

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
September 25, 2019
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, Washington

1. **Call to Order** - Chair Karl Otterstrom called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present

Mark Bergam	City of Airway Heights	Brandi Colyar	Spokane County
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	Heleen Dewey	Spokane Regional Health Dist
Scott Bernhard	City of Liberty Lake	Gordon Howell	Spokane Transit Authority
Louis Meuler	City of Spokane	Karl Otterstrom	Spokane Transit Authority
Brandon Blankenagel	City of Spokane	Mary Jensen	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Adam Jackson	City of Spokane Valley		

Committee Alternates Present

Scott Engelhard	Spokane County	Keith Martin	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Char Kay	WSDOT-Eastern Region	Barry Greene	Spokane County
Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley		

Guests

Katy Allen	City of Liberty Lake	Mark Brower	KPFF
Paul Allen	City of Millwood	Kevin Freeman	City of Millwood
Sean Messner			

Staff

Eve Nelson	Senior Transportation Planner	April Gunderson	Asst. Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich	Senior Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Administrative Asst.

3. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** - *Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the August 28, 2019 minutes as presented. Mr. Martin 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.

6. **Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting** – Chair Otterstrom shared highlights from the September 12 Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

7. **Supplement to Henry Road Overpass: Preserve High Performance Transit/Congestion Relief Corridor** - Ms. Nelson explained the Board action on September 12 and provided some background on the project and its' funding. She described what the Board asked the TTC to do, which was to "have the TTC and SRTC staff provide an analysis of funding availability and project delivery schedule to the Board prior to their October 10, 2019 meeting". The current scope interferes with a potential High Performance Transit on Spokane County's preserved Right-of-Way (ROW) for future transit use. She said the Board Chair presented an alternative design to preserve the ROW at the Board meeting and preliminary estimates for costs for the modification is between \$1.5M and \$3M.

Mr. Greene reported that the Board of County Commissioners came to an agreement with the City of Liberty Lake yesterday afternoon to expand the boundaries of the easement. Ms. Allen explained that the Board of County Commissioners decision did not address funding; she said potential funding from the TIF or LIFT programs have been identified, but has not been secured yet. Ms. Allen provided details about the facility ownership noting that Liberty Lake will build the overpass to accommodate existing utilities. Ms. Nelson said staff and the TIP Working Group have identified \$1.469M in Highway Infrastructure Funding available.

The group discussed at length and comments included: the inclusion of the project in the MTP, the location of future light rail on Sprague vs. Appleway, facility ownership on adjacent roadways, the process of accommodating these types of requests in the future, the existing utilities in the ROW, possibility of recommending partial funding, the funding for the original Henry Road project through the Connecting WA package, and how this type of situation could be addressed in the future. Ms. Kay asked that the Board be made aware of Liberty Lake's other possible funding sources.

Ms. Nelson showed a chart of the amount of funding available from four different sources; she said the TIP Working Group recommended using Highway Infrastructure Funding (HIP) funding rather than Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, because STBG funds can be used on other types of projects on the contingency list. Chair Otterstrom reiterated that the requested action before the group was not to recommend approval of the project or funding of the project, but only to provide a recommendation to the Board which funding source to utilize and a proposed project schedule.

Mr. Meuler made a motion to recommend to the Board the availability of \$1.469 in HIP funds and a proposed project schedule of (1) Preliminary Engineering 2019 & 2020 (2) Right-of Way 2020 (3) Construction 2021. Mr. Blankenagel seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

8. Funding Requests from City of Millwood and City of Spokane - Ms. Nelson described the expanded scope for the Argonne Road Congestion Relief project, which is extending the multi-use pathway termini and adding city center lighting; the request is for \$380,000. She noted the original project was approved by the Board in August 2018 and the initial scope was \$1.27M She addressed the TIP policies that apply to this request and said there are \$428,107 of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds available from project deobligations.

Mr. Krieger made a motion to recommend Board approval of the additional request of \$380,000 to the Argonne Road Congestion Relief Project. Ms. Kay seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nelson discussed the Driscoll-Cochran-Alberta Sidewalk Infill project, which was approved by the Board in August 2018. This project received partial funding of \$530,000 of the \$1M requested in the Call for Projects. She said the City has requested \$175,200 and there is \$774,871 of STBG-SA available from project deobligations.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to recommend Board approval of the additional request of \$175,200 to the Driscoll-Cochran-Alberta Sidewalk Infill Project. Mr. Krieger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program October Amendment – Ms. Gunderson described the two projects in the October amendment, both relating to the Pines Rd Grade Separation Project, and noted that no public comments were received during the 10-day open public comment period. There were no questions or discussion.

Mr. Blankenagel made a motion recommend Board approval of the 2019-2022 TIP October amendment. Ms. Colyar seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

10. 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program - Ms. Nelson provided an overview of the TIP. She said the 2020-2023 TIP contains 99 projects, 12 of which are new, and the program totals approximately \$786 million over a four-year time span. She presented a breakdown of projects by type and said that staff has completed the following consistency determinations (1) be consistent with the MTP (2) be consistent with regional plans (3) conform with state air quality plans and (4) be fiscally constrained. Ms. Nelson spoke about the 30-day public comment period and the public open house event held on 9/17/19. She called for questions or discussion and there were none.

Ms. Kay made a motion recommend Board approval of the 2020-2023 TIP. Mr. Blankenagel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Presentation on Spokane Walkability Action Project - Ms. Nelson, Mr. Blankenagel, and Ms. Dewey spoke about the scholarship won by a six-person team consisting of themselves and a representative from Spokane Public Schools, Spokane City Council Member Kate Burke and Amber Waldref from The Zone Project to attend an intensive three-day workshop at the Walkability Action Institute in Decatur, Georgia.

The workshop instructors tasked them to think of a systemic transportation/public health problem in the community which they could solve and would have an impact thousands of citizens. The team identified a gap between school redevelopment projects and the integration of infrastructure needed to support school and students needs to use multiple modes and under- utilized modes of transportation. They described how they are creating a Spokane Walkability Action Plan and how it coordinates with Target Zero, the District 81 Strategic Plan and the Safe Routes to School Program. They spoke about the plan's goals, strategies and tools, including Health Impact Assessments and noted that the Shaw Middle School redevelopment will be used as a pilot in the plan.

12. TIP Working Group Update – Mr. Martin said he spoke with Stephanie Tax and found out that local agencies delivered their share of the state obligation authority target, which is commendable since as of July we were only at about 50% of the target.

13. Agency Update – Ms. Nelson stated there were no updates to announce or discuss.

14. Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary