

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

November 10, 2022 | Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting at SRTC, 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane, WA and remotely via Zoom

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance/Excused Absences

Chair Paul Schmidt brought the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and roll was taken.

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

Council Member Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney* (Chair)
Mayor Cris Kaminskis, *City of Liberty Lake*
Council Member Zack Zappone, *City of Spokane*
Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley*
Doug Yost, *Major Employer Representative*
Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight Representative*
Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Representative*
Commissioner Al French, *Spokane County*
Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County*
Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Council Member Tiger Peone, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*
Rhonda Young, *Transportation Advisory Committee Chair*
Inga Note, *Transportation Technical Committee Chair*

Board Alternates:

Larry Larson, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

Guests:

Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Charles Hansen, *Transportation Advisory Committee*
Francis SiJohn, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*
Char Kay, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*
LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmartNW*
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Paul Kropp
Madeline Arredondo, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Gloria Mantz, *City of Spokane Valley*

Staff:

Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*
Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*
David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Michael Redlinger, *Assoc. Transportation Planner II*
Greg Griffin, *Administrative Services Manager*
Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Admin.-Exec. Coordinator*
Megan Clark, *Legal Counsel*

Chair Schmidt stated that Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, Kelly Fukai, Mayor Kevin Freeman, and Council Member Dee Cragun had requested excused absences.

Commissioner French made a motion to approve the excused absences. Council Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2 Public Comments

There were no comments.

ACTION ITEMS

3 Consent Agenda

- a) October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- b) October 2022 Vouchers
- c) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Air Quality Conformity

Commissioner French made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Lien stated that the CPT-HSTP is updated every four years, in partnership with Spokane Transit. He defined the purpose of the plan and outlined the target populations served by the CPT-HSTP. Key components of the plan include a current service inventory, assessment of transportation services and strategies to meet regional needs. He summarized the timeline of the plan update, community engagement activities and the ways in which community input was obtained. The draft plan was open for public review from 9/1/22 to 10/14/22. There were no questions or discussion.

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve Resolution #22-22 adopting the 2022 update of the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Mr. Yost seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Guidebook

Ms. McMenemy explained the purposes and uses of TIP Guidebook, which is updated each year. The modifications to the 2023 version are:

- Addition of a Toll Credits Policy (approved by the Board on 05/12/22)
- Modifications to Policy 3.2 and Policy 4.4
- Update to the 2023 TIP amendment and administrative modification schedules
- Addition of the 2023 Call for Preservation Projects schedule
- Changing the term “Regional Project Priority List” to “Contingency List” throughout the guidebook

There was discussion about tracking project status and the role of the TIP Working Group.

Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve Resolution #22-23 adopting the 2023 TIP Guidebook. Council Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

6 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities: List and Legislative Priority Statements

Ms. McMenemy summarized development of the Unified List project and the three steps involved. Last month the Board approved the project evaluation criteria; member agencies submitted projects from their legislative agendas for inclusion on the Unified List of Regional Transportation. She described the scoring process, the three project status categories, geographic distribution of the projects, and total dollar amounts. The Board was asked to consider how SRTC should convey the most vital regional priorities.

The group discussed and comments included:

- The list a communication tool; having too many projects or too much information dilutes the message
- The projects in the implementation phase should be the primary focus, with an understanding that those coming up the pipeline have importance as well
- The Craig Rd project has modified slightly from what is being presented; it now includes enhancement to the I-90 interchange
- All the projects in the implementation category certainly should be included on the priority list, but consideration should also be given to what is happening in the legislature. For example, the legislative emphasis on safety may mean that those projects with a high score in the safety category should be brought forward as well.
- There was discussion about weighting the criteria equally or weighting the safety criteria more heavily
- The legislature is not likely to have a big transportation package this session so the list should be focused and strategic
- There was a suggestion that twelve total projects is a good number for the priority list.

Ms. McMenemy reviewed each of the seven options for legislative statements with background information and asked the group for feedback/input. Mr. Ewers appreciated the inclusion of the statement encouraging diversity of clean fuel technologies rather than solely focusing on electric. Ms. Bollenback said the language in the statements is very strategic and designed to build support for SRTC and its member agencies.

7 Equity Planning Framework

Mr. Redlinger reviewed the Equity Planning Framework development process, which was done by staff and a working group consisting of volunteer Transportation Technical Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee members and a Board member. He shared highlights from the draft document and reviewed the framework's primary recommendations, which are:

- Addition of Equity to the SRTC Guiding Principles
- Ask project sponsors to report on level of engagement during project planning and outreach
- Establish a standing Equity Work Group or Advisory Group
- Incorporate equity planning assessment for projects
- Track yearly investment levels likely to be used by or targets towards Environmental Justice communities
- Acquire origin/destination data to analyze trips originating from EJ areas and potentially disadvantaged communities.
- Consider including equity in SRTC's annual Performance Management Framework

He stated that the Board will be asked to adopt the document next month.

Comments and questions included:

- Discussion about the framework's recommendation to form an Equity Workgroup rather than having the Transportation Advisory Committee take on equity conversations. Support was expressed for development of a separate Equity Workgroup.
- Challenges in removing subjectivity from equity criteria discussions.

- While there have been discussions by many different organizations and entities about how to measure equity, this is still an evolving area with some questions still to be answered. The Board will ultimately make these decisions for SRTC.

8 Transportation Performance Management: Introduction

Mr. Ulrich provided a background of Transportation Performance Management (TPM) emerging from the congressional Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) of 2012. MAP-21 required Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as SRTC, to set performance targets for Safety, Infrastructure, and System Performance. He provided details about the definition and measurements in the three categories.

Over the next six months, the Board will receive in-depth information for discussion and be asked to take action on the performance measures listed above. There were no questions or discussion.

9 Board Member Comments

Mr. Ewers said 90% of freight coming into Spokane County arrives by truck. While the trucking industry is currently working towards a carbon-free fuel solution, current electric technology is insufficient for the needs of long-haul freight movement. The use of hydrogen fuel is being researched, but it will likely be many years before diesel is replaced for heavy equipment, agricultural applications, and long-distance freight. He also spoke about the potential of a rail workers strike.

Commissioner French spoke about the recent ribbon cutting ceremony for the rail-truck transload facility at the Spokane International Airport.

Chair Schmidt reminded the group to remember Veteran's Day is tomorrow.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Clerk of the Board