

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council
Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday September 9, 2021
Zoom Video Conference Meeting

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance/Excused Absences

Chair Ben Wick brought the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Mayor Ben Wick, *City of Spokane Valley* (Chair)
Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney* (Vice Chair)
Mayor James Weathers, *City of Airway Heights*
Council Member Dee Cragun, *City of Deer Park*
Mayor Cris Kaminskas, *City of Liberty Lake*
Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*
Council Member Lori Kinnear, *City of Spokane*
Council Member Candace Mumm, *City of Spokane*
Larry Stone, *Major Employer Representative*
Council Member Micki Harnois, *Southeast County Towns Rep.*
Commissioner Al French, *Spokane County*
E. Susan Meyer, *CEO, Spokane Transit Authority*
Todd Coleman, *Transportation Advisory Committee*
Mike Gribner, *Regional Administrator, WSDOT-Eastern Region*
Kelly Fukai, *Washington State Transportation Commission*

Alternate Board Members:

Inga Note, *Transportation Technical Committee*

Guests:

Chad Coles, *Spokane County*
Russ Connole
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Joe Tortorelli, *Spokane Good Roads Assn.*
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Chamisa Radford, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*
Katy Allen, *City of Liberty Lake*
Brandi Colyar, *Spokane County*
LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmart NW*
Kristine Williams, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, *WSDOT-Eastern Reg.*

SRTC Staff:

Lois Bollenback, *Incoming Executive Director*
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*
Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*
David Fletcher, *Associate Transportation Planner III*
Kylee Jones, *Associate Transportation Planner II*
Michael Redlinger, *Associate Transportation Planner II*
Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Administrative-Executive Coordinator*
Megan Clark, *SRTC Legal Counsel*

Chair Wick stated that members Linda Thompson, Matt Ewers and Mary Kuney requested excused absences.

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to excuse the absences. Ms. Cragun seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Wick reported that City of Medical Lake Council Member Tony Harbolt had to step down from Board membership due to ongoing meeting time conflicts and the City will be appointing a new member.

2 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3 Interim Executive Director's Report

Ms. Bollenback reported on:

- An update to the Electrification Grant project. This is a \$2.5M Department of Commerce grant to fund 51 electric vehicle charging stations, complemented with \$8.9M in match funding from Avista and STA. Staff from partner agencies working together on the details needed to implement the project. She recognized SRTC staff Kylee Jones who has taken the lead on shepherding this project for SRTC. The project team is very optimistic about the progress and the Board will receive a detailed update in the next few months.
- There are two appointed Board positions with three-year terms (Major Employer representative and Rail/Freight representative). In December 2021 the Board will be asked to reappoint the existing members or appoint new members to those seats.
- SRTC staff participated in the Unity in the Community event with an informational booth; it was a good opportunity to promote agency activities and interact with citizens.
- Meetings have been scheduled with representatives from the Kalispel Tribe and Spokane Tribe to discuss appointing individuals as SRTC Board members. She reminded that SRTC must enact a Memorandum of Agreement with each entity prior to the Board membership appointment.
- Discussions at the federal level regarding reauthorization of the FAST Act and a large comprehensive infrastructure package currently being evaluated by Congressional committees.
- COVID relief funding was passed in January and those allocations are just now showing up funding availability notifications for SRTC planning work. There will be a call for projects next year and the additional funding will be added to the normal funding collars available.

ACTION ITEMS

4 Consent Agenda

a) August 2021 Meeting Minutes

b) August 2021 Vouchers

c) 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) September Amendment

Ms. Cragun made a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda; Ms. Fukai seconded. All votes were in favor.

Recap for August 2021:

Vouchers: V121640 - V121658	112,067.98
Salaries/Benefits Pay Periods Ending: 8/07/21 and 8/21/21	98,560.34
Spokane County Treasury Monthly SCIP fee - Jul 2021	22.51
	<u>210,650.83</u>

5 Transportation Funding Priority Statement for 2021 Special Legislative Session

Ms. McMenemy reminded the group that in the recent state legislative session no transportation package was passed but there is still speculation about a special legislative session later this year where this issue may be addressed. In response to that, the Board took action in July to approve a Priority Funding Statement, which included three priority statements. At the August meeting the Board discussed adding a fourth priority statement, but the Board did not take action. Instead, staff was directed to expand the language and scope of Priority 2.

Ms. McMenemy read Priorities 1 and 3 and reviewed the wording changes in Priority 2, noting that staff had worked with Mr. Gribner on this. She said the statement reflects what can be delivered by member agencies and staff held conversations with TTC member staff to verify.

Several members commented that they are supportive of the new language in Priority 2 as it addresses more closely what it is anticipated that legislators will be looking for.

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the additional clarifying language in the SRTC Funding Priority Statement for the 2021 Washington State Legislative Special Session; Ms. Harnois seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McMenemy said the next steps will be to distribute an electronic copy of the entire priority statement document to Board members and post it to the SRTC website.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

6 US 195/I-90 Study Update

Mr. Stewart recapped the study's purpose, geographic area addressed, and members of the study advisory team. He emphasized that the focus of the study is not just for corridor improvements for vehicular traffic, but also to evaluate how the area is forecasted to grow and to evaluate safety, infrastructure, and access for all modes. The study has been ongoing for a year and a half and the draft final report is complete; the study advisory team reviewed the report last month and provided feedback.

Based on community input, surveys, stakeholder comments and other public feedback, the study team developed five project goals and metrics with which to analyze improvement strategies.

He spoke about upcoming public engagement activities through November, including a 30-day public comment period. The Executive Summary and draft Final Report will be presented to the Board in October and in November the Board will be asked to take action and accept the recommendations in the report.

The group discussed targeted public engagement and a pending residential development near Spangle.

7 Horizon 2045-Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): Needs Analysis (31:52)

Mr. Fletcher reminded the group that this is part two of the larger MTP Financial Assessment; part one was the Financial Forecast reviewed by the Board in March. The needs analysis provides a big picture, planning level estimate of the cost to adequately operate and maintain the regional transportation system over the next 20+ years. He noted that all the estimated costs are year of expenditure numbers.

He outlined and provided examples of the MTP needs categories; Operations & Maintenance, Preservation, Programmatic Buckets, and Regionally Significant Projects. He reviewed the process involved in updating the needs analysis, noting that this will come before the Board next month with a request for acceptance.

The total needs are estimated to be \$19.5B over the 23-year planning period, which includes \$6B in Operations & Maintenance and about \$10B for Preservation. It is not expected that there will be sufficient revenue to cover all the needs. He presented information about forecasted revenues relative to needs, the growing gap between projected funding and expenditures for local jurisdictions maintenance/preservation needs, and projected expenditures by category.

The group discussed and some comments included;

- The proportionality of the gap shortfall for local jurisdictions by expenditure
- Are projects predicated on currently adopted land use policies? Costs could increase if the network is expanded to accommodate growth.
- The analysis does not account for roadways that might be built in the future in response to growth.
- Concern that the population estimates provided by the Office of Financial Management don't reflect the actual rate of growth in Spokane County as shown by the latest census data.

8 Horizon 2045-MTP: Public Engagement

Ms. Jones provided a background and purpose of public engagement for the MTP update, which is to give the public an opportunity to review and provide feedback on elements of the MTP. She described the goals, major milestones and timeline. A public survey was open from 6/30 to 8/15 and had 626 responses. She said SRTC contracted with a public engagement consultant who has been assisting with outreach, including multiple meetings with focus groups of historically excluded populations. There were no questions or discussion.

9 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Overview

Ms. Jones defined the TIP and its purpose. She said that projects receiving federal funding or that are identified as regionally significant must be included in the TIP, which is updated annually. Once the TIP is approved it is incorporated to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program administered by WSDOT.

She reported that the proposed TIP contains 85 projects totaling \$743M over the next four years; she presented a list of projects by type and percentage of total program. A public meeting will be held next week and guest speakers from four member agencies will share information about some local projects.

There was discussion about the SRTC Complete Streets checklist and a new call for projects from the Transportation Improvement Board for agencies that have a complete streets policy.

10 Board Member Comments

- Ms. Fukai spoke about the upcoming WA State Transportation Commission annual meeting and shared a link to the agenda.
- Ms. Meyer provided details about the STA program providing shuttle service to the Spokane Interstate Fair from Spokane Community College.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Clerk of the Board