

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
February 18, 2009
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Ron Edgar, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:29 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Bob Brueggeman	Spokane County
Chad Coles	Spokane County
Mike Gribner.....	WSDOT
Mike Frucci.....	WSDOT
Harold White	WSDOT
Ron Edgar (Vice-Chair)	Spokane Clear Air Agency
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Teresa Eckard.....	Spokane International Airport
Roger Krieger.....	City of Deer Park

Staff.

Glenn Miles	Transportation Manager
Jeff Selle	Transportation Relations Manager
Stacy Lehman	Public Info/Education Coordinator
Donna Lively	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Karl Otterstrom.....	Spokane Transit Authority
Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Todd Ableman.....	City of Cheney
Ross Kelley	HDR, Inc.
Keith Martin.....	WSDOT Local Programs
Paul Kropp	Neighborhood Alliance
Harry Bright.....	Riverside Neighborhood Alliance

3. Approval of January Meeting Minutes.

A correction was noted to include Neil Kersten from the City of Spokane Valley as attending under "Alternates and Guests." Also noted was a correction to Mike Gribner's comments under "Technical Member Comments." The Del Bar retrofit and the NFC projects listed for the local projects on the Governor's Stimulus List should read as the Dower retrofit and NSC project.

Mike Frucci made a motion to approve the January 21, 2009 meeting minutes as corrected. Katherine Miller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) West Plains Sub-area Transportation Modeling Update

Teresa Eckard reported that the network is confirmed and that the model area has increased to include the Fairchild area. The stakeholder group is working on a timeline for the study. A description of the project has been included on the SRTC website. She noted that the greatest challenge is the lack of consistent representation at the stakeholder meetings.

b) TIP Project Selection Criteria Revisions & Non-motorized and Transit Project Criteria Update

Glenn Miles noted that an update would be provided at a later date due to the amount of work being devoted to the Stimulus Package changes.

c) Stimulus Package Update & Delivery Schedule

Glenn Miles reported that the Bill was signed yesterday by President Obama in Denver, Colorado and that there were notable changes made to the bill. The amount of money coming to Spokane is \$10,097,000. Funds must be obligated within one year and construction completed within three years. He noted that 3% of the overall funds are for enhancement (non-motorized) projects. The State of Washington will have 120 days to obligate 65% of the Stimulus Funds or else be required to return the funds to the federal government. He added that WSDOT requested that two rail and two ITS projects be added to the STIP, subject to Board approval and public comment.

Mr. Miles noted the possibility that stimulus funds could be applied toward the purchase right-of-ways and final design. He stated that there is also a \$1.5 Billion Secretaries Discretionary Program specifically called out in federally designated low income areas, i.e., empowerment zones, which would provide funding to projects located within these areas. Rules on how this would work; however, are pending.

Mr. Miles reported that it appears that stimulus funds for WSDOT projects will be wrapped up in a supplemental budget and the legislature will determine which projects will receive funding. The Puget Sound Regional Council, due to receive 29% of state stimulus funds for transportation projects, was asked to amend their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include stimulus projects. They refused; however,

claiming there was a lack of collaboration, coordination, and communication. He added that a "Truth Squad," comprised of representatives from the Association of Washington Cities, Association of Washington Counties, Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), Washington Public Port Association, and Local Highway Programs, will determine the readiness of public projects submitted by the five smaller Metropolitan Planning Organizations (<200,000) and other unrepresented areas and certify the projects for funding.

Mr. Miles asked that the Technical Committee meet next week to reprioritize the Economic Stimulus Fund Project List in light of the known funds available, projects in economically distressed areas, projects that will provide a return on investment and job creation. The committee agreed to meet next Wednesday, February 25, at 1:30 pm. Board staff will prepare a matrix of first wave projects utilizing the aforementioned criteria and will forward to committee members along with a check list prior to the meeting. Projects can be prioritized based on funding shortfalls with the remainder to go toward one or two major projects, or can be directed to a few major projects with the remainder to be applied toward funding shortfalls. The committee will need to decide. Mr. Miles emphasized that jurisdictions will need to adhere to a timeline in completing their project and will be held accountable via a progress report. Back-up projects will be held in a queue to utilize funds should some projects experience delays.

With regard to additional funding sources, Mr. Miles noted that the 2009 Appropriations Bill should be completed in March, while the 2010 Appropriations Bill is expected to go to the House in June or July, and to the Senate in September. Also, the \$500 Billion Reauthorization Bill is expected to be adopted prior to September 30. A national 10 cent federal gas tax increase and motor vehicle excise tax increase is being proposed. He cautioned that there is talk of a second round of stimulus funds, which could alter/delay the Reauthorization Bill.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Eldon Brown reported that asphalt prices have increased by 50% raising concerns regarding future project costs.

Chad Coles reported that their Freya Road project is out for bid and that bids are below the engineer's estimates.

Harold White reported that they have met with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) regarding bridgework on I-90 between Stateline and Coeur d'Alene. If the project receives funding, I-90 will be very congested.

Steve Worley reported that they are preparing the Broadway/Fancher project (a concrete intersection) for bid.

Ron Edgar reported that the Spokane Clean Air office has moved to their new office located at 3104 E. Augusta address.

Karl Otterstrom with STA introduced himself as the new Planning Director and noted that he was sitting in as Gordon Howell's alternate.

Staci Lehman noted that SRTC is in the process of updating the 2009 Construction Map. A draft has been sent to the various jurisdictions and edits are requested by Monday, February 23. She added that it will go to print by the end of February and they hope to have them ready for distribution by mid-March, prior to the construction season. Because stimulus projects have not been confirmed, they will not be included in the printed copy; however, an online version located on the SRTC website will be updated with all new and current projects. A disclaimer will be added to the printed version, which states that not all projects could be included at the time of printing, but that an online version on the SRTC website reflects the complete list of construction projects. Ms. Lehman stated that the KMPO construction map covers three years and the most recent version covers 2007 through 2009, thus a printed version will not be forthcoming this year. There will be an online version; however, located on the KMPO website reflecting all current projects and directing the public to the Spokane area construction map on the SRTC website if travelling to the Spokane area.

Glenn Miles reported that there will be a national SmartRoutes Conference in Washington DC the second week in March. Representatives from Spokane will be attending and will bring with them information regarding the local SmartRoutes program.

6. New Business.

a) City of Spokane Valley Scope Change Request

Steve Worley described the nature of the scope change request for the 44th Avenue Enhancement Project. Their proposal would complete the original 44th Avenue Pathway Project scope, in conjunction with the West Ponderosa Sewer Project, but would split the funding between the two projects; the federal STP(E) grant paying for the pathway and half of the bike lanes, and the City of Spokane Valley paying for the other half of the bike lanes. Although the PE phase costs are higher, the revised estimated cost would be lower.

Harold White made a motion to accept the revised scope of the 44th Avenue Pathway Project and forward this recommendation to the Board for approval. Mike Frucci seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Donna Lively
Recording Secretary