

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Advisory Committee
July 23, 2018
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. **Call to Order** - Chair Kennet Bertelsen brought the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present

- Fred Beaulac
- John Dietzman
- Rosemarie Schmidt
- Margaret Watson
- Kennet Bertelsen
- Greg Francis
- Jim Simon
- Justin Botejue
- Donald Moore
- Greg Szabo

Committee Members Not Present

- Carlie Hoffman
- Tom Trulove
- Robert Race Sr

Guests

Staff

Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner	Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner
Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	Tristan De Alwis	Data Scientist
Ryan Stewart	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Assistant

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **TAC Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting**

Chair Bertelsen reported on two significant items from the last Board meeting. The first was a request from four agencies for a letter of support from SRTC to accompany applications for USDOT BUILD grant funds. He named the four projects and said the very lengthy discussion centered around whether supporting all four demonstrated a lack of regional prioritization; although ultimately the Board approved support letters for all four. Mr. Ulrich mentioned that one agency has since withdrawn their application. The second item was an announcement that the region has obligated \$7.2M towards the federal target. It appears that other MPO's in the state may not meet their obligation targets, which could result in those unobligated funds becoming available for this region.

5. **Approval of June 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Dietzman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Francis seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **2018 SRTC Call for Projects: Recommend Prioritized Project List**

Ms. Ragaza-Bourassa spoke about changes to the upcoming schedule and a public comment period for the new projects to be held separately from the TIP public comment period. She noted the TAC and TTC will recommend a prioritized list of projects, the Board will approve a prioritized list of projects in August, staff will then work on programming, and the projects will be incorporated into the TIP in January 2019. She explained the benefits of the modified schedule and the separation of prioritization from programming.

Mr. Ulrich re-capped the exercises from the June meeting, presented the results of the individual and group weighting of the Guiding Principles (GP), and explained how they were averaged together to arrive at the following weighting:

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

He remarked that ranking by weighted GP is not the only way to prioritize projects and before the group recommends a list of priority projects today, other methods of evaluation will be discussed. He presented a graphic of three hypothetical projects to demonstrate how very similar scores don't necessarily mean similar projects.

A list of scored and ranked projects weighted by GP was distributed and the committee broke into small groups to evaluate the project list. The instructions for the evaluation exercise were for each group to (1) either move three projects, either up or down in priority, or (2) give a more general observation about types of projects, for example, trail projects did not score as well as group feels that they should have and should be generally prioritized higher.

The committee worked on the exercise for 30 minutes. The group reconvened, reported on their suggestions for moving projects on the priority list, and provided their reasons. In summary the changes were:

- Bigelow Gulch Project 6 to #12 and Bigelow Gulch Project 5 to #1 (switching places)
- Pines Grade Separation to #10 and Argonne Road Congestion Mitigation to #4 (switching places)
- Centennial Trail Summit Gap change from #23 to #19
- Ben Burr Crossing Improvements from #29 to #18
- Greta to Whitworth Bike Route from #42 to #39

Mr. Dietzman made a motion to recommend Board approval of prioritized list of projects with the changes listed above. Mr. Francis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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 emphasized that the study was still preliminary at this point. There were no questions or comments.

8. TAC Member Comments/Roundtable

Mr. Francis thanked SRTC for inviting former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett to Spokane to speak about community revitalization.

Mr. Szabo said he will be unable to attend the August meeting.

9. Staff Report

Mr. Ulrich expressed his appreciation to TAC members for the time and effort put into reviewing the projects.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary