

Spokane Regional Transportation Council - Transportation Technical Committee

November 16, 2022 | Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting at SRTC, 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane WA 99201 and virtually on Zoom

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance

Ms. Inga Note, TTC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

TTC Members:

Inga Note, *City of Spokane* (Chair)
Char Kay, *WSDOT-Eastern Region* (Vice Chair)
Heather Trautman, *City of Airway Heights*
Roger Krieger, *City of Deer Park*
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Colin Quinn-Hurst, *City of Spokane*
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*
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*
Matt Kenney, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Chad Simonson, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*
Glenn Wagemann, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

Guests:

Paul Kropp
Nate Sulya
LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmartNW*
Charles Hamilton, *All Aboard Washington*
Gary Wirt, *All Aboard Washington*

SRTC Staff:

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

TTC Alternates:

Gloria Mantz, *City of Spokane Valley*

2 Approval of October 2022 TTC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Quinn-Hurst 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 summarized the actions and discussions of the SRTC Board at their November meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

6 Equity Planning Framework

Mr. Redlinger reviewed the development of the Equity Planning Framework, its purposes, and summarized the recommendations outlined in the draft document. He noted one small change from the draft document presented last month was the addition of the definition of race equity, which is consistent with the definition used by the State of Washington.

He said staff reviewed recent equity discussions by the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), determined that SRTC draft equity framework is consistent with countywide planning policies, and TTC input on the document is still requested.

Mr. Redlinger shared that implementation of framework recommendations will need to go through a secondary review process as part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and any expenditures will have to be approved as part of the normal budget process. He reiterated this is not a binding document, but a guide for regional transportation planning.

The group discussed and comments included:

- Although the document lists recommendations, not planned actions, it may be under-representing to call it a non-binding or a guiding document. Suggested referring to the document as a “useful framework”. The impact of the equity framework is foundational to next steps in equity planning.
- Concern that while recommendations of the equity framework will be considered “guidance” now, they will ultimately develop into policy requirements, which can be very challenging for the small cities/towns to follow, due to limited staff and resources. It is important to recognize that small cities/towns should not be required to adhere to the same standards as larger cities which have more funding and resources.
- Any actions for equity planning will be incorporated into the UPWP and ultimately approved by the Board.

Mr. Quinn-Hurst made a motion to recommend Board approval of the Equity Planning Framework. Ms. Kay seconded. The motion passed with 15 votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention.

7 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities

Ms. McMenemy reviewed the Unified List development process and purposes. She provided details about the scoring criteria, the funding results of last year’s Unified List, and the division of projects into either Implementation, Development, or Initiation categories.

She summarized the projects in each of the categories and stated the TTC has been asked to narrow down the list in order to make it more strategic.

The group discussed this topic at great length. Discussion/comments included:

- There seem to be a large number of projects in the West Plains area.
- Presuming that Spokane Valley receives confirmation of funding from WSDOT, the Pines Grade Separation project could be removed from the list.

- Half the projects on the Implementation list are trail projects; it is anticipated that transportation funding coming out of the upcoming legislative session will have a safety focus and trail projects are a good fit for that.
- Setting a threshold scoring number could narrow down the number of projects on the list in a non-subjective way.
- This is not meant to be a funding list or a competitive list; it's a regional project priority list to inform legislators.
- The scoring process continues to evolve; this is only the second year SRTC has developed a regional priority list. The process will continue to be refined.
- The project status divisions into Implementation, Development or Initiation was based on information provided by the project sponsors.
- The scoring does not include any indication as to how much funding the jurisdiction allocated towards the project.
- Safety is a focus of the state legislature right now; suggested looking at safety projects regardless of score and also keep in mind this is a regional list.
- Suggestion to focus attention onto the projects dollar amounts, in addition to the score.
- Suggestion to highlight the top the projects in each category on the submitted projects map.
- Importance of selecting projects that encompass the region equitably.

Mr. Picanco made a motion to recommend Board approval of all projects on the Implementation list and all projects scoring 125 and above on the Development and Initiation lists. Ms. Trautman seconded.

Discussion continued. A member questioned if the motion encompasses the region equitably and if the 17 projects included in the motion sufficiently tell the Board what the TTC is advocating.

Mr. Otterstrom made a friendly amendment to the motion adjusting the threshold scoring number to 124. Mr. Picanco and Ms. Trautman accepted the motion to amend.

The motion to recommend Board approval of all projects on the Implementation list and all projects from the Development and Initiation lists scoring 124 or higher passed unanimously.

8 2023 TTC Officer Elections

Mr. Stewart summarized the past rotation of agencies in the Chair and Vice Chair position. Chair Note opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Kay nominated Ms. Heather Trautman for Vice-Chair. She accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Quinn-Hurst made a motion to approve the nomination of Ms. Trautman as 2023 Vice Chair. Mr. Greene seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Picanco nominated Ms. Char Kay for Chair. She accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Trautman made a motion to approve the nomination of Ms. Kay as 2023 Chair. Ms. Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to recommend Board approval of Ms. Char Kay, WSDOT as the 2023 TTC Chair and Ms. Heather Trautman, City of Airway Heights as 2023 TTC Vice Chair. Mr. Picanco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

9 Joint Transportation Commission Funding Splits

Ms. Bollenback spoke about development process of the Joint Transportation Committee IJA Work Group, per a request of the state legislature. The work group was tasked to analyze and discuss the state/local government split of federal transportation funding. She shared details about the work group's membership and noted the group met three times and issued a set of recommendations for future funding allocations.

She reviewed the details of the existing and recommended splits between state and local for multiple programs, including National Highway Performance Program, Surface Transportation Block Grant, Formula Bridge Program, Carbon Reduction and more. There were no questions or discussion.

10 Expression of Interest for the Corridor Identification & Development Program

Chair Note said this item is a follow up from the All Aboard Washington (AAWA) presentation last month. Members expressed support for sharing the recent information from AAWA regarding federal funding for passenger rail expansion with the SRTC Board. Ms. Bollenback explained that inter-city rail is not reflected in SRTC's Unified Planning Work Program or in any other planning document at this time; the TTC can consider taking action to recommend that this topic be added as a Board meeting agenda item.

11 Agency Update and Future Information Items

There was no update.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary