

## **MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

Ms. Rhonda Young, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

#### **TAC Members:**

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

#### **Guests:**

Kimberly Merritt, Epic Land Solutions

#### **SRTC Staff:**

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

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

***Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Callary seconded.***

Mr. Sahlberg stated that the motion for agenda item 8 (on page 5) had no second prior to the vote being taken. He said he would retroactively second the motion.

***The motion to approve February minutes as amended 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**

Ms. Christensen attended the March Board meeting in place of Chair Young; she reported on the Board meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Mr. Ulrich spoke about the safety components tracked and evaluated and safety/security fits into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's guiding principles. He shared a map containing 12 years of safety data that illustrated areas of crashes. He noted the region does not have a regional safety plan and the group discussed where SRTC fits into the regional safety planning equation.

Member comments included:

- While the majority of safety problems are caused by human behavior, there can still be a lot done by engineering and design to improve safety. This is done in many other countries.
- SRTC can play a regional leadership role in being a proponent of an engineering systems approach to safety.
- Part of the safety discussion includes pedestrian safety and there are not many ways of measuring pedestrian activity. Suggested that SRTC could identify where installation of pedestrian counters would be most useful. Staff agreed there is a lack data for pedestrian activity.
- The data tracking location and cause of crashes is very important.
- Three elements of traffic safety are education, enforcement, and engineering, in that order. SRTC should be involved in the education factor.
- When weighting the scoring for project applications, safety should be at the head of the list.

### **# 7 DivisionConnects Update**

Mr. Lien reported that the first phase of the study concluded in spring of 2021 and the second and final phase began in Summer 2021. Phase 2 includes evaluation of land use around the proposed bus rapid transit stations along the corridor, preliminary design of pedestrian/bicycle facilities, and travel demand modeling. He spoke about the study's next steps and final recommendations expected to be complete this Spring 2022.

### **# 8 Toll Credits**

Ms. Jones explained that the WSDOT toll credit program has recently been updated to allow MPOs the option to utilize toll credits in the regional transportation funding process for certain types of grant programs. This means SRTC could fund projects at 100% and project sponsors would not have to provide local match. However, this does not increase the overall dollar amount of funding allotted to SRTC. SRTC does not currently have a set policy on utilizing toll credits and staff is asking for input from the TAC.

The group discussed and comments included;

- Clarification on the amount of toll credits on an annual basis, where the funding comes from, and where the tolls are collected.
- Questioned if this program implies that there will be toll roads in Spokane in the future.
- Ms. Zentz used to serve on the Transp. Improvement Board and witnessed how challenging it can be for smaller jurisdictions to get projects funded because they can't come up with the local match.
- Applying the credits in a limited or selective method seems to be the most sensible approach.

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

Ms. Jones asked for volunteers to take part in the application scoring for the SRTC 2024-2026 Call for Projects. Ms. Hoffman and Chair Young volunteered.

**# 10 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary