

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Advisory Committee
February 23, 2022 | Zoom Video Conference

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance

IN ATTENDANCE

TAC Members:

Rhonda Young, Chair
Heidi Christensen, Vice Chair
Leasa Bolen
Raychel Callary
Todd Coleman
Liz Hall
Carlie Hoffman
Jorgen Rasmussen
Tom Sahlberg
Bill White
Todd Williams
Charlie Wolff
Claudine Zender
Kim Zentz

Guests:

Jason Lefler, WSDOT
Char Kay, WSDOT
Corie (no last name listed), *Epic Land Solutions*

SRTC Staff:

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

2 Approval of January 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sahlberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Zentz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4 TAC Member Comments

There were no comments.

5 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Young shared highlights of the February 12 Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

6 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) February Amendment

Ms. Jones reported that four agencies have requested an amendment to the TIP for seven projects. She clarified that the Brooks Rd project was separate from the Brooks Rd Railroad Crossing project.

Mr. Sahlberg made a motion to recommend Board approval of the March TIP Amendment; Ms. Zentz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7 Critical Urban & Rural Freight Corridors

Mr. Fletcher presented the five most competitive regional freight priority projects and reminded the group about the list development process. He reiterated the funding available statewide in this National Highway Freight Program call for projects and listed the next steps, including a request for Board approval of a

project list on March 10 and the March 11 deadline for local agencies to submit project application to SRTC.

He noted that at their last meeting the Transportation Technical Committee approved a motion to recommend Board approval of the top six projects, reflecting the addition of the *Argonne Rd & Upriver Dr Intersection* project, primarily due to the low dollar amount being requested in comparison to the other five projects.

The following comments were made during discussion:

- Details about project criteria evaluation by staff and the final scoring to be done by WSDOT.
- Reasons why Argonne Rd project was not included in the initial recommended list.
- How WSDOT's project-first approach to this freight corridor updates differs from the last time.
- Community engagement process for projects on the list.
- The freight projects on the list were already part of the Regional List of Transportation Priorities and staff also contacted member jurisdictions for project information.
- At the TTC meeting, several members stated that the dollar amounts for Pines Rd and Wellesley Ave projects would be higher than shown due to rising construction costs.
- These projects are part of a competitive statewide grant process.

Mr. Sahlberg made a motion to recommend Board approval of the proposed list of top six (6) regional priority freight projects for National Highway Freight Program funding consideration; Ms. Christensen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8 Transportation Performance Measures: Safety Targets

Mr. Ulrich provided a summary of transportation performance management (TPM) developed by federal requirements. TPM for safety consists of five performance measures:

1. Fatalities
2. Fatalities per 100M of vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
3. Serious injuries
4. Serious injuries per 100M of VMT
5. Non-motorist fatalities and serious injuries

Per the federal TPM regulations, Metropolitan Planning Organizations have the choice to either support state DOT targets or define their own safety targets. The SRTC Board approved a resolution in 2019 agreeing to support WSDOT targets. Mr. Ulrich explained that it is time to renew the safety targets and the response is due to WSDOT in early March.

The group discussed the topic at great length. Some comments included:

- The need to track pedestrian safety problem areas throughout the region
- Fundamentals of WSDOT's Target Zero program
- The best way to care more about safety is to cross Sprague Avenue during rush hour after leaving STA Bus 90. It's an eye opener.
- Need to set regional safety goals that are both realistic and attainable
- Excessive number of roundabouts on Highway 2 on the West Plains
- Transportation safety is a matter of engineering, enforcement, and education.
- How can the region obtain more federal or state funding for safety projects
- Communities that sincerely adopt road safety can really make a difference
- There are no penalties to SRTC if the Board agrees to accept state targets, but the region does not experience reductions in fatalities and serious injuries.

Ms. Christensen made a motion to recommend that the SRTC Board agree to plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of WSDOT Highway safety Improvement Program targets with relaying concerns about a focus for safety for WSDOT. Mr. Sahlberg seconded.

Mr. Coleman made a friendly amendment to re-word the motion as: The TAC recommends the SRTC Board support the statewide targets for safety and engage in a productive discussion on local initiatives to accomplish meaningful progress towards the Target Zero goal.

Mr. Sahlberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

9 WSDOT Ramp Meter Presentation

WSDOT Traffic Engineer Mr. Jason Lefler shared information about the performance of the I-90 corridor both pre- and post- ramp meter installation in 2020 and 2021.

10 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Lien shared a background of the CPT-HSTP plan, which is focused on serving populations with special transportation needs, such as youth, older adults, people with disabilities, rural populations, etc. The plan is also designed to identify available transportation services and assess gaps in service.

The CPT-HSTP must be updated every four years; it was last done in 2018. The 2022 update will be led by SRTC and Spokane Transit. Mr. Lien explained plan requirements for federal funding and summarized next steps in the update process. He provided a link to the [project page](#) which has more information and to access a survey.

11 Transportation Discussion Series: Quality of Life

Mr. Lien explained the purpose of this discussion series for the committees and the Board. He spoke about the definition of Quality of Life (QoL) in terms of a multimodal transportation system and shared useage data for the regional trail network and STA ridership. He spoke about trackable QoL indicators, such as miles of facility type, network density, level of traffic stress, proximity to a bus stop, etc.

Mr. Lien asked for suggestions about how to measure success in QoL and what other QoL metrics staff should consider. Members commented on:

- The importance of transit and paratransit in rural Spokane County
- The challenge with discussing QoL is you know it when you see it, but it is hard to measure or define
- Walkable areas

12 Agency Update and Future Information Items

Ms. Jones said in the past the TAC had a Work Plan but starting in 2022 instead of a work plan TAC agendas will generally mirror those of the Transportation Technical Committee. There will be opportunities for TAC members to get involved in various SRTC plans/projects, such as the CPT-HSTP, the Equity Framework, Call for Projects application scoring, and others.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary