

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
January 24, 2018
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	Brandi Colyar	Spokane County
Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Sean Messner	Spokane County
Derrick Braaten	City of Airway Heights	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney	Heleen Dewey	Spokane Regional Health Dist
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	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
Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley	Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley		

Committee Alternates Present

Scott Englehard Spokane County

Guests

Ryan Kipp	City of Spokane Valley	Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights
Adam Jackson	City of Spokane Valley	Craig Aldworth	City of Spokane Valley

Staff

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant
Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner		

3. Approval of December 20, 2017 Minutes

Ms. Colyar noted the minutes should reflect that John Pederson was not in attendance at the last meeting.

Mr. Messner made a motion to approve the December 20, 2017 minutes as amended. Mr. Krieger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Technical Member Comments

Mr. Otterstrom said the low bid for the northwest Boone garage was from Garco Construction and they were awarded the contract. He reported that the STA Board approved a purchase of 2.26 acres on Moran Prairie at 57th Avenue and Palouse Highway for a new park and ride lot. He noted there will be an on-line open house starting next week to provide information about Central City Line (CCL) alignment and station design. He said STA will soon be releasing a draft recommendation for September 2018 service changes.

Ms. Dewey stated that northeast City of Spokane has been selected as the location for the 2018 Walk-Bike-Bus program, incorporating parts of the Bemis and Hillyard neighborhoods.

Chair Blankenagel described upcoming public outreach for two projects: Riverside Avenue corridor through downtown incorporating the Central City Line and Sprague Avenue Phase II.

Mr. Wagemann announced that Becky Spangle of WSDOT has been hired as the SRTMC Manager, provided information about her work history, and said she will attend the next TTC meeting. He discussed a recent meeting with WSDOT and City of Spokane regarding the recent I-90 ramp metering analysis.

Mr. Meuler spoke about upcoming placemaking events that City of Spokane will hold in partnership with EWU and WSDOT regarding transition elements and neighborhood relationships to the North Spokane Corridor; also to discuss the Children of the Sun Trail.

Ms. Note reported that the impact fee update will be taken to the Plan Commission on February 14.

Mr. Messner stated Spokane County recently received safety improvement grants which will fund several at-grade rail crossing safety enhancements and some guard rail replacements.

Mr. Basinger said the City of Spokane Valley is researching asset management software in connection with pavement management.

6. City of Spokane Valley ITS Infill Project Award Increase Request

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted that all TIP Guidebook policies applicable to the request are included in the memo. Ms. Mantz described the project, and showed a map noting the locations. She said the project has been in the pipeline for a number of years, there is a \$100,000 gap in funding, and the project must be constructed this year or existing funding will be lost.

Mr. Aldworth provided a history and scope of the project, the challenges experienced in the engineering phase, and outlined the next steps which are:

- Project construction must be completed by December 2018
- City currently reimbursed approximately \$50,000 from the CMAQ program
- Project expenditures are currently approximately \$94,000

Questions were raised about why Spokane Valley was not covering the entire cost of the overrun, the amount of planned contingency costs, if any changes in scope had been made to bring it back into the budget, and if the TTC could recommend only a portion of the amount requested. The group discussed whether some of the projects challenges were unforeseen or if some of them should have been known at the time of application and additional project details.

Mr. Krieger left the meeting at 2:15.

Mr. Larson noted that WSDOT will possibly have some discretionary funds available that could cover the cost overrun, but the final determination will not be known for about two weeks.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the City of Spokane Valley's \$99,443 award increase for the ITS Infill – Phase 1 project, contingent upon no additional funding from WSDOT's Regional Administrator's Discretionary funds. Mr. Braaten seconded the motion.

A question was raised as to where the funds would come from in the event that WSDOT is unable to fund the project. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied the money would come out of the CMAQ portion of the Call for Projects. The group then discussed the TIP Guidebook policy 6.2.2 regarding cost overruns, the possibility of amending it, adding a dollar amount threshold or potentially putting a maximum cap on additional requests.

A vote was taken and the motion passed with 16 in favor and 1 against.

Mr. Braaten left the meeting at 2:37.

After continued discussion about Policy 6.2, scope revisions, and cost overruns, Mr. Otterstrom raised a point of order. He noted that the discussion was no longer on an agenda item and recommended that the TIP Working Group address this topic further. Chair Blankenagel agreed to carry the conversation to the Working Group.

7. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) February Amendment

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa stated that the amendment includes ten projects, noted the City of Spokane Valley Argonne Road Preservation project included a scope change and said the TTC needs to provide concurrence on scope changes.

Mr. Aldworth outlined the project scope, location, background and noted it is primarily a pavement preservation project. He explained how the project is divided into four segments and described the pavement condition of each. He said they are recommending a decrease of the project limits due to overlap with the Broadway-Argonne-Mullan Intersection project and pavement in good condition on Argonne north of Mission Ave.

Mr. Tedesco made a motion to recommend Board approval of the 2018-2021 TIP February Amendment, including the proposed scope change for the City of Spokane Valley Argonne Road Preservation project. Ms. Note seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Blankenagel announced that in the interest of time, Agenda Item 9 Barker Rd. Grade Separation / Roundabout presentation by City of Spokane Valley will be postponed until next month's meeting.

8. Call for Projects Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa explained why SRTC is reviewing the call for projects process; new federal performance measures requirements, strengthening the link to Horizon 2040, improvement of score differentiation and implementation of best practices.

She described which features of the call would be the same: taking regional projects off the top and the base application. She said what would be different is: an application supplement for some funding types (i.e. CMAQ for air quality benefit), fewer questions, a longer application timeline and a shorter Safe & Complete Streets checklist.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa explained upcoming Board action includes selecting the off-the-top projects, capital maintenance set-aside for 2022 and 2023 and a minimum percentage or dollar amount allotted to small towns. She showed the call for projects schedule and noted the application deadline is 4:00 pm on May 11.

She spoke about the three types of regional funds and amounts available: Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) ~\$27 million for 2020-2023, Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) ~\$10 million for 2021-2023 and STBG Set-Aside ~\$2 million for 2021-2023.

Ms. Note asked if the TTC would be involved in the discussions for "off the top" projects because historically they have participated. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied that at this time the plan is to hold those discussion at the Board level only, but she will relay the fact that the TTC would like the opportunity to review these projects. Ms. Dewey requested that the Board be made aware of the fact that the TTC has requested to review the off the top projects.

Ms. Note raised a concern about scheduling the project selection meetings for the Board and committees in July when so many people take time off. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied that due to the application schedule

and TIP deadlines, the Board must make a final decision in August; which means that the committee will make recommendations in July.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said the Call for Projects Working Group will meet again on February 7 and the final draft will be presented to the committee at the February meeting.

10. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa provided an update on project delivery and obligations in terms of the Region meeting the \$8.5 million federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 obligation target. She said we are currently in the hole \$950,000 due to some larger de-obligations hitting the books late last year, however the list of planned obligations shows how we will be able to reach and even exceed the target with a \$2.5 million buffer.

11. Agency Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reminded the group about the Washington State Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Safe Routes to School call for projects. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa thanked Mr. Blankenagel for chairing the committee for the past year.

12. Future Agenda Items

No items were discussed.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary