

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
04/26/2021 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting  
Zoom Video Conference**

**#1 Call to Order/Roll Call** – Chair Todd Coleman brought the meeting to order at 3:01 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:***

Paul Kropp  
Mark Burrus  
Shauna Harshman, City of Spokane  
Char Kay, WSDOT-Eastern Region

***SRTC Staff Present:***

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II  
David Fletcher, Associate Transportation Planner III  
Mike Ulrich, Principal Transportation Planner  
Kevin Wallace, Executive Director

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

**# 2 Approval of March 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes**

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

**INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**# 3 Chair Report on Board Meeting**

Chair Coleman provided a summary of the April Board meeting.

**# 4 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities**

Ms. McMenemy explained that as part of guidance from the new federal administration and proposed transportation spending packages at both the state and federal level, the SRTC Board has discussed the need for the region to be more cohesive about relaying regional transportation priorities. Rather than multiple cities/towns, chambers of commerce, transport providers, etc. all forwarding differing priority lists to legislators, a better strategy is for groups to come to agreement on 15 to 20 top projects for the region.

She described why SRTC is the logical choice to launch this effort and emphasized that while SRTC cannot lobby or create legislative agendas, SRTC can provide the technical information to assist in the creation of a unified list, then hand it off to the groups that do meet with legislators, such as the Regional Transportation Coalition. She spoke about how both the long-range plan, Horizon 2040, and

the short-range plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, can be utilized help develop the priorities. She presented a timeline and noted that the goal is to have a Board approved list by October so the chamber coalition can create marketing materials in time for the 2022 legislative session.

There was discussion about the criteria for projects to be incorporated into Horizon 2040 and how the TAC can become involved in public outreach for the unified list.

## **# 5 Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update**

Ms. Jones recapped the background and requirements of the PPP then provided highlights of the last workshop, which focused on best practices to involved hard to reach communities. The next step in the process is to develop an evaluation matrix which can measure outreach success. The group discussed and some comments included:

- The recent workshop had good guest speakers and provided helpful information.
- Suggestion to keep the plan simple and implementable.
- One measurement of successful outreach is when the polarized voices on each end of a project move to towards the middle; it means people are thoughtfully considering the information.
- Remember to circle back to conversations held with community members.
- The earlier the public engagement can begin the better, particularly with the new Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities; suggestion for TAC members to bring this up to the Board.
- Engaging the public now about the Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities.
- Emphasis on a focus for creation of a transportation equity plan.

## **# 6 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Redlinger explained that staff is seeking input from the TAC on the UPWP document. Staff is currently reviewing best practices to address climate change, environmental justice and social equity within the policy framework.

He outlined the eight major tasks in the UPWP, highlighted key accomplishments from the 2020-2021 UPWP and some key milestones staff plans to meet in the upcoming two years. He provided a summary of the revenue and expenditure forecasts, the UPWP development timeline, and spoke about the coordination meeting held with representatives from WSDOT, Federal Highway Administration, Spokane Transit and SRTC staff.

## **# 7 TAC Member Comments**

The group was asked to comment on progress of the TAC or general remarks. Some comments included:

- Would like the TAC to discuss the impacts of the high cost of transportation for lower income communities.

- How is equity defined? How do we take into consideration underserved areas? Are there existing conversations happening that the TAC can get involved in?
- Suggestions that the PPP work group can get out into the community to discuss those equity questions.
- There are representatives of disenfranchised communities on the Spokane Transportation Collaborative; may be helpful to reach out to them.
- Rising fuel and auto prices increases the pressure of transit to be at the right place at the right time.
- It may be useful to discuss how e-bikes rentals can serve community members who cannot afford cars.
- Many conversations about transportation leave out service workers who do not own vehicles and work hours prohibit them from using transit.
- Need to hold some discussions about filling the three vacant positions on the TAC.
- Suggestions for future guest speakers; City of Spokane Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, Gary Ballou from GSI
- Request to check status with TAC Workplan at the next meeting

Ms. McMenemy asked for two or three volunteers to assist with evaluating applications for the SRTC Call for Preservation Projects.

## **# 8 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman