

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council 2/22/2021 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Zoom Video Conference

#1 Call to Order/Roll Call – Vice Chair Melanie Rose brought the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Members Present:

Todd Coleman, Chair
Kennet Bertelsen
Mark Haberman
Carlie Hoffman
Christopher Barnes

Melanie Rose, Vice Chair
Rachel Callary
Liz Hall
Dave Richardson

Guests Present:

Brandon Blankenagel, KPFF
Char Kay, WSDOT

SRTC Staff Present:

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II
Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich, Principal Transportation Planner

Michael Redlinger, Associate Transportation Planner III
Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator

Action Items

#2 – Approval of January 25 TAC Meeting Minutes

Ms. Rose requested that Agenda Item 4 of the minutes to amended to include the entire wording of the TAC Work Plan Focus Area: 1.

Mr. Bertelsen made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Hall seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Information & Discussion Items

#3 Chair Report on Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Coleman provided highlights from the February SRTC Board of Directors meeting.

#4 - Fish Lake Trail Connection Study

Brandon Blankenagel of KPFF presented information about the four potential alignments under review for the connection from the Centennial Trail People's Park trailhead to the Fish Lake Trail. He showed illustrations of existing conditions of the roadways and how they might be changed under the preferred alternative. He addressed roadway crossing design, public outreach and community involvement. Estimated construction costs for the four alternatives run from \$7.5M to \$21.9M. He explained the advisory committees' evaluation process and outcomes. The next steps in the process are to complete the final report and deliver it to the City of Spokane City Council for consideration.

#5 - Spokane Bicycle Advisory Board Update

TAC Member Rhonda Young is a member of the Board and she spoke about their accomplishments in 2020, including Adoption of All Ages & Abilities design standards, bridge design standards, discussion of mandatory bike helmet mandates, etc. She described items in the 2021 work plan, which will focus on connectivity, making recommendations on plans and studies throughout the region and providing feedback on bike lane plans interacting with routine street resurfacing and maintenance. She spoke about the City of Spokane's Active

Transportation weekly update which contains a lot of resources and information. It was suggested that the Active Transportation update should be added to SRTC's Public Participation Plan.

#6 Transportation Projects and Events at Gonzaga University

Ms. Young said there have been heightened conversations on campus about social justice and the societal impacts of transportation projects. Transportation, social justice, equity and inclusion are areas where perhaps the TAC could get involved. She shared information about several tentative events being developed; (1) Creation of events in collaboration with WSDOT which would bring in students with transportation practitioners together for conversations (2) Discussions about disproportionate rise in pedestrian deaths in the U.S. over the past 28 years. (3) A field trip around Inclusive Design Principles.

#7 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Engagement Survey

Ms. Jones said last month the group discussed 5 different milestones for MTP process and one of them is a public survey. The last survey was completed in 2013. Ms. Jones said staff is asking the TAC to brainstorm what kind of questions should be asked of the public. She shared of a list of potential survey questions that staff developed, several of which are related to how COVID has impacted transportation needs/challenges and asked for input from the group.

The group discussed; some comments included:

- Knowing how the data from the survey results data will be used would help construct the questions
- Survey must not contain transportation jargon
- Let people know that SRTC wants the system to work better for them
- Need to help the public understand how long it takes projects to go from development to construction
- Ask the public to prioritize transportation modes and what they feel are overall transportation needs
- The survey should ask how people are currently using the transportation system and how they anticipate using it in the future
- Ask the question "When thinking about transportation, what does your ideal community include?"
- Identify the research questions trying to be answered before crafting the questions.

Ms. Jones will distribute a sample list to TAC members for additional comments. Chair Coleman encourages everyone to take the time to review and add suggestions.

#8 Public Participation Plan Update

Ms. Jones showed the update timeline, and areas of opportunity for TAC members, upcoming workshops in March and April. She recapped what was accomplished at PPP Workshop #2, reviewed other MPO's PPP goals & objectives, reviewed SRTC PPP principles, brainstormed outreach barriers and brainstormed goals and objectives.

She read the draft goals and their objectives:

- Goal #1 – Provide full public access to key decision points early and often on all transportation planning activities with clear, timely, accessible, and accurate information for meaningful participation.
- Goal #2 – provide proactive public part process in all transportation planning activities ensuring inclusion and support for participation by historically disenfranchised populations through a variety of modes of communications.
- Goal #3 – Increase public awareness and education of SRTC regional planning, land use and transportation issues and activities across Spokane County.

There was discussion and comments about the need to figure out how to measure the success of the goals. Mr. Bertelsen suggested that the PPP should include examples of how public input influence project design or development. Ms. Hoffman said there should be explanations of why, in certain cases, public input is not used.

#9 TAC Member Comments

There were no comments.

#10 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm

Julie Meyers-Lehman
Recording Secretary