

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
 August 26, 2020 | Zoom Video Conference

1. Call to Order – Mr. Adam Jackson, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Adam Jackson	City of Spokane Valley
Heather Trautman	City of Airway Heights
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park
Lisa Key	City of Liberty Lake
Kara Mowry	City of Spokane
Inga Note	City of Spokane
Kevin Picanco	City of Spokane
Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley
Brandi Colyar	Spokane County
Steve Davenport	Spokane County
April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Cindy Green	Spokane Regional Health Dist.
Kristine Williams	Spokane Transit Authority
Rachelle Bradley	Spokane Tribe
Mary Jensen	WSDOT-East. Region
Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT-East. Region

Committee Alternates Present

Barry Greene	Spokane County
Char Kay	WSDOT-East. Region
Mike Tresidder	Spokane Transit Authority
Mike Basinger	City of Spokane Valley

Guests

Paul Kropp	
Sean Messner	HDR
Katherine Miller	City of Spokane
Keith Martin	WSDOT-East. Region
Ben Schmitt	City of Liberty Lake
Brandon Blankenagel	KPFF Consulting Engineers
Brian Belsby	
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa	WSDOT-East. Region
LeAnn Yamamoto	CommuteSmart NW
Jami Hayes	Spokane County

Staff

Eve McMenamy	Principal Transportation Planner	Sabrina Minshall	Executive Director
Ryan Stewart	Principal Transportation Planner	Kylee Jones	Assoc. Transportation Planner II
Mike Ulrich	Principal Transportation Planner	Michael Redlinger	Assoc. Transportation Planner II
David Fletcher	Assoc. Transportation Planner III	Julie Meyers-Lehman	Admin-Exec. Coordinator

3. Approval of July 2020 Meeting Minutes – It was noted that the minutes need to be amended to reflect that Ms. Colyar was in attendance at the July meeting.

Mr. Ableman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Krieger seconded the motion. All votes were in favor.

4. Public Comments – Mr. Kropp submitted comments about Agenda Item 8 “I have taken a close look at Mike Ulrich’s memo and the description of the proposed LQA methodology for forecasting population and employment growth by TAZ for Spokane County. I also had a discussion with Mike by phone on this subject on Tuesday of this week. The “logistic growth model” is a scientifically recognized method for computing population growth that accommodates the progressive exhaustion of resources. (There’s even a lucid Kahn Academy lesson on the subject.) The proposal that population be computed in this fashion for every TAX in the county based on 2019 zoning and land usage and projected to a future county-wide population “control total” provided by the state’s OFM is (a) methodologically credible, and (b) will produce a useful, uniform regional portrayal of the consequences of the land use and zoning choices all of the county’s jurisdictions have made since the inception of GMA planning in 2001.

5. Technical Member Comments – Members shared information about projects/programs happening in their jurisdictions.

6. Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Jackson shared highlights from the August Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

7. 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) September Amendment – Ms. Jones presented information about the two WSDOT projects in the proposed amendment. There were no questions or discussion.

Mr. Picanco made a motion to recommend Board approval of the September TIP Amendment. Ms. Kay seconded the motion. All votes were in favor.

8. Report on Work of Land Use Forecast Subject Matter Expert (SME) Team – Mr. Ulrich provided a background of the existing land use forecasting process, the development of the multi-jurisdictional SME team, and their work to date. He explained that the geographic distribution of jobs and population is much more important than population growth alone when evaluating the regional transportation system and the relevance for improving forecasting methods.

He summarized the proposed critical changes in the land use forecasting methodology;

1. Stop assuming a jurisdiction's historical share of county-wide growth will continue into the future
2. Application of TAZ data using a bottom-up approach instead of top-down
3. Create a quantitative, consistent and documented approach to TAZ-level capacity.

Mr. Ulrich noted that the MTP is updated every four years and staff and stakeholders are aware of a need for a forecasting tool that provides more frequent updates. He said the Data project will move the needle significantly in that direction, however it will not be implemented before the MTP update deadline of December 2021.

The group discussed at length; some comments included:

- Question if the physical geographies of each TAZ will be reviewed prior to the forecast and Mr. Ulrich said they will not. The TAZ's are built into the travel demand model and the geographies are set within the model. The DATA Project will be able to evaluate TAZ, but for this MTP update there is not the budget or time to do this.
- Questions about when the final draft methodology document was distributed to the SME team for their input/comments. It was distributed on May 7 with a follow up email several weeks afterwards.
- Questions about where the written feedback from City of Spokane and Spokane County could be found. Mr. Ulrich said it comments were incorporated into the document as footnotes and can be seen on page 12 of the TTC packet.
- Ms. Note remarked that City of Spokane concerns about the forecasting methodology were addressed in discussions with SRTC staff
- WSDOT staff who were on the SME team commented that they concur with and support the proposed methodology, although they did not submit written comments on the final draft document
- Mr. Jackson reminded the TTC that they previously took action to approve and seat the SME team to evaluate the forecasting methodology; the role of the TTC is now to provide a recommendation for the Board to accept or not accept staff's land use methodology recommendation.

Ms. Key made a motion recommend that the SRTC Board the use of the land use forecast methodology recommended by staff, which was developed using a collaborative process through the work of a subject matter expert team. Ms. Note seconded; motion passed with all votes in favor.

9. TIP Delivery & Project Readiness Policies –Ms. McMenemy discussed the requirements and deadlines for federal obligation targets. While this year SRTC exceeded the target, two out of the last six years (33%) the target has not been met. To ensure that obligations targets are met more consistently a process to improve project delivery and strategies meet the target earlier in the year began this spring and presented a timeline of discussions, including the discussion at the last TTC meeting. Ms. McMenemy said the input from that discussion

were incorporated into these strategies, which will be presented to the Board for information in September and for approval in October. If approved, the strategies will become part of the 2021 TIP Guidebook.

She provided details about;

- Three TIP Guidebook policy change recommendations
 1. Increase flexibility to move projects into an earlier year of the TIP
 2. Conduct a biennial SRTC preservation call for projects
 3. De-federalize funding for flexibility
- Three recommended updates to TIP practices
 1. Phasing for larger projects
 2. Move the internal SRTC obligation target date to June 30
 3. Require agencies to submit a Plan B for delivery options
- Maintaining two current policies
 1. Decrease flexibility for switching project delivery to later years
 2. Program balance the TIP

Ms. Note asked about block grant style funding for the preservation call for projects. Ms. McMenemy replied that while that option is still being discussed, it is not part of today's recommendation.

Ms. Note made a motion to recommend Board approval of the new TIP Guidebook policies as presented; Mr. Picanco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. 2021-2024 TIP Overview – Ms. McMenemy spoke about yearly TIP development requirements and a schedule for development and approval. There are 69 projects in the TIP, six of which are new, totaling \$714 million. The 2021-2024 TIP will be open for a 30-day public comment period beginning 9/01/2020 and will be presented to the TTC at the 9/19/2020 meeting for review and a Board recommendation. A virtual public meeting will be held on 9/15/20.

11. Agency Update – Mr. Ulrich reported on the stakeholder engagement platform for the DATA Project. He asked members to please take the time to review and provide feedback.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary