

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
November 19, 2008
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Mike Gribner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Bob Brueggeman	Spokane County
Mike Gribner (Chair).....	WSDOT
Gordon Howell (Vice Chair).....	Spokane Transit Authority
Ron Edgar	Spokane Clear Air Agency
John Mercer	City of Spokane
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley
Teresa Eckard.....	Spokane International Airport
Bryan St. Clair	City of Airway Heights
Roger Krieger.....	City of Deer Park

Staff.

Jeff Selle	Manager of Transportation Relations
Stacy Lehman	Public Info/Education Coordinator
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Transportation/Air Quality Planner
Donna Lively	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Chad Coles	Spokane County
Cindy Reddekopp.....	City of Airway Heights
Charlie Gay	Welch-Comer & Associates
Kevin Picanco	David Evans & Associates
Paul Kropp	Neighborhood Alliance

3. Approval of September Meeting Minutes.

A correction was noted in the first sentence on page 4, paragraph 1. The word “fine” should be replaced with the phrase “within the standards.” Also noted was a correction to the second sentence to replace the phrase “he will assist them with regard to the Wood Stove Containment Program” with “he will assess the values in regards to the Wood Stove Curtailment Program.”

It was noted that on page 4, paragraph 1 under “New Business,” Harvard Road was misspelled as “Harper Road.” And, on page 3, paragraph 2, last sentence, “Traffic Planner” should read “Transit Planner.”

Bob Brueggeman made a motion to approve the October 15, 2008 meeting minutes as corrected. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) West Plains Sub-area Transportation Modeling Update

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa reported that the next meeting for the Spokane International Airport Study will be held on December 4, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in SRTC’s conference room. Counts are currently being conducted and the model is being reviewed to develop the sub-area. More information will be available after the December 4 meeting.

b) Regional Transportation Priority Project Review (Follow-up)

Jeff Selle recapped the Regional Transportation Priority Project Review process and results, noting that the project list is now before the Governor.

Jeff provided an overview of legislative activities, including state and federal economic stimulus packages that would provide funding for regional transportation projects. At the federal level, \$230 million will come back to the State of Washington, of which, \$23 million will be designated to our region and must be obligated within 120 days. The Spokane Chamber’s federal lobbyist is vying to extend the time frame with which funds are to be obligated. Jeff expressed uncertainty regarding funding sources due to pending earmark reform as a result of recent elections. However, with money poised from stimulus packages, he encouraged local jurisdictions to have transportation projects ready for construction phase. Although no direction has been provided at either a state or federal level with regard to project selection criteria, the need for a process to cue up projects for 2009 – 2010 was noted.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Eldon Brown stated that the City recently passed a form of the impact fee ordinance with the following caveats: 1) implementation postponed until October 1, 2009, pending baseline study of projects to refine costs; and 2) city funding source needed to fill their

obligations. Construction projects are nearing completion and the City is looking at next year's projects as well as the stimulus package.

Katherine Miller stated that they are wrapping up their Hatch Road Study and, based on County concerns, are abandoning moving the intersection at 57th and Hatch.

Gordon Howell noted that ridership continues to increase despite the decrease in gas prices. The STA Board meeting will be held tomorrow night and will host public hearings on their budget, transit center options, and Transit Development Plan.

Bryan St. Clair noted that the City of Airway Heights has diverted a lot of resources to the Water Reclamation Plan and are continuing to work with DOT and SIA with Highway 2 development.

Inga Note reported that the County is still working on their controller replacements. Pines and Mansfield will be shut down for the winter soon and the new roundabout is up and running.

Bob Brueggeman noted that with the exception of a few sewer projects, road projects are wrapping up in preparation for winter. A contractor will commence work on phase one of the Bigelow Gulch project later this month. Chad Coles noted that the Geiger/Spur project will be complete next week and will be up and running by the first of the year.

Ron Edgar stated that the PM 2.5 standard was close to being exceeded this past weekend due to heavy wood stove use and will be closely monitored. EPA has adopted the final lead standard which lowered the levels from 1.5 mcg per cubic meter of air averaged over a 3 month period to .15 mcg on a rolling 3 month average. He doesn't anticipate that a lead monitor will be necessary for neighborhood impacts, but the waste energy plant may require a monitor for their lead impact area by 2010.

Teresa Eckard reported that based on a SIA financial briefing the Airport is still up a few percentages from last year on parking and employment, although air cargo is down slightly. The taxiway alpha project is wrapping up and the new rental car facility is open. The Cascade MRO project is in progress and is projected to increase business and jobs in the region. The runway extension project is under design and construction will commence next year.

Mike Gribner reported that the WSDOT US 2 lowering project will start this winter.

Jeff Selle reported that the 37th and Grand portion of the SmartRoutes Plan has been approved and fully funded. The group will reconvene and call for B-list projects should additional funding be made available. Jeff encouraged all local jurisdictions to do the same and update SRTC.

6. New Business.

a) Transportation Improvement Program

Jeff Selle reported that the Board requested SRTC to work with the TTC in reviewing project status, revisiting project selection criteria and the conditions in which projects move based on funding. Mike Gribner noted that existing criteria is minimal and that current practice is to include all projects in the TIP whether or not funding is available. It was noted that each jurisdiction has their own criteria for prioritizing projects and allocating or reallocating funds. After a brief discussion, Bob Brueggeman, Gordon Howell, Bryan St. Clair, Mike Gribner, and Steve Worley agreed to participate in a subcommittee to review and formalize standard criteria to be used in the TIP project selection and funding reallocation processes.

b) City of Millwood – Request to Revise Scope of Argonne Road Rebuild – Buckeye to South Riverway

Welch-Comer & Associates representative, Charlie Gay, gave an overview of the City of Millwood's request to revise the scope of the Argonne Road Rebuild. The cost estimate is \$1.9 million versus \$1.3 million originally allocated. Preliminary design has been completed incorporating the change in project scope. The City of Millwood requests the TTC to recommend to the Board to accept the revised scope of the Argonne Road Rebuild.

Steve Worley made a motion to accept the revised scope of Argonne Road Rebuild, allow the City of Millwood to use available funds to complete as much of the project as possible, and forward this recommendation to the Board for approval. Teresa Eckard seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm.

Donna Lively
Recording Secretary