

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - Chair Todd Coleman brought the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Members Present:

Todd Coleman, Chair	Melanie Rose, Vice Chair
Kennet Bertlesen	
Raychel Callary	Mark Haberman
Liz Hall	Carlie Hoffman
Rhonda Young	

SRTC Staff Present:

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II	Kevin Wallace, Interim Executive Director
Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner	Michael Redlinger, Associate Transportation Planner III
Mike Ulrich, Principal Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator
Eve McMenemy, Principal transportation Planner	Michael Hagar, GIS Intern

2. Approval of Minutes

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

INFORMATION and DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Coleman reported on the topics and discussions covered at the January 14 Board meeting.

4. TAC Work Plan Focus Brainstorming Activity & 2021 Schedule

Ms. Jones recapped the four focus areas of the 2020 TAC Work Plan and asked the group to reevaluate each area for relevancy and suggestions for next steps; she will incorporate this information into a schedule of events/tasks for 2021. The group stated their intention to concentrate on Focus areas 1 and 3 for now.

She recapped the work done by the TAC sub-group the Public Participation Plan to date and noted that all TAC members are welcome to participate at any time on this project.

Ms. Jones launched an online poll for members to submit ideas for deliverables in *Focus Area 1: Increased Engagement of businesses and the public for transportation decisions and education Heightened interagency communication*. Suggestions included:

- Guest speakers/speaker's bureau in key forums to share projects needing regional decisions
- Increase access to input processes by those with limited access to technology or transportation
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with Greater Spokane Incorporated
- Join neighborhood communities on social media
- Additional brainstorming for this item around a specific topic, such as MTP or Electrification

A second poll for *Focus Area 3: Linkages Between Economic Development & Transportation* had responses such as:

- Focus on smart growth, not just growth
- Coordination with the SME Freight Team

- PDA as guest speaker
- Seek input from key developers in the region

Ms. Jones will consolidate the comments and circulate to TAC members for additional suggestions.

5. MTP Update - Regional Bike Network

Mr. Lien explained the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is in process of being updated and part of the update includes defining a regional bicycle network. He described the purpose of regional networks overall and the criteria for roads/paths/trails to be included in the bike network.

He asked the group for input on additional priority destinations and types of destinations, regardless of mode. The group discussed;

- Difficulty in determining if a bike trip is for primarily for exercise or is being used as a mode of transportation to reach a destination
- Connection gaps in the trail system
- Possible higher use of the bike network near universities
- Lack of north/south bicycle routes/trails
- Difficulties in accessing existing trails/shared use paths
- Areas with for-fee parking and/or difficult parking increases bike use
- Barriers to bike use isn't always a physical one; sometimes it can be challenges with motorists' attitude toward cyclists

Mr. Lien said the next steps will be incorporating the information from this discussion and also mapping out the gaps in the bike network.

6. DivisionConnects Update

Mr. Lien provided a background of the study, outlined the structure and listed agency partners. He presented information about the existing conditions on the Division corridor and the base assumptions in the development of future scenarios. The Steering Committee has approved the release of four bus rapid transit alternatives for public review and input and visuals on each were presented.

Mr. Lien spoke about the high-level analysis of future travel demand modeling screenlines completed by the consulting firm for each of the four build scenarios. More information including an online open house can be found at DivisionConnects.org; a virtual open house event for the public is scheduled for the evening of February 11. He described outreach efforts to property owners and businesses along the corridor.

The next phase of the study will change the focus from a transit/multimodal analysis to a land use analysis and continued refinement of the preferred transit alternative.

7. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Engagement Strategy

Ms. Jones reported there will be five main parts of the community engagement strategy: a community survey about transportation, a virtual MTP kick-off meeting in the spring, a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting in the late summer, ongoing interagency coordination/collaboration, and ongoing updates to the Board and committees.

She said staff will be seeking assistance from the TAC with development and distribution of the survey and with the two public meetings.

8. WA Dept of Commerce ETS Grant & Spokane Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan

Ms. Jones explained that Spokane Regional Electrification project has two parallel processes: (1) Implementation of electric vehicle charging stations as part of the grant award and (2) Creation of a regional plan for electrification as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She noted the success of obtaining the grant was due to many project partners and supporters.

She announced that the Washington department of Commerce awarded the Spokane region \$2.5M for electric vehicle charging equipment and infrastructure. This grant award was the largest of all the recipients and the only one on this side of the state. She provided a history of the grant collaboration process in 2020, addressed the proposed areas in which the funding will be spent, and outlined the roles and responsibilities of the grant partners (SRTC, Avista, City of Spokane, Urbanova).

The group talked about other potential locations for charging stations, emphasizing the need to track construction of new facilities where charging stations would be ideal (libraries, community centers). Chair Coleman told the group to email Ms. Jones with additional suggestions.

9. TAC Member Comments – Chair Coleman thanked Mr. Bertelsen for his past service as committee Chair.

9. Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman,
Acting Recording Secretary