

MEETING MINUTES

**Spokane Regional Transportation Council
07/26/2021 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
Rachel Callary
Liz Hall
Rhonda Young

Kennet Bertelsen
Mark Haberman
Carlie Hoffman

Guests Present:

Bob Hilmes, WSDOT-Eastern Region
Char Kay, WSDOT-Eastern Region

SRTC Staff Present:

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II
Eve McMenemy, Principal Transportation Planner
Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner
Kevin Wallace, Interim Executive Director

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

ACTION ITEMS

2 Approval of June 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes

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

3 Transportation Improvement Program 2021 Call for Preservation Projects

Mr. Jason Lien recapped the background of the \$6M call for preservation projects, the principles of investment approved by the Board, and presented the scores/agency rank/requested amount for the 18 projects submitted. He said part of the conversation from the last TAC meeting revolved around what could be done to assist the very small towns as members commented that it is not a very level playing field. Mr. Lien noted he relayed the TAC's concerns to the Board and his suggestion that future calls could have a special funding category for very small towns.

Mr. Bertelsen made a motion to recommend the project awards for Board approval as outlined; Mr. Haberman seconded.

The group discussed the large differential between the high and low scores. They spoke about the possibility of adding a category for futures calls which will give more opportunities to the small towns and the difficulties for small towns in getting local match funds. There was conversation about the advantages that larger jurisdictions have in this type of funding process.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lien noted that staff can begin developing parameters for a potential small towns category before the next call for projects, if this is the direction the Board prefers.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

4 Chair Report on July 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Coleman highlighted actions taken and discussions from the July SRTC Board meeting, including the selection of Lois Bollenback as the new SRTC Executive Director.

5 Status of the North Spokane Corridor

Mr. Bob Hilmes, WSDOT and NSC Project Engineer provided a report on:

- Sections and projects have been completed to date (5.5 miles of roadway, 3 interchanges, ped/bike path)
- Current and upcoming construction (2nd BNSF rail realignment, Spokane River to Columbia roadway and shared use path)
- Forthcoming construction (Spokane River crossing, Sprague Ave to Spokane River, I-90 to Sprague Ave)

He presented a video that demonstrates how the east Wellesley Avenue interchange will operate and outlined the types and frequency of public engagement on the NSC.

Members discussed how the NSC could be a catalyst for economic development and also discussed future maintenance of the Children of the Sun trail.

6 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Needs Analysis

Mr. Fletcher explained that a needs analysis is the second part of the larger MTP Financial Assessment and is a “big picture” estimate of the cost to maintain the region’s transportation system adequately for the next 20+ years.

He described the development of the needs assessment methodology and involvement by the TTC and other member agency staff. He said the average annual cost to keep roads in good to fair condition is approximately \$24,000 per lane mile; this calculation was reviewed in workshop with local agency staff.

The gap between projected needs and projected expenditures continues to grow. He outlined a summary of needs and revenues by local, WSDOT & STA in categories of maintenance and operations, preservation, programs and regionally significant capital. The group discussed the problem of funding road maintenance.

A point was raised that it is never questioned whether or not a road actually needs to be preserved and perhaps there should be more questions about that issue at all levels. Mr. Coleman observed that the current legislative system seems to be set up to create support for new roads and not so much maintenance of existing facilities.

7 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Engagement

Ms. Jones provided a brief update of MTP engagement efforts since the last meeting. She gave details about the public meeting on June 30 and showed the new SRTC promotional video. She explained the next steps in the MTP engagement process involve reaching out to historically underserved communities.

She reported that the community survey on transportation needs currently has had 366 responses; she said the most successful platforms for receiving responses so far have been email blasts and Reddit.

8 Agency Update

Ms. Jones reported on:

- Staff is working on a list of preservation priority projects in anticipation of a possible special legislative session later this year.
- Ms. Bollenback's first day as the new Executive Director will be August 16.

9 TAC Member Comments

There were no comments.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman,
Acting Recording Secretary