

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes | August 24, 2022
Hybrid Meeting | 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane WA 99201 and on Zoom

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance

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

IN ATTENDANCE

TAC Members:

Raychel Callary	Bill White
Todd Coleman	Charlie Wolff
Charles Hansen	Rhonda Young
Caleb Newbill	Claudine Zender
Jorgen Rasmussen	Kim Zentz
Paul Vose	

SRTC Staff:

Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*
David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Admin.-Exec. Coordinator*

Guests:

Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, *WSDOT-East. Region*
Corie Lahr, *Epic Land Solutions*
Tom Sahlberg
Mark McAvoy
Carol (no last name)

2 Approval of June 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Callary 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 Young reported on actions and discussion at the July 14 Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

6 Consent Agenda (a) 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program September Amendment (b) Unified Planning Work Program, Amendment

Chair Young summarized the two items in the consent agenda.

Ms. Zentz made a motion to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Callary seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7 Safe Streets and Roads for All: SRTC Grant Proposal

Mr. Ulrich recapped the discussions earlier this year regarding existing federal safety grant programs, safety target setting requirements, Spokane County's Target Zero program, behavioral factors that contribute to roadway safety issues, etc. Feedback from the Board and committees indicated that development of a regional safety program would be appropriate.

He shared Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program highlights, the two available funding paths, action plan components and relevant requirements. The total project cost is projected to be \$500,000 with a 20% local match requirement; proposed funding for the match is as follows: \$15,000 each from City of Spokane, Spokane County and City of Spokane Valley and \$55,000 from SRTC reserve funds. The application is due 09/15/22 and awards will be announced this winter

The group discussed; comments included:

- Is the dollar amount of the grant request sufficient. Mr. Ulrich replied that it is in-line with other jurisdictions that have recently completed safety plans
- Even though the City of Spokane has a safety plan, staff is not positive that it would qualify as an eligible action plan under the SS4A program.
- While the grant application does not have a direct equity or public engagement scoring criterion however, if awarded, the safety plan must contain equity and public engagement components.
- The types of funding that may or may not be used to pay for public incentives to participate in the outreach process.

Mr. Vose made a motion to recommend that the SRTC Board direct staff to apply to the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. Mr. White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

8 Spokane Transit Authority: Strategic Plan

Mr. Otterstrom reported on the ongoing update to STA's strategic plan. She addressed research and data validation, industry policy trends and public outreach strategies for the strategic plan update. She shared stakeholder input and provided examples of strategies to address the draft goals of the strategic plan.

Member comments included:

- Suggested expanding routes to make commuting more convenient.

- Encouraging STA to take a more pronounced role in land use decisions.
- Would like to see STA play a bigger role in making recommendations or advising city councils, jurisdictions, or other policy making bodies.
- Robust transit leads to improved mixed-use properties.

There was additional conversation about transit planning in correlation to land use decisions, shaping land use based on transit, and the role of STA.

9 Transportation Planning Discussion Series: Economic Vitality

Mr. Fletcher shared a background of the Transportation Discussion Series which began in January and how the topics have been aimed at providing a greater understanding of planning work, specifically the Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities (UL).

He summarized the economic vitality evaluation criteria from last year's UL process and how economic vitality as a Guiding Principle is defined in Horizon 2045. He displayed maps showing 2019 household and employment density values and how they compare to what is being forecast for 2045. Connecting jobs and housing is what creates the greatest impacts on the transportation system; identification of freight, vehicle, bicycle, and transit priority networks is a way to address the that.

Mr. Fletcher spoke about economic vitality indicators and asked the group for input on several discussion points. Member comments included:

- Questioned if economic impact statements are being reviewed in reference to the employment data.
- The term "economic vitality" is interesting because it can be interpreted in many different ways.
- Question if employment density is capturing sales figures
- Suggestion to incorporate existing studies, such as the West Plains Transportation Study.

10 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities: Process & Screening Criteria

Ms. McMenemy spoke about the 2021 Legislative Priority Statement, development of the Unified List and project information sheets which are all used together as a communication tool that can be used by other agencies and organizations in discussions with State and Federal legislators about the region's transportation priorities.

This is the second time SRTC has gone through the Unified List process; feedback from last year was that legislators wanted to see an even shorter list. She compared the project evaluation criteria from last year to this cycle, noting that input from the TTC and TAC were incorporated into the criteria. The group reviewed the draft criteria and scoring.

Member comments included:

- Including Equity as a scoring area is both appropriate and strategic.
- All criteria are important but different criteria could be weighted differently depending on the emphasis of the grants available and legislative priorities.
- Suggestion to develop a criteria matrix.
- SRTC is committed to developing a needs assessment in the near future, although it may take a few years.

Ms. McMenemy said the TAC will be asked to review and make a recommendation on the finalized criteria at the next meeting.

INFORMATION: No action or discussion. Items #11-#13 presented as written reports only

11 TIP Obligation Target Update

12 Draft 2023-2026 TIP

13 Summary of Land Use & Technology Panels

14 Agency Update and Future Information Items

Mr. Lien said the final report of the DivisionConnects study will be presented to the SRTC Board in September for approval, and the draft update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan will be published on September 1.

15 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary