

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2020 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - Chair Kennet Bertelsen brought the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

Members Present:

Kennet Bertelsen	Carlie Hoffman
Raychel Callary	Dave Richardson
Todd Coleman	Melanie Rose
Liz Hall	Rhonda Young
Christopher Barnes	Jonathan Schrock

Guests:

Paul Kropp

SRTC Staff Present:

Sabrina Minshall, Executive Director
Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator

ACTION ITEMS

2. Approval of Minutes - Chair Bertelsen called for discussion or edits to the minutes; there was none.

Ms. Rose made a motion to approve the June 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Young seconded the motion. All votes were in favor.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. TAC Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting – Chair Bertelsen reported on the topics and discussions covered at the July 9 Board meeting.

4. Creation of TAC Work Plan – Chair Bertelsen referred to the proposed plan work areas document and said these topics came out of last month's discussions about what this group is going to do and how. He said he would like the group to come to a consensus of the top three areas, then break into small groups to evaluate further.

Ms. Minshall said the proposed work plan area document contains examples/suggestions of what the work might look like; it can be used as a guide, but the TAC is going to select the topics and make the work plan their own. She said the goal of today's meeting is to end with a draft work plan. Chair Bertelsen confirmed that the document provided is meant to be a conversation starter.

The group discussed each of the six potential topic areas:

1. Increased engagement of businesses and the public for transportation decisions, education/interagency/public/business
2. Linkages with economic development and transportation
3. Financial crisis for transportation: Options moving forward
4. Trains blocking roadways – at-grade crossings
5. Housing and land use connection to transportation
6. Livability/Active transportation/equity/accessible design for roadways and transportation

The group discussed at length. Some comments included;

- Topic 5 may be able to be incorporated into economic development
- Topic 6 feeds into a lot of the other topics and could be absorbed into those
- Topic 3 is a little tricky and contains a lot of unknowns; not sure what the TAC could bring to the table with this one. Or perhaps the TAC's work could follow what the efforts done by the consultants for the MTP Financial Forecast.
- It might be a bit premature to address Topic 5 and land use right now; later when the technical work for the MTP land use update is complete the TAC could re-visit this.

The group came to a consensus on topics 1, 2 and 6, with the understanding that topic 3 can be worked into each. Ms. Minshall suggested prioritizing the list so the Board can provide better feedback.

Members chose which of the three topic areas they were most interested in. The meeting divided into small groups for discussion of the “why” statements, revising/defining deliverables and describing how the TAC could work on the item to help the Board.

At 4:00 the entire group reconvened to elaborate what had been discussed in the small groups. Comments included:

Topic 1 – Increased engagement of businesses and the public for transportation decisions, education/interagency/public/business

- There are different areas to increase awareness and engagement.
- Create a social media policy that the TAC can engage in
- Guerilla marketing – target geographic areas where new projects are happening
- Have an intentional event and outreach plan.
- Identify areas where the TAC has influence to inform people
- Go above and beyond for integrity and transparency
- Look for more engagement and collaboration and encourage the Board to do it as well.
- Mr. Coleman spoke about how the success of the social media/digital outreach for S3R3.
- Ms. Hoffman reported on the digital outreach done by Spokane County Libraries.
- Title VI outreach has to happen early and often – at the time of project implementation is too late

Topic 2 – Linkages with economic development and transportation

- Transportation is vital to industry and industry provides vital economic impacts to the region
- The TAC can provide a perspective on what is regionally significant from a non-technical standpoint
- Identification of the relationship between industry and different government agencies
- Relationship between economic development and transportation infrastructure preservation and maintenance
- Capacity is key for both businesses and individual system users
- Ability to add capacity without adding asphalt.

Topic 6 - Livability/Active transportation/equity/accessible design for roadways and transportation

- Develop briefing papers: What lessons can we learn from the health crisis that can be applied to non single occupant vehicle forms of transportation investments?
- What design considerations should be in place in projects?
- Is there regional design standard? If not, should there be? Provide assessment of review and examples. Current City of Spokane standards, NACTO standards/recommendations
- How can transportation be important in providing access to economic opportunity for those who can't or chose not to drive?
- Recommend investment level
- Recommend performance metric for investment
- Active transportation during and after COVID 19: What are the metrics, bike/ped increase, roads closed to traffic for more public space, downtown parking, curbside cafes. What are the next steps? What do we want Spokane County future to look like?
- This topic is important because:
 - changing personal mobility patterns (walk, bike)
 - working from home COVID, post-COVID
 - parallel among accessibility and freedom, quality of life affected by accessibility
 - design for accessibility first are beneficial for everyone
 - social equity and transportation – free transit model, alternate funding models

After deliberation, the group decided that all the notes/comments would be compiled into a draft TAC Work Plan document by staff, distributed to all members for editing, and then forwarded to the Board either in the August Board Packet, by email from the TAC Chair or both.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman,
Acting Recording Secretary