

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council 01/26/2022 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Zoom Video Conference

#1 Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair Coleman brought the meeting to order at 3:01 pm and roll call was taken.

Members Present:

Raychel Callary
Heidi Christensen
Todd Coleman
Liz Hall
Carlie Hoffman
Jorgen Rasmussen
Thomas Sahlberg
Bill White
Todd Williams
Charlie Wolff
Rhonda Young
Claudine Zender
Kim Zentz

SRTC Staff Present:

Kylee Jones, Associate Transportation Planner III
Eve McMenamy, Deputy Executive Director
Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner
David Fletcher, Principal Transportation Planner
Michael Redlinger, Associate Transportation Planner II
Julie Meyers-Lehman, Admin-Exec Coordinator

Guests Present

Glenn Wagemann, WSDOT-Eastern Region

2 TAC Member Introductions

All members introduced themselves and shared their reasons for being interested in serving on the TAC.

ACTION ITEMS

3 Election of 2022 TAC Chair and Vice-Chair

Ms. Jones reviewed the election procedure and Chair Coleman summarized the duties and responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Ms. Zentz made a motion to nominate Ms. Rhonda Young for TAC Chair. Chair Coleman seconded. Ms. Young accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Christensen nominated herself for the position of TAC Vice Chair. Ms. Young seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

4 Approval of December 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes

Chair Coleman noted there were several typographical errors in the minutes. Staff will correct them.

Mr. Sahlberg made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Ms. Young seconded. There were two abstentions; the remainder of the votes were in favor.

5 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) February Amendment

Ms. Jones provided an overview of the TIP, how amendments are processed, and the projects included in this proposed amendment. The group discussed funding de-obligations.

Ms. Zentz made a motion to recommend Board approval of the February TIP Amendment. Mr. Sahlberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

6 2022 Transportation Planning Presentation Series

Ms. Bollenback shared information about the establishment Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) per federal requirements in the 1960s, MPO roles and responsibilities, and the required and optional transportation planning activities addressed by MPOs.

She stated that the Board and Committees will be presented an in-depth review at planning topics throughout the coming months, including Quality of Life, Economic Vitality, Equity, Safety, Stewardship and Operations/Maintenance.

Member comments included:

- Questioning how the TAC will address the need for paratransit in northern Spokane County
- The need to change public perception about using public transit
- Concerns about incorporating public safety or law enforcement voices into the discussions

7 2024-2026 Call for Projects Overview

Ms. Jones said SRTC expects to distribute approximately \$43 million of federal funds to member agencies in this call for projects. She reviewed the five funding categories, amount of funding available and eligible project types. She described the proposed “Principles of Investment”, which include but are not limited to, off-the-top requests, a set-aside for a future preservation only call for projects and a minimum award for small towns. Off-the-top requests do not compete in the application process.

Mr. Wagemann provided a background, services provided, and governance of Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center (SRTMC). He shared details historical off-the-top requests and the reasons behind the increased amount being requested this time (\$2.1M). There was discussion about current research being done into relocating the SRTMC to a WSDOT owned facility instead of renting office space. The group discussed the SRTMC’s role in the new ramp meters on I-90, benefits of Intelligent Transportation Systems, and capacity on the local system.

Ms. Bollenback shared information regarding SRTC’s request for off-the-top funding in the amount of \$1.5M over a three-year period. SRTC has received off-the-top funding for many years. Most recently, the amount has been \$350,000 per year of STBG funding for the past three years; this request is for an additional \$150,000 per year on top of the existing \$350,000. The reason for the increased request is to partially cover the cost to fill the vacant Community Outreach position at SRTC and for costs associated with regional project development support. She described some of the projects SRTC has assisted with recently and those that are still underway.

The group discussed and member comments included:

- Clarifying the role of the TAC in the project prioritization process; the TAC is being asked to provide input but not making an official recommendation to the Board
- Declines in state funding for RTPO’s

- Last year's participation by the TAC in the development of the SRTC public participation plan update
- Percentage set aside for future preservation projects

8 Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors Update

Mr. Fletcher discussed the CUFC/CRFC update being led by WSDOT and their project scoring criteria. He reviewed the update process, presented a map of regional critical freight corridors, and explained how they are related to National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding. He shared information about the estimated amount of NHFP funding available statewide for local freight projects from Federal Fiscal Years 2022–2025.

Mr. Fletcher explained how staff worked with local agencies to develop a list of candidate regional priority freight projects for NHFP funding consideration. He shared a map illustrating where these projects are located along freight corridors and their likely competitiveness based on WSDOT's NHFP scoring criteria.

Members were asked for input on the recommended number of projects to submit. The group discussed and comments included:

- If there could be partial funding of projects or funding of one project phase only
- Concern about the cost of the Pines Road project and the total amount expected to be available for award for the entire region

9 DATA Project Update

As the meeting was running behind schedule, this item was deferred to the February meeting.

10 2022 SRTC Equity Planning Framework

Mr. Redlinger outlined the reasons for developing an equity planning framework at this time and highlighted the draft goals and timeline. He spoke about next steps in the process, which include the formation of an Equity Work Group consisting of volunteer TTC and TAC members. This group will formulate recommendations for the Board regarding equity policy, project evaluation data needs and outreach, and will hear from community guest speakers.

He shared a live poll for members asking them to rank the importance of the purposes of pursuing an equity planning framework. He asked for who would be interested in participating in the Equity Planning Work group and six TAC members volunteered.

11 Agency Update

Due to lack of time, this item was passed over.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.