

The background of the cover is a photograph of a paved road with a white bicycle lane symbol painted on it. A blue circular graphic is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image, containing the title text. In the distance, a few vehicles and buildings are visible under a clear sky.

Roundtable Discussions Input Report

2016 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

In preparation for the upcoming [Horizon 2040](#) update, SRTC staff hosted a series of transportation “roundtable” discussions in 2016. The purpose of these roundtables was to provide the SRTC Board with a broad range of community perspectives on transportation issues in our region. The roundtables consisted of a short presentation by staff followed by a group discussion of the following four questions:

1. What are your thoughts about the information presented in the “Trends in Transportation” section of the presentation?
2. What is working well with transportation in our region?
3. What concerns you about transportation in our region?
4. What advice would you offer to the SRTC Board as we prepare for the 2017 update to Horizon 2040?

Staff met with the following groups for roundtable discussions:

- Business community
- Major employers
- Bike, pedestrian and transit users/advocates
- Youth and senior citizens
- Planning commissioners
- Neighborhood groups
- Housing and homeless representatives
- Economists
- Healthcare professionals
- Emergency services representatives



A local plan commissioner asks questions about a map at a roundtable discussion.

In addition, staff provided a survey to groups who requested it for their members who could not attend one of the roundtable discussions.

DISCUSSION THEMES

Seven themes have been identified from the roundtable discussions and survey responses for consideration and discussion by the Board in advance of the 2017 Horizon 2040 update:

1. Transportation challenges will require both local and regional solutions. Cooperation and coordination among government agencies and transportation providers will be critical to our success.
2. Our region is large geographically and people have diverse transportation needs and interests. One size does not fit all.
3. There is a strong desire to improve transit service, walking and bicycling facilities, and integrate these options more effectively with land use.
4. To plan for the future, we need to understand our region.
5. Healthcare, in particular mental healthcare, is an important and often misunderstood transportation need in our community.
6. Technology is changing how people and goods move in our region.
7. The North Spokane Corridor (NSC) will significantly change travel patterns in our region. While it may reduce north/south travel on certain corridors, it may also increase east/west travel on some corridors. Are we doing enough to plan for these changes?

Following is a summary of the input received on each theme (verbatim responses are available upon request).

THEME: Transportation challenges will require both local and regional solutions. Cooperation and coordination among government agencies and transportation providers will be critical to our success.

- There appears to be better communication between municipalities than in the past.
- Additional local funding will be needed.
- There is no enforcement on shoveling sidewalks of snow.
- Online traffic cameras are working well.
- Ensure that all local, regional and state agencies are on the same page. It is much easier to tackle projects when everyone is in agreement.

THEME: Our region is large geographically and people have diverse transportation needs and interests. One size does not fit all.



New apartments near 57th and Glenrose.

- More kids today are riding longboards than bicycles.
- New apartments on the south hill are changing the traditional demographic of that area.
- Displaced families are moving into apartments.
- There is congestion around schools from parents driving kids to school.
- Rural counties are way older as far as demographics and have different transportation needs based on that.
- The transportation system is overly built for cars. Walking and mass transit are less integrated.
- Aside from the freeway during rush hour, we don't have traffic congestion.
- The wear and tear on cars here is worse than other places.
- Trying to get onto US 195 at 5 p.m. is very difficult.
- Maintenance and operations funding should be our priority.
- Bike lanes and freight don't mix. Are we building a freight plan? We need more designated freight corridors.
- Additional lighting on SR 904 has improved safety.
- It seems unnatural to not have a car.
- Millennials are somewhat dependent on "intergenerational transfers of resources" (money and a place to live provided by parents).

"There is such a split between those who have money and those who don't. Uber and Lyft don't work for those on public assistance."

THEME: There is a strong desire to improve transit service, walking and bicycling facilities, and integrate these options more effectively with land use.

- It doesn't seem very progressive that people drive to trails to ride their bikes on them.
- Spokane Valley's Comprehensive Plan includes provisions for 2.5 parking spaces for each apartment in complexes.
- STA service shuts down too early.
- Public transit doesn't work for people with jobs outside of traditional work hours.

- The Spokane Transit route out to Cheney is impressive.
 - The (STA) system works well to get downtown but not as well to get other places. The planning apps help and recent passage of STA's initiative will help address many concerns.
 - The Appleway Trail is cleaning up neighborhoods.
 - Overlay transit, multi-family housing and other maps over recreational trails.
 - People with visual impairments don't have as many transportation options as others.
 - Awareness of pedestrians by drivers needs to be improved.
 - Snow removal is not great. Other cities get a lot more snow and don't use sidewalks to store it.
 - The area lacks a serious bicycle network. There have been improvements but for persons with low income options aside from cars become important.
 - The SRTC Board should push for a progressive transportation system (e.g., light rail, electric cars, an enhanced bus system).
 - Some people have a negative perception of riding the bus. Figure out a way to get people to realize it's a positive option.
 - The bike network is minimal; we don't seem to have a good plan in place.

"Please consider that some people need to travel by foot or by using public transportation. It is not a choice. Many times the focus is on drivers and vehicles."

THEME: To effectively plan for the future, we need to have a thorough understanding of our region.

- We need to understand more about our area to plan for the future. What industries are we targeting? What demographics do those industries attract?
- We need to understand where growth is occurring and how it impacts transportation.
- Spokane Valley residents want more neighborhood centers and services
- Take into consideration where vacant industry land is because that is where jobs are going to be in the future.
- Road system/planning here is reactive instead of proactive.
- Don't grow obligations faster than revenue growth.
- There is no public transit north of I-90 in the far valley, yet lots of apartments and other housing.
- Is sprawl a concern? We need housing options and transit. We need to be smart about growth.
- Talk to residential and commercial builders, economic development professionals, and industry leaders in order to understand the constraints of growth.

THEME: Healthcare, in particular mental healthcare, is an important and often misunderstood transportation need in our community.

- Overlay healthcare facilities on transportation maps when planning.

"A \$45 bus pass consumes a huge part of many of my client's monthly budgets. They are encouraged to get out into the community but transportation poses a big barrier."

- The number of seniors and persons with disabilities is increasing.
- Not all healthcare providers accept all insurance, so patients can't always go to the provider closest to them.
- AMR (ambulance service) is providing 100-200 more rides per month than in the past. Much of this is due to a lack of resources for mental healthcare and is the most expensive form of transportation.

THEME: Technology is changing how people and goods move in our region.

- Autonomous vehicles are going to be huge because they will cut down on driving deaths and provide transportation for those who can't drive. Some people will still want to own their own autonomous cars though, not share.
- The average person won't purchase electric vehicles until they become less expensive.
- STA's real-time system works well to let clients know when buses are running late. People who suffer from anxiety often get upset if they don't know when or if their ride is coming.
- The slow growth slide shows how we deal with change; we will be slower to adjust to technology in Spokane.
- What happens to brick and mortar businesses? Do they decrease? Is there less spontaneous shopping?
- Look at 3-D printed bridges being done elsewhere in the U.S. and Europe.

THEME: The North Spokane Corridor (NSC) will significantly change travel patterns in our region. While it may reduce north/south travel on certain corridors, it may also increase east/west travel on some corridors. Are we doing enough to plan for these changes?



The North Spokane Corridor

- It takes forever to get to I-90 from North Spokane.
- Going north or south is a real problem in our area.
- The North Spokane Corridor will bring industry to the land around it.
- The lack of a north-south corridor creates big obstacle to overburdened arterials.
- Argonne should not be considered a connector street for the north-south freeway.
- The North Spokane Corridor is hugely important for the Kalispel Tribe for access to the reservation.
- The North Spokane Corridor will have a lot of benefits once it's finished.