

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Transportation Advisory Committee

01.25.2023 | 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

Chair Zentz called the meeting to order at 3:01 and attendance was taken.

In Attendance

TCC Members

Raychel Callary
Charles Hansen
Carlie Hoffman
Caleb Newbill
Paul Vose
Bill White

Todd Williams
Charlie Wolff
Rhonda Young
Claudine Zender
Kim Zentz

Guests

Shea Suski, WSDOT-Eastern Region
Steven Polunsky, WA Dept. of Commerce
Jennifer Simmons
Tom Sahlberg
Krista Anderson

SRTC Staff

Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*
Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Admin-Exec Coordinator*

2 Approval of December 2022 TAC Meeting minutes

Mr. Newbill made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Young seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3 Public Comments

There were no comments.

4 TAC Member Comments

Chair Zentz asked the group for their input in the chat on what they would like to see the TAC be “more or less of” in the coming year, using a one- or two-word answers. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

5 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Zentz provided an overview of the January SRTC Board of Directors meeting. Mr. White asked if there would be any value in the TAC developing a letter of endorsement to the Board’s opposition to any delay of funding for the North Spokane Corridor (NSC). There was no opposition to this suggestion. The group discussed the importance of NSC completion to the region. Mr. White will develop a draft letter and bring to the next meeting for further discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

6 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program February Amendment

Ms. Jones shared information about the proposed amendment to the TIP from City of Spokane Valley to add RAISE funding to the Pines Rd Grade Separation project. There were no questions or discussion.

Mr. Vose made a motion to recommend Board approval of the February TIP Amendment. Mr. Krieger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7 SRTC 2024-2026 Preservation Call for Projects

Ms. McMenemy provided background information for the call for projects and explained that Principles of Investment provide guidance to the award process. She described the proposed principles, shared the draft project application, and summarized the draft scoring. The call is scheduled to be released on 2/10/23 and applications due 4/14/23. Project application scoring will be done with the assistance from volunteers from the TAC and TTC.

Ms. Callary made a motion to recommend Board approval of the 2024-2026 Preservation Call for Projects principles of investment and application as reported in the Attachment. Mr. Newbill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vose, Ms. Young and Mr. Newbill volunteered to assist with the application scoring.

8 Transportation Performance Measures: PM1 Safety

Ms. McMenemy spoke about the requirement for MPOs to set safety targets on an annual basis and the choice to support state targets or set regional specific quantifiable targets. With direction from the Board, SRTC applied for a Safe Streets & Roads for All planning grant. If SRTC receives the award, it will be used to research the development of a regional safety plan. There was a lengthy discussion. Comments included:

- Target Zero seems unattainable; perhaps setting more realistic targets would be a better strategy.
- Collisions, fatalities, and serious injuries are continuing to rise, both statewide and regionwide; supporting state safety targets do not seem to be making a difference.
- Behavioral issues are a big part of the problem; these are very difficult to counteract with roadway design.
- The region needs to get serious about safety and make tough engineering decisions, even if they are not the popular decisions.
- While setting a target is a requirement, but the real issue is what is being done to move the needle in the right direction.
- Emphasis of the TAC's desire to move to more robust regional safety targets and improved safety could also be addressed as part of the 2024-2025 UPWP development.
- The group discussed adding additional language to the motion in order to emphasize the importance of addressing safety as soon as possible.

Mr. Wolff made a motion to recommend that the SRTC Board agree to plan and program projects so that they contribute to the accomplishment of WSDOT HSIP targets. It is the desire of the TAC that SRTC move to a regional quantifiable target and identify specific strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in the near future.

Ms. Young seconded. Motion passed with all votes in favor (1 abstention).

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

9 SFY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Review

Mr. Stewart explained the purpose and requirements of a UPWP. He outlined federal planning factors/emphasis areas and state emphasis areas that go into the plan development. There are eight major SRTC planning activities contained in the plan. He shared the development schedule for the UPWP update process; the 2024-2025 plan will go into effect 7/1/23.

10 Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (LTS)

Mr. Lien spoke about the upcoming LTS analysis being conducted through this spring. This will compile data about the functionality and barriers to facilities on the Regional Bicycle Priority Network from the perspective of the cyclist. Data to be analyzed include through lanes, posted speed, traffic volume, parking, and bike facility/shoulder width. He described the LTS 1-4 grading system, with 1 being the lowest stress route and 4 being the highest. He said the TAC will be asked to provide input on the approach.

11 Guest Presentation: WSDOT Complete Streets

Shea Suski, WSDOT Principal Multimodal Planner, provided a history and overview of the WSDOT Complete Streets program for State transportation projects.

12 Introduction to Carbon Reduction Program Funding

Ms. Jones reported a new federal funding program has been created through the recent Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is expected to bring about \$5M to the region through 2026 for projects that help reduce vehicle emissions. Using the Contingency List Process from the SRTC TIP Guidebook, staff will identify projects eligible to receive CRP funds and the CRP funds will be included in the annual federal obligation target.

13 Agency Update

Mr. Lien asked anyone who had not taken the brief SRTC end of year online survey to please consider doing so.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:44pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary