

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
 March 22, 2017
 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 500, Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order

Mr. Brandon Blankenagel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley
Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Barry Greene	Spokane County
Derrick Braaten	City of Airway Heights	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake	Mike Frucci	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Larry Larson	WSDOT-Eastern Region		

Committee Alternates Present

Eldon Brown	City of Spokane	Kathleen Weinand	Spokane Transit Authority
Ryan Kipp	City of Spokane Valley	Keith Martin	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Tim Schwab	Spokane County		

Guests

LeAnn Yamamoto	Commute Trip Reduction	Chaz Bates	City of Spokane Valley
Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights	Gloria Bennett	Transportation Improvement Board
Sean Messner	Spokane County	Rich Burnett	Citizen
Val Melvin	City of Spokane	Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley

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	Greg Griffin	Administrative Services Mgr

3. Approval of February 22, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Frucci made a motion to approve the February 22, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

Ms. Bennett announced that Mr. Ashley Probart was named the new director of the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) effective March 1, 2017.

5. Technical Member Comments

Mr. Frucci stated that WSDOT, BNSF and the Department of Ecology have come to an agreement in regards to the "Black Tank" issue which will allow construction of the North Spokane Corridor to get back on schedule. He said the agreement provides for a design that does not impede the ability to clean the ground contaminant.

Mr. Schwab announced the County opened bids on the Market Street TIB project and construction should begin in four to six weeks.

Ms. Weinand reported that STA is updating its comprehensive plan and a stakeholder workshop will be held in late April or early May. She said updates to the transit development plan, capital improvement plan and service improvement plan are in progress as well.

Mr. Tedesco said construction would soon begin on a two-lane roundabout on Highway 2, the region's first multi-lane roundabout.

Mr. Blankenagel stated the City of Spokane opened bids on the Division Gateway project, but only received one entry, which could reflect that contractors' schedules are filling up.

Mr. Braaten remarked that there are so many projects happening in Airway Heights that he would like to provide an update by presenting to the committee at the May meeting.

6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2017-2020 April Amendment

Ms. Mansfield stated the public comment period for the April amendment will end March 24 and any comments received will be brought before the Board. She read the eleven projects in the proposed amendment to the 2017-2020 TIP:

- Argonne Road, Empire to Liberty Congestion Relief
- Centennial Trail Gap, Summit Boulevard to Pettet Drive
- Sprague Avenue Investment Phase II – Browne Street to Scott Street
- Commute Trip Reduction Program – Transportation Demand Management Maintenance, Enhancement and Partnership Programs
- Harvard Road
- Street Sweeper Replacement
- Walk Bike Bus Millwood
- Division Street High Performance Transit Corridor Improvements
- Monroe Street High Performance Transit Infrastructure Upgrades
- Barker Rd/BNSF Grade Separation
- Sullivan-Wellesley Intersection Improvement Project

Mr. Frucci made a motion to recommend Board approval of the TIP 2017-2020 April Amendment. Mr. Krieger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Mantz arrived at 1:45 pm.

7. 2016 Project Obligation Report

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa brought attention to the report at each person's place. She said the document was an overview of the projects that obligated federal funds in 2016 within Spokane County and projects that closed out and those that de-obligated funds. She noted the report was also available on the SRTC website.

Chair Blankenagel asked if the report covered the 2016 calendar year or federal fiscal year. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied it was calendar year, although the obligation target is for the federal fiscal year. Chair Blankenagel called for further questions and there were none.

8. Commute Trip Reduction Update

Ms. Yamamoto outlined the planned changes to the Commute Trip Reduction program which will be in lieu of the incentive program.

She described the upgrades to the MyCommute.org website and noted the MyCommute calendar would be available as a mobile app for smart phones and tablets. She said mobile app will have the capability for applicants to earn badges for commute milestones, such as reduced air pollution, calories burned and environmental impact reductions. Ms. Yamamoto reported on the expansion of the Guaranteed Ride Home program and noted that CTR would host bike safety classes at CTR worksites and for the public. She explained the transit and vanpool subsidies available for first time participants and the Liberty Lake Shuttle Program. She noted CTR was researching obtaining sponsorships so that the incentive program could continue.

Chair Blankenagel asked if the training received by the bicycle safety specialist would be through the League of American Cyclists; Ms. Yamamoto replied that it would, along with other training providers. Chair Blankenagel called for additional questions; there were none and he thanked Ms. Yamamoto.

9. Northeast Industrial Area Planned Action Ordinance

Mr. Bates discussed the history and vision of the Planned Action Ordinance (PAO). He described the reasons for the creation of the PAO and the incentives it could offer. Mr. Bates showed a map of the PAO, located in the northeast corner of the city and outlined a project schedule, with the plan adoption in September.

He said the area is a total of 840 acres, contains 277 developed acres, 563 undeveloped acres, and is entirely zoned industrial. He addressed the existing utilities, noting that Spokane County will be expanding sewer service in the area in the area beginning this year.

Mr. Bates spoke about the area's major streets and corridors in the area and traffic volumes. He noted traffic conditions and the analysis of Level of Service (LOS) standards. He pointed out that truck traffic makes up 12 to 17% of all traffic in the area and three major truck routes are close by. Mr. Bates noted the BNSF and UP rail lines border the PAO and described the local rail crossings.

He outlined the capital projects programmed, including street improvements to Euclid Avenue and Barker Road, and four intersection improvements. In summary of existing conditions, he noted there is limited connectivity on the internal streets, most are uncongested, limited multimodal infrastructure, and good access to rail and truck routes.

Mr. Burnett inquired about the major property owners of that area. Mr. Bates replied the majority of the land is owned by Inland Empire Paper Company and Avista.

Mr. Tedesco asked if there are prospective users of the PAO already lined up or if users were actively being sought out; Mr. Bates replied both. Mr. Tedesco questioned if leadership had discussed the prospect of the creation of a port district in the County. Mr. Bates deferred the question to Mr. Basinger, who remarked that City of Spokane Valley has not taken a position on a port district at this point.

Chair Blankenagel thanked Mr. Bates for his presentation.

10. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa brought attention to a report at each place which outlines all project obligations through end of February. She said currently 46.7% of federal obligation target has been met, and as of last month it was 16%, so a lot of progress has been made. She said the back page of the report is a list of projects which plan to obligate by August 1. She drew attention to the projects that this committee recommended for Board approval last month for additional CMAQ and STBG project selections. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa remarked that

there will be a \$1.5 million buffer if everything obligates as described. She called for questions and there were none.

12. Agency Update

Ms. Nelson provided an update on the SRTC Executive Director search. She said the application period closed last week and Prothman Company, the recruiting firm, held preliminary interviews for 11 candidates. Ms. Nelson stated Prothman would bring the results before to the Board Administrative Committee on March 30.

Ms. Nelson announced a Scenario Planning Workshop was scheduled for April 24 from 3 pm – 5pm at SRTC for TTC and TAC members and invitations would be sent out very soon.

She announced that this was the last TTC meeting she would host as Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa would be taking over beginning next month.

13. Future Agenda Items

Chair Blankenagel asked if there were suggestions for future agenda items in addition to a project update by City of Airway Heights.

Ms. Nelson stated that in light of many recent staff changes at member agencies and jurisdictions, it would be helpful for everyone to bring new organization charts to share or simply to discuss changes and updated point of contact information.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary