

## MEETING MINUTES

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

### 1. Call to Order.

Gordon Howell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

### 2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Gordon Howell (Chair).....	Spokane Transit Authority
Ron Edgar (Vice-Chair) .....	Spokane Clear Air Agency
Mike Frucci.....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Mike Gribner.....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Harold White .....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Bob Brueggeman .....	Spokane County
Katherine Miller .....	City of Spokane
Mark Serbousek .....	City of Spokane Street Department
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Roger Krieger.....	City of Deer Park

### Staff.

Glenn Miles .....	Transportation Manager
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa .....	Transportation/Air Quality Planner
Stacy Lehman .....	Public Info/Education Coordinator
Donna Lively .....	Administrative Secretary

### Alternates and Guests.

Neil Kersten.....	City of Spokane Valley
Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Todd Ableman.....	City of Cheney
Bill Hemmings .....	Spokane County
Dan Mork.....	City of Millwood
Matt Gillis .....	Welch-Comer
Ross Kelley .....	HDR, Inc.
Paul Kropp .....	Neighborhood Alliance
Diana Wilhite.....	City of Spokane Valley

### **3. Approval of February Meetings Minutes.**

A correction was noted to the February 25th meeting minutes to remove the City of Spokane Valley member, Inga Note, as in attendance and include the City of Spokane Valley alternate, Neil Kersten.

**Bob Brueggeman made a motion to approve the February 18, 2009 meeting minutes and the February 25, 2009 meeting minutes as corrected. Mike Frucci seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

### **4. Old Business.**

#### **a) West Plains Sub-area Transportation Modeling Update**

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa reported that the stakeholder group will be meeting again in April. They are currently collecting future development data to incorporate into the 2030 model. They are also keeping track of the WSDOT meetings with regard to the Spokane Tribe development to see if this will have an impact the model.

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

Katherine Miller provided a handout soliciting TTC feedback on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) eligibility requirements/priorities. She noted that the subcommittee, comprised of Chad Coles, Steve Worley, Gordon Howell and herself, convened to look at the project funding application processes with regard to prioritizing project criteria. The subcommittee reviewed original applications from the 2006 call for projects and prepared a draft prioritized list (handout) beginning with Transportation Control Measures, a requirement since the region is considered a non-attainment area. Steve Worley stated that the intent is to identify priorities from a community perspective. Glenn Miles clarified that experimental projects are an exception rather than the rule, but are considered if meeting a community need. He also provided an example of a transportation control measure. Katherine requested TTC members to provide feedback on the criteria (using the handout) and return to Anna Ragaza-Bourassa for subcommittee review. She added that the committee will review the STP application criteria next. (Note: the CMAQ eligibility requirements/priorities handout was emailed to TTC members after the meeting requesting feedback return to Anna Ragaza-Bourassa by Wednesday, March 25th.)

#### **c) Stimulus Package Update & Delivery Schedule**

Glenn Miles reported that the revised list of federal stimulus funded projects was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on Friday, March 13th. FHWA is expected to approve the STIP/TIP amendments on Friday, March 20th, while the Governor is expected to certify the list on Monday, March 23rd. He stated that the two week provision to have projects out for ad begins once FHWA approves the list.

The stringent reporting requirements were discussed, including a requirement to report to Congress, the need to file quarterly status reports, employment data from contractors and local agency staffing, and information such as when the project was advertised for bid, who was awarded the contract, etc. Jurisdictions were strongly encouraged to have project timelines well planned out and monitored to meet these reporting requirements.

The Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee will meet on April 17 to discuss what projects are in progress, how they're performing, how much money has been obligated to date, etc. A T&I staffer noted that this is a warm up for the next authorization bill to see how quickly local jurisdictions and state transportation departments can get money out on the street. Mike Gribner noted that the exception to this is that WSDOT is over programmed; they have a backlog of projects to complete.

## **5. Technical Member Comments.**

Ron Edgar reported that the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency is doing something similar to what the California Air Resources Board is doing with their railroad yards with regard to health risk assessments for the Burlington Northern Santé Fe Spokane rail yard. He noted that he would provide more information when approved for release, but that it deals with the increased risk of cancer within ½ mile radius of the rail yard due to diesel emissions. He stated that Spokane is comparable to Sacramento's Union Pacific Yard.

Ron also reported that they've been told to look for a 49% cut in federal funding, which is being redirected to the Southeast U.S. He added that they have also been contacted by several asbestos abatement contractors asking whether the contractor awarded to remove 41 homes for a WSDOT project was aware of the asbestos abatement requirements.

Steve Worley reported that they have a bid opening for the Broadway/Fancher concrete intersection project. Also, the Pines/Sprague STA funded project is going out to bid this week, which involves concreting the east/west legs of the intersection. The other STA funded intersection projects, Sprague/McDonald and Sprague/Evergreen, will go out for bid in about a month. The Sprague Avenue resurfacing project is 80 - 85% complete on design. And, with regard to the annual step program with the county, one of the Ponderosa projects is out for bid and the others will go out in about a month or two.

Eldon Brown reported that the City has opened bids on the Alberta bond project last Monday, from Northwest Boulevard to Francis. Bids came in at \$700,000 under the Engineer's estimates. Bids will open next Monday for the Southeast Boulevard project from 29th to Perry, and the City is preparing for the future 5-Mile project as well.

Mike Gribner reported that state and federal revenue projections should be watched. Glenn Miles added that the state revenue forecast predicts an \$8 billion dollar shortfall.

Bob Brueggeman reported that a contractor will begin work again on relocating utilities on Bigelow Gulch. The County awarded a bid on Freya Street north of Francis; they

also received maintenance money for the Elder Road Bridge project east of Highway 27 – a two month project requiring a detour through the town of Rockford.

Roger Krieger reported that the City of Deer Park is completing the paper trail with WSDOT for their stimulus project and will be ready to go to bid once they receive the approval.

Inga Note reported that the County is just about done on the CMAQ controller replacement project.

Mike Frucci reported on the steering committee efforts regarding the lift development area north of I-90 and west of Harvard Road. A consultant conducted a traffic study which concluded that stand alone local improvements would not satisfy the transportation system needs in 2030. More work is yet to be done, but will probably require an interchange justification report. He added that it was a major milestone for this effort that could result in a change at Harvard Road or the Greenacres interchange pending funding.

## **6. New Business.**

### **a) Stimulus Funding Consideration Requests**

Glenn Miles explained the potential for redistribution of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds from states unable to obligate their funds within the restrictive time frames. He introduced several requests for stimulus project funding received after the Board approved a final list of regional projects eligible for federal stimulus funds. Requests were received from the City of Medical Lake, the City of Millwood, and Iron Bridge, LLC, a developer looking to refurbish the City owned historic iron railroad bridge. Glenn asked the committee how these projects should be handled, given the fact that there are many more regional projects awaiting potential stimulus redistribution funds and that the SRTC Board was adamant about locking the list of projects.

There was a discussion regarding funding issues, project readiness, and the expressed interest of the Board to support funding for small town projects. It was noted that the City of Medical Lake was not adequately informed of the call for projects for stimulus funding. There was agreement that if the City of Medical Lake is allowed to submit a project funding request, then it would only be fair to allow other jurisdictions to submit additional requests as well. Any consideration of additional requests, however, would have to include the re-examination and re-prioritization of those projects currently on the list and awaiting funding.

Matt Gillis with Welch-Comer Engineers was given the opportunity to discuss the City of Millwood's Argonne Road project and provided a handout depicting the proposed changes. Though the project received federal funding, construction costs differed from the available funds necessitating the City's request to modify the project scope by removing the inlay portion of the project between Buckeye and Fredrick. The City's request for redistributed stimulus funds would allow them to complete the project (from

Buckeye to Fredrick) as initially planned. Mayor Dan Mork thanked the TTC for their work and consideration.

The committee agreed that if additional projects are allowed for consideration, the remaining list of stimulus projects awaiting funding would have to be revetted. It was suggested that ideally, if the STP criteria were ready for use in prioritizing projects, a regional call for projects could be made in preparation for TIP amendments, October reapportionments, and STP, and ARRA redistribution funding. The committee concurred and the subcommittee agreed to modify their focus and efforts to address this need. There was discussion as to whether there should be one list of projects or two, one for stimulus redistribution funds, and one for STP funds. It was noted that projects could fall into both categories. The committee agreed to have one list, but to categorize projects based on STP or ARRA redistribution funds.

**Eldon Brown made a motion to initiate a call for projects in order to establish a new list of regional transportation projects eligible for either STP or ARRA redistributed funds and to forward this recommendation to the Board for approval. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

#### **b) Functional Classification System Amendment**

Glenn Miles reported that the City of Spokane Valley submitted several federal functional classification amendments; one for Indiana Avenue and the other for Conklin Road.

Steve Worley stated that Indiana Avenue east of Sullivan Road is currently unclassified, since it is a dead-end at the old railroad right-of-way. The City of Spokane Valley has acquired Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant funding and developer participation to extend the road to Flora at Mission, making it an important connector (minor arterial) between the north Greenacres area, Millwood, and out to the commercial center of the Spokane Valley Mall.

The second request is for Conklin Road, currently an unclassified road between Sprague Avenue and Broadway. The City of Spokane Valley is in the process of installing a signal at Sprague and Conklin due to the recent opening of Kohl's and Lowe's, making Conklin an urban collector.

**Bob Brueggeman made a motion to approve the federal functional classification amendment requests for the City of Spokane Valley. Katherine Miller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

#### **7. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.

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Donna Lively  
Recording Secretary