

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee  
 January 25, 2017  
 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 500, Spokane, Washington

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Brandon Blankenagel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Committee Members Present**

Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Chad Coles	Spokane County	Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake
Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Todd Ableman	City of Cheney
Mike Frucci	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians
Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority	Derrick Braaten	City of Airway Heights
Lisa Corcoran	Spokane Airports	Sean Messner	City of Spokane Valley
Karl Otterstrom	Spokane Transit Authority		

**Committee Alternates Present**

Scott Englehard	Spokane County	Tim Schwab	Spokane County
Keith Martin	WSDOT- Eastern Region	Ray Wright	City of Spokane Valley

**Guests**

Amber Waldref	SRTC Board Chair	Rich Burnett	Citizen
Kevin Anderson	City of Airway Heights		

**Staff**

Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner
Amanda Mansfield	Assoc. Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant
Staci Lehman	Communications Coordinator		

**3. Approval of November 16, 2016 Minutes**

Chair Blankenagel called for questions or comments on the minutes. Mr. Tedesco noted his name was omitted from the list of Committee Members Present.

**Mr. Frucci made a motion to approve the November 16, 2016 minutes as amended. Mr. Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Technical Member Comments**

Chair Blankenagel announced the City of Spokane was holding an open house tomorrow for the Monroe Street project and the City's website had an online survey tool available for people to make comments as well. He said over 200 comments had been received so far.

Mr. Tedesco reported that WSDOT had approved a Safe Routes to School grant to the Spokane Tribe for a shared use pathway.

Mr. Braaten announced that the City of Airway Heights was recently awarded a Core Planning Grant for Airway Heights Industrial Center.

Mr. Messner reported on recent City of Spokane Valley staff changes.

Mr. Otterstrom stated the STA Plaza renovation was progressing on time and under budget with construction expected to be complete by summer. He said STA was working with City of Spokane on a number of projects along various routes. He commented that they are in the process of hiring for several positions including a new Capital Projects Manager and a Transit Planner.

## **6. SRTC Executive Director Recruitment**

SRTC Board Chair Amber Waldref provided status on the Executive Director recruitment process. She reported that the Board decided to utilize a recruitment company and had given authority to the Board Administrative Committee (BAC) to negotiate and enter into a contract. She said the BAC selected Prothman Company, met in person with a company associate, and advertising for the position should begin next week. She asked for comments and inquired in what way the TTC wanted to be engaged in the candidate selection process.

Mr. Tedesco asked if the Board was looking for a person with planning or engineering experience. Ms. Waldref replied that they preferred a candidate with experience at an MPO but a final decision had not been made about requirements for candidates' planning background. She said the BAC discussed the desire for strong leadership qualities and knowledge of federal transportation programs, but had not discussed engineering.

The group then discussed the previous Executive Director recruitment process. Ms. Nelson asked for a show of hands for those who want the TTC to be involved in the final selection process and a majority agreed. Ms. Waldref said the BAC would structure involvement by the TTC, whether it's the full committee or a small group.

Mr. Otterstrom suggested that instead of selecting a small group of TTC members to act on behalf of the entire committee, a pre-arranged date and time should be open to all members and those who want to participate can attend, with the understanding that they must stay for the duration of the meeting. Ms. Waldref agreed with that suggestion. She stated that as soon as the finalized job announcement was ready it would be forwarded to TTC members and she would be sure the TTC is provided status updates.

Chair Blankenagel called for additional questions and there were none. He thanked Ms. Waldref for the update.

## **7. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) February Amendment**

Ms. Mansfield read and described three proposed amendments to the 2017-2020 TIP:

- Spokane County – Spokane County Signal Safety
- SRTC – Metropolitan Transportation Planning
- Spangle – Scour Protection for Bridges

She said the comment period on this amendment will close January 27, no comments had been received yet, but any received before the period closed would be forwarded to the TTC. She called for questions and there were none.

**Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend to the Board approval of the 2017-2020 TIP February Amendment. Mr. Braaten seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **8. City of Deer Park Comprehensive Plan 2017 Update**

Ms. Mansfield reported that staff reviewed the City of Deer Park update and found the Comprehensive Plan 2017 Update was generally consistent with the transportation planning requirements of the Revised Code of Washington,

including the Growth Management Act and with the Horizon 2040 Guiding Principles. She described several plan highlights and noted that the SRTC Board certified the plan on January 12, 2017.

Mr. Frucci said, given the purpose of the TTC, he did not understand why they were being presented with an item upon which the Board had already taken action. He stated that he appreciated receiving this information, but asked if it was possible for the TTC to receive items like this prior to Board action. Ms. Mansfield replied that for upcoming comprehensive plan reviews the TTC will receive the information first; the delay was due to the way the meeting schedules lined up. Mr. Frucci said it may be the case that TTC review of comprehensive plan updates are not necessary for Board action. Ms. Mansfield stated she would discuss the issue with Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Braaten said he thought comprehensive plan analyses were completed by staff and was unaware of how the TTC would be involved. Ms. Mansfield confirmed that the SRTC Plan Review and Certification Process Instruction Manual stated that the Board makes their decision based on staff recommendation and that staff shall endeavor to bring the information before the TAC and TTC, however it did not specifically state if the Board was to receive recommendations by the committees.

Ms. Nelson reiterated that the delay in presenting the updates had been due to a timing issue and stated that discussion of the future comprehensive plan updates could be addressed in the "Agency Update" if the group preferred.

## **9. City of Spokane Valley Comprehensive Plan 2017-2037 Update**

Ms. Mansfield stated that the City of Spokane Valley Comprehensive Plan 2017-2037 had been evaluated by staff and found to be generally consistent with the transportation planning requirements of the Revised Code of Washington, including the Growth Management Act and with the Horizon 2040 Guiding Principles. She highlighted two areas of the plan and noted on December 8, 2016 that the SRTC Board certified the plan.

Mr. Blankenagel asked if the review went two-ways, in terms of both reviewing the consistency of the plan update with the MTP as well as any potential revisions the MTP in order to accommodate updates that the agencies had.

Ms. Mansfield confirmed that the review process does flow both ways; for instance the update checklist asks if the comprehensive plan addresses the freight priority network or bicycle priority network and if it does not, that information goes into the update of Horizon 2040. She said that data is used to update maps to reflect urban transportation corridors, activity centers, etc.

Chair Blankenagel thanked Ms. Mansfield for her presentations.

## **10. STA "Moving Forward" Presentation**

Mr. Otterstrom described the background and STA Board support of the Moving Forward plan. He showed a map of the projects planned throughout the region and outlined the key outcomes of Moving Forward. He explained the three key investment areas were to: (1) maintain existing infrastructure (2) improve and expand capital infrastructure and (3) expand and improve service. He provided example of all three.

He noted that implementation of a High Performance Transit (HPT) Network was a key component of Moving Forward and presented a map showing the transit routes planned to be part of the HPT network. He described the characteristics that riders want in HPT, showed a conceptual illustration of a HPT station and described its proposed amenities, such as real-time information, off-board fare collection and ADA accessibility.

Mr. Otterstrom described what work would be done in 2017 on the Central City Line (CCL), Cheney, Division, Monroe-Regal, East Sprague and I-90 HPT corridors. He outlined the bus service improvements scheduled to be implemented in May and September of 2017.

Additionally, he said STA was seeking grant funding for the non-STA Moving Forward share of the cost for the transit center at SCC, he mentioned that work designing a new vehicle storage and fueling facility had begun, and they were finishing an evaluation of the capital program delivery capacity.

Chair Blankenagel called for questions or comments.

Mr. Braaten commented that he appreciated the way STA was integrating their planning with that of other jurisdictions.

Mr. Tedesco asked if STA was planning for any transit oriented developments along the CCL. Mr. Otterstrom replied STA continues to work very closely with City of Spokane on this project and the strategic road related plan for the corridor has been sanctioned by the City Council. Mr. Otterstrom said there had been significant interaction with the City Planning and Capital Programming departments and the City administration now considers the CCL a key project for economic development strategies within the corridor.

Chair Blankenagel remarked that the Capital Programming department has been planning for programmed street improvements along the CCL corridor to align with CCL development.

There were no additional questions or comments and Chair Blankenagel thanked Mr. Otterstrom.

#### **11. TIP Working Group Update**

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reported that SRTC had not yet been notified of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) obligation target for 2017. She said current planned obligations total approximately \$11 million this FFY, which started October 1, 2016 and reminded the group that to meet the target all funds must obligate by August 1, 2017. She said \$1.25 million of de-obligations are expected before August 1, therefore projects on the STP and CMAQ contingency list would be brought before the TTC for consideration in the next month.

She called for questions and there were none. Chair Blankenagel thanked Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa.

#### **12. Agency Update**

Ms. Nelson reminded the group that the Horizon 2040 application process was now open and ends February 8, 2017.

Ms. Nelson said the GIS analysts are preparing to begin creation of the 2017 Construction Map. Also, SRTC's compiled construction project data from the previous year is made available in the [GIS data](#) section of SRTC's ArcGIS online page which is a link on the bottom of SRTC's AGOL Homepage.

#### **13. Future Agenda Items**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

---

Julie Meyers-Lehman  
Recording Secretary