

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council  
Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday March 10, 2022  
Zoom Video Conference Meeting

**# 1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance/Excused Absences**

Chair Paul Schmidt brought the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and roll was taken.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

***Board Members:***

Council Member Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney* (Chair)  
Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, *City of Spokane* (Vice-Chair)  
Council Member Sonny Weathers, *City of Airway Heights*  
Council Member Dee Cragun, *City of Deer Park*  
Mayor Terri Cooper, *City of Medical Lake*  
Council Member Zach Zappone, *City of Spokane*  
Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Sev Jones, *Kalispel Tribe of Indians*  
Doug Yost, *Major Employer Representative*  
Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Representative*  
Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County*  
Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*  
Glenn Ford, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*  
Inga Note, *Transp. Technical Committee Chair*  
Kelly Fukai, *WA State Transportation Commission*

***Staff:***

Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*  
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*  
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
Kylee Jones, *Associate Transportation Planner III*  
Michael Redlinger, *Associate Transportation Planner II*  
Greg Griffin, *Administrative Services Manager*  
Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Administrative-Executive Coordinator*  
Megan Clark, *Legal Counsel*

***Board Alternates:***

Larry Larson, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*  
Heidi Christensen, *TAC Vice-Chair*

***Guests:***

Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*  
Char Kay, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*  
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Chad Coles, *Spokane County*  
Paul Kropp  
Karen Corkins, *S3R3 Solutions*  
Laura McAloon, *McAloon Law PLLC*  
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*  
Sean Messner, *CivTech*  
Tom Sahlberg, *SRTC TAC Member*  
Todd Coleman, *S3R3 Solutions*  
Brandi Colyar, *Spokane County*  
Katherine Miller, *City of Spokane*  
Danny Kieffer, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*  
Mark Carlos, *City of Spokane*

Chair Schmidt said that Commissioner French requested to be excused from today's meeting.

***Ms. Cragun made a motion to excuse the absence. Ms. Harnois seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

Chair Schmidt welcomed new Board member Mr. Sev Jones.

**# 2 Public Comments** - There were no comments.

### # 3 Executive Director's Report

Ms. Bollenback reported:

- The Interlocal Agreement Implementation Committee has not met yet; the initial meeting is scheduled for 3/30.
- Today is the last day of the state legislative session; in addition to the information provided last month, the transportation portion of the budget recently approved by the State Legislature included the following:
  - The North Spokane Corridor is set to be advanced by 18 months
  - Planning funds have been identified for improvements along Inland Empire Way and US 195 to address congestion and safety
  - Approval of a pilot program to allow WSDOT to lease unused land
  - \$1.5M in support of the transload facility
- In coming months, she will continue to communicate with regional partners ensure consistent messaging to legislators so the region can work more collaboratively. She plans to follow up with state legislators in advance of the next session to make sure they are aware the projects and needs of the region. Staff is developing informational materials for use by member agencies and partners.
- The distribution formula for transportation planning funding for MPOs/RTPOs is being discussed by MPO's throughout the State. She will share more information as it becomes available.
- As part of the ongoing Transportation Discussion Series, later this year SRTC host will two workshops for Board members; one about advancements in transportation technology and another to examine the linkages between land use and transportation.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### # 4 Consent Agenda

- a) February 2022 Meeting Minutes
- b) February 2022 Vouchers
- c) 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) March Amendment
- d) CY 2022 Budget Amendment and Recommendation for IT Servers and Support
- e) Electrification Grant Contract

There were no questions or discussion about any item on the consent agenda.

***Ms. Cragun made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Mr. Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### # 5 Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors

Mr. Fletcher summarized the FFY 2022–2025 National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) call for projects process and shared the list of proposed regional priority freight projects, which SRTC will forward to WSDOT for potential funding from NHFP.

He explained that prior Board discussions of this list contained 5 projects, but both the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended the addition of the *Argonne Rd & Upriver Dr Intersection Improvements* project, for a total of 6 projects.

Mr. Fletcher reviewed the project list development process and evaluation of WSDOT's criteria, shared a map of the project locations, and stated that all projects on the candidate list are quality projects; not including them for this NHFP call for projects is not to be considered an assessment of a projects value. The proposed 6 projects are just better suited to meet the criteria of this particular NHFP grant.

The group discussed; some comments included;

- When asked about Mr. Gribner's concerns about Inland Empire Way, Mr. Larson relayed that Mr. Gribner approved of the proposed regional freight project list. His concerns were about process and criteria.
- Adding the Argonne Rd/Upriver Dr project is a good idea.
- Ms. Bollenback shared that she spoke with Mr. Gribner about Inland Empire Way. She clarified that it is WSDOT that sets the criteria that they will use the score the applications; SRTC staff reviewed projects in an attempt to anticipate outcomes based on that criteria. She spoke about parallel facility development and potential involvement with WSDOT in the criteria development process during the next call for projects.
- The TTC should be involved in the criteria evaluation processes since they are specialists in this type of technical knowledge.
- Desire to better understand how the project were evaluated and scored.
- Prefer to see scoring results in number or point form rather than graphic representations.
- WSDOT developed the scoring criteria and staff worked closely with project sponsors to identify projects that most closely aligned with the criteria.
- Question about why the other seven projects on the candidate list were not included.
- Both the TTC and TAC received information about the projects and process multiple times and both unanimously recommended Board approval of submitting the top 6 projects for potential funding.
- 3/16/22 is the deadline to submit the regional priority freight projects list and applications to WSDOT.

***Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve Resolution 22-04 authorizing SRTC's submittal of identified regional priority freight projects to WSDOT for potential NHFP funding as shown in Attachment 1. Mr. Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

## **# 6 Transportation Performance Measures: Safety Targets**

Mr. Ulrich recapped the information presented last month about the requirements by Highway Safety Improvement Program for State DOT safety performance targets and transportation performance management as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. There are five safety performance measures set by WSDOT;

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

He presented the data for these measures in the Spokane County planning area through 2020 and highlighted the goals of WSDOT's *Target Zero* program.

MPOs are required to establish safety targets by one of two ways; (1) agree to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the WSDOT or (2) Commit to quantifiable targets for our metropolitan planning area. Mr. Ulrich said in 2019 the Board adopted a resolution by which they agreed to plan for state targets.

Chair Schmidt said at the last meeting Commissioner French provided a background of the reasons that led the Board to decide to support State targets in 2019.

***Ms. Cragun made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05 agreeing to plan and program projects so that they contribute towards the accomplishment of the WSDOT safety target for each of the required performance measures. Ms. Wilkerson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

## **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **# 7 2022 Transportation Planning Presentation Series: Safety**

Mr. Ulrich presented a timeline of topics for the remainder of the year and explained the purpose of the discussion series, based on input from the Board asking for a closer examination of the screening criteria used for development of the Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities. Consistency with the principles in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Horizon 2045) is one of the criteria.

He spoke about where safety and security fit into the larger regional transportation network, federal funding eligibility for jurisdictions with safety plans, and transportation performance management. He shared maps that showed vehicle crash locations and pedestrian and bicycle crashes throughout the county from 2010 to 2022. Mr. Ulrich noted that work to reduce fatal and serious injury incidents is happening at the local level, but not at the regional transportation planning level. He presented a map identifying crash severity and said it illustrates the value of a regional safety plan.

He spoke about contributing factors for the fatal and serious injury collisions in the county and the WSDOT Target Zero program. He said safety problems are clear and the question for Board discussion is where SRTC fits into creating solutions.

The group discussed. Comments included;

- Request to see an overlay map of crashes/safety concerns with projects currently under development
- How do we better articulate the safety story? What has already been done to address safety in high-incidence areas? What more can be done in those locations?
- Emphasize using transit; transit has an excellent safety record
- SRTC should be the lead in accumulating all local and regional safety data
- Discussions about safety are either reactive (addressing known problem areas) or preventive
- Land use and land use decisions impact safety and should be part of the safety conversation
- Acknowledging the value of developing a regional safety plan; this could also be helpful to smaller jurisdictions that don't have the staff to develop stand-alone safety plans
- Tracking where driver behavior causes specific problems, for example locations of frequent DUIs or habitual speeding
- Need for updated traffic counts in the small towns and rural areas

### **# 8 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Lien provided an overview of the CPT-HSTP plan, designed to serve those with special transportation needs. The plan also identifies available transportation services and where there are gaps in service in the planning area of Spokane County. The current CPT-HSTP was approved in 2018 and must be updated every four years; the update process is being led by staff from SRTC and STA. They plan to use the 2018 plan as a base for the 2022 update.

He spoke about federal requirements for CPT-HSTPs in terms of federal funding eligibility and summarized next steps in the update process. There is a dedicated [project page](#) with additional

information and to access a community survey.

Ms. Meyer related how important this plan is since it identifies needs both inside and outside the STA transportation benefit area and identifies networks to connect smaller communities to Spokane. She encouraged Board members to support those involved in developing the update.

#### **# 9 Board Member Comments**

Mr. Ford said he recognizes all the work going on at SRTC and appreciates the opportunity for the Spokane Tribe to get involved.

Ms. Fukai shared details about the upcoming Washington State Transportation Commission meeting next week.

#### **# 10 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman, Clerk of the Board