2010

Eve Nelson, SRTC staff introduced Cindy Green, Spokane County Health District, who then gave a presentation on SmartRoutes 2010.

Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) (one of the nation's most successful active

transportation funding advocates) invited Spokane County to participate in their 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. The campaign goal is to double the funding for active transportation from \$4.5 billion to \$9 billion in the next reauthorization of the federal transportation budget. The proposal will advocate that \$2 billion of the additional funds support 40 communities with \$50 million apiece over six years to increase bicycling and walking for transportation. Spokane County has the potential to be positioned very competitively for this funding, if the community rallies behind the SmartRoutes Spokane Plan being developed.

RTC helped create the Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) funded by Congress in 2005. NTPP provided four communities with \$25 million each over four years to demonstrate that investments of this sort in communities will increase non-motorized participation. Spokane County was selected as the baseline comparison community for the pilot study. We have now been invited (one of 50 communities around the United States) to participate in this project.

At the invitation meeting, the Bike-Ped communities asked SRTC and the Spokane Regional Health District to facilitate this invitation. A steering committee and technical committee have been formed and a case statement is to be prepared (what projects does our community feel have the potential to make the greatest mode-shift). Many jurisdictions have submitted projects that will be prioritized/scored over the next few weeks. The 10-page case statement is due June 30th. It is hoped the case statement will make a compelling case for this community. The case statement will be sent to Rails to Trails who will then repackage all of the case statements, highlighting the ones they feel are the most compelling. After this, they will start working on educating Congress.

b) Dale Smith

At last month's TTC meeting Dale Smith, a private citizen from Chattaroy distributed a handout regarding items he feels need to be taken care of by the County on Elk-Chattaroy Road, starting at Highway 2 to Deer Creek Road. The TTC members were asked to look over the handout. He returned to the TTC today and went over the items on his handout with them.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Judy Hazard
Recording Secretary