

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 6a

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, January 12, 2017
SRTC Office, 421 W Riverside Ave, Ste 500, Spokane WA

1. Call to Order

Chair Amber Waldref brought the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance – Excused Absences

Board Members Present:

Amber Waldref, Councilmember, City of Spokane	Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner
Joe Tortorelli, WA State Transportation Commission	Al French, Spokane County Commissioner
Mike Gribner, WSDOT-Eastern Region	Lori Kinnear, Councilmember, City of Spokane
Mayor Steve Peterson, City of Liberty Lake	Larry Stone, Major Employer Representative
Brandon Blankenagel, TTC Chair	Ed Pace, Councilmember, City of Spokane Valley
Dee Cragun, Small Towns Representative	Mayor Tom Trulove, City of Cheney
Matt Ewers, Freight Representative	E. Susan Meyer, Spokane Transit Authority
Aspen Monteleone, Councilmember, City of Airway Heights	

Board Members Not in Attendance:

Larry Krauter, Spokane Airports

Guests Present:

John Hodgson, Prothman Company	Stanley Schwartz, Legal Counsel
Rich Burnett, Citizen	Paul Kropp, TAC Member
April Westby, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	

SRTC Staff Present:

Ryan Stewart, Interim Executive Director / Senior Transportation Planner	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, Senior Transportation Planner
Amanda Mansfield, Assoc. Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman, Administrative Assistant
	Staci Lehman, Communications Coordinator

Chair Waldref read the name of the following Board member requesting an excused absence from this meeting: Larry Krauter.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to excuse Mr. Krauter's absence. Mr. Tortorelli seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Chair Waldref gave an update on the SRTC Executive Director search. She said the Board Administrative Committee researched recruitment firms and selected Prothman Company; she then introduced Mr. Hodgson. He spoke about Prothman Company and described the next steps in the recruitment process. Chair Waldref called for questions or comments and there were none.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Stewart remarked that the transportation chapter of the City of Spokane comprehensive plan update was nearly complete. He said he attended the Planning Commission Transportation Subcommittee meeting earlier in the week and the comprehensive plan reflected recognition of regional priorities and consistency with Horizon 2040. He said City of Spokane staff will report on the transportation chapter at the February Board meeting.

He noted that WSDOT recently published a draft truck parking study and when the final version becomes available to staff it will be distributed to all member agencies and other interested stakeholders.

Mr. Stewart announced that WSDOT-Eastern Region would hold a meeting on January 30 to discuss Phase Two of the Corridor Sketch Initiative.

He stated that the Horizon 2040 Project Evaluation Process opened on January 4 and ends February 8 for regionally significant projects applying for inclusion in the Horizon 2040 update. He said a workshop for Board members would be held on January 31 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm to study the Evaluation Tool in detail. He noted staff would provide information to any member who was interested but unable to attend.

5. Consent Agenda – Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Board Meeting, December 2016 Vouchers, and Approval of Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) Officers.

Ms. Waldref called for questions or discussion and there was none.

Recap for December, 2016:	
Vouchers: V120334 to V120347	24,721.93
Salaries/Benefits: Warrant Nos: 361328-361339 and 363658-363669	81,730.50
Interfund, other expenses, and reimbursements processed directly by the City of Spokane	770.10
	<hr/>
	107,222.53

Mr. French made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Tortorelli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. FY 2017-2019 WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grants Program-Regional Ranked List

Mr. Stewart stated that the WSDOT Public Transportation Division recently offered their biennial call for projects for funding through the consolidated public transportation grants program. As part of the grant program all applications are required to be evaluated by the Regional Transportation Planning Organization to ensure that the projects address an identified need or strategy within the region. He said SRTC received five applications which have been reviewed and ranked by staff.

He said the receipt of only five applications was lower than usual, but the local funding/local match requirements and finding volunteers for programs has been somewhat prohibitive for some agencies. He stated the action requested was approval of the regionally ranked list of projects for WSDOT Fiscal Years 2017-2019 Public Transportation Consolidated Grants Program.

Ms. Meyer asked how much funding was available. Mr. Stewart replied the grant amount is determined by the State legislature during the spring session, so it is not known yet.

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the regional ranked list of projects for the WSDOT FY 2017-2019 Public Transportation Consolidated Grants Program. Mr. French seconded the motion.

Ms. Kinnear asked for information about the Frontier Behavioral Health Care Cars programs and Mr. Stewart provided details.

Mr. Peterson inquired if all projects on the list were transit related and none were for infrastructure and Mr. Stewart replied that was correct.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Certification of the City of Deer Park 2017 Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Mansfield read the requested action **“SRTC Board certification that the transportation related provisions in the City of Deer Park 2017 Comprehensive Plan update are consistent with specified transportation planning requirements of the Revised Code of Washington, including the Growth Management Act and SRTC’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Horizon 2040.”**

Ms. Mansfield reported that the staff review of the plan found it to be consistent with the RCW requirements and Horizon 2040 Guiding Principles, in addition to continuing to meeting regional Level of Service (LOS) standards. She said the plan review report was forwarded to the City of Deer Park on January 5.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the item as outlined. Mr. Pace seconded the motion.

Mr. Schwartz asked why staff did not conduct a LOS analysis of the plan. Mr. Stewart replied that there were no major changes in population, employment, land use, or major infrastructure and therefore no reason to re-run a LOS analysis.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

8a. Air Quality Presentation – Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

Ms. April Westby provided an overview and history of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA), explained how the agency was governed, and outlined key agency programs. She discussed milestones in federal clean air legislation and reviewed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Ms. Monteleone arrived at 1:30 pm.

Ms Westby described the past air quality challenges in the region with carbon monoxide (CO) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀). She said CO was mostly a function of old car technology and winter weather inversions. She provided background of the regional CO problem and explained how the situation had improved to the extent that there has not been a CO exceedance since 1996. She showed a graph which showed that even with a 38% increase in population since 1980, the CO levels have dropped dramatically and primarily due to improvements in automotive technology and cleaner fuels. She stated Spokane County was reclassified as a CO attainment area in 2005 under the first ten-year maintenance plan and in 2016 the EPA approved the second 10-year maintenance plan. She provided details about the CO Maintenance Plans.

Ms. Westby noted that the region was reclassified as a PM₁₀ attainment area in August 2005 under the first ten-year maintenance plan and the second ten-year maintenance plan ends in 2025. She said there had been no exceedances since 1993, not counting those excused under the EPA’s “Exceptional Events Rule”, such as the wildfires in the summer of 2015 for example. She discussed current strategies for reducing particulate matter.

Ms. Westby discussed current challenges to air quality, primarily ozone and fine particulates (PM_{2.5}). She explained that ozone is a warm weather pollutant; it is a photo-chemical process and not a directly emitted

pollutant. She noted ozone was very difficult to predict and no ozone modeling had ever been completed in this state. SRCAA has researched collaborating with WSU regarding a study to determine ozone pre-cursors in the region. She showed charts depicting ozone and PM 2.5 trends over the last several years and explained that new more stringent regulations for ozone were finalized by the EPA late last year. She stated PM 2.5 was caused primarily by wood burning stoves and wildfires but also by automobiles and diesel engines.

Ms. Westby called for questions and there were none. Mr. French commented that Spokane County operates a regional clean air agency by choice, as the alternative is having the Environmental Protection Agency manage air quality regulations. He noted SRCAA is funded by participating local jurisdictions and it provided local management of the federal air quality regulations.

Mr. Stewart commented that although the region was in the second maintenance period, the agency still recognizes the need to monitor projects to ensure air quality measures are supported.

Chair Waldref thanked Ms. Westby for her presentation.

8b. Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI) Legislative Transportation Agenda

Mr. Stewart reported that Board members and staff had a conversation last month regarding the development of the GSI State and Federal transportation legislative agenda. The intent of the discussion today was to ensure that the projects which jurisdictions advocate to Legislators are truly regional priorities. He noted that in the past there had been somewhat disjointed efforts to promote projects, which resulted in the process being competitive. Mr. Stewart stated that as a result of the conversations with GSI and member agencies, staff reviewed the GSI agendas from a transportation perspective.

He noted that included in the Board packet were lists, descriptions and maps of the projects included in the GSI state and legislative agendas. He remarked that while the majority of the projects were in Horizon 2040, several were not and he provided several examples. He stated that those projects' priorities were reviewed and found to be consistent with Horizon 2040 Guiding Principles. He discussed the I-90/US 195 Interchange and Latah Creek Bridges project and Mr. Gribner provided information about the problems the bridges and interchange are experiencing.

Mr. Ewers, who is Chair of the GSI Transportation Committee, remarked that each year GSI asks SRTC to review the project list, but this was the first time the list had been presented to the Board and the first time the projects were reviewed for consistency with the regional long range plan. He noted that numerous projects were brought before GSI for consideration, the GSI Transportation Committee narrowed down the list significantly, and then it went before the GSI Board for approval. He said that freight, human transportation and economic development are among some of the priority areas considered.

Mr. Stewart remarked that it was important to talk about projects early and often to increase the opportunity for them to be incorporated into Horizon 2040. He said SRTC frequently receives calls from funding review boards or committees asking if a particular project is consistent with the regional long range plan and if it was not that might cause the project to be moved down on their list. He emphasized that the projects on the SRTC generated list and maps were not prioritized and the numbers on the maps were only for reference.

Mr. Stewart restated that all new and existing regionally significant projects applying for inclusion in Horizon 2040 would go through the new evaluation process; so everything could be viewed holistically and determine regional priorities.

Mr. Ewers reported that GSI representatives would be going to Olympia and Washington DC with the enclosed project list to promote them to legislators, but in no way does the list represent the only important projects to the region.

Mr. Tortorelli asked if the toolkit which had been previously presented to the Board would be used to rank and evaluate projects for Horizon 2040 and Mr. Stewart replied that was correct. Chair Waldref reminded the group of the Horizon 2040 Evaluation Tool Board Workshop being held at SRTC on January 31, 2017 at 9:00 am.

Mr. Blankenagel commented that although getting a project onto the list of priorities was important, it is important that the regional long term plan remain fiscally constrained.

Chair Waldref thanked Mr. Ewers for his work with GSI and Mr. Ewers thanked SRTC staff.

8c. TIP Project Tracking

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa stated the purpose of tracking of projects programmed in the TIP was to provide status to the Board and committees of regionally significant projects in regards to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) obligation target. She noted SRTC has not yet been notified by WSDOT of the target number for 2017. She said current planned obligations as shown on the two appendices total approximately \$11.1 million and staff proposed a target of \$13 million in obligations in order to ensure that the estimated FFY obligation target is met by August 1, 2017.

Ms. Kinnear left the meeting at 2:22 pm.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said the TIP Working Group was meeting on January 18 and would provide staff with information about any project de-obligations, which affects the new target. She noted the lists of projects were both in the packet and also at each place. She called for questions and there were none.

Chair Waldref thanked Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa.

9. SRTC Board Comments

Mr. Tortorelli reported the Washington Transportation Commission just approved a road user charge study and the goal was to have 2000 participants statewide. He noted the broadcast by KXLY on this topic contained inaccuracies.

Ms. Meyer thanked the road crews from local cities and Spokane County for keeping the bus routes plowed.

Mr. Pace announced that Mr. John Hohman had been promoted to City of Spokane Valley Deputy City Manager.

Mr. French also praised the Spokane County roads crews for their work on snow removal.

Mr. Ewers remarked that he and Mayor Trulove were going to Olympia next week for the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board meeting.

Mr. Stewart presented Ms. Waldref with a certificate of recognition in thanks for her service as Board Chair.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary