

## MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee  
September 27, 2017  
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Brandon Blankenagel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Committee Members Present

|                     |                          |                 |                               |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Brandon Blankenagel | City of Spokane          | Mike Basinger   | City of Spokane Valley        |
| Mike Tedesco        | Spokane Tribe of Indians | Brandi Colyar   | Spokane County                |
| Derrick Braaten     | City of Airway Heights   | Lisa Corcoran   | Spokane International Airport |
| Todd Ableman        | City of Cheney           | April Westby    | Spokane Regional Clean Air    |
| Andrew Staples      | City of Liberty Lake     | Heleen Dewey    | Spokane Regional Health Dist  |
| Louis Meuler        | City of Spokane          | Gordon Howell   | Spokane Transit Authority     |
| Inga Note           | City of Spokane          | Karl Otterstrom | Spokane Transit Authority     |
| Gloria Mantz        | City of Spokane Valley   | Glenn Wagemann  | WSDOT-Eastern Region          |

#### Committee Alternates Present

|              |                |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Sean Messner | Spokane County | Barry Greene | Spokane County |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|

#### Guests

|                 |                        |                |                   |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Janet Sharp     | WSDOT                  | Rich Burnett   | Citizen           |
| Chris Mansfield | T-O Engineers          | Tom Richardson | City of Millwood  |
| Mark Bergam     | City of Airway Heights | Don Kostelec   | Kostelec Planning |

#### Staff

|                      |                               |                     |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sabrina Minshall     | Executive Director            | Eve Nelson          | Senior Transportation Planner |
| Anna Ragaza-Bourassa | Senior Transportation Planner | Ryan Stewart        | Senior Transportation Planner |
| Jason Lien           | Senior Transportation Planner | Julie Meyers-Lehman | Administrative Assistant      |
| Staci Lehman         | Communications Coordinator    |                     |                               |

### 3. Approval of August 23, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to approve the August 23, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Staples seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### 4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### 5. Technical Member Comments

Ms. Colyar said advertisement for the Bigelow Gulch/Forker Rd intersection project began last week. She said the County recently received federal funds for projects to repair damage from the flooding earlier this year.

Mr. Otterstrom reported the Federal Transit Authority ridership forecast for STA warranted a medium cost-effectiveness rating and the overall rating is expected to be medium or better, which from a statutory standpoint makes the Central City Line eligible for the Small Starts funding program. He said on October 18 STA will hold an open house on the Central City Line.

Ms. Mantz stated City of Spokane Valley has moved into the new City Hall building and an open house will be held on October 14. She said they are moving forward with design on the Pines Rd and Barker Rd grade separation projects and a series of community meetings are planned.

Mr. Basinger said the City of Spokane Valley is applying for a TIGER grant on the Barker Rd grade separation project.

Ms. Westby spoke about the air quality exceedances last month due to wildfire smoke.

Ms. Dewey announced that SRHD is hiring a coordinator for the Safe Routes to School/Walk Bike Bus programs.

Mr. Tedesco noted the Spokane Tribe will submit a TIGER grant application and thanked SRTC, WSDOT and City of Airway Heights for their assistance.

Mr. Blankenagel gave a short presentation about the project elements on the Monroe Street project and showed example renderings of those elements. He explained the strategy to minimize the construction timeframe by splitting the project into two separate projects constructed at the same time. He spoke about the ongoing public involvement/outreach processes and individual meetings with businesses along the corridor.

## **6. 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) October Amendment**

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

- City of Millwood - Millwood Interurban Trail
- City of Spokane - Monroe Street Lane Reduction and Hardscape, Indiana Ave to Chelan Ave: Modified the northern project limit from Kiernan to 100 feet north of Chelan to split the project into 2 phases and updated the total project cost
- City of Spokane - Monroe Street Lane Reduction and Hardscape, Chelan Ave to Kiernan Ave: The second phase of the project above.
- City of Spokane - Spokane Street Preservation North
- WSDOT - ER Regionwide ADA Project, Pedestrian Ramp Upgrades: Reduced the total project cost from \$1,339,487 to \$484,526

**Mr. Tedesco made a motion to recommend approval by the Board of the 2017-2020 TIP October Amendment. Ms. Note seconded the motion.**

Mr. Otterstrom asked, in regards to the Monroe Street project, is there an adopted evacuation plan for the City of Spokane.

He noted that at recent Monroe Street stakeholder discussions the City of Spokane Police and Fire Departments stated that evacuation plans are built off infrastructure that is in place; not infrastructure built around an evacuation plan. Mr. Otterstrom asked if completion of the Monroe Street project would preclude it from being used as an evacuation route in the event of a calamitous event in the downtown core. Chair Blankenagel replied it would not; he said as part of these evacuation plan discussions, planned pedestrian islands near bus stops have been replaced by rapid flash beacons so the center lane could be retained throughout the corridor.

**A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reported the public comment period opened for the 2018-2021 TIP on September 1; as of today no comments have been received. She described how the TIP fits into the regional transportation planning process and explained which type of projects are included in the TIP. She reported 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 SRTC held an open house for the TIP on September 19 with a new format this year to include presentations by City of Spokane, Spokane Transit and Spokane County; 14 people attended, which is a significant increase from previous years.

**Mr. Messner made a motion to recommend approval by the Board of the 2018-2021 TIP. Mr. Otterstrom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **8. Horizon 2040: 2017 Update - Chapter Four**

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) and called for questions.

Mr. Meuler commented about the benefit of focusing on integrated infrastructure discussions and coordination with utilities, sewer, storm water mitigation, etc to make funding go further.

Ms. Nelson described eight draft implementation strategies in the 2017 update of Horizon 2040 and made note of those strategies which are new or modified since the last update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She asked for input from the group.

Mr. Wagemann asked where an update to the model would fit into the plan; Ms. Nelson replied it is part of the SRTC Unified Planning Work Program.

Mr. Otterstrom said it appears that SRTC has been doing well at meeting federal and state requirements over the past five or so years and these strategies represent a pivot toward making SRTC a more full-service MPO. He stated it is important to make sure Board members have an awareness of the scaling challenge to accepting the proposed strategies. Ms. Nelson said this topic would be included in the upcoming Board Strategic Planning Workshop and many of these strategies came from the Scenario Planning Workshop held earlier this year.

Ms. Colyar stated the plan seemed to have a very urban focus and was missing a rural aspect.

Ms. Nelson said a complete Horizon 2040 update will be brought before the TTC in October for review and in November with a request for recommendation of approval to the Board. She noted the document will be open for public comment from October 13 through November 12.

## **9. Public Participation Plan Update (PPP)**

Ms. Lehman discussed challenges to public outreach and outlined the ways in which the PPP guides the outreach and public involvement process. She stated that the timing of this update was coordinated with the Horizon 2040 update and showed a list of the many federal and state policies and regulations relating to public involvement requirements.

Ms. Lehman described:

- new information included in the PPP update
- how outreach is reviewed and evaluated
- the different methods of information distribution
- ways in which the public is invited to participate
- a greater focus on outreach to Environmental Justice and traditionally underserved populations

She outlined the next steps in the PPP update process and asked the group to forward comments or suggestions to her in the next few weeks.

Mr. Braaten suggested looking into the use of electronic reader boards owned by private businesses to announce meetings or other information, as they are often available at low to no cost.

Ms. Westby suggested use of small local production companies or Facebook Live to produce short videos to post on YouTube.

## **10. Agency Update**

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reported that \$13.97 million of federal funds were obligated as of August 31, 2017, exceeding the regional goal by 19%.

She announced SRTC recently installed wi-fi and now has assistive listening devices in the Riverside conference room available for use during meetings.

She asked the group if they prefer to receive monthly TTC packets as a PDF attachment or if receiving a direct link to document on the SRTC website would be acceptable. The group agreed that a link to a PDF on the website was fine.

## **12. Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Tedesco suggested an update by the SRTC Executive Director on her vision for the organization as a potential future agenda item.

## **13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman  
Recording Secretary