

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, June 8, 2017
SRTC Office, 421 W Riverside Ave, Ste 500, Spokane WA

1. Call to Order

Chair Tom Trulove brought the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance – Excused Absences

Board Members Present:

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| Mayor Tom Trulove, City of Cheney (Chair) | E. Susan Meyer, Spokane Transit Authority |
| Al French, Spokane County Commissioner (Vice Chair) | Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner |
| Aspen Monteleone, Councilmember, City of Airway Heights | Ben Wick, TAC Chair |
| Mayor Steve Peterson, City of Liberty Lake | Brandon Blankenagel, TTC Chair |
| Amber Waldref, Councilmember, City of Spokane | Joe Tortorelli, WA State Transportation Commission |
| Matt Ewers, Freight Representative | Mike Gribner, WSDOT-Eastern Region |
| Larry Stone, Major Employer Representative | |

Board Members Not in Attendance:

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| Dee Cragun, City of Deer Park | Ed Pace, City of Spokane Valley |
| Lori Kinnear, City of Spokane | Larry Krauter, Spokane International Airport |

Guests Present:

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| Stanley Schwartz, Legal Counsel | Paul Kropp, TAC |
| Michele Percussi, Hill International Inc | Fred Nelson, Spokane Transit Authority |
| Ken Heale, WSDOT-Eastern Region | Jake Fraley, City of Spokane |
| Kaitlin Larson, Maria Cantwell Aide | Karl Otterstrom, Spokane Transit Authority |

SRTC Staff Present

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| Sabrina Minshall, Executive Director | Eve Nelson, Senior Transportation Planner |
| Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, Senior Transportation Planner | Amanda Mansfield, Assoc. Transportation Planner |
| Julie Meyers-Lehman, Administrative Assistant | Staci Lehman, Communications |

Chair Trulove read the names of the following members who have requested an excused absence from this meeting: Dee Cragun, Lori Kinnear, Larry Krauter, and Ed Pace.

Ms. Monteleone made a motion to excuse the absences. Mr. French seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Minshall noted that last month Interim Director Ryan Stewart signed off on the MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee's letter to the Washington State Secretary of Transportation regarding the need for increased RTPO funding statewide. She remarked that there has been no action taken by the State Legislature on the topic this yet, because the state budget is being worked on. She said that there has also been no transportation funding news from the Federal level.

Ms. Minshall reported that performance management rules on Congestion Management and Pavement & Bridge Condition were finalized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on May 20, although implementation and targets are not clear and the rules are very complicated. She said these rules will affect how freight, pavement management, and congestion management projects receive funding and the Board will be kept informed as information is made available.

Mr. Peterson arrived at 1:05 pm.

Ms. Minshall reported that SRTC staff had participated in public outreach at Mobius Science Center's "I Love Clean Air Day" and at Felts Field Neighbor Day. She asked Board members to think of people in the community that they feel would be beneficial for her to meet and talk with for perspective on regional transportation issues.

Chair Trulove called for questions, there were none and he thanked Ms. Minshall for her report.

5. Consent Agenda – Minutes of the May 11, 2017 Board Meeting and May 2017 Vouchers

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| Recap for May 2017: | |
| Vouchers: V120407 to V120426 | 49,945.61 |
| Salaries/Benefits: Warrant Nos: 386950-386960 and 389209-289219 | 73,870.92 |
| Interfund, other expenses, and reimbursements processed directly by the City of Spokane | 275.17 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 124,091.70 |

Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Mansfield noted this agenda item was for action and requested a recommendation of Board approval. She described UPWP federal requirements and outlined the nine work task categories. She presented the development schedule and reminded the group they had been presented information about the 2018 UPWP last month.

Mr. Ewers arrived at 1:10 pm.

Ms. Mansfield reported that on May 22 the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended Board approval of the 2018 UPWP, as did the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) on May 24. She noted that the TAC commented on the 12 year gap since the last regional household travel characteristics survey and recommended that the Board consider ways to contract such a study as soon as possible. Ms. Mansfield outlined the definition of a Regional Travel Survey and described how it is used.

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve the SFY 2018 UPWP; Mr. Stone seconded the motion.

Mr. Wick explained why the TAC made the comments and recommendation. Ms. Meyer asked the approximate cost for a household travel survey. Ms. Minshall replied preliminary cost estimates were between \$365,000 and \$916,000, the range being so large because it depends on the survey size and how many questions are included. Ms. Minshall commented that travel surveys are often paid for with STP funding, the cost can be spread out over multiple years, and staff is reviewing future budgeting and the next STP cycle. She said this topic will be discussed in depth by the Board in the future and restated that a regional travel survey was not part of the 2018 UPWP being voted upon today.

Mr. Tortorelli commented that the Washington State Transportation Commission would not be conducting their normal annual statewide transportation issue survey this year.

A vote was taken on the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair Trulove thanked Ms. Mansfield.

7a. Horizon 2040 Scenario Planning Update

Ms. Nelson described the purpose and definition of Scenario Planning and noted that this “exploratory” scenario planning was designed to review policies and strategies in Horizon 2040 to ensure its ability to respond to future uncertainties. She described the joint TAC/TTC workshop held on April 24, 2017 with guidance from Kevin Wallace Consulting and said the two scenarios examined at the workshop were:

1. Area Development Trends – urban fringe development versus urban core development and;
2. Operations and Maintenance – funding increases for future transportation capital projects, operations and maintenance versus funding decreases and inadequate funds for future capital projects, operations and maintenance.

Ms. Nelson outlined and described five of the “big ideas” discussed at the workshop to address the scenarios:

- The possibility of expanding regional coordination with utilities, school districts, hospitals, etc
- Enhance planning for a resilient transportation system (planning for external threats to the system and utilizing asset management policies)
- Increase trends monitoring & data analysis to anticipate changing conditions
- Better Integrate Transportation, Land Use & Economics Development Planning
- Establish a Regional Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Gribner stated that he believed the Board will have to get involved in detailed asset management in the future in terms of performance standards and federal funding. Ms. Minshall remarked that the Board may have to determine the commonalities and values all the MPO jurisdictions have and then set the regional standards that remain in compliance with federal measurements.

Ms. Nelson explained the next steps of the process were the evaluation of policy implications and investigation of resource implications. She inquired of the Board if there was interest in holding a retreat or strategic planning session later this year to discuss in more detail. The group discussed the regional housing market, renting versus home ownership, and how land use decisions impact property taxes. Mr. Stone stated he thought a Board retreat to discuss scenario planning in greater depth was a good idea and Mr. French agreed. Ms. Nelson commented that there appeared to be support of a Board retreat/strategic planning session.

Ms. Minshall said staff will review these topics, group them together, maybe reach out to Board members to see which topics have the most interest, then organize the data and schedule a strategic planning meeting.

There were no further questions or comments and Chair Trulove thanked Ms. Nelson for the update.

7b. Spokane Regional Traffic Management Center (SRTMC) Report

Mr. Heale described the purpose and functions of the SRTMC and noted it was one of the few truly multi-jurisdictional traffic management centers in the country. He talked about SRTMC funding sources and outlined recent successful projects; the launch of the improved interactive website, progress on the ATMS software update, and obtaining a long term Interlocal Agreement. He summarized the past year’s incident response numbers and the SRTMC role in incident response.

Mr. Heale announced that STA Operations Center recently became operational and showed a diagram of the SRMTC-STA computer architecture connections. He remarked that the upcoming SRTMC goals were to complete the ATMS deployment, begin gathering traffic data on arterials, staff training on traffic incident management and prioritization of regional ITS projects.

Chair Trulove called for questions. Mr. Kerns asked if the video feed was recorded and Mr. Heale replied it was not. Ms. Meyer thanked Mr. Heale and Mr. Nelson for their contributions in launching the STA Operations Center. She noted that previously she had been unsure about the value of the grant funding going to the SRTMC, but now she is in full supports and asked the group to recall this conversation when SRTMC comes forward to request grant funding in the future.

Chair Trulove thanked Mr. Heale and Mr. Nelson for their report.

7c. Update of Federal Fiscal Year 2017 Project Delivery

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reported that projections continue to be positive that the obligation target will be met by the August 1 deadline. She said 69% of the target was met and several large projects expect to obligate in the next month. She noted there was still a \$1.3 million buffer in case of any last minute problems or deobligations.

Chair Trulove called for questions and there were none.

8. SRTC Board Comments

Ms. Meyer announced that STA received a \$1.3 million WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant since another agency was unable to use it and the Upriver Transit Center at Spokane Community College project was next in line. She said funding for the transit center at Spokane Falls Community College also received funding.

Mr. Peterson reported that on Monday there was a significant congestion issue at a Liberty Lake intersection due to construction, but the next day traffic was reconfigured and relieved the problem. He said the project was expected to take about 60 days.

Mr. Stone distributed invitations for a grand opening ceremony of the Altamont St to Ferry Ave connector and a bridge safety presentation; both to be held on July 11 at the Playfair Commerce Park.

Ms. Waldref recognized her former legislative assistant Ms. Kaitlin Larson who is now working in U.S. Senator Cantwell's office.

Mr. Blankenagel said the City of Spokane has been researching a potential bike share program, as has the City of Coeur d'Alene. He said the City will host regional conversations in the future to address timing and position.

Mr. Wick remarked that he appreciated the Board's interest in an updated regional travel survey.

Mr. Gribner announced that WSDOT will clear the construction on I-90 over the Hoopfest weekend and then return to work afterwards.

Mr. Tortorelli announced the Washington Transportation Commission will hold a meeting at the new City of Spokane Valley City Hall on Wednesday November 15.

Ms. Minshall noted that SRTC staff provided online construction maps to Hoopfest organizers so participants can be aware of road restrictions when coming downtown.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary