

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council 10/25/2021 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Zoom Video Conference

#1 Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair Todd Coleman brought the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

Members Present:

Todd Coleman, ***Chair***
Melanie Rose, ***Vice Chair***
Kennet Bertelsen
Raychel Callary
Liz Hall
Dave Richardson

SRTC Staff Present:

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner II
Lois Bollenback, Executive Director
Ryan Stewart, Principal Transportation Planner
Mike Ulrich, Principal Transportation Planner
Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner
David Fletcher, Associate Transportation Planner III
Michael Redlinger, Associate Transportation Planner II
Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator

Guests Present

Tom Sahlberg

Upon calling the meeting to order there was not a quorum, so Chair Coleman said the agenda will move to the informational items until such time as a quorum was reached.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

4 Chair Report on October 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Coleman summarized the topics covered at the October Board meeting.

5 TAC Membership

Ms. Jones spoke about how the membership recruitment process occurred in late 2019/early 2020. All terms are up 12/31/21 and in preparation for the reapplication process staff has been discussing the TAC workplan, the most efficient use of the group and the possibility of aligning the agenda more closely to that of the Transportation Technical Committee.

Ms. Jones explained that the Board established a committee of four Board members to oversee both the TAC recruitment and the Rail/Freight and Major Employer Board positions. She shared a timeline and the group reviewed the draft membership application.

There were suggestions to include questions about geography and membership in neighborhood or business associations. The group discussed alternate/replacement TAC members and the need to add some clarification to the bylaws.

Ms. Jones asked the group for thoughts about modifying the TAC work plan; there were no comments. She said staff is considering moving the date of the meeting from the 4th Monday to the 4th Wednesday; no one felt that would be a problem.

Chair Coleman asked that the TAC receive an update once the Board subcommittee has met.

6 DivisionConnects Update

Mr. Lien recapped the background and history of the study and spoke about Phase 2 of the study, which will examine land use planning along the corridor, active transportation facilities and continued public engagement. Next steps in the process are community outreach with a Land Use StoryMap which is posted to the study website (divisionconnects.org) and allows for viewers to submit comments and engagement around active transportation in November.

Mr. Lien said Phase 1 of the study is complete, which involved identification of the BRT locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the corridor (accepted by both the STA and SRTC Boards) and inclusion of the LPA into Horizon 2045.

He outlined the scope of work for Phase 2 of the study, which includes:

- Land use planning that will evaluate activity “nodes” along the corridor with potential for development change.
- Active transportation planning, which includes screening potential projects to support local mobility and bus rapid transit.

Phase 2 also includes public engagement and ongoing coordination with partner agencies. Mr. Lien described the remaining project schedule and next steps, with final study recommendations concluding in Spring 2022.

Liz Hall and Melanie Rose joined the meeting which put the group at quorum. Chair Coleman stated the group would address the Action Items.

ACTION ITEMS

2 Approval of September 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Rose seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3 Public Participation Plan Update

Ms. Jones defined the PPP, provided a background, and outlined federal/state regulations. She presented the update development timeline going back to December 2020. She recapped the TAC work plan addressing the PPP and TAC members significant involvement in the update. She extended her thanks to the committee for their support and participation. She described what areas were updated and what components were added.

Ms. Rose made a motion to recommend Board approval of the Public Participation Plan; Ms. Hall seconded. All votes were in favor.

Chair Coleman thanked the TAC members who were involved in the PPP update workshops and process.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

7 US 195/Interstate 90 Study Final Report

Mr. Stewart recapped the purpose of the study as primarily addressing safety, access and infrastructure along the corridor. He described the agencies involved in the study advisory team and the consultant team.

He outlined the proposed projects/strategies which will address each of the five study goals.

As a package, the proposed projects will have a strong impact to the current and forecasted challenges. He said by improving the local network connectivity, forecasted traffic volume using the I-90 interchange will be reduced, vehicle conflict points on US 195 will be reduced by 50%, new local connections to downtown will be built, there will be new connections with bike/pedestrian facilities and all will cost less to implement than projects identified by previous plans including a rebuild of the US 195/I-90 interchange. An estimated cost for nine key projects is \$91.3M

Mr. Stewart spoke about community engagement and next steps. There was discussion about the timeframe to implement proposed projects.

8 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities

Ms. McMenemy explained the purpose and background of the project, which is to get the most important regional projects to completion and acknowledging the region can be more efficient if we all work together. She spoke about the SRTC Board's approval of a transportation priority statement and the compressed timeline for creating the project list.

She highlighted the project screening criteria and process; she also reviewed the project pipeline concept again. She recapped feedback from the Board and Transportation Technical Committee then presented the draft project list, sorted by criteria. Maps illustrating geographic locations of projects were shared.

Ms. McMenemy asked the group if they saw any major flaws with the proposed project list and if they felt this is a step in the right direction for future development of a regional prioritization process. All comments were in support of what was presented and there was a suggestion to keep the process moving forward.

9 Horizon 2045-Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Public Comment Period

Mr. Ulrich reported that the plan will be presented to the Board for adoption in December and explained that federal requirements specify that an MTP must have at least a 20 year planning horizon. He said many of the core elements of the plan remain the same as the prior plan; components being updated include the Land Use Forecast, Regional Priorities network, Financial Assessment, Systems Performance Report and the Public Participation Plan. He explained that a near term update to the plan could be likely if assumptions change or if projects from subarea studies, such as DivisionConnects or US 195/I-90, need to be incorporated.

Mr. Ulrich shared the Horizon 2045 website and noted a 30-day public comment period was currently underway. He encouraged all members to submit comments and spread the word to others. He spoke about public engagement done earlier this year, including a transportation survey, multiple focus group meetings and two virtual public meetings.

10 2022 Transportation Improvement Program Guidebook

Ms. Jones stated this is the first time the Guidebook has been brought before the TAC. She described the function of the Guidebook, outlined the updates from the 2021 version and noted the most significant change was inclusion of information and schedule on the upcoming 2022 Call for Projects.

11 Agency Update

There were no updates.

12 TAC Member Comments

There were no comments.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary