

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
June 28, 2017
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order

Mr. Brandon Blankenagel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Heleen Dewey	Spokane Regional Health Dist
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney	Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	Karl Otterstrom	Spokane Transit Authority
Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake	Mike Frucci	WSDOT
Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley	Larry Larson	WSDOT
Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley	Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT

Committee Alternates Present

Scott Englehard	Spokane County	Tim Schwab	Spokane County
Sean Messner	Spokane County		

Guests

Scott Marshall	HDR	Chris Mansfield	T-O Engineers
Rich Burnett	Citizen	Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights
Janet Sharp	WSDOT	Oscar Cerda	WSDOT
Keith Martin	WSDOT	Larry Frostad	WSDOT
Mike Bjordahl	WSDOT	Monica Harwood	WSDOT

Staff

Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner
Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant
Staci Lehman	Communications Coordinator	David Lang	GIS Intern
Kevin Shipman	GIS Analyst		

3. Approval of May 24, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Messner made a motion to approve the May 24, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Staples seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Technical Member Comments

Mr. Ableman stated there was a lot construction underway in Cheney and on State Route 904.

Mr. Otterstrom reported construction on the West Plains Transit Center is scheduled to begin July 10 with a groundbreaking ceremony on July 19. He stated that STA received a WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant and it would be used for the Upriver Transit Center at Spokane Community College project. He announced that an

open house to discuss potential station locations on the Central City Line will be held on Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00pm at the STA Plaza.

Mr. Tedesco said the Spokane Tribe recently received a grant to fund solar power on the Spokane Reservation.

Mr. Krieger stated that Deer Park received construction phase approval from WSDOT, but they were experiencing difficulty making contact with the correct personnel at the railroad to discuss right of way crossing issues.

Mr. Frucci announced a community meeting will be held at Spokane Community College on July 25 regarding placemaking as part of the North Spokane Corridor project. He said complete details are on the WSDOT website.

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

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa summarized the three existing TIP projects included in the amendment:

- Spokane's Centennial Trail Gap – Summit Blvd to Pettet Dr
- Spokane's Sprague Avenue Investment Phase II – Browne St to Scott St
- Spokane Transit's West Plains Transit Center

She said the public comment period was June 21 to June 30; so far one comment has been received and it expressed support for the Centennial Trail Gap project. She called for questions and there were none.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the 2017-2020 TIP July Amendment, Ms. Dewey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. Introduction of new SRTC Executive Director

Ms. Nelson introduced the new SRTC Executive Director Ms. Sabrina Minshall, formerly of COMPASS (Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho) in Boise. Ms. Minshall stated she was looking forward to getting to know those TTC members she had not yet met and to working with the Board and the TTC on strategic planning and finalizing the long range plan update.

8. Horizon 2040 Scenario Planning Update

Ms. Nelson explained that per federal guidance MPOs include scenario planning in their long range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and it was an organized way for agencies to plan for the future. She noted a similar process was undertaken in the last MTP but it used an analytical process; this is an "exploratory" planning process which looks at the plan's strategies, values and guiding principles to see if it is flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions.

She described the TAC/TTC Scenario Planning workshop held on April 24 and noted several "big ideas" which emerged from the discussions. 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:

- 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

She noted the Scenario Planning Update was brought before the Board at their last meeting and then she outlined the next steps in the scenario planning process. She said the Board had expressed interest in exploring some of the big ideas in greater depth in a strategic planning setting. Ms. Nelson said implementation of these ideas would impact the SRTC's mission and resources and therefore require additional discussion by the SRTC Board before moving forward. She asked for input from the group.

Ms. Dewey noted that transportation is both a direct and indirect determinant of health, so several of these ideas are very pertinent and she felt discussions would be a positive thing.

Mr. Messner said that many of the ideas seem to apply mostly to urban settings and he would also like to see a focus on rural conditions. Ms. Nelson remarked that two of the five ideas are very relevant to rural areas

Mr. Otterstrom remarked that implementation of any of these ideas would require funding, as they are additional services outside of what SRTC provides currently. He questioned if there had been discussion or awareness at the Board meeting recognizing the need for additional investment if these services were to be taken on. Ms. Nelson stated that future discussions with the Board on this topic will be very clear about funding.

Chair Blankenagel stated that if deemed important by the Board, eventually these items would become part of the work program and the timeframe for implementation would be dictated by the availability of resources to fund them. He inquired if scenario planning would shape and direct the current MTP update. Ms. Nelson replied that it might at a low level but not very much; but it would be more likely in future updates.

9. Title VI Presentation

Ms. Sharp, WSDOT Title VI Compliance Specialist, provided an overview and history of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and stated it is an “umbrella” encompassing all the federal non-discrimination programs. She said if a project receives federal funding through WSDOT, in any amount, then Title VI requirements apply for the lifetime of the project. She provided several examples of areas to which Title VI applies, such as Environmental Justice and populations with limited English proficiency.

Ms. Sharp distributed a Title VI information sheet including her business card and stated that any agency or jurisdiction requiring assistance or having questions about Title VI should feel free to contact her.

10. I-90: Four Lakes to Stateline Operation Study

Mr. Bjordahl, WSDOT Transportation Systems Management and Operations Engineer, outlined the study's purpose and history, noted it was funded as a safety project and although other benefits could result, the primary target is increased safety throughout this section of I-90. He described both completed and ongoing tasks of the study.

He provided details about six strategies being evaluated as part of the study:

- Traffic Incident Management
- Work Zone Management
- Wrong Way Driver Notification
- Active Traffic Management
- Ramp Metering
- Potential Ramp Closures

Mr. Bjordahl described recent and upcoming community outreach events. The group discussed potential implications of several of the strategies. Mr. Bjorgdahl noted more details about the project could be found on the WSDOT website.

11. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa brought attention to the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Project Obligation Report as of May 31 at each person's place. She said several small de-obligations occurred in May which brought the percentage of goal reached from 69% to 68%, but the region was still on track to meet the target and a buffer of \$850,000 remained.

12. Agency Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reminded the group that WSDOT is updating the Freight and Goods Transportation System and they have asked local jurisdictions and agencies to provide freight data to them by August 25. She said staff will email a reminder to TTC members later today.

She said WSDOT will present information about the Washington Transportation Plan Update and the Washington State Freight Mobility Plan Update at the SRTC Board meeting on July 13 at 1:00 pm and all are welcome to attend.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa announced that SRTC has a job opening for a Transportation Planner and more details are available on the SRTC website.

She said although July meetings of the TTC are usually canceled, that may not be the case this year.

13. Future Agenda Items

None.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary