

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
February 28, 2018
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mike Tedesco, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley
Sean Messner	Spokane County	Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley
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	Larry Larson	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT-Eastern Region

Committee Alternates Present

Matt Breen	Spokane Intl. Airport	Mike Tressider	Spokane Transit Authority
Barry Greene	Spokane County	Keith Martin	WSDOT

Guests

Chris Mansfield	T-O Engineers	Darrel McCallum	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights	Adam Jackson	City of Spokane Valley

Staff

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner	Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director
Staci Lehman	Communications Coordinator	Jason Lien	Senior Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant

3. Approval of January 24, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Braaten made a motion to approve the January 24, 2018 minutes as presented. Mr. Basinger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Technical Member Comments

Mr. Howell spoke about the Section 5310 Call for Projects, a federal funding grant for projects serving senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Mr. Martin announced that Mike Frucci has changed positions at WSDOT and therefore will no longer be involved with the TTC.

Mr. Blankenagel stated today was the last day of the City of Spokane's online public comment solicitation for the Riverside Avenue project.

Mr. Meuler reported that the City of Spokane, WSDOT and EWU recently held a community charrette regarding NSC Placemaking and additional events are scheduled.

Mr. Larsen announced that Darrel McCallum would be joining the TTC.

Chair Tedesco said the design for the next roundabout on Highway 2 will be going to WSDOT very soon.

6. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program March Amendment

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa reported that the March amendment consists of 14 projects; some new awards, scope changes and project deletions. The projects are:

- City of Spokane - Spokane St Preservation North
- City of Spokane - Monroe St Lane Reduction & Hardscape, Indiana to Keirnan
- Spokane County - Hawthorne Rd – Nevada to Parksmith
- Spokane County - Country Homes – Cedar to Wall, NB Lanes Only
- Spokane County - Brooks Rd Railway-Highway Crossings Program
- Spokane County - Espanola Rd Railway-Highway Crossings Program
- Spokane County - 2017 County Safety Program-Guardrail
- Spokane County - Wellesley Ave Railway-Highway Crossings Program
- WSDOT- Eastern Region Shoulder Rumble Strip Installation
- WSDOT - US 395/NSC BNSF 2nd Railroad Realignment
- WSDOT - US 395/NSC Spokane River Crossing
- WSDOT - US 395/NSC Spokane River to Columbia
- WSDOT US 395/NSC Spokane River to Wellesley
- WSDOT US 395/NSC Wellesley Ave Improvements

She called for questions or discussion on any of the projects and there were none.

Mr. Blankenagel made a motion to approve the 2021-2018 TIP March Amendment as presented; Mr. Messner seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Barker Road Grade Separation

Mr. Jackson provided an update to the City of Spokane Valley's Barker Road/BNSF at Trent Ave Grade Separation project. He described the location and the area zoning. He outlined the project's coordinated planning efforts and reduction of estimated costs since the project's inception. He said in 2017 the City conducted a preliminary analysis to determine the most cost-effective project configuration and six alternatives were identified. Mr. Jackson described each option, said the preferred alternative was a three-leg roundabout at Trent, and the estimated cost is \$19 million.

Mr. Jackson spoke about the project funding, noting how much and from where funding has been secured and how much was still needed. He said the City is confident that the remaining funding can be obtained without missing any secured funding deadlines. He explained the ways in which the project will benefit the community and local economy, as well as regional and national benefits. He noted the project includes the closing of the grade crossing at Flora Road.

He outlined the next steps of the project and then called for questions or discussion; there were none and Chair Tedesco thanked Mr. Jackson for his presentation.

8. Call for Projects Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted that the final draft of the application was at each person's place. She reviewed that the three sources of regional funds are Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) and STBG Set-Aside (formerly Transportation Alternative Program) and the estimated funding available is: \$27 million for STBG (years 2020-2023), \$10 million for CMAQ (years 2021-

2023) and \$2 million for STBG Set-Aside (years 2021-2023). She defined the types of projects for which each funding source is eligible.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa said that, as in past calls, the Board will be asked to take action to fund regional projects off the top and the project application continues to be based on Horizon 2040 Guiding Principles. She described the changes to this call:

- Application consolidated for three funding sources
- Application updated to reflect federal performance measures
- Application refined to provide better score differentiation
- Agencies will be asked to rank their top ten projects
- Safe & Complete Streets checklist reduced
- Board programming direction after scoring of projects

She explained the similarities and differences in the funding process between this call and prior calls. She outlined the decisions the Board will be asked to make at their next meeting; off-the-top funding for SRTC sponsored projects and Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center funding, capital maintenance set-aside for 2022 and 2023, small town minimum percentage or amount, and the requirement for agencies to utilize all available tools to meet project delivery deadlines.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa described the four SRTC sponsored projects, which add up to approximately 7.8% of the total available for the call, the Spokane Regional Traffic Management Center request of \$1.83 million, and displayed the call for projects schedule.

The group reviewed the application and the questions, discussed the scoring criteria, and the project selection decision-making process by the Board.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa asked the group for input on the suggestion of a small town minimum or dollar amount. She said in the past there was always an effort made to select a small town project, but the Board will be asked to decide on allocating a minimum dollar amount or percentage up front for small towns so they are not competing with Spokane County for rural funds. Mr. Braaten stated he felt the minimum was a good idea but with a caveat that if there end up being no small town project applications, the funds will go back into the general fund.

Concerns were raised about the lack of pre-set funding targets for each project type and the idea of grouping projects into categories after the applications are received. Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa replied that scores are just the starting point for the discussion and this method will create flexibility in the ways projects can be presented before the Board. She said for example, they could be grouped by guiding principles, performance measures, or geography.

The group discussed the subjective nature of the project selection process and several members commented that they were uncomfortable submitting projects without knowing the amount of funding available for each category of project or how the projects would be grouped for presentation to the Board.

Ms. Minshall said investment options are not random; it has always been the case that investment choices must tie to program policies and performance measures. She said the past practice of assigning a certain percentage for certain criteria was not done with any factual basis; it was just historic. She said until such time as all agencies can collectively get to a needs assessment that is data driven for the next long-range plan, there is a limitation with setting percentages. She noted the TAC will be asked to weight the Guiding Principles which is the reason the application does not weight them; additionally, the TTC will be asked to assist in grouping and packaging the applications for presentation to the Board.

9. Monthly Messaging

Ms. Lehman reported on the new “monthly messaging” campaign to provide transportation information or a call to action to the public. She said information will be put into a visual format, such as poster-sized infographics, story maps, etc and placed in public places. She noted the TAC provided staff with suggested topics such as roundabouts, biking/walking trails, studded tires, pedestrian collisions and congestion. Ms. Lehman stated that to coordinate with the launch of this year’s construction map, the topic for March is Road Construction.

She asked the group for suggestions of messaging topics and locations in which to place the visuals. Several topics mentioned were interaction between active transportation and vehicles, transportation as a social determinant of health, education about the roadways being for users all modes of transportation, studded tires, and others.

10. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted the list of obligated projects as of January 31 was the same as of December 31; it is hoped that several projects will obligate in February. She said the list of projects set to obligate this year will be sufficient to exceed the federal obligation target by \$2.2 million.

Mr. Martin spoke about the August 1 obligation deadline and schedules. Ms. Minshall suggested that in the future a change to an earlier obligation deadline may be phased in, possibly starting in 2020.

10. Agency Update

Ms. Lehman spoke about the SRTC 2018 Education Series and the first three scheduled events; March 27 Legislative Session Recap, April 24 Mayor of Oklahoma City Mick Cornett and June 7 panel discussion of roundabouts.

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa noted that information about a WSDOT Consolidated Grant program was at each person’s place.

12. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa asked for volunteers to present project updates. Mr. Blankenagel and Mr. Larson said they would explore possible topics.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary