

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Tuesday May 26, 2020 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Approval of April Meeting Minutes

TAC Chair Kennet Bertelsen brought the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Members Present:

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| Chris Barnes | Dave Richardson |
| Kennet Bertelsen | Melanie Rose |
| Raychel Callary | Jonathan Schrock |
| Todd Coleman | Kieran Sprague |
| Mark Haberman | Janet Weldon |
| Liz Hall | Rhonda Young |
| Carlie Hoffman | |

Guest Meeting Facilitator

Katie Herzog, Gonzaga University

SRTC Staff Present:

Sabrina Minshall, Executive Director
Mike Ulrich, Principal Transportation Planner
Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II
Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator

Mr. Schrock made a motion to approve the April 27, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Community Contract – Ms. Herzog continued the conversation from the last meeting about the creation of a TAC community contract; a set of agreed-upon behaviors and values to which all members can be accountable and for to assist in group productivity. She read list of values that emerged as part of the exercise from last meeting as follows, “*As TAC members we strive to be: Inclusive, Accountable, Focused/Aware/Present, Respectful, Honest, Supportive, Transparent, Team-oriented/Collaborative, Brave, Communicative, Open-minded, and Productive*”. She described the characteristics of each value and stated that it could be useful to present this slide at the start of each TAC meeting, or at least on a regular basis.

Ms. Minshall commented that while the community contract is informal, the group discussed at the last meeting the possibility of formally adopting it, which remains an option.

Ms. Herzog called for discussion or any modifications to the Community Contract and there was none.

2. Re-Introductions / “Homework” Presentations / Vision & Communications Exercise

Ms. Minshall outlined SRTC’s values, the guiding principles from the long-range transportation plan, how they differ, and how they support each other.

Ms. Herzog explained how the vision and communication exercise would integrate into the TAC photo presentations. Members were to note from each other’s presentations which values and/or guiding principles emerge from the dialogue and she provided several examples. Mr. Bertelsen reminded the group that in 2012/2013 the TAC was instrumental in the creation of the guiding principles.

Each member described the transportation-related photos they had submitted, which included examples of conditions in Spokane of which they were proud or thought highly of and other examples of areas that needed improvement.

Afterwards, Ms. Herzog opened up the conversation to discuss what common themes emerged. Quality of Life, Safety and Security, and Economic vitality were at the top of the list. Values that were lacking in the areas represented by the photos were operations/maintenance, economic impacts of at grade train crossings, access to resources, more balance, and transparency between esthetics and stewardship.

4. Draft TAC Meeting Model – Ms. Herzog explained that the proposed meeting model was designed to streamline and increase productivity and to keep the group on task during meetings. She noted that having a designated system through which topics can be moved is more efficient. The proposed model consists of three stages: Identify, Deliberate and Recommend. Ms. Herzog provided sub-tasks which could be categorized within each stage.

Ms. Herzog presented a prioritization matrix comparing the time/urgency of an item with its alignment with the guiding principles and stakeholder impact. She stated that discussion of items by the TAC may not be a linear process, but may have to revisit one of the prior stages before a recommendation can be made.

The group discussed the proposed plan and how it could fit in with the Board of Director's work plan. Mr. Bertelsen suggested that members review what the Board will be discussing for the rest of the year and evaluate where each person's area of expertise may fit in. Mr. Bertelsen recapped the presentation that he and Ms. Young gave at the May 12 Board meeting. He noted that he asked what type of involvement the Board wanted to see from the TAC and got very little feedback. Mr. Bertelsen said the ball is back in the TAC's court and the group can create a plan where they feel they can make the most impact on the Board's upcoming decisions.

Ms. Minshall agreed that TAC members should look to see where their talents could be of use in the regional planning process and subsequent recommendations to the Board. Ms. Rose commented that the Board discussed having the TAC look into a regional funding strategy. Mr. Coleman said it is not clear how the Board will decide on what items will be given to the TAC to evaluate/recommend. Mr. Bertelsen said an important role of the TAC is to impress upon the Board the importance of having regional collaboration and prioritization discussions with an outcome.

5. Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Mr. Ulrich said he would explain how the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) relates to the work done at SRTC. He explained the statutory requirements for updating the MTP and that it is used as a foundational planning document. Mr. Ulrich said it is common practice to think of a MTP in terms of dollars and projects, but it may be better to think of it in terms of outcomes. For example – what do we want Spokane to look like in 20 years?

Mr. Ulrich said the MTP is updated every four years and staff is currently working on the plan, to be approved in December 2021. He outlined the four main components of the MTP being updated (Operationalizing modal networks, Freight study/investment Strategy, Financial assessment and Subarea Study integration) and briefly described each category. He emphasized that an outcome-based approach means we stop thinking about individual products to include in the plan but instead focus on the desired results. He explained how performance-based planning differs from traditional transportation planning; instead of focusing on building a project, planners set a strategic direction and then identify projects that align with that direction. He suggested that the TAC could be involved in setting performance objectives. The group discussed other possible engagement opportunities

He requested that the group let him know what areas they would like to learn more about in terms of the MTP and SRTC's functions.

6. Future Meetings Prep – Ms. Minshall explained the “homework” assignment; to identify five to 10 possible areas of engagement or opportunities. These will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting and will be incorporated into the TAC work plan. She provided several examples.

Ms. Minshall and Mr. Bertelsen spoke about having several other members attend the next Board meeting.

7. Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman,
Acting Recording Secretary