

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
October 25, 2017
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order

Mr. Brandon Blankenagel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	Lisa Corcoran	Spokane International Airport
Derrick Braaten	City of Airway Heights	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	Larry Larson	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Ray Wright	City of Spokane Valley	Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT-Eastern Region

Committee Alternates Present

Maria Cullooyah	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Sean Messner	Spokane County
Char Kay	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Scott Englehard	Spokane County

Guests

Paul Kropp	TAC	Greg Figg	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Don Hendricks	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Bonnie Gow	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Matt Walker	Hill International	Keith Martin	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights		

Staff

Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner
Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of September 27, 2017 TTC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Messner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

Mr. Kropp announced that City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department and the Inland Northwest Trails Coalition are developing a project scope for a Latah/Hangman Corridor Trail proposed to go from People's Park to Hatch Road. He announced a trail plan design charette/workshop will be held October 28 and informational brochures were available on the materials table.

5. Technical Member Comments

Mr. Braaten said City of Airway Heights is moving forward with several zoning amendments and the Garfield Street to 6th Avenue resurfacing project is complete.

Mr. Wright shared details about the recent open house at the new Spokane Valley City Hall.

Ms. Mantz spoke about preliminary design for grade separation projects at Pines and Barker Roads; she also discussed recent community meetings.

Ms. Dewey announced that “Walk Bike Bus – Millwood” recently wrapped up and there was a statistically significant increase in walking and biking trips amongst participants.

Ms. Note said the City of Spokane is working on updating the impact fee program and recently held an open house for the West Plains.

Ms. Kay shared information about an upcoming meeting hosted by Smart Growth America and WSDOT regarding economic vitality and transportation.

Ms. Corcoran announced that construction has started on a convenience store/gas station just outside the airport parking area.

Mr. Otterstrom spoke about the reduction in dwell times on East Sprague bus service and noted they expect even more improvements after the implementation of High Performance Transit. He said STA was currently collecting comments on September 2018 service change proposals and discussed station design information for the Central City Line.

Mr. Messner said the County Commissioners awarded the Bigelow Gulch-Forker Road intersection project and the County signal safety project, which consists of reflective back plate installation and other signal modifications.

6. Horizon 2040 Update

Ms. Nelson said next month the TTC will be requested to recommend approval of Horizon 2040 to the Board. She reminded the group that Horizon 2040 is a long range plan of programs, project and strategies to implement over the next 23 years. She said that not all the programs and projects included in the plan are funded and said the plan could be thought of as a regional “wish list” in some respects.

She summarized main themes in each of the four chapters in the Horizon 2040 document:

- Chapter One – policy development, toolkit process, TAC & TTC involvement guiding principles.
- Chapter Two – transportation system users, transit ridership trends, Spokane County population statistics, airport data, trail data, bike and trail usage, implementation of performance management and target setting. She described the top eight issues of the regional transportation system.
- Chapter Three - regional population and employment forecasts, aging population, projected increases in vehicle, transit, walking and biking trips, future needs, and strategic planning.
- Chapter Four – Projected revenues and expenditures, strategies to link decisions to performance.

Ms. Nelson called for questions. Mr. Meuler asked about project prioritization. Ms. Nelson said a prioritization process was completed, however the agencies all presented enough funding for all projects. She said staff would like a few members of the TTC to convene and review and analyze the results of the prioritization tool data; Mr. Staples, Mr. Messner, Mr. Larson, Ms. Mantz, and Mr. Meuler volunteered.

She outlined the next steps in the long range plan update process, noted the public comment period was open through November 12 and SRTC is holding an open house on November 1. She asked if there was any part of the plan that the group would like to discuss in greater depth.

Mr. Meuler would like to see some comparisons of other plans regional program funding goals, to see how they compare with our regions.

Mr. Otterstrom asked if staff was aware of any gaps in the process that had not been addressed in depth in the plan; Ms. Nelson said there have been several discussions recently about land use integration into the model.

The group discussed regional cooperation in regards to Fairchild Air Force Base and the Highway 2 corridor.

7. 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Guidebook

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said a handout was at each place that outlined the current definition of a TIP amendment and an administrative modification; she said the definitions come from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) since our Regional TIP is incorporated into the STIP. The group discussed the difference between a major and minor scope change and possible changes to the definitions of those terms.

Mr. Larson discussed of the length of time it takes for a TIP amendment to be processed and how that can delay projects. He said he would like to see a comparison of the SRTC TIP amendment calendar to those from other MPOs. The group discussed the variance in process between administrative modifications and amendments. Mr. Larson asked how many amendments are typically processed in a year and how many public comments are received; Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied there are usually nine amendments per year and, although it varies, on average one-third of amendments receive public comments. The group discussed potential reductions in the amendment process time frame. Mr. Larson suggested that the TIP Working Group could review the process and also have a meeting with involvement by the TIP process gatekeepers.

Chair Blankenagel stated he was concerned that adding to the amendment definition could be limiting. He asked if the group wanted to convene a subcommittee to discuss the possibility of shortening the TIP amendment schedule. Mr. Larson recommended that high level decision-makers be involved in the meeting along with all people in the process. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said she would arrange for Ms. Nancy Huntley, the STIP Program Manager, to be available to phone in at the next TIP Working Group meeting

8. City of Airway Heights Presentation on Highway 2 Revitalization and Safety Project

Mr. Braaten provided a history of the project and its design, noting that the current approach was significantly based upon community input. He presented design illustrations of the roadway that include a separated bike/pedestrian path, path amenities, safety elements and lower speeds for traffic.

He noted the entire project is divided into 6 separate “context areas” that each have slightly different land use elements and showed examples of the features to be included in each context area. Mr. Braaten stated the context areas will be constructed at different times and he described the public outreach strategies.

The group discussed the project’s planned lane width, bicycle facilities, traffic safety and roundabouts in Airway Heights.

9. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa asked for volunteers to work on the upcoming Call for Projects and review and develop scoring criteria; Ms. Corcoran, Mr. Wright and Mr. Staples responded.

10. Agency Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa announced that SRTC would hold an open house on November 1 to discuss the Horizon 2040 Update. She said SRTC would host a NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) webinar on October 31 at 10:30 and all TTC members were welcome to attend.

12. Future Agenda Items

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

13. Adjournment

Chair Blankenagel announced that the next TTC meeting is November 29, one week later than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary