

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
October 10, 2018 Special Meeting
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mike Tedesco, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Mike Tedesco	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane
Sean Messner	Spokane County	Heleen Dewey	Spokane Regional Health Dist
Brandi Colyar	Spokane County	Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Barry Greene	Spokane County	Mike Tressider	Spokane Transit Authority
Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights	Larry Larson	WSDOT- Eastern Region
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney	Louis Meuler	City of Spokane
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park		

Committee Alternates Present

Char Kay	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Adam Jackson	City of Spokane Valley
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Guests

Paul Kropp	Citizen	Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
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Staff

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	Senior Transportation Planner	Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner
Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director	Jason Lien	Senior Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner	Staci Lehman	Communications Coord.

4. Public Comments - There were no public comments

5. Information & Discussion

(a) Review the Draft Program of Projects in light of any new information received (eligibility on CTR, plan for Riverside project) since 09/19/18 meeting

Anna Ragaza-Bourassa said there was no update on the eligibility of the CTR program which is why a draft number is still included on the spreadsheet at this point, but a meeting is scheduled for this afternoon to discuss the issue.

There are also still questions about the eligibility of the Riverside project. Executive Director Sabrina Minshall said, based on the language in the long-range transportation plan, Horizon 2040, it is staff's assumption that the project is not regionally significant. The Board could take action to say otherwise though. Ms. Minshall said it will not be on the agenda to be discussed. The issue with this project is a difference in language between Horizon 2040 and the TIP guide book.

(b) Review methodology documentation & all documentation received from project sponsors

Ms. Minshall said Riverside was included as tentative on the sheets handed out to TTC members.

As for the CTR program, she said she is working with WSDOT headquarters on the eligibility issue. Directly funding operations after the first grant award isn't allowed by the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program. Ms. Minshall said there is a fine line between incentives, operations and staffing. The amount of staffing in CTR's application is hard to tie to implementation of one project. She said she thinks the request for \$700,000 is higher than what CTR will receive.

Ms. Minshall said the two handouts went out in the Board packet on Friday, with notes added from email or verbal conversations with TTC members about the program of projects process. She said there hasn't been much change in the spreadsheets since the last TTC meeting, but she documented what has changed. She said staff has also been looking at ways to spread out the funding distribution over three or four years. After the Board approves the program of projects, staff will talk to project sponsors about funding of project phases by advancing or swapping around projects to help with delivery of all projects.

Ms. Minshall pointed out changes made to the program. Project #5, Riverside- Monroe to Wall was listed as tentative until the regional significance question is answered. By adding in \$850,000 for this project, that amount had to be taken from somewhere else in the program.

The funding amount for Phase 6 of the Bigelow Gulch project was reduced by \$268,000 but will completely fund the design and right-of-way phases. The Thor-Freya project was reduced by \$405,000 leaving it at 75% of the amount requested. And the Walk Bike Bus program had CMAQ as the funding source instead of STBG Set Aside. It is correct on the color-coded sheet though.

Ms. Minshall pointed out that the bottom of page 2 and top of page 3 summarizes the methodology used and projects included. There are 21 projects in the program, including Riverside. Twelve are fully funded, nine have SRTC funding with match money, three have money from other sources, and eight are partially funded. Of the requested, 13 received full funding while eight did not.

(c) Outline any concerns that differ from those expressed at the 09/19/18 meeting

Mr. Adam Jackson said he provided comments on the Sprague/Barker intersection project but the sheet doesn't reflect that. He said Spokane Valley prefers funding early in the program for the design phase.

Ms. Char Kay asked how the 21st Avenue and Craig Road project emerged as a priority but wasn't included on the list of projects recommended for funding. Ms. Minshall said it was only eligible for STBG Urban funding and there wasn't enough of those funds to cover it. Ms. Kay asked, if a project is not on the recommended list, should an explanation of why be included?

Mr. Louis Meuler asked about the benefits of partially funding projects. Ms. Minshall said other funding agencies are more interested in projects that already have some phases funded as very few agencies now can completely fund projects on their own. She also said it makes us more competitive with other parts of the state. She said it is being done throughout the state like this and that FMSIB, TIB, and Washington State want to see projects have multiple funding sources in order to leverage more money into the region in general and ensure sponsoring agencies have a personal stake in their projects.

Mr. Brandon Blankenagel asked how SRTC plans to justify that a full project isn't being delivered despite the full project being ranked and scored in the application process. Ms. Minshall said she will talk to the Board about that but SRTC is still committed to funding all phases of a project over time. Those that aren't fully funded will have to reapply for the next call for projects. Mr. Blankenagel asked what happens if a project doesn't score as well in the future? Ms. Minshall said

this process has been used in the past with projects that were partially funded.

Mr. Messner asked if, in the federal view, partially funding a project and not delivering on application is a risk for the region? Ms. Minshall said it will be on a case by case basis. Mr. Meuler asked if, by partially funding projects, the pool of projects will shrink in the future as other funding sources become hard to find. Ms. Minshall said there is a need to figure out how to grow the funding "pie." Mr. Meuler said transparency to the public is his concern.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Staci Lehman
Recording Secretary