

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council Transportation Technical Committee
January 27, 2021 | Zoom Video Conference

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance

Mr. Adam Jackson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Adam Jackson - Chair	City of Spokane Valley	Mary Jensen - Vice Chair	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Heather Trautman	City of Airway Heights	Barry Greene	Spokane County
Todd Ableman	City of Cheney	April Westby	Spokane Regional Clean Air
Roger Krieger	City of Deer Park	Cindy Green	Spokane Regional Health Dist
Lisa Key	City of Liberty Lake	Karl Otterstrom	Spokane Transit
Kara Mowry	City of Spokane	Kristine Williams	Spokane Transit Authority
Inga Note	City of Spokane	Rachelle Bradley	Spokane Tribe of Indians
Kevin Picanco	City of Spokane	Larry Larson	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Gloria Mantz	City of Spokane Valley	Glenn Wagemann	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Brandi Colyar	Spokane County		

Committee Alternates Present

Colin Quinn-Hurst	City of Spokane	Tim Schwab	Spokane County
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Guests

Joel Freedman	RSG Inc.	Shauna Harshman	City of Spokane
Maria Maynard	Spokane County	Jeremy Clark	City of Spokane Valley
Adam Miles	DOWL	Keith Martin	WSDOT-Eastern Region
Brian Belsby		Sean Messner	HDR
Paul Kropp			

Staff

Eve McMenamy	Principal Transportation Planner
Ryan Stewart	Principal Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich	Principal Transportation Planner
Jason Lien	Principal Transportation Planner
David Fletcher	Associate Transportation Planner III
Kevin Wallace	Interim Executive Director
Julie Meyers-Lehman	Exec-Admin Coordinator

2 Approval of December 2020 TTC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the December 2020 minutes as presented. Mr. Picanco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4 Technical Member Comments

Members spoke about current projects or programs in their jurisdiction/agency.

5 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Jackson shared highlights from the January 14 Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

6 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) February Amendment

Ms. Jones provided details about the three projects in the proposed amendment. There were no questions or discussion.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the 2021-2024 TIP February amendment. Ms. Mantz seconded the motion. All votes were in favor.

7 TIP Call for Projects – Principles of Investment

Ms. McMenemy spoke about SRTC's Call for Projects in 2018 in which \$6M was set aside for capital maintenance and preservation projects to be programmed in 2022/2023 so that jurisdictions could apply for funding based on actual pavement condition rather than on predicted condition. In October 2020 the Board approved a policy for SRTC to conduct a biennial preservation only call for projects.

She reported on discussions of this topic by the TIP Working Group in December, their recommendations, the reasoning behind them, and noted that there was support expressed at the January 14 Board meeting for a preservation only call for projects. She presented a preliminary schedule and read the requested action, which was:

Recommendation to the SRTC Board of Directors to approve

(1) Limit the \$6M SRTC call for preservation projects to include grind and overlays, chip seals and other sealants;

(2) Limit project awards not to exceed \$1M; and

(3) Limit any one jurisdiction total awards not to exceed \$2M.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the three points as outlined above. Mr. Greene seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8 Spokane County Cost Overrun Eligibility

Ms. McMenemy said the TTC is being asked to consider if Bigelow Gulch Project 6 cost overrun is eligible for SRTC contingency funding. In 2018 this project was awarded \$2.81M of partial funding and in 2020 received \$1.27M of contingency funding, and at that time was expected to be all the funding required for project completion. The project is planned for construction this year and to be in alignment with construction of the City of Spokane Valley's Wellesley/Sullivan intersection project.

She spoke about the cost overrun policies in the TIP Guidebook (Policies 6.3, 6.3.1 & 6.3.2) and provided examples of eligible and ineligible cost overrun situations. She explained that while this project does not qualify for the contingency CMAQ funding available, it does qualify for the \$429,000 of available HIP funding.

Ms. Colyar gave an overview of the project and discussed the nature and details of the cost overrun, which are mostly due to right-of-way costs for public school properties. Several comments were made about the rapidly increasing costs of construction and property values in the region creating real problems with project planning.

Mr. Krieger made a motion to recommend to the Board that Bigelow Gulch Project 6 is eligible for SRTC available contingency funding; Ms. Note seconded.

The group discussed the contingency funding process, projects on the current contingency list, and how much additional money Spokane County will need put forth in order for the project to be fully funded.

The motion passed with all votes in favor.

9 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Financial Forecast

Mr. Fletcher noted this item was carried forward from the last meeting to allow member agency staff additional time to review the forecast. He presented a summary of the Subject Matter Expert Team's comments, projected revenues to all local jurisdictions, and a summary of comments about the forecast by TTC members, which were:

- How does the forecast provide flexibility with its assumptions?
- Assumptions for future legislatively funded projects seem aggressive.
- STA recommended various edits to the financial forecast report's

He shared information about the adjustable assumption parameters which have been built into the forecast and said there is a 20% projected decrease in legislative funding from 2032 to 2045 and a 2.7% projected decrease of the region's share of statewide population in the same time frame.

The group discussed anticipated future funding availability and a concern was raised about not accounting for enough inflation in the construction area. Chair Jackson asked that the TTC be provided an intermediate touch on the Needs Analysis before the June meeting.

Mr. Larson made a motion to recommend the Board accept the MTP financial forecast with the proposed revisions as shown. Mr. Otterstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

10 DivisionConnects Update

Mr. Lien provided a status update on the study, explained there are four alternatives currently under consideration, and announced that a new public engagement campaign has recently been launched. Information was presented about the structure of the study and the existing conditions along the corridor. He described the process by which the alternatives for final evaluation were identified and presented illustrations of the four alternatives and photo examples of similar layouts in other regions.

Mr. Lien presented the project schedule, upcoming public engagement activities and noted that Phase II of the project will focus on land use analysis. He said that while the TTC will be kept informed of the study's progress and can provide input, and there will not be a formal recommendation from the TTC to the Board.

11 DATA Draft Design Plan

Mr. Ulrich provided a history of the project and described the methods and touch points in which stakeholders and member agency staff have been involved in the project development process to date. He then gave the floor to Mr. Joel Freedman, project consultant from RSG. Mr. Freedman spoke about the updated Phase I and Phase II schedules, the decision-making process and outlined how stakeholder input has been obtained and applied.

Mr. Freedman outlined the draft design plan, which includes the following proposed Phase II investments:

- Household Travel Survey (1500 household smartphone enabled using rMove)
- Passive Data (Passenger & heavy truck trip tables from passive location based services data)
- Traffic Count Data (Selected traffic counts at key locations for model validation)
- Land Use Data Management System (For management of existing & future land use data and TAZ data)
- Travel Demand Model Updates
- Online Data Hub (Regional online data/tools platform to share SRTC's information with stakeholders and the community)

Chair Jackson asked if Mr. Ulrich would send a link to the project website so that the TTC could have an opportunity to comment on the plan. Mr. Ulrich stated that he would.

12 Agency Update

Ms. McMenemy reported on:

- Land use update for MTP is in the final stages and data requests have been sent to all member agencies/jurisdictions with land use authority; it was requested that members ensure TAZ level employment distribution is returned to SRTC next week.
- A series of meetings by SRTC's Interlocal Agreement Signatories to discuss the addition of Tribes to the Board and other governance structure issues. Notifications and links can be found on the SRTC website.
- A notice was distributed from MUCTD about a plan on novice traffic controls devices which is open for comment.

13 Agency Update

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary