

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 5a

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
Thursday, September 14, 2017
SRTC Office, 421 W Riverside Ave, Ste 500, Spokane WA

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Al French brought the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance – Excused Absences

Board Members Present:

Al French, Spokane County Commissioner	Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner
E. Susan Meyer, Spokane Transit Authority	Aspen Monteleone, Councilmember, City of Airway Heights
Amber Waldref, Councilmember, City of Spokane	Ben Wick, TAC Chair
Lori Kinnear, Councilmember, City of Spokane	Brandon Blankenagel, TTC Chair
Ed Pace, Councilmember, City of Spokane Valley	Joe Tortorelli, Washington State Transportation Commission
Larry Stone, Major Employer Representative	Mike Gribner, WSDOT-Eastern Region
Dee Cragun, Small Towns Representative	

Board Members Not in Attendance:

Mayor Tom Trulove	Matt Ewers
Larry Krauter	Mayor Steve Peterson

Guests Present:

Stanley Schwartz, Legal Council	Glenn Wagemann, WSDOT
Vivian Hakes, WA State Auditor's Office	Matt Thompson WA State Auditor's Office
Sean Messner, Spokane County	Rich Burnett, Citizen
Michele Percussi, Hill Intl.	Katherine Miller, City of Spokane
Glenn Wagemann, WSDOT-Eastern Region	Nick Deshais, Spokesman-Review
Paul Kropp, TAC	Albert Tripp, City of Airway Heights
Char Kay, WSDOT-Eastern Region	Karl Otterstrom, Spokane Transit Authority

SRTC Staff Present:

Sabrina Minshall Executive Director	Eve Nelson, Senior Transportation Planner
Ryan Stewart, Senior Transportation Planner	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, Senior Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich, Senior Transportation Planner	Jason Lien, Senior Transportation Planner
Staci Lehman, Communications Coordinator	Julie Meyers-Lehman, Administrative Assistant
Greg Griffin, Administrative Services Manager	

Chair French read the names of the following members who have requested an excused absence from this meeting: Mayor Trulove, Mr. Ewers, Mr. Krauter, and Mayor Peterson.

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

3. Public Comments

Mr. Tortorelli spoke about the Washington State Transportation Commission road user charge study.

4. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Minshall introduced new staff members Mike Ulrich and Jason Lien. Mr. Ulrich and Mr. Lien both spoke about their work history.

Ms. Minshall reported:

- SRTC recently installed wi-fi and an assistive listening system.
- Going forward, the minutes from TAC and TTC meetings and upcoming months Board agenda items will be included in the Board packets for informational purposes.
- As of August 31, 2017 the region obligated \$13.97 million, exceeding the obligation target by 19%.
- SRTC will hold a public open house on September 19 from 4:00-6:00pm to provide information and obtain input on the draft 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.
- SRTC will hold Board Strategic Planning Sessions on September 27 and October 26
- Recent meetings, conferences, and training attended by staff

5. Consent Agenda – Minutes of the July 13, 2017 Board Meeting, July & August 2017 Vouchers, 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) September Amendment

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Pace seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6a. SRTC Audit

Mr. Griffin introduced Mr. Thompson and Ms. Hakes of the Washington State Auditor's Office. Mr. Thompson explained the reasons audits are conducted and noted the complete 2016 SRTC audit report was available on the State Auditor's website. He described the audit process and stated the following 2016 audits were performed for SRTC: Accountability, Financial Statement, and Federal Grant Compliance.

Ms. Hakes reported the process went smoothly and SRTC had a clean audit. She said SRTC has not had a reportable audit issue since 2006. She described which areas were reviewed differently from the last audit and explained the related data available on the State Auditor's website. Mr. Thompson called for questions and there were none.

6b. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Overview

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa provided an overview of how a TIP fits into the entire regional transportation planning process and explained which type of projects are included in the TIP. She noted that the 2018-2021 TIP contains 106 projects totaling \$789 million in the 4-year time frame and \$1.1 billion in the 6-year time frame. She presented graphics which illustrated the number of projects in the TIP by project type and total dollars programmed by project type.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted that staff had determined the draft 2018-2021 TIP to be consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, consistent with regional plans, in conformity with state air quality plans and fiscally constrained. She said this was an information item and next month the Board will be asked to approve the 2018-2021 TIP. She called for questions or discussion and there were none.

6c. Draft WSDOT Freight Plan and Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 Projects

Ms. Minshall reported that the WSDOT released a draft 2018 Freight Plan and questions had arisen about their project validation process. She reported that WSDOT had completed the first phase of project validation and one regional project was funded; Bigelow Gulch Project 4A. She said the plan was open to public comment and SRTC had commented on the plan also in addition to submitting a letter to WSDOT regarding the project

validation process, reminding them of the importance of continued MPO involvement throughout the entire process.

Ms. Minshall stated that a list of the original projects submitted to the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) had been previously presented to the Board, but just as an informational item. She said she would like the Board to take a stronger role by reviewing projects before they are moved forward to the State level. She noted the Board should be made aware of projects included on regional freight corridors, especially now that WSDOT has moved into phase two of the funding award process for FFY 2019.

The group discussed the freight project submittal process. Mr. Gribner said from a governance standpoint if prioritization was vetted through the SRTC Board that would provide additional security and safety to how WSDOT looks at projects.

Ms. Minshall said there are questions about roles and responsibilities of the SRTC Board, FMSIB, Freight Advisory workgroup, and WSDOT. She noted that a project being consistent with the long range plan and being listed in the long range was not always consistent. She said the Board should consider its' role in prioritizing and understanding freight projects, what best benefits the region, and what is truly a freight project versus, for example, a safety project. She said the Board should elevate the freight conversations to the regional level before projects are submitted to the state level. She stated that she recognized that this may create extra steps for agencies' and jurisdictions' staff, but keeping SRTC in the loop and holding discussions by the Board first prior to submittal to WSDOT will benefit the region. She said the overall goal is to get more resources into the county with good projects.

Chair French noted that he sits on the Washington Freight Advisory Committee (WAFAC) and part of their conversation is the movement away from a project-centric approach to funding to a focus on corridors in order to ensure that an entire freight corridor is functional, as opposed to doing spot projects and not doing anything to improve the overall mobility of freight.

Mr. Schwartz drew the Board's attention to the statute in regard to RTPOs. He read the statute, "All transportation projects, programs and transportation demand management measures within the region that have an impact upon the regional facilities or services must be consistent with the plan and with the adopted regional growth and transportation strategies." He said the last time this statute was amended was in 2005 so it has been on the books for a considerable period of time and specifically refers to the regional transportation plan. He noted this creates a funnel through this Board according to the plan, that's what makes the planning activities that occur at SRTC so important.

Chair French called for additional comments and there were none.

6d. Horizon 2040: Financial Forecast and Project Evaluation Tool Results

Mr. Stewart spoke about the financial forecast of the 2017 update to Horizon 2040. He outlined the many sources used to develop the financial plan, described the anticipated revenues of \$9.9 billion and presented a detailed breakdown of the revenue sources; he then reported that expenditures were estimated to be \$9.9 billion and showed a chart which illustrated the amount of money programmed into different categories. He stated that Horizon 2040 is fiscally constrained in both the short term (2018-2024) and long term (2025-2040). Mr. Stewart called for questions and there were none.

Ms. Nelson described the Horizon 2040 Project Evaluation Tool, explained the reasons it was developed and which type of projects it used to evaluate and prioritize. She outlined the development history of the tool and defined prioritization within the Horizon 2040 Evaluation Tool process. Ms. Nelson presented the results of the Evaluation Tool on the 30 projects submitted; she explained the five performance measure categories and the

weighting of each. She noted that use of performance measures by MPOs was a new federal requirement and the group then discussed the scoring results of several projects.

Mr. Stone commented that although the tool is a step towards making the project prioritization process objective, it still remains relatively subjective and said he is not sure if there is a way to get around that. Mr. Gribner noted that the tool was designed to help inform the Board's decision and said the tool results are the beginning of the decision making process. The group discussed project prioritization.

Ms. Nelson said the Board may want to revisit the Evaluation Tool to see if the results represent what is valued and possible improvement of performance metrics. She said the next steps were the incorporation of the projects into Horizon 2040 and the Board will be asked to approve the update to Horizon 2040 in December 2017.

Chair French thanked Ms. Nelson and Mr. Stewart for their presentations.

6e. WSDOT Presentation: I90 – Four Lakes to State Line Operation Study

Mr. Wagemann provided a project history and spoke about the need to focus on low cost safety solutions on this section of I90. He described the project location and how it was broken down into segments. He described the completed and ongoing tasks and the evaluation of the following six safety improvement strategies:

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

Mr. Wagemann gave details about traffic counts and crash data on the Walnut and Monroe eastbound I90 ramps and a description of what potential lane configurations might look like. He outlined challenges with the southbound Maple to Monroe eastbound on ramp and showed a theoretical southbound Maple lane configuration. He reported on the process going forward when considering ramp closures and the public input involved. He outlined the implementation plan and the short-, mid- and long-term steps.

Ms. Meyer questioned if this was a final report and Mr. Wagemann replied that it was not; he said data collection and research was ongoing. The group discussed ramp metering, increasing vehicle miles traveled, and the benefit to collectively solving network problems.

Mr. Gribner noted WSDOT was looking for the best low cost/high benefit solution. He said there had been pushback on the potential ramp closure topic and WSDOT has been out discussing this with the public 12 – 15 times already. Left to just DOT budget and vision, these are the things we can do to impact the system. They are narrow in scope and don't always align with the values of those it will impact. This is the kind of thing that should be worked through SRTC to see what kind of transportation solutions we want to implement as a region to manage the system over the next 15 or 20 years.

Mr. Gribner spoke about the need for a study of I95/I90 through SRTC to look at what kind of solutions are available in the network

6f. Spokane Regional Traffic Management (SRTMC) Leadership

Mr. Gribner announced that the current manager of the SRTMC, Ken Heale, has been promoted within WSDOT. Mr. Gribner said Mr. Heale is still performing the duties of SRTMC Manager for the interim until a replacement is hired. He stated that the Board should be involved in the SRTMC leadership so the interagency coalition that has been built can remain strong, and said the SRTMC Operations Board will participate in selection of the new manager as well. The group discussed options for participation in the process. Chair

French suggested that the Board Administrative Committee convene to brainstorm and bring their ideas back before the Board. There were no objections to this suggestion.

7. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Minshall stated the draft future agenda items were contained in the packet.

8. SRTC Board Comments

Ms. Meyer introduced Dan Wells, the new Spokane Transit Authority Deputy Director of Capital Projects.

Ms. Waldref spoke about the re-opening of east Sprague Avenue.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary