

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Technical Committee
January 20, 2010
SRTC Office - Intermodal Center - Third Floor
Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order.

Ron Edgar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance.

Ron Edgar (Chair)	Spokane Clear Air Agency
Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Harold White	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Mike Gribner.....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Mike Frucci.....	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Katherine Miller (Vice-Chair)	City of Spokane
Mark Serbousek	City of Spokane
Steve Worley.....	City of Spokane Valley
John Pederson	Spokane County
Bob Brueggemann	Spokane County
Chad Coles	Spokane County
Roger Krieger.....	City of Deer Park
Karl Otterstrom.....	Spokane Transit Authority

Staff.

Glenn Miles	Transportation Manager
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Transportation Planning Supervisor
Jeff Selle	Transportation Relations Manager
Eve Nelson.....	Senior Transportation Planner
Kevin Shipman	Geographic Information Systems Analyst
Staci Lehman	Public Info/Education Coordinator
Donna Lively	Administrative Secretary

Alternates and Guests.

Charlene Kay	WSDOT, Eastern Region
Nicole Huckleby.....	City of Airway Heights
Todd Ableman.....	City of Cheney
Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake
Eldon Brown.....	City of Spokane
Ross Kelley	HDR, Inc.
Paul Kropp	Neighborhood Alliance
Dale Smith.....	Citizen

3. Approval of December Meetings Minutes.

Katherine Miller made a motion to approve the December 20, 2009 meeting minutes. Bob Brueggemann seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business.

a) WP-SIA Transportation Study Update – Anna Ragaza-Bourassa

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa reported that the group will meet next week to review the modeling results and discuss when to host their first public meeting, which will probably be in March. Further updates will be made available next month.

b) 2030 Model Development Update – Anna Ragaza-Bourassa

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa reported that the 2030 model will be finalized and made available next week. The Model User's Group will receive a copy of the 2030 model and TTC members may also obtain a copy by contacting her.

c) High Performance Transit Network Interagency Technical Group – Karl Otterstrom

Karl Otterstrom reported that the Technical Group intended to meet next week; however, the meeting was postponed for another week until the modeling details are made available. SRTC is coding the model and David Evans & Associates has been contracted to run various scenarios through the model. The High Performance Transit Network Interagency Technical Group is now scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. on February 4th at SRTC.

d) Pavement Condition Index (PCI) subcommittee – Chad Coles

Chad Coles stated that the subcommittee hopes to meet next week. Currently representatives from the City of Spokane Valley, the City of Spokane, and the City of Airway Heights are on the subcommittee; Anna Ragaza-Bourassa will also participate if her schedule allows.

5. Technical Member Comments.

Katherine Miller reported that the City is beginning their 6 year program. Eldon Brown added that the City of Spokane has a project that will commence in a month on Aubrey L. White Parkway and that the 44th and Regal signal project was delayed due to the holidays but will also commence soon. Mark Serbousek noted that the contractor for the Freya Street Bridge was setting the concrete girders for the bridge.

Mike Gribner asked the committee whether any jurisdiction was preparing for the Jobs Bill. Anna stated that Glenn Miles would be reporting on the Jobs Bill later in the meeting.

John Pederson reported that the Board of County Commissioners will be considering a limit to their subdivision ordinance with regard to connectivity, similar to the City of Spokane and Spokane Valley, by eliminating private roads within the Urban Growth Area (UGA).

Mike Frucci introduced Charlene Kay who replaced Mark Rohwer, Eastern Region Planning Manager, and is a TTC alternate. He stated that WSDOT is trying to get a few projects shovel ready for a March ad date.

Bob Brueggeman reported that the County has been performing some spring maintenance work, such as grading gravel roads, along with their winter maintenance.

Steve Worley reported that the City of Spokane Valley is getting a project ready for next year.

Karl Otterstrom reported that STA's Transit Development Plan is out for public comments and is located on their website. The Plan is condensed from previous versions and is intended to present the overall objectives and priorities of the agency. The Plan contains revenue projections for the next six years and their service operating characteristics. STA intends to cut services over the next three years by 16% commencing in September. 70% of revenues are derived from sales tax, which are down. STA will work on improving the efficiency of existing routes.

Karl noted that STA is completing the interview process for the Downtown Transit Alternatives Analysis and hopes to have a contract approved and awarded by the STA Board next month.

STA is exploring the use of a USDOT Bus Facility/Mobility Grant to support bus facility improvements both at the Plaza and at Eastern Washington University; both will require service changes. STA is also looking at replacing the roof at their garage.

Ron Edgar reported that EPA proposed new ozone standards, which were published on January 19. The proposed standard would be between 0.060 to 0.070 parts per million (ppm). In 2008, Spokane measured 0.064 ppm and 0.062 in 2009. If the standard is set at 0.060, Spokane will not be in attainment for ozone; however, if the standard is set at 0.065 Spokane will be in attainment. The comment period concludes March 22nd with several hearings planned throughout the country. The standard is expected to be codified sometime in August.

Mr. Edgar was asked what part of emissions constitutes transportation. He responded that ozone is a secondary pollutant created by the release of hydrocarbons, e.g., gasoline fumes and NOx from industrial sources. If Spokane is not in attainment, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency would implement stage II vapor recovery at all gas stations. With regard to vehicles, EPA would need to implement model year changes. Severe nonattainment would require an emphasis on commute trip reductions and alternate transportation modes.

6. Local Transportation Meetings and Discussions.

Glenn Miles reported that several stimulus projects remain, including the City's Havana Street Bridge project (bids will open next Thursday), and the project in Rockford, which is expected to go to bid during the first week in February. He stated that \$106,000 in stimulus funds remain and will be applied to the Cheney/Spangle Road project for completion. The obligation date for stimulus funding is February 22nd.

Glenn reported that with regard to the Jobs Bill, WSDOT Highways and Local Programs has asked each MPO to submit one project for funding by March 1. It is estimated that approximately \$14 million will be available statewide and allocations will not be given out to each region. Mr. Miles asked whether there are any enhancement projects where the PSE is or can be completed in 120 days in order to qualify for the enhancement funds.

Mr. Miles stated that Local Programs is also requesting a prioritized list of local projects for the Jobs Bill by March 1. He noted that there are still projects on the Tier II stimulus project list as well as the STP project list. The funding amount to consider is \$10 million with a 120 day obligation period. He noted that a TIP amendment at the February Board meeting will be needed given the time frame. All Title 23 and/or 49 requirements associated with the project(s) must be adhered to and the same reporting requirements will apply.

There was general consensus by the TTC to utilize the Tier II and STP project lists to select and submit projects to Local Programs. It was noted that results of the combined list will be forwarded to the TTC to confirm whether or not the projects will be ready within the time constraints.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Donna Lively
Recording Secretary