

## MEETING MINUTES

### Spokane Regional Transportation Council 3/22/2021 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Zoom Video Conference

1 **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Chair Todd Coleman brought the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**Members Present:**

Todd Coleman, Chair	Melanie Rose, Vice Chair
Christopher Barnes	Carlie Hoffman
Kennet Bertelsen	Liz Hall
Rachel Callary	Dave Richardson
Mark Haberman	Rhonda Young

**Guests Present:** None

**SRTC Staff Present:**

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II	Michael Redlinger, Associate Transportation Planner III
Ryan Stewart, Principal Transportation Planner	Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator
Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner	

## ACTION ITEMS

2 **Approval of February 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes**

Chair Coleman noted that the date of the meeting was February 22, not 21 as listed on the minutes and a grammatical correction on page 4. Mr. Barnes stated that he was at the last meeting, but his name was not on the list of attendees.

***Ms. Rose made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Richardson seconded. All votes were in favor***

## INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

3 **Chair Report on Board of Directors Meeting**

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

4 **US 195/I-90 Study Draft Project Packages**

Mr. Stewart presented a history of the study and reviewed the five project goals, which were arrived at by the community, stakeholders, and study advisory team members. He then described the two packages of proposed projects for corridor improvement: Project Package #1-Enhanced Expressway and Project Package #2-Parallel Network.

He described the main differences between each package as they pertain to the five goals and to the corridor baseline. Mr. Stewart highlighted costs of seven key projects and spoke about the upcoming public engagement events, including a virtual open house with opportunity for public input, an interactive map, speaking to neighborhood groups, planning committees, city council, and other interested groups. There will be many more steps of public involvement before a final recommendation is made.

The group discussed and some comments included;

- How local residents of the Inland Empire Way area have expressed concern about changes to the road through their neighborhood.
- The timeline for community outreach. Mr. Stewart said the online open house will run 3 – 4 weeks and he will also be presenting information to many groups. The study advisory team plans to allow significant time for public comment and information distribution; they want to proceed deliberately to allow for the best possible outcome.
- Outreach to senior citizen or low-income residents in the area and how many homes will be affected by proposed projects. Mr. Stewart replied that the study team recognizes that not all residents have internet access and they have been working with property management for area home owner associations to distribute information to residents. While he does not have information about the number of houses that may be impacted, they plan to work closely with the City of Spokane to identify impacted residences and reach out to them.
- Confirmation that the proposed Lindeke project would not displace the Fish Lake Trail.

## **5 DivisionConnects Update**

Mr. Lien noted the multi-phase schedule of this study and it is currently concluding phase 1, which is the selection of a preferred alternative for Bus Rapid Transit along the Division Corridor. He spoke about the community outreach year to date and showed graphics of each of the four final corridor alternatives.

He presented information comparing the four scenarios to each other in terms of transit performance, corridor mobility, equitable/inclusive access to transit, responsiveness to community goals, implementation feasibility, capital/operating costs and funding competitiveness.

The Steering Committee, analysis by the technical team and public feedback have been in support of option titled Side-Running C, which has street parking on Division and a two-way cycle track along Ruby St and business access and transit lanes through the couplet and mainline of Division. Mr. Lien described components of the scenario recommendation, alignment throughout different sections of the Division corridor, transit station location and lane configurations.

He spoke about the analysis of the four alternatives and traffic modeling results after completion of the NSC and addressed upcoming community engagement and involvement, and next steps in the process, including speaking to neighborhood groups, the corridor development plan, and pending action by the STA Board.

Mr. Barnes expressed his concern about bicycles on the mainline. Mr. Lien responded that the study team evaluated bike facilities along the entire length of Division, but felt that was not a good option due to high traffic volumes and need to purchase right of way. Utilizing a parallel route north and south for the mainline of Division was considered to be preferable.

Mr. Coleman asked if the preferred alternative generally stays within the existing right of way. Mr. Lien said with the exception of bus station locations, all concepts along the mainline and couplet are within the right of way.

## **6 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Redlinger explained the federal requirements for the development of a UPWP and highlighted the eight tasks contained in the SRTC's plan. He said President Biden's administration has a big emphasis on climate change and social justice and he asked the group where they see SRTC staff approaching work with that in mind. The group discussed SRTC's social equity mapping tool, review of new funding criteria in light of the Guiding Principles in Horizon 2040, and looking for ways to improve north-south bike routes.

## **7 TAC Member Comments**

There were no comments.

## **8 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 pm

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Julie Meyers-Lehman  
Recording Secretary