

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Transportation Technical Committee  
November 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 .....	Spokane Transit Authority
Ron Edgar (Vice-Chair) .....	Spokane Clear Air Agency
Harold White .....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Mike Frucci.....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Mike Gribner.....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Katherine Miller .....	City of Spokane
Mark Serbousek .....	City of Spokane
Inga Note.....	City of Spokane Valley
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley
Bob Brueggemann .....	Spokane County
Chad Coles .....	Spokane County
Roger Krieger.....	City of Deer Park
Karl Otterstrom.....	Spokane Transit Authority

**Staff.**

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa .....	Transportation Planning Supervisor
Eve Nelson.....	Senior Transportation Planner
Mallory Atkinson.....	Transportation Planner
Staci Lehman .....	Public Info/Education Coordinator
Donna Lively .....	Administrative Secretary

**Alternates and Guests.**

Kevin Picanco .....	David Evans & Associates
Ami Keiffer.....	SNAP
Neil Kersten.....	City of Spokane Valley
Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Ross Kelley .....	HDR, Inc.
Paul Kropp .....	Neighborhood Alliance

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

**Ron Edgar made a motion to approve the October 21, 2009 meeting minutes. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

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

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

Katherine Miller reported that the City of Spokane's Havana Street Bridge project is waiting for Federal Highway Administration approval.

Inga Note reported that the City of Spokane Valley's Sprague Avenue project is complete.

Mike Frucci reported that the Dowel Bar Retrofit project has been awarded but construction won't commence until next summer. They are hoping to obtain funding on a Tier III project on US 195 in Whitman County.

Roger Krieger reported that the City of Deer Park's stimulus project is complete.

Bob Brueggemann reported that the County's stimulus projects are complete.

Gordon Howell reported that STA is still receiving their buses; 9 hybrids are expected to arrive after the first of the year. Their security camera project is almost complete.

#### **b) Pedestrian Plan – Eve Nelson**

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa introduced SRTC's new Transportation Planner, Mallory Atkinson, from Boise, Idaho. Mallory stated that she attended Portland State University to obtain her Masters in Transportation Planning and is new to the area.

Eve Nelson asked that this agenda item be postponed to later in the meeting when Heleen Dewey from the Spokane Regional Health District will arrive with the updated copies of the Pedestrian Plan.

#### **c) STP Project Priority List Recommendation – Katherine Miller**

Katherine Miller reported that the subcommittee that revised the application forms reconvened to review the scoring process and determine if the process was legitimate. She also stated that SRTC staff did an excellent job in scoring the projects and handled unknown items well. She noted that the subcommittee recommended a review on how individual agencies determine the Overall Condition Index OCI for pavement, especially after the application is submitted before the pavement is removed. She noted that both the City of Spokane and the City of Spokane Valley used a similar process whereby the current OCI number was reported in addition to what they felt the OCI would be in the future. It is important that jurisdictions are consistent in how this is reported to ensure projects are scored equally in this area.

Chad Coles concurred that there is variability in how OCI is derived and that the question of whether pavement conditions should be predicted must be addressed.

Steve Worley commented that after talking with Eve Nelson and Anna Ragaza-Bourassa about the scoring process, the committee may want to change a few things to make it easier. He noted that overall the consensus was that it was better than previous years because it was less subjective. He asked committee members whether there was anything they wanted changed after having completed the applications.

Steve stated that the subcommittee discussed whether the list could be prioritized given the uncertainties surrounding available funding. He suggested postponing the process until funding is known at which point a prioritized list would be presented to the committee for consideration and future Board approval. Katherine noted that at the last SRTC Board meeting, the Board motioned to approve the STP Project List as presented and address the project selection discussion at a later date when funding availability is known. Eve suggested that the TTC bring a recommendation to the Board as to which projects should receive funding once available funding is known.

**Katherine Miller made a motion to provide the TTC the opportunity to make a selection of itemized projects from the approved STP Project list when final STP funding is understood and known and to take that recommendation to the Board. Mr. Steve Worley seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.**

Katherine asked that the TTC continue the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) discussion. Steve Worley suggested postponing the discussion for a future TTC meeting. Katherine felt that a subcommittee could address the issue and report their findings to the TTC after the first of the year. She suggested involving those jurisdictional staff members that deal with PCI on a regular basis. Chad Coles offered to coordinate the subcommittee.

Mike Frucci commented that it would be a level playing field if all jurisdictions compared projects based on current pavement conditions rather than trying to predict what the future pavement condition might be.

Mark Serbousek suggested that there be a subcommittee to rate and verify the merits of the top 3 to 5 projects in each category within each jurisdiction. He noted that those staffing the subcommittee should be those jurisdictional staff members that have the expertise in this area.

Chad stated that he would forward an email to the TTC requesting the names of staff members they wish to nominate to address the PCI issue or staff a project verification team. Gordon Howell stated that this will be added to next month's agenda so that the TTC can review the list of nominees and for the TTC to set parameters with which the new subcommittee can work from.

#### **d) WP-SIA Transportation Study Update – Anna Ragaza-Bourassa**

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa deferred this item to Eve Nelson who attended the last West Plains – Spokane International Airport Study meeting. Eve reported that the group met earlier in the week and came to a conclusion on their land use decisions and began model embellishments in the area in coordination with County Engineers and the WSDOT Planning Group. The group hopes to meet in January and have modeling to share before determining alternatives.

Bob Brueggemann asked if the City of Spokane is involved in the Study given that their annexation proposal came after the Study commenced. It was noted that the City of Spokane has been included in the meetings and discussions.

#### **e) 2030 Model Development Update – Anna Ragaza-Bourassa**

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa reported that staff has been building the network over the last three weeks and are close to saving a 2015 draft with a few more projects to add to bring it up to 2030. By mid-December, it is anticipated that the Model User's Group will meet to review the model and provide comments.

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

Ron Edgar reported that the Spokane Clear Air Agency has resolved a lawsuit regarding open meeting violations dating back to 2006. Since then, their by-laws and meeting requirements have been changed accordingly.

EPA has proposed a new sulfur dioxide SO<sub>2</sub> standard; however, it will probably not affect the Spokane area. Only one monitoring site will be required for the State and it is expected to be located on the west side.

Katherine Miller reported that the City of Spokane is working on an RFQ to identify a pedestrian crossing over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line connecting the U-District to the south Sprague area. Transportation study funds were obtained to complete a type, size, and location analysis; bids will open December 7.

Steve Worley reported that the City of Spokane Valley also has an RFQ out to select a consultant for projects funded by CMAQ funds. Also, the rest of Broadway will be restriped from 4 lanes to 3 on their Broadway Avenue safety project. The Barker Road Bridge project is still underway and they are hoping to have it opened sometime next spring.

Harold White reported that WSDOT is providing upgrades to the SRTMC. A new power system has been installed to protect from power spikes and outages. Also, a new video switch was purchased and will be installed in the next few weeks to increase the number of feeds. The system (camera feeds) will be down for several days during installation. Harold noted that the SRTMC will be expanding their offices when SRTC remodels. An RFQ for a new video wall to replace outdated equipment is forthcoming.

Harold was asked whether the center has a back up generator for extended outages; he responded that it does.

Roger Krieger stated that the City of Deer Park is working on a design effort for a project next year that will be TIB funded.

Eldon Brown reported that the City of Spokane's 5-Mile and Barker Street projects are still in construction. They have opened bids on a traffic signal project and hope to commence installation in a week or two.

Bob Brueggeman reported that the County's projects are either complete or in winter shut down.

Gordon Howell reported that STA had several concrete projects (sidewalks) at Havana near Sprague. Also, STA started a small sidewalk and concrete pad project for a shelter near the Casino on Sprague at Hayford. When STA realigned their routes, there were no stops at the Casino so they have been working to put stops on both sides of the road with shelters.

### **Pedestrian Plan**

Eve Nelson stated that she was ready to present the Pedestrian Plan and introduced Heleen Dewey with the Spokane Regional Health District. Draft copies of the Plan were distributed to the committee. Eve reported that the Board was given a presentation on the draft Plan at their meeting last week. Responses to comments, including Harold White's request to see more integration with transit have been incorporated into the Plan. She noted that STA has requested that the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) information be updated; consequently, another revision is forthcoming.

Eve offered the suggestion that the TTC approve the Plan based on the forthcoming edits from STA. Karl noted that based on a JARC grant six years ago, STA worked with WSU and other non-profits to build tools to inform people how to access housing, day care, and employment locations relative to bus and pedestrian routes. The sidewalk inventory was included in this project. He stated that STA intends to maintain this inventory.

**Karl Otterstrom made a motion recommending approval of the Pedestrian Plan with the incorporated forthcoming semantic and technical changes from STA. Harold White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

Mike Gribner asked whether there was a deadline that needed to be met. Eve responded that there was not.

## **6. New Business.**

### **a) Downtown Transit Alternatives Analysis – Karl Otterstrom**

Karl Otterstrom stated that in 2006, SRTC, STA, and the Downtown Spokane Partnership funded and completed a Downtown Streetcar Feasibility Study, which included a recommendation for two primary alignments: Kendal Yards to Riverfront Park and out towards the WSU Campus. The City followed up on several action items including determining the suitability and feasibility of cable cars on street bridges and obtaining funding for future studies.

Karl stated that discussions on connecting downtown with the U-District and the Medical District resurrected earlier this year and how to enhance transportation benefits with economic development and land use benefits. Ideally the goal is to reach an alternative that the City of Spokane, STA, and other partners agree on. STA is organizing a core stakeholders group comprised of City, STA, SRTC, WSU, Avista, and Public Facilities District representatives. Also being organized is a technical advisory group, which will utilize an application process and will be advertised next week. They are hoping that the technical advisory group will be staffed by members of the Health District, Neighborhood Councils, residents, businesses, and property owners.

An RFP was released on November 10 seeking a consultant to establish a structure for formal public interaction, recommendations on how to reach their goal, and provide cost estimates. They anticipate consultant selection to occur in January. Karl was asked to provide updates on the progress of the analysis to the TTC, which he agreed to do.

## **7. Local Transportation Meetings and Discussions.**

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa stated that Glenn was attending a Regional Transportation (Big Tent) meeting this afternoon at Greater Spokane Incorporated to discuss the visioning process as well as the governance issue to address regional transportation and transportation investment improvements. Results of the meeting are forthcoming.

At the SRTC Board meeting, the Board approved the draft Interlocal Agreement, which includes the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee. A subcommittee of the Board will meet to define the committee's role and process; positions will be advertised and applications will be required. A Citizens' Advisory committee will also be resurrected. In addition, the TTC Chair will serve as an ex-officio member of the SRTC Board.

A question was asked as to whether the SRTC Board's agendas and meeting materials were posted on the SRTC website. Staci Lehman responded that she posts the agenda a week before the scheduled Board meeting.

Staci provided a flyer and announced for the good of the order that there are three Inland Pacific Hub (IPH) public forums scheduled for the first week in December in Pullman, WA, Sandpoint, ID, and Spokane Valley to discuss the possibility of establishing a regional transportation hub in the general region. She added that SRTC

is partnering with WSDOT, KMPO, ITD, as well as some private industries in this study. More information is available at the IPH website at [www.inlandpacifichub.org](http://www.inlandpacifichub.org).

**8. Adjournment.**

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

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Donna Lively  
Recording Secretary