

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
July 25, 2018
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Sean Messner, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present

Sean Messner	Spokane County	Lisa Corcoran	Spokane Airports
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	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
Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley	Larry Larson	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley		

Committee Alternates Present

Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights	Keith Martin	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Barry Greene	Spokane County		

Staff

Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director	Ryan Stewart	Senior Transportation Planner
Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Staci Lehman	Communications Coordinator
Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner	Tristan De Alwis	Data Scientist
Jason Lien	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant

3. **Approval of June 27, 2018 and July 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Corcoran made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings; Mr. Blankenagel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

5. **Technical Member Comments**

Mr. Larson spoke about the newly completed WSDOT roundabouts near the new Costco store and on SR 902.

Mr. Bergam stated work is continuing on the second phase of the Garfield Rd project in Airway Heights.

Mr. Otterstrom announced that the West Plains Transit Center will open on September 16 with a ribbon cutting ceremony on another date to be determined. He said STA will be reaching out to residents near the proposed Monroe Regal line for public comments.

Mr. Krieger spoke about the learning curve for drivers using the new roundabout in Deer Park and how it provides better access to the highway.

Mr. Blankenagel said the City of Spokane has opened a public comment period for the Riverside project and almost 700 comments have been received already. He also said the City will launch a bike share pilot program this fall, possibly with the bike share company Lime Bike.

Chair Messner said Spokane County has lots of construction going on and last week the County applied for a BUILD grant.

6. 2018 SRTC Call for Projects: Project Prioritization Recommendation

Chair Messner remarked that the task before the group at this meeting was to develop a prioritized list of projects for recommendation to the Board; not discussing funding or programming at this time.

Ms. Minshall stated that the Board was given the list of projects and their raw scores at their last meeting and in August will receive a list with prioritization recommendations from both the TAC and the TTC.

Mr. Ulrich summarized the Guiding Principle weighting exercises which the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) completed at their June meeting. He said the individual and group weighting results were very close. He explained how the results were averaged together to arrive at the following weighting:

25% - Quality of Life	15% - Economic Vitality
19% - Safety & Security	14% - Cooperation & Leadership
15% - Systems Operations, Maintenance & Preservation	14% - Stewardship

Mr. Ulrich described how the project list shifted after the GP weighting was applied and then explained the project prioritization exercise done at the July 23 TAC meeting. He said the TAC made the following recommendations:

- Prioritize Bigelow Gulch Project 5 over Project 6
- Prioritize Argonne Road Congestion Relief higher
- Prioritize Pines Grade Separation lower
- Prioritize all active transportation projects higher

He outlined the reasons the TAC provided for recommending the changes and called for questions.

Mr. Otterstrom said it seems that the TAC made recommendations on technical project details; he asked if the group was provided cost benefit analysis information or if Spokane County presented to the TAC about the two Bigelow Gulch projects. Mr. Ulrich replied no to both questions. Mr. Otterstrom said he thought the TAC was tasked with weighting Guiding Principles only; historically the TAC has not analyzed projects.

Mr. Meuler stated that weighting of GP should be factored into the long-range plan, not at the call for projects level.

The group discussed the role of the TAC in the project prioritization process, future GP weighting, and the project information provided to the TAC. Chair Messner remarked that the discussion today was not to question how or why the TAC made the recommendations; the TTC just needs to be aware of the TAC's recommendation and determine if those results are valuable to the TTC's prioritization process.

Mr. Otterstrom stated that this is a list of regional priorities generated as a result of a call for projects that is specific to certain types of funding eligibility. He stated concern that as the TTC addresses this list for a prioritization recommendation, and with programming as a separate step, the group will essentially be displacing the role of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and under-representing the actual regional priorities because a call for projects process is filtered by what projects will require federal funds in the next five to six years.

Ms. Minshall replied this call for projects was not for a specific pot of money; it was discussed with the Board as a needs assessment representative in time and place. She said the results of the call are an example of the regional needs at the time and STBG funds can be used for a variety of sources, which is why jurisdictions were asked to prioritize their applications. She said this prioritized list is a snapshot in time; a representation of need. She spoke about separation of prioritization and programming and emphasized this strategy has been discussed with the Board on many occasions this year.

The group discussed prioritization by project inclusion in the long-range plan versus prioritization by inclusion on the results of the call for projects. Ms. Minshall said the intent of the list is not to be an end all be all list of regional priorities; it is a snapshot in time of project priorities to demonstrate need and apply programming of funds. She said the TTC is being asked to prioritize the list, both the TTC list and the TAC list will be presented to the Board, then the Board-approved list will come back to the TTC and where programming discussions the funding available will be held.

Ms. Minshall summarized TTC involvement in the process to date and described the additional factors reviewed apart from overall score. She presented the results of the group TTC prioritization exercise done on July 12 and said, based on those results, SRTC staff made no adjustments to the overall priority list.

Chair Messner said the list with raw scores, the prioritized list from the TAC, and lists of projects separated by types so this body needs to take action today to determine a priority list to recommend to the Board.

Mr. Meuler talked about the value of preliminary discussions of programming and said he felt the recommended list should be by overall score.

Ms. Corcoran felt the group should recommend the list based of the raw score because any weighting should have been done up front in order to be transparent to all applicants.

Ms. Note made a motion to recommend Board approval of the list of projects labeled Agenda Item 6 in the packet. Mr. Greene seconded the motion.

Mr. Meuler made a motion to amend the motion to also include a recommendation that the list not be adjusted by a weighting of the Guiding Principles. Ms. Corcoran seconded the motion to amend.

Ms. Note agreed to amend her motion and Mr. Greene agreed to amend the second.

Mr. Larson asked for clarification of the role of the TAC in the prioritization process and Ms. Minshall responded.

Mr. Otterstrom observed that the TAC was beginning a programming effort by moving projects' rank and deviating from a rational scoring approach. He expressed concerns that the TAC went beyond their scope by changing the order of projects based on their programming assumptions without regard to points. Conversation continued about TAC prioritization and the intent behind their recommendation.

Chair Messner pointed out that almost all funding sources are starting to require that each agency or region prioritize their top projects and in the future the TTC will likely help guide these types of policies to the Board.

Ms. Note commented that at the last Board meeting, the group spent an hour trying to prioritize four BUILD applications and could not to come to any kind of agreement about prioritization.

Discussion continued. TTC comments included the importance of keeping objectivity and integrity in the process.

A vote was taken on the amended motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Dewey asked Chair Messner if he or Mr. Tedesco will be attending the August 9 Board meeting in case there are questions from the Board about the TTC's action or discussion. Chair Messner replied that it makes more sense for him to attend, but he will discuss with Mr. Tedesco first.

7. US 195 / I-90 Study

Mr. Stewart stated the proposed study was discussed at Board strategic planning meetings and the Board authorized set-aside funds for the study from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding in the

recent Call for Projects. He said the project team consists of staff from WSDOT, STA, City of Spokane, Spokane County, and SRTC and emphasized that the study is in a planning and scoping phase right now.

He said the study will utilize a systems approach and consider all modes of transportation. He stated that the primary issues of the study are safety, operations (congestion and reliability issues) and infrastructure (such as bridge conditions) along the US 195 and I-90 corridors; additionally, local network needs, infrastructure constraints and plans for additional local infrastructure will be examined. Mr. Stewart spoke about how land use and development can influence safety and operations along corridors and addressed the proposed funding for the study from SRTC, WSDOT and City of Spokane. He presented a tentative schedule and spoke about the next steps and called for questions.

The group discussed how multimodal concerns will be addressed, scope constraints due to funding, the influence of external factors, prospective solutions of the study, and proposed funding sources.

8. TIP Working Group Update

Ms. Minshall said as of June 30 local agencies have obligated \$8.27M, or 93% of the target, although the working group's goal is to over-obligate.

9. Target Setting Working Group Update

Ms. Minshall described the purpose of the group. She said targets will be set for pavement, congestion, bridge condition and system reliability. Ms. Nelson said the working group is scheduled to meet tomorrow and will discuss setting regional targets or accepting state targets; she said some state targets will be harder for the region to meet and in others, such as congestion, the state targets could be easier. She noted the process will take several years to be fully implemented.

10. Agency Update

Ms. Minshall announced that Dr. Michael Clay from Brigham Young University will be at SRTC August 1 presenting an evaluation of the regional land use allocation and SRTC processes. She noted SRTC staff will be at the Hillyard Farmer's Market on July 30 to take public input on the updated Title VI Plan and the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. She said SRTC plans to host a project management training in late October or early November, the cost will be \$500 per person.

11. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Meuler suggested a presentation in September of the placemaking process for the Children of the Sun Trail.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary