

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
August 23, 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	Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley
Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley
Derrick Braaten	City of Airway Heights	Brandi Colyar	Spokane County
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	Heleen Dewey	Spokane Regional Health Dist
Andrew Staples	City of Liberty Lake	Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Louis Meuler	City of Spokane	Karl Otterstrom	Spokane Transit Authority
Inga Note	City of Spokane	Larry Larson	WSDOT-Eastern Region

Committee Alternates Present

Keith Martin	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Char Kay	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Sean Messner	Spokane County	Barry Greene	Spokane County

Guests

Paul Kropp	TAC	Rich Burnett	Citizen
Michelle Percussi	Hill International		

Staff

Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director	Ryan Stewart	Senior Transportation Planner
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner	Sylvia Ferrin	GIS Analyst
Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of July 26, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the July 26, 2017 minutes as presented. Ms. Colyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Technical Member Comments

Mr. Staples announced upcoming ramp and bridge closures later this week in Liberty Lake.

Ms. Colyar stated the county would begin advertising for Bigelow/Forker Rd intersection project in September.

Mr. Otterstrom reported that construction of the West Plains Transit Center project is on schedule.

Ms. Westby said that due to smoke from wildfires Spokane County had several days with air that exceeded the PM2.5 standard, but SRCAA was working with the Department of Ecology to get the days covered under the natural events policy.

Ms. Dewey announced SRHD was wrapping up City of Millwood “Walk Bike Bus” program and they were looking for another neighborhood in which to launch the next Walk Bike Bus program in 2018.

Mr. Martin said WSDOT-Eastern Region is going to launch something similar to the TIP Working Group for the Local Programs grant funding which does not funnel through SRTC. He said the group would meet or have a conference call perhaps twice per delivery cycle. He announced that the Washington Freight Plan update was available on the website for review for public comment.

Mr. Braaten and Mr. Basinger arrived at 1:39 p.m.

Mr. Tedesco reported that the first two-lane roundabout in the region will be complete by the end of October on Highway 2.

Mr. Blankenagel stated the City of Spokane had received an award on the NHS Asset Management Program.

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

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa read the five TIP projects included in the amendment:

- Spokane County – Transit Stop Crosswalk Safety Project
- City of Spokane Valley – Barker Rd/BNSF Grade Separation
- City of Spokane Valley – Pines Rd/ BNSF Grade Separation
- City of Spokane Valley – Wellesley Sidewalk Project, McDonald to Evergreen
- WSDOT-US 195/Thorpe Rd

She called for questions and there were none.

Mr. Messner made a motion to recommend approval by the Board of the 2017-2020 TIP September Amendment. Mr. Tedesco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Horizon 2040: Update on Project Evaluation Tool Performance Measures

Ms. Nelson described the Project Evaluation Tool for Regionally Significant Projects, the reasons for its development, and how the performance measures were based upon SRTC’s Guiding Principles. She thanked the stakeholders who had participated in the development process over the past two years and explained financial constraint requirements. She presented the evaluation tool results which outlined each project and their scores in each of the six categories, along with a graphic illustrating the points assigned to each category and sub-category.

Mr. Meuler stated that when evaluating available lands it might be helpful to have information on vacant or empty buildings on developed land.

Ms. Nelson said staff had informed the Board about how the Evaluation Tool can illustrate the way in which groups of projects can move the performance measure needle. She presented slides of each performance measure including listing those projects that were strong in each measurement. Ms. Nelson described the next steps which are: incorporating the projects into Horizon 2040, Board approval of the Horizon 2040 update in December 2017 and revisiting the Evaluation Tool. Ms. Nelson called for questions.

Ms. Kay asked what data was used for the safety category. Ms. Nelson replied that serious injury and fatality rates with a buffer around the project, along with serious injuries and fatalities in bicycle/pedestrian involved collisions over a five year period.

Mr. Tedesco asked, if the Board approved the tool, could they at some point in the future overrule the scoring and prioritize as they see fit. Ms. Nelson noted that this was just one tool available for the Board to use; they can use outside information or discussion to make their prioritization decisions

Mr. Krieger questioned how projects from small towns would ever be able to score high enough to be considered regionally significant. Ms. Nelson replied that the group may want to have a discussion in the future about combining several small town projects into a single project “package” in order to increase regional significance.

The group discussed the frequency of updates of data sets and how the tool will be used in a Call for Projects.

Chair Blankenagel thanked Ms. Nelson for her presentation.

7. 2018-2021 TIP Overview

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa outlined important upcoming dates for the 2018-2021 TIP and stated public comment period will begin September 1. She said there are slightly fewer projects included in the 2018-2020 TIP, but the six year total of \$1.1 billion dollars is a little higher than the last TIP, due to programming schedules for the North Spokane Corridor. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said the 2018-2021 will be presented to the Board in September for information and in October for approval.

Mr. Larson stated that the TIP amendment process seems cumbersome and asked if there had ever been a discussion about modifying the schedule. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said some dates are not able to be changed, such as deadlines to WSDOT and FHWA/FHA, but other dates do have some flexibility and this topic can be discussed in greater detail by the TIP Working Group.

8. USDOT Grant Assistance Program

Mr. Meuler described how the City of Spokane worked with the USDOT Grant Assistance Program last year. He said the grant opportunity was based on the neighborhoods separated as a result of building I-90, with a focus on the East Central neighborhood. The City of Spokane applied for technical assistance for ideas to improve the connections of the neighborhood going forward. He said Spokane was one of four communities in the United States awarded the grant, the #everyplacecounts challenge. Mr. Meuler described the two day charette process facilitated by USDOT.

Mr. Meuler related information about the group's findings including:

- Challenges
- Draft vision statement and value statements
- Recommendations for improved connectivity/re-connections
- Ideas for North Spokane Corridor
- Ideas for open space/green infrastructure
- Ideas for improved safety and accessibility

Chair Blankenagel thanked Mr. Meuler.

9. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa announced the list of obligated projects as of August 1, 2017 was at each place and

noted the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 target had been met. She said the TIP Working Group will not meet in September.

10. Agency Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa announced that two new staff members will be joining SRTC as transportation planners; Mr. Mike Ulrich and Mr. Jason Lien.

12. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Tedesco stated he would like to hear about the potential bike share plan being considered by the City of Spokane.

Ms. Dewey said she would like WSDOT to present on their recent public engagement process.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted that the meeting packet included a document outlining agenda items for the remainder of 2017 as currently scheduled.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary