

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Advisory Committee
April 27, 2022 | Zoom Video Conference

1 Call to Order/Attendance

Ms. Rhonda Young, TAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

TAC Members:

Rhonda Young, Chair
Raychel Callary
Todd Coleman
Carlie Hoffman
Bill White
Charlie Wolff
Claudine Zender
Kim Zentz

SRTC Staff:

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

Guests:

Kimberly Merritt, Epic Land Solutions

2 Approval of March 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. White seconded. The 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 provided an overview of actions and discussions from the April 14 Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

6 Toll Credits Policy

Ms. Jones spoke about the toll credit program recently made available to MPOs, read the proposed toll credit policies, and shared the action taken by the TTC at their meeting earlier in the day.

Ms. Zentz made a motion to recommend Board approval of the Toll Credits Policy as presented. Ms. Callary seconded.

Chair Young called for discussion. The group discussed:

- De-obligations and how they impact the potential use of toll credits
- Further explanation of toll credits as an incentive from the federal government for states to develop their own revenue streams (tolling) instead of relying solely on federal dollars.

- Ways that SRTC set itself up for future success in meeting the federal obligation target by promoting the toll credit policy, especially to small towns
- The number of project applications from small towns may increase if they don't have to come up with local match.
- As of now, this program is only available through 2026.
- SRTC's policies about use of toll credits are able to be modified in the future.
- The TTC's reasons for removing the word "evenly" from the draft policies.

Ms. Callary made a friendly amendment to the motion to remove the word "evenly". Mr. Wolff seconded.

Motion to recommend Board approval of the policies with the word "evenly" removed passed unanimously.

7 Select Replacement for Vice-Chair Position

Ms. Jones explained that the current TAC Vice Chair Heidi Christensen had to resign due to a change in her employment. She went over the responsibilities of the Vice-Chair position and asked for a volunteer.

Mr. White made a motion to nominate Ms. Zentz as Vice-Chair for the remainder of 2022. Ms. Callary seconded.

Ms. Zentz accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

8 Transportation Discussion Series: Stewardship

Ms. Jones defined how stewardship is defined in the long-range metropolitan transportation plan, Horizon 2045, and discussed stewardship in terms of climate change and transportation. She spoke about sustainable development and provided examples of resilient transportation systems. The group was asked for input about additional metrics for stewardship. Member comments included:

- Of all the listed screening criteria, stewardship is the only one that is a negative statement. Suggested rewording it to be positive.
- Adding a metric to determine if a project siting improves or decreases access to affordable housing.
- Incorporating new technology can also refer to things like pedestrian hawk beacons, which encourage more active transportation opportunities and decrease reliance on driving.

9 2024-2026 Call for Projects Update

Ms. McMenemy recapped the Call for Projects development process. Application scoring began on 4/20 and is being done by staff and volunteers from the TTC and TAC. Nine agencies submitted 50 project applications totaling \$151M; there is \$32M of funding available for distribution. Results will be brought back before the committees and the Board will be asked to take action in July.

10 2022 TIP Obligation Target Update

Ms. McMenemy provided a background of the annual federal obligation target and described what happens when the target is met and when it is missed. This year's target is \$12.79M of project obligations by 6/30/22. The target will likely be met by the end of FFY 2022, however not by the 6/30 deadline. The State does not expect meeting their target either. Ms. McMenemy shared Q1 obligations, anticipated project delivery, and discussed project delays and supply chain problems.

11 Agency Update

Ms. Jones reported that in addition to Ms. Christensen's resignation, Leasa Bolen and Tom Sahlberg also resigned (because of a change in employment and appointment to the Liberty Lake City Council, respectively), and staff hopes to fill all three vacancies. She said staff is going to review other applications from the 2021 TAC recruitment process to see if other applicants are still interested in joining the TAC. If so, staff will present the information to the Board in June, then ask the Board to approve their membership in July. So the earliest the new TAC members would be seated is August.

Ms. Jones announced that another SRTC member, Mr. Jason Lien, will be stepping in as the TAC liaison in June.

She said that an informal group has been formed for the purpose of exploring regional activities to increase energy efficiency and to implement decarbonization projects and programs. Transportation is such a large contributor to these issues so much of the conversation thus far has revolved around transportation topics. This group is seeking representatives from the City of Spokane Valley and Spokane County. The TAC and TTC will receive updates about the group's discussions and anyone who would like to participate can contact her for more information.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary