

## MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Advisory Committee  
October 23, 2017  
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Ben Wick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Committee Members Present

- Ben Wick
- Greg Francis
- Yolanda Lovato
- Greg Szabo
- Kennett Bertelsen
- Hank Greer
- Robert Race Sr
- Margaret Watson
- John Dietzman
- Paul Kropp
- Rosemarie Schmidt

#### Committee Members Not Present

- Pat Harper
- Jim Simon

#### Guests

Janet Sharp, WSDOT

#### Staff

Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner
Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant
Staci Lehman	Communications Coordinator		

Mr. Wick noted that Mr. Harper and Mr. Simon had requested to be excused from the meeting due to prior commitments.

### 3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### 4. Approval of September 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes

**Mr. Kropp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Lovato seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Bertelsen abstaining.**

### 5. Education Series

Ms. Lehman announced that SRTC plans to start an education series in 2018; bringing speakers to SRTC, as the budget allows, for transportation related presentations, such as bicycle/pedestrian facility design, technology trends in freight movement, active transportation and economic development, etc. She reported that initial plans are to have speakers present to SRTC committees or hold workshops during the day, then hold evening sessions open to the public. She said SRTC is looking for suggestions on topics that would appeal to the general public.

The following suggestions were made: Solutionary Rail, transit oriented development, traffic safety in regards to emergency vehicles, road/rail freight, oil trains, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, integrating building and transportation design, bridge conditions, traffic accident trends.

Ms. Lehman asked the group to contact her with any further suggestions.

## **6. Title VI and Environmental Justice 101**

Ms. Sharp, WSDOT Title VI Compliance Specialist, provided an overview and history of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and stated it is an “umbrella” encompassing all the federal non-discrimination programs. She said if a project receives federal funding, directly or through WSDOT, in any dollar amount, then Title VI requirements apply for the lifetime of the project. She provided several examples of adherence and distributed a Title VI information sheet. She defined the terms Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Environmental Justice (EJ) and outlined some of their regulations.

Ms. Lehman demonstrated where Title VI information can be located on the SRTC website, discussed the SRTC Title VI and ADA plans, and described the types of data available on the new Environmental Justice maps on the SRTC website.

Ms. Schmidt inquired if SRTC had ever received a Title VI complaint and Ms. Lehman replied it had not.

## **6. Horizon 2040 Update**

Ms. Nelson stated the draft Horizon 2040 update has been completed and is open to public comment through November 16. She reminded the group that Horizon 2040 is the long range transportation plan for the Spokane region, establishes regional policy, and is a blueprint or wish list for the next 20 plus years. She noted a flyer describing the key plan elements was included in the packet and she then provided a summary and main focus of each of the four chapters of the Horizon 2040 update:

- *Chapter One* – Policy development, Horizon 2040 Implementation Toolkit development, involvement by the TAC & TTC, Roundtable discussions, and Guiding Principles.
- *Chapter Two* – Transportation system users, transit ridership, airport data, bicycle and pedestrian trail usage data, performance management categories, and the top transportation issues for the region.
- *Chapter Three* – Forecasted changes in population and employment, aging population, projected increases in vehicle/transit/walk/bike trips. She reported on future needs for sufficient funding for maintenance and preservation of roads, bridges and transit, peak hour congestion management and better regional coordination of solutions. Ms. Nelson spoke about several strategic planning items.
- *Chapter Four* – Projected Revenues and expenditures and implementation strategies.

Ms. Nelson described the next steps in the process and noted the Board will be requested to approve the document at their meeting on December 14, 2017.

## **7. Upcoming Call for Projects**

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa announced a call for projects would be released in early March 2018, explained where the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) fits into the regional transportation planning process, and noted the three categories of projects that go into the TIP: SRTC Project Selections, STA Project Selections and Federally Funded and/or Regionally Significant Projects. She provided an overview of the three types of funds available for distribution; Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) and STBG Set-Aside (formerly TAP).

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted that SRTC staff would like to hear opinions from the TAC on items such as if SRTC should be funding all phases of project development or just the construction phase, should the STBG funds be focused on only preservation/reconstruction projects, etc. The group discussed road maintenance/preservation, lack of a regional pavement condition standards, the pros and cons of funding only the construction phase, and benefits of limiting the number of applications each agency can submit.

Mr. Dietzman asked if there was any indication of a change in federal funding levels in the future. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied that only change known about for certain is the termination of CMAQ funds in 2025 when the 20-year air quality maintenance period for is over.

## **8. TAC Member Comments**

Ms. Schmidt questioned how a neighborhood group can get a project to move forward if an agency is non-responsive and the group offered several suggestions.

Mr. Race noted several interesting transportation topics that have been in the news lately.

Chair Wick announced that the City of Spokane Valley recently passed an ordinance to levy fines against residents that do not keep their sidewalks shoveled.

Mr. Kropp noted that the City of Spokane was contemplating abatement fees for snow removal on residential sidewalks. He discussed the project scope for a Latah/Hangman Corridor Trail, proposed to go from People's Park to Hatch Rd and said a trail plan design charette/workshop will be held October 28 and informational brochures were available on the materials table.

## **8. Staff Report**

Mr. Ulrich announced the application period for new TAC members opened today and will run through November 6. He provided an overview of the application process and invited the group to reach out to people who might be interested.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman  
Recording Secretary