

MEETING MINUTES

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Technical Committee
August 24, 2022 | Hybrid Meeting
421 W Riverside Ave Suite 500, Spokane WA 99201 and on Zoom

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*
Brett Lucas, *City of Cheney*
Roger Krieger, *City of Deer Park, Small Towns Rep.*
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*
Jeremy Clark, *City of Spokane Valley*
Brandi Colyar, *Spokane County*
Barry Greene, *Spokane County*
April Westby, *Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency*
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Matt Kenney, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Chad Simonson, *WSDOT-East. Region*
Glenn Wagemann, *WSDOT-East. Region*

Alternate TTC Members:

Katherine Miller, *City of Spokane*
Jake Saxon, *Spokane County*

Guests:

Kathleen Weinand, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Paul Kropp
Tyler Kimbrell
Matt Zarecor, *Spokane County*
Nate Sulva
LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmart NW*
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, *WSDOT-East. Region*

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*

2 Approval of June 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Picanco made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Greene 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 July 14 Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7 Safe Streets and Roads for All: SRTC Grant Proposal

Mr. Ulrich stated that this grant, developed through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides an opportunity to develop a regional safety action plan. He recapped the discussions held in March regarding transportation safety and shared highlights of the grant program.

There are two separate funding opportunities with this grant: (1) for the development of a safety action plan and (2) for safety implementation. To be eligible for implementation plan funding, there must be an eligible action plan in place and currently no SRTC member agency besides potentially the City of Spokane has an eligible plan.

SRTC is proposing taking the lead in the development of a regional safety action plan so that all SRTC member agencies can take advantage of other future funding opportunities which require a safety action plan. An SS4A Action plan would consist of components such as engagement and collaboration, equity considerations, policy and process changes, and others. The total project cost is projected to be \$500,000 and there is 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. There were no questions or discussion.

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

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

8 Spokane Transit Authority: Strategic Plan

Ms. Weinand provided information about STA's strategic planning process, 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.

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 to discuss:

- What economic vitality indicators for the region should SRTC track?
- How should we measure the economic impacts of transportation projects?
- Which economic vitality metrics should be used as criteria for the Unified List?
- Are there additional datasets?

Discussion points included:

- Clarification of how regional activity centers and employment density are defined.
- Discussion of which economic vitality indicators will be used as scoring criteria.
- The distance to be included around a project area when evaluating the employment density scoring.
- The employment density indicators seem to be more like land use measurements than the measurement of economic vitality impacts of transportation investments.
- The indicators don't appear to measure or distinguish between, for example, a transit project that connects two activity centers versus a road project. Or a bike path that parallels a freight corridor.
- Suggestion to add another metric regarding the proximity to a member agency's existing focus areas, for example the Northeast PDA.
- Almost any project could meet the "providing access between and within activity centers" metric.

Additional discussion of this topic will continue in the next agenda item.

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

Ms. McMenemy summarized the background and purposes behind the Unified List of Regional Transportation List (UL) development. The three major steps of this project are the creation of a Legislative Priority Statements, selecting a prioritized list of projects, and development of detailed project information sheets. These three steps form a communication tool which other agencies and organizations can use to inform State Legislators and Federal Congressional Members about the region's current priorities. She highlighted the total funding awarded to projects from the 2021 UL.

As the SRTC Board is committed to updating this list each year, development of the priority project list is underway for the 2023 legislative session. SRTC is asking member agencies to submit projects that are on their legislative or federal agendas, and/or have regional importance, and/or have a safety focus.

She compared the project evaluation criteria from last year to this cycle, noting that the modified criteria included feedback from both the TTC and TAC. Ms. McMenemy was seeking feedback on Equity as a new focus area recommended to be included in the scoring and the draft project evaluation scoring criteria and scoring in each category.

The group discussed and comments included:

- Most projects will already be in a capital improvement program or TIP, so it may not make much of an impact to assign points to this question. Ms. McMenemy stated that last year several projects were submitted that were not currently in capital improvement programs.
- If the public outreach item is just a yes or no question, then it would assign the same number of points to a project that had outreach as part of the entire capital improvement program versus a project which had robust community engagement. Suggested adding more variability in the score for the level of engagement.

- The project submission form will allow agencies self-score and to know their approximate score immediately.
- The questions were designed to align with the Guiding Principles and the SRTC Board's goals and strategies. Staff will continue to evaluate the weighting of all the questions.
- Suggestion to change the language in the air quality question
- The question about resiliency through redundancy seems to be encouraging building new roads, which is the opposite of stewardship. Ms. McMenamy replied that in this case, the question was in routes with one way in and one way out; it's a focus on spacing. Suggestion to edit the language to ask if the project provides redundancy to a state highway.
- Also, it is important to note if a project adds to resiliency or *reduces* existing facility resiliency.
- Suggestion to combine the first two questions in the Quality of Life category.
- Discussion of the ripple effect of scoring depending on the number of questions per category.
- Discussion of how access and providing options for access to the system is being addressed.
- Definition of potential negative impacts to areas of potential disadvantage.
- Agreement that Equity should be included as a scoring area.

Next steps in the process will be to post information to the website, receive applications from member agencies from September 12 to October 5, and request approval of the process/criteria by Board in October.

INFORMATION: No action or discussion. Items 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. Stewart said that as the meeting was already over time and the Transportation Advisory Committee meetings starts in a few minutes, any questions or comments about the three Informational items can be directed to staff.

15 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary