

MEETING MINUTES (AMENDED)

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board
Thursday, June 14, 2018
SRTC Office, 421 W Riverside Ave, Ste 504, Spokane WA

1. Call to Order

Chair Al French brought the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

2. Roll Call/Record of Attendance – Excused Absences

Board Members Present:

Al French, Spokane County Commissioner
Ben Wick, Council Member, City of Spokane Valley
Paul Schmidt, Council Member, City of Cheney
Mayor Steve Peterson, City of Liberty Lake
Kate Burke, Council Member, City of Spokane
Larry Stone, Major Employer Representative
Mike Gribner, WSDOT-Eastern Region

Dee Cragun, Small Towns Representative
Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner
E. Susan Meyer, Spokane Transit Authority
Kennet Bertelsen, TAC Chair
Mike Tedesco, TTC Chair
Matt Ewers, Freight/Rail Representative

Board Alternates Present

Albert Tripp, City of Airway Heights

Board Members Not in Attendance:

Larry Krauter, Spokane Airports
Lori Kinnear, Council Member, City of Spokane

Joe Tortorelli, WA State Transportation Commission

Guests Present:

Stanley Schwartz, Legal Counsel
Jeff Pierson, Fehr & Peers
Chris Breiland, Fehr & Peers
Mark Calhoun, City of Spokane Valley
Karl Otterstrom, Spokane Transit Authority

Kim Zentz, Urbanova
Char Kay, WSDOT
Mayor Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley
Larry Larson, WSDOT
Paul Kropp, Citizen

SRTC Staff Present:

Sabrina Minshall Executive Director
Eve Nelson, Senior Transportation Planner
Ryan Stewart, Senior Transportation Planner
Greg Griffin, Administrative Services Manager

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

Chair French read the names of the following members who have requested an excused absence from this meeting: Larry Krauter, Lori Kinnear, and Joe Tortorelli.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to excuse the absences. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair French stated there was a request to move Agenda Item 10 before Agenda Item 9.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the request; Mr. Tripp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Minshall reported on the following topics:

- The Roundabout Symposium hosted by SRTC on June 6
- The prospect of SRTC hosting a National Highway Institute Transportation Pavement Course in early fall
- SRTC letter of support for a SRTMC grant application for Advance Transportation & Congestion Management Technology
- SRTC audit beginning June 15 and SRTC information technology request for proposals
- SRTC participation at Spokane Summer Parkways on June 21 and upcoming meetings at the Spokane Tribal headquarters and at the Kalispel Tribe Camas Wellness Center for the Human Services Transportation Plan update
- The region has met 58% of the federal obligation target; the target deadline is August 1
- The next event in the SRTC Education Series on July 11 which will be former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett speaking about how investment in infrastructure can bring economic development to communities

Ms. Meyer noted that STA has its standing committee meetings and annual budget workshop on July 11; beginning at 10:00am and ending at 3:00pm. Ms. Minshall replied that the public session of Mick Cornett's presentation will be from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

5. Consent Agenda – (5a) Minutes of the May 10 Board Meeting, (5b) May 2018 Vouchers, (5c) 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) June Amendment

Recap for May 2018:		
Vouchers: V120619 to V120645		46,778.29
Salaries/Benefits Warrant Nos. 445929-445939 and 448266-448276		78,517.13
Interfund, other expenses, and reimbursements processed directly by the City of Spokane		(3,486.52)
		<u>\$ 121,808.90</u>

Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Cragun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Transit Performance Measures

Ms. Nelson reported that SRTC is continuing the process of implementing a performance management system which includes reviewing the performance of infrastructure, safety, congestion, and performance of public transit then setting targets for each measure. She said it is important from a federal perspective to incorporate other agencies' performance targets into the long-range plan.

She said STA must set *State of Good Repair* targets for their assets, described each asset category, and stated that STA is the only Tier 1 transit provider in the region, therefore the only agency required to report under Transit Asset Management (TAM) requirements at this time. Ms. Nelson said the Board is being asked to approve the inclusion of STA's targets into SRTC performance management planning.

Ms. Cragun made a motion to approve inclusion of Spokane Transit TAM targets into the SRTC performance management planning efforts. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Replacement Members

Mr. Ulrich provided information about the TAC membership term policy and the Board subcommittee which selects new members. He explained there are two vacant positions on the TAC because one member resigned to pursue other volunteer opportunities and another member passed away. Mr. Ulrich reported that the

subcommittee met on May 3 to reassess the three replacement members selected in December 2017 and recommended appointing Justin Botejue and Carlie Hoffman as members of the TAC.

Ms. Meyer made a motion to appoint Justin Botejue and Carlie Hoffman to the TAC. The motion was seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

8. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Griffin described the purpose of the UPWP document and noted that it also contains the major planning activities for STA and WSDOT-Eastern Region. He said representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and WSDOT-Public Transportation Division came to SRTC on May 16 for an on-site review of the 2019 UPWP. Additional language added to the document after the review were noted in the red-line version of the document in the packet. Mr. Griffin said the additions were not substantive; mostly just changes in wording.

Mr. Griffin reported that on May 23 the TTC unanimously supported a recommendation of Board approval of the UPWP and the TAC also recommended approval, although they lacked a quorum on that date for official action. Chair French called for questions and there were none.

Ms. Cragun made a motion to approve the SRTC State Fiscal Year 2019 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10. Transportation Planning in an Age of Uncertainty

Mr. Stewart said the Board has heard numerous discussions recently about SRTC's funding needs for data acquisition and updates to planning tools, primarily the travel demand model. As part of the strategy to move forward with these needs, staff has been examining different sources and approaches that are forward thinking yet relevant to immediate needs. He said staff has been researching avenues for planning that are flexible and agile and the Board will be hearing a lot more in the coming months about the holistic strategy being developed for data acquisition. He introduced Mr. Jeff Pierson and Mr. Chris Breiland of Fehr & Peers, a nationwide transportation planning/traffic engineering firm.

Mr. Breiland spoke about Fehr & Peers and what they do; he mentioned local companies, agencies and jurisdictions Fehr & Peers has worked with in the Spokane area. Mr. Pierson described the FP Think Initiative, a think tank to identify trends that may be disruptive to transportation planning in the future. He discussed the initial disruptive trend identified, which is a decoupling of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) from Gross Domestic Product that began in 2004. He spoke about possible explanations for this change and how identification of the forces behind these types of changes can be used as a tool for transportation planning. Mr. Pierson talked about their TrendLab+ tool, the 14 factors identified as impacting travel, and gave an example of how they used the tool to analyze VMT for the City of Fort Collins.

Mr. Kerns jointed the meeting at 1:29pm.

Mr. Pierson discussed the issue of estimating changes in travel behavior if autonomous vehicles (AV) become widespread. He presented information regarding model input assumptions, variables that could be impacted by increased use of AV trips, and possible policies/strategies that could be explored to offset increased VMT. Mr. Pierson said there is more uncertainty today about transportation trends than in the past, but that does not mean that planning is not useful anymore; it means that planners must begin to think about a range of possibilities for solutions. Mr. Breiland spoke about curb-space management, resilient parking design and right sizing transit; he then called for questions. Mr. Ewers commented on the use of autonomous vehicles for freight.

9. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Advance Transportation and Congestions Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Update Initiative

Ms. Minshall noted that this agenda item was originally a request for a letter of support from SRTC for an Urbanova proposal, but over the last week things changed and Urbanova is no longer submitting a proposal for 2018; therefore this item will be for information only.

Ms. Zentz from Urbanova explained that the 2018 proposal was canceled at the request of the City of Spokane, STA and SRTC, but she said it is a good time to begin re-planning the proposal for 2019. She provided a background and history of the proposal and the reasons it was created, which is to prepare the State of Washington for autonomous vehicles under the Governor's Executive Policy Order from 2017 in conjunction with WSDOT's AV Working Group under the Transportation Commission. She said this initiative is primarily to prepare cities to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to AV. She outlined the draft of the proposal and emphasized the version in the packet was a preliminary draft and not very close to where they put their pencils down. Ms. Zentz provided information about Urbanova, it's goals, founding partners, projects, projects from 2016 to 2018, mission, and core purpose.

11. SRTC Board Comments

Mr. Ewers stated that the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board has finalized the list of projects to fund and there are several in eastern Washington. He recommended that SRTC investigate and possibly provide guidance on the concept of planting native wildflowers along highways in lieu of grass to help insect pollinators thrive in our communities, also saving on operating costs because perennial wildflowers do not need to be mowed until the end of the season.

Ms. Meyer reported that the 2017 state audit resulted in no findings, so it has been another year of clean audits for STA.

Mr. Kerns commended SRTC for the Roundabout Symposium.

Mr. Tesdesco summarized the recent joint TTC/TAC meeting on May 23, which was a consultant led workshop about walkability.

Chair French spoke about the recent meeting hosted by Spokane International Airport, STA and WSDOT which brought a group of Washington State legislators in to discuss regional transportation issues. He also announced that the final FMSIB Road/Rail Subcommittee report will soon be headed to the state legislature.

Ms. Minshall shared some photos of the group exercises at the Walkability Workshop.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary