

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
March 27, 2019
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Sean Messner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Sean Messner | Spokane County | Adam Jackson | City of Spokane Valley |
| Mark Bergam | City of Airway Heights | Heleen Dewey | Spokane Regional Health Dist. |
| Todd Ableman | City of Cheney | April Westby | Spokane Regional Clean Air |
| Roger Krieger | City of Deer Park | Karl Otterstrom | Spokane Transit Authority |
| Scott Bernhard | City of Liberty Lake | Gordon Howell | Spokane Transit Authority |
| Inga Note | City of Spokane | Mike Tedesco | Spokane Tribe |
| Louis Meuler | City of Spokane | Larry Larson | WSDOT-Eastern Region |
| Brandon Blankenagel | City of Spokane | Glenn Wagemann | WSDOT-Eastern Region |

Committee Alternates Present

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Barry Greene | Spokane County | Keith Martin | WSDOT-Eastern Region |
| Scott Englehard | Spokane County | | |

Guests

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Raychel Callary | Lilac Services for the Blind | Greg Szabo | Lighthouse for the Blind |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|

Staff

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eve Nelson | Senior Transportation Planner | Sabrina Minshall | Executive Director |
| Mike Ulrich | Senior Transportation Planner | Jason Lien | Senior Transportation Planner |
| David Fletcher | Assoc. Transportation Planner | Michael Redlinger | GIS Intern |
| Julie Meyers-Lehman | Administrative Assistant | | |

SRTC staff introduced new employees David Fletcher and Michael Redlinger.

3. **Approval of February 27, 2019 Minutes**

Mr. Blankenagel made a motion to approve the February 27, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Bergam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comments** - There were no public comments.

5. **Technical Member Comments** - Members shared information about current projects or programs in their jurisdiction or agency. Mr. Tedesco introduced Ms. Rachelle Bradley, a new planner with the Spokane Tribe and said she will be a TTC alternate.

6. **Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting** – Chair Messner provided a synopsis of major topics and discussions at the prior Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

7a. 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) April Amendment - Staff from City of Spokane and City of Spokane Valley provided information about the two projects included in the April amendment.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the 2019-2022 TIP April amendment as presented and Mr. Tedesco seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7b. Contingency List Process

Ms. Nelson used comments from discussion at the last meeting to create a process for programming projects from the contingency list from funds available as a result deobligated projects or newly available funding sources.

She outlined the proposed process, which includes TTC discussion of the following areas:

- (1) Evaluate the technical requirements and amount of the funding that is available
- (2) Identify from the 2018 Prioritized List, projects that meet such requirements
- (3) Review project readiness from the above identified projects
- (4) Review the capability of available funding to complete a project or phase; and
- (5) Recommend a project or projects for Board approval.

The group discussed possible scenarios of how this would play out and discussed timing of programming when funding becomes available by deobligations.

Mr. Blankenagel made a motion to recommend Board approval of the contingency list and the contingency list process. The motion was seconded and all votes were in favor.

7c. Performance Management – Annual Safety Targets

Ms. Nelson provided a history of prior action on safety targets and noted that federal regulations require WSDOT to annually set five safety performance targets. MPOs must also decide annually to either support WSDOT targets or set their own. She outlined the new methods used by WSDOT to set the 2019 targets and how they differ from the 2018 approach. The group discussed the topic at length. Comments included:

- Questioning the point of setting a goal without measurable action items
- The majority of the emphasis is on infrastructure, but education and enforcement play a large role in safety
- Land use also plays a large role in safety
- Accepting higher targets presents a bad image to the public
- Need for additional data besides just numbers
- The majority of agencies and jurisdictions have their own safety programs; perhaps combining them into a larger regional program would be worth exploring
- A conversation about the pros and cons of supporting WSDOT targets
- Setting targets for the region should be done through a subsequent planning process

Ms. Nelson explained that there are no penalties to MPOs for not meeting their targets, however there is a requirement to annually revisit the safety targets and act on them. The group continued discussion of new methodology and expressed concern about the lack of specific information available in the region to measure the achievement towards goals. The TTC also indicated a commitment to become more educated on the safety issues together as a region and try to make more realistic goals in the future.

Mr. Meuler made a motion to recommend Board support of 2019 WSDOT safety targets, which the expectation that in 2020 SRTC will provide more specific information. Ms. Note seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8a. Mobility for Populations with Vision Loss - Ms. Raychel Callary from Lilac Services for the Blind shared information about barriers caused by infrastructure to independent travel on sidewalks for people with impaired vision and solutions to the problems.

8b. 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - Ms. Minshall highlighted the reasons behind the move to a two-year UPWP from a one-year, noted the first draft was submitted to WSDOT earlier this month, and an on-site review of the program with SRTC, FHWA, FTA and WSDOT is May 24. She noted the document is open for comments by the TTC and the deadline for submitting them is May 1.

8c. SRTC Advocacy Policy Update - Ms. Minshall read the draft policy for Advisory Services, based upon the original suggestion by Mr. Blankenagel, and including input from the Board and the Board Administrative Committee:

“The Spokane Region aspires to work collaboratively to receive more funding for priority transportation projects by being more competitive in state and national solicitations. Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) grants only a percentage of the overall funding and the Council desires to leverage these funds to achieve the Region’s goals.

The SRTC Executive Director and staff may advise member agencies on funding applications for federal and state programs outside the purview of the SRTC Board. Such advisory services may include, but is not limited to, letters expressing concurrence with regional plans, policies or programs, assistance on applications, and communications on behalf of members to other funding agencies. SRTC assistance must be for projects consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). SRTC work will be unbiased, and prioritization, if requested, will be conducted by the SRTC Board of Directors”.

The group discussed; comments included:

- Request for an “Advocacy 101” session so members will fully understand the types of assistance available
- Concern about the word “may” in the first sentence of the second paragraph. Does this also mean SRTC may not provide these services?
- Letters of support and acknowledgement of consistency with the MTP are important for outside funding
- The policy as presented does not clarify if engagement must be initiated by agencies
- Recommendation to describe the process by which agencies request SRTC engagement
- Desire to have the “what, when and how to’s” of SRTC assistance clearly laid out and readily available
- Suggestion that project prioritization presented to the Board should be made upon the recommendation of the TTC

Ms. Minshall asked for clarification if all members present concurred with the suggestion that TTC should review and recommend project prioritization before being presented to the Board; everyone agreed.

8d. Education Series Update - Ms. Minshall distributed a flyer and provided a brief overview of the three scheduled education series events for 2019.

9. TIP Working Group Update – Ms. Nelson reported that the group continues to meet monthly to monitor status of projects as pertains to the federal obligation target.

10. Agency Update – Ms. Nelson announced the April 11 Board meeting has been rescheduled to April 4. She that the Active Transportation Working Group will meet at SRTC on April 8. She reported that herself, Mr. Blankenagel, Ms. Dewey, City of Spokane Councilmember Kate Burke, John VanZant of Spokane School District 81, and Amber Waldref will be traveling to Decatur, GA for walkability training and return with a walkability action plan.

11. Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary