

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Technical Committee  
March 23, 2022 | Zoom Video Conference

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

Ms. Inga Note, TTC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

***TTC Members:***

Inga Note, *City of Spokane* (Chair)  
Char Kay, *WSDOT-East. Region* (Vice-Chair)  
Heather Trautman, *City of Airway Heights*  
Todd Ableman, *City of Cheney*  
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*  
Colin Quin-Hurst, *City of Spokane*  
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Brandi Colyar, *Spokane County*  
Barry Greene, *Spokane County*  
Jami Hayes, *Spokane County*  
April Westby, *Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency*  
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*  
Chad Simonson, *WSDOT-East. Region*

***Alternate TTC Members:***

Jeremy Clark, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Mike Tresidder, *Spokane Transit Authority*

***Guests:***

Sean Messner, *CivTech Inc*  
Matt Zarecor, *Spokane County*  
LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmartNW*  
Brandon Blankenagel, *KPFF Engineers*  
Paul Kropp  
Shauna Harshman, *City of Spokane*  
Katherine Miller, *City of Spokane*  
Stephanie Tax, *WSDOT*

***SRTC Staff:***

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

**# 2 Approval of February 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Colyar noted an error in the attendance section. She was not at the February meeting, but the minutes show her in attendance.

***Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Mr. Picanco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

**# 3 Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**# 4 Technical Member Comments**

Members shared information about current projects or programs in their jurisdiction/agency.

**# 5 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting**

Chair Note provided a summary of the March 10 Board meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **# 6 Transportation Discussion Series: Safety**

Mr. Ulrich explained how safety fits into the regional transportation framework, funding under the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and outlined federal safety performance measures. He shared maps illustrating both vehicle crash locations and pedestrian/bicycle accidents throughout Spokane County from 2010-2022. He noted that most work to reduce fatal/serious injury incidents is happening at the local level; there is no regional safety plan. He asked the group to consider where SRTC fits into safety planning at the regional level and if a regional safety plan should be explored.

The group discussed and comments included:

- The Target Zero program focuses on corridors and fatal, severe, and frequency of accidents regardless of number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Might be better to look at raw data instead of VMT.
- A regional safety plan makes sense and could set up the region for the new *Safe Streets and Roads for All* grant program.
- Facility design can reduce severity of crashes by reducing speed
- It's good to focus on improving safety and reducing speed, but people's choices make a greater impact on safety than things transportation planners can do. Most Target Zero efforts are not bearing fruit because they focus on what can be done by agencies and don't address the systemic challenges that come from societal choices.
- Traveling using transit is much safer for passengers than in vehicles.
- Calls for projects always stress safety and assign weight for safety components, but projects that are primarily focused on safety frequently do not receive funding.
- Development of a regional safety plan could start with a corridor safety sketch. Data mining allows for targeting issues in a corridor.
- A regional safety plan could help equalize the grant field for agencies without an individual safety plan.
- Many road safety issues in smaller communities tend to be along nearby state facilities rather than on local roads in town

### **# 7 DivisionConnects Update**

Mr. Lien presented an update on the second and final phase of DivisionConnects. He noted that the scope of work for Phase 2 is an evaluation of land use around transit activity nodes on the corridor, preliminary design of active transportation facilities, and travel demand modeling. Most public engagement work for the study has wrapped up.

He shared details about the land use planning, the screening process for active transportation projects, and next steps. Final study recommendations are anticipated to be released this spring.

### **# 8 Toll Credits**

Ms. Jones provided a background of the toll credits program and noted the SRTC TIP Guidebook does not currently contain a policy regarding the use of toll credits. She summarized what toll credits are and what they are not. She stated that the Board may want to consider accepting or rejecting toll credits or possibly applying them in a limited way. She provided examples of how limited toll credit application this might look for SRTC project funding.

Member comments included:

- Use of toll credits makes the most sense for small cities/town that have difficulties coming up with local match.
- If SRTC will be utilizing this program, it is important to get a formal policy in place
- Suggested using a surgical approach to use of toll credits for projects
- Discussion how local match differs from programmatic match
- WSDOT has been using toll credits for some time now. The program has just recently been opened up to MPOs and staff is still learning about how it works.

## **# 9 Agency Update and Future Information Items**

Mr. Stewart announced the next meeting of the DATA Project stakeholder group will be in April.

Ms. Jones said volunteers from the TTC are needed to help with the application scoring for the Call for Projects.

Mr. Stewart asked the group for suggestions for future informational agenda items. Suggestions included STA strategic planning/feedback on Streetlight data and update about regional construction season.

## **# 10 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary