

**MEETING MINUTES**

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Technical Committee  
May 25, 2022 | Zoom Video Conference

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

Ms. Inga Note, TTC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

***TTC Members:***

Inga Note, *City of Spokane* (Chair)  
Char Kay, *WSDOT-East. Region* (Vice-Chair)  
Heather Trautman, *City of Airway Heights*  
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*  
Colin Quin-Hurst, *City of Spokane*  
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Jerremy Clark, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Roger Krieger, *Small Towns Representative*  
Brandi Colyar, *Spokane County*  
Barry Greene, *Spokane County*  
Jami Hayes, *Spokane County*  
April Westby, *Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency*  
Cindy Green, *Spokane Regional Health District*  
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*  
Chad Simonson, *WSDOT-East. Region*  
Glenn Wagemann, *WSDOT-East. Region*

***Alternate TTC Members:***

N/A

***Guests:***

Hamid Hajjafari, *Spokane Transit Authority*  
Brandon Blankenagel, *KPFF*  
Matt Zarecor, *Spokane County*  
Gloria Mantz, *City of Spokane Valley*  
Sean Messner, *CivTech*  
Paul Kropp  
Kimberly Merritt

***SRTC Staff:***

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

***Chair Note made a motion to modify the meeting agenda by moving Agenda Item 7 Transportation Discussion Series: Equity after Agenda Item 9 2024-2026 TIP Call for Project, to ensure there is sufficient discussion time for the Call for Projects item. Mr. Quinn-Hurst seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

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

***Mr. Quinn-Hurst made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Clark 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 shared highlights of the May 12 Board meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **# 6 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program June Amendment**

Ms. Jones described the four projects in the proposed amendment. There were no questions or discussion.

*Mr. Jackson made a motion to recommend Board approval of the June amendment. Mr. Quinn-Hurst seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **# 8 Spokane Transit Authority: I-90/Valley High Performance Transit Corridor**

STA Senior Transit Planner Hamid Hajjafari shared information about plans to expand commuter options and enhance transit services throughout the corridor to address increasing population growth in the area.

### **# 9 2024-2026 TIP Call for Projects Update**

Ms. Jones provided background information about the call for projects, the scoring process, and the amount of funding available for this call, and the amounts that were available in the 2018 call. She presented the draft project scoring sheet, and the group was asked to consider the following funding allocation questions:

1. The #1 ranked project has a significant funding request; how should it be handled?
2. In past practice, SRTC focused on geographic distribution with regards to funding. Should that be continued?
3. Past practice ensured that SRTC funded various project phases; should project phases be balanced?
4. How should SRTC handle projects that receive awards from other grant programs? Which funding is the priority?

Members discussed at great length. Comments included:

- Providing information about funding from past calls and by geography would be helpful to set context
- There can be a lot of value to agencies by funding PE phases; helps them to explore additional grant opportunities for future phases
- Request for information about the largest single award in last four years
- There have been past conversations about equality in funding between rural and urban, but not so much between the urban jurisdictions
- Expressed caution about being too restrictive in applying funding by geographic indicator
- Discussion about projects awarded PE funding then having to return funds because additional grants were not awarded. Comments that PE phases typically deliver quickly, which helps meet the federal obligation target
- Possibility of awarding funds in a phased approach over several years for projects with large funding requests
- Discussion about process for a contingency list and the pros and cons of partial vs full funding
- SRTC funding has become a primary source of funding for small towns' projects since the TIB funding is now extremely difficult to obtain
- Many projects on this list have also applied for funding from other programs (WSDOT, NHFP, etc). Suggestion that SRTC contact these funding sources for a status update
- Suggestion that the SRTC funding decisions could be deferred a bit agencies hear about the other funding sources
- Request that staff create several different funding scenarios for the TTC to evaluate

- Expressed support for the rural projects on the list

Chair Note said due the amount of discussion, meeting time is running short; the group may want to consider deferring Agenda Item 7 to the next meeting.

***Mr. Picanco made a motion to defer Agenda Item 7 to the June meeting. Ms. Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### **# 10 Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board Priorities**

Mr. Fletcher explained that FMSIB is developing a statewide prioritized list of freight investments and part of the process involves obtaining investment/project priorities from MPOs, such as SRTC. He reviewed project eligibility requirements and FMSIB's prioritization criteria. The list is due to FMSIB by 08/15/22.

He shared a draft list of potential projects and stated that next steps include verifying project attributes and readiness with local agencies, bringing the list before the TTC and TAC in June and request for Board action in July.

The group was asked if SRTC should prioritize the project list before submitting and if so, what criteria to use. They were also asked to consider if a working group should be formed to review and analyze projects.

- Could SRTC take the draft list and compare it to the existing regional priority list
- Suggested that staff review the applications from SRTC's call for projects and vet them for the FMSIB list before forming a separate working group to discuss
- Ms. Bollenback said the organization has received feedback that we should involve our advisory committees and Board in more of the agency's planning work. So the agency is providing an opportunity for TTC involvement if members choose to be involved in prioritization development.
- Asked if this process might be an opportunity to explore freight supporting corridors?
- There was consensus from members that most or all of the dialogue and work for development of a prioritized list can be accomplished by staff before formation of a work group. Several members volunteered to be part of a work group if it is needed.

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

Mr. Stewart said that in the interest of time the two agency update items will be distributed to TTC members via email.

#### **# 12 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary