

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Advisory Committee  
July 24, 2017  
421 W. Riverside, Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Ben Wick called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. then asked members to introduce themselves and share a little about themselves with SRTC's new Executive Director, Sabrina Minshall.

### **2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance**

#### **Committee Members Present**

Ben Wick	Pat Harper
Hank Greer	Bob Race
Greg Francis	John Dietzman (via telephone)
Margaret Watson	Rosemarie Schmidt
Kennet Bertelsen	Greg Szabo

#### **Committee Members Not in Attendance**

Paul Kropp	Yolanda Lovato
Jim Simon	

#### **Guests Present**

Rich Burnett

### **3. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

### **4. Action- Approval of May 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Kennet Bertelsen abstained from voting as he was absent from the May meeting.

**Margaret Watson motioned to accept the minutes as written. Pat Harper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. Information & Discussion- Executive Director Introduction**

Ms. Minshall introduced herself and said she moved here from the Boise area, where she had lived since high school. Prior to coming to Spokane, she was the Planning Director at COMPASS, the area's MPO. She also said she has background in pavement management and community development.

### **6. Information & Discussion- TAC Role, Purpose and Scope**

Ms. Minshall said she understands there has been a lot of discussion over the Transportation Advisory Committee's (TAC's) role over the years. One thing she has noticed is that there is a lot of overlap between the TAC and the Transportation Technical

Committee (TTC).

Ms. Minshall said it is important to the organization that input from citizens is heard and used in the planning process. She said staff brainstormed some of the things the group could help with and would like TAC members to do the same.

Mr. Francis said he feels that the group brings a different view to the table. Some members are past industry experts, while others aren't. He said he views it from an urban density perspective, which has some crossover with transportation. Mr. Francis said one of the things he thought the committee's time was well-spent doing, would be to review applications for projects for the Transportation Improvement Program, as this group looks at things differently from transportation planners.

Ms. Watson said she was a little surprised when she got back on the committee after first being on it in the 1990s and early 2000s. She said the original group did traffic studies and focus groups, along with many joint activities with the TTC.

Mr. Harper said he believes this committee serves the purpose of going to interest groups and getting input to bring back to staff. He said he believes elected officials welcome that kind of input.

Mr. Race said the group should be given the opportunity to look at long range plans and research then provide input on them. He said he also attends Spokane Valley Chamber Transportation Committee meetings and would like to see long-range plans discussed there and input brought back to SRTC.

Mr. Bertelsen said he has always felt the role of the group is the public voice. He said applications for funding have questions that didn't need to be answered in the past and the TAC should be charged at looking at each project and asking why they are considered regionally significant. At the least, he said the group should help vet the projects on a level beyond the technical, such as on the criteria of stewardship and quality of life.

Mr. Greer said he has no background in any of this so it's been an educational experience. After six months, he said he doesn't feel that the group provides much input. He doesn't see the significance of what the group is supposed to be doing.

Ms. Schmidt said she is a healthcare worker and bicyclist. Her perspective is that there are a lot of safety issues that aren't being addressed and she is hoping the TAC will be able to address them in the future.

Mr. Szabo said he is a pedestrian most of the time and Spokane is a difficult city for walking. A person who is blind uses ADA ramps to line themselves up to walk straight across the street. In Spokane, many of the ADA ramps are not lined up correctly for that. He said people who are deaf-blind are crossing the street at a diagonal and have no idea. It is issues like this he would like to see the TAC have an impact on.

Mr. Dietzman said he is a retired chemical engineer whose main goal is to understand what is going on. A lot of what the TAC does is information flow, he said. He doesn't see the TAC getting into project selection as he doesn't believe staff or the Board are open to that.

Mr. Bertelsen said the ADA discussion is a good example of roles the TAC and TTC can play. Groups like the TAC can help build public support for a project.

Mr. Wick said that when he was on the Board, his view was that the TAC was providing the “common person” perspective.

Ms. Minshall handed out a sheet of staff ideas for the TAC.

Mr. Stewart pointed out that the difficulty in working with a group like the TAC is keeping people engaged. Until you can communicate to someone what the implication is in their daily life, most aren’t interested in transportation planning.

Ms. Nelson read a list of some projects the TAC has worked on in the past and said that the issue is that they trickle in; there isn’t always something to work on every month.

Ms. Minshall said an electronic version of the list and notes on the discussion would be sent out and TAC members are asked to review them and come back with their top priorities and ideas we may have missed.

Mr. Francis said that the scoring of applications isn’t on the list. Ms. Minshall said that is historically a very technical exercise so TAC members would be limited to scoring areas that don’t have technical aspects.

Mr. Francis said that reducing meetings to every other month had disengaged him from the process. Mr. Bertelsen said he also prefers to meet once a month because if you miss a meeting you go several months without attending.

Ms. Minshall said she is glad to see that members are strongly vested. She reminded the group that they are not a watchdog group, they *are* SRTC. SRTC is not the staff, it’s the members, the board and the committees. She said she is happy to meet every month if there is appropriate subject matter.

## **7. Information & Discussion- Horizon 2040 Update: Chapter Three**

Ms. Nelson said Chapter Three of SRTC’s long-range plan, Horizon 2040, looks at projections for the future. She said it contains a lot of data, including a forecasted 21% increase in population and employment.

She said SRTC’s travel demand model shows a 23% increase in vehicle trips, 16% increase in transit trips, a 21% increase in freight tonnage inbound, and 18.5% increase in trucking. Spokane International Airport is expected to almost double passenger boardings. Fairchild Air Force Base got 12 more KC-135s and a KC-46a which will put additional demand on our roadways.

Chapter Three also includes future needs, including sufficient funding for roads, bridges, transit, and for maintenance and preservation.

Mr. Bertelsen asked if the freight numbers are from a scenario where the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) is constructed. Ms. Nelson said it is from the Inland Pacific Hub study which was completed before the NSC.

She also said there is a need to manage peak hour congestion and make a better effort to coordinate solutions regionally.

Ms. Nelson asked if there are any trends she missed or needs that hadn't been covered.

Mr. Race asked if there is a list of "no build projects," for example the Bridging the Valley grade separation. Eve said our network represents what is on the ground today. In Chapter Four, projects will be added that were submitted by agencies for inclusion in the plan.

## **8. TAC Member Comments/Roundtable**

Mr. Race apologized for missing meetings and said he'd had some health problems.

Mr. Harper said he will be attending a WSDOT roundtable forum on the Commute Trip Reduction program on August 22.

Mr. Greer said he is encouraged by a statement in Chapter Three of Horizon 2040 that says the development of a bike network is a priority.

Ms. Schmidt said her emphasis is on safety.

Mr. Francis said the City of Spokane's PETT committee had been working with councilmember Breann Beggs on a potential sidewalk levy. He said it has been tabled for this year but something would eventually be put on the ballot eventually.

Mr. Wick reminded members of the WSDOT's Placemaking Workshop on July 25 about access to neighborhoods along the North Spokane Corridor.

John Dietzman reported the Spokane City impact ordinance will be updated and the first meeting of the advisory board is the following day.

Ms. Nelson said Barb Chamberlain from WSDOT is looking for candidates for a statewide bicycle committee and will send out more information when she gets it.

Mr. Wick said the next meeting of the TAC is tentatively scheduled for August 28.

## **9. Adjournment**

Ms. Watson motioned to adjourn. Mr. Race seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Staci Lehman  
Recording Secretary