

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

January 12, 2023 | Meeting Minutes

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

1 Call to Order/Excused Absences

Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:01pm; attendance was taken.

Board Members:

Council Member Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney*
Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, *City of Spokane*
Council Member Jennifer Morton, *City of Airway Heights*
Mayor Cris Kaminskas, *City of Liberty Lake*
Mayor Terri Cooper, *City of Medical Lake*
Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*
Council Member Zack Zappone, *City of Spokane*
Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley*
Sev Jones, *Kalispel Tribe of Indians*
Doug Yost, *Major Employer Representative*
Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Representative*
Commissioner Al French, *Spokane County*
Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Kim Zentz, *Transportation Advisory Committee Chair*
Charlene Kay, *Transportation Technical Committee Chair*
Mike Frucci, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

Board Alternates:

Commissioner Josh Kerns, *Spokane County*

Guests:

Kim Stoltz, *CommuteSmartNW*
Ross Kelly
Sonny Weathers, *City of Medical Lake*
Charles Hansen, *Transportation Advisory Committee*
Jami Hayes, *Spokane County*
Paul Kropp
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Tom Sahlberg, *City of Liberty Lake*
Madeline Arredondo, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Sean Messner, *CivTech*
Jerremy Clark, *City of Spokane Valley*
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Gabriel Sedberry, *Jacobs*
Larry Larson, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*
Joe Tortorelli, *Spokane Good Roads Association*

Staff:

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

Chair Schmidt said Council Member Dee Cragun - City of Deer Park and Commissioner Kelly Fukai - Washington State Transportation Commission had requested excused absences from today's meeting. Mayor Terri Cooper, City of Medical Lake requested a retroactive excusal from last month's meeting; a technology error kept her request from being sent in time.

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

2 Public Comments

Ms. Stoltz shared information about the CommuteSmartNW program and 2022 Awards Ceremony on 02/09/23.

Mr. Kelly expressed concern about the possible delay in state funding for the North Spokane Corridor and relayed his appreciation to Spokane County for continuing the Bigelow Gulch project.

ACTION ITEMS

3 Election of 2023 Board Officers

Chair Schmidt explained that the 2021 Bylaws specify a rotation for Board Officer; for 2023 the City of Spokane is scheduled to hold the Chair position and Spokane County to hold the Vice Chair position. He noted that both City of Spokane representatives are eligible, and he opened the floor to nominations.

Council Member Zappone nominated Council Member Wilkerson for Chair. Commissioner French seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion for Council Member Wilkerson to serve as 2023 SRTC Board Chair passed unanimously.

Council Member Wilkerson took over as Chair. She recognized Council Member Schmidt's service at SRTC since he joined the group in 2018. She opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mayor Haley nominated Commissioner French for Vice Chair. Council Member Higgins seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion for Commissioner French to serve as 2023 SRTC Vice Chair passed unanimously.

4 Consent Agenda

- a) December 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- b) December 2022 Vouchers
- c) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program January Amendment
- d) 2022 Quarter 4 Budget Update

Commissioner French made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Ewers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5 WSDOT Consolidated Grant Rankings

Mr. Lien shared details about the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program, which combines federal funding from Section 5310, Section 5311, Section 5399(a) and others with state funding programs such as the Paratransit/Special Needs grants and rural mobility grants, into a single grant program. The program funds capital and operating projects/programs for human services public transportation .

RTPO's, such as SRTC, are required by the state to submit rankings for project applications within their planning area. A scoring team of eight volunteers from the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and scored the four applications received through SRTC. Mr. Lien explained the ranking process and said the scoring team and SRTC committees made the following recommendations:

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Ranking Grade</u>
Deer Park Dial-A-Ride & Community Shuttle	A
Neighbors on the Go	A
Replacement Buses to Sustain Deer Park Services	A
Spokane County Mobility Management	B

Mr. Lien said the approved project rankings will be submitted to the WSDOT for their review process. Successful applicants will receive award letters in May/June. There were no questions or discussion.

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve Resolution R-23-02 adopting the 2023-2025 Consolidated Grant project rankings submitted through the Spokane County RTPO (Regional Transportation Planning Organization). Mr. Ewers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6 Resolution #23-03 Opposing Delays to the North Spokane Corridor Project

Ms. Bollenback reported that the draft state budget proposed by the Governor includes a funding delay in the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) construction schedule. She discussed this with the Chair and added this action item to ensure that the Board's position is clearly on record as being opposed to any sort of delay and if approved, the proposed resolution and a cover letter will be sent to regional legislators and legislators on transportation and appropriations committees.

Mr. Ewers reported that he testified to the House earlier today regarding the proposed delays and he also sent a memo to the Governor. He said the completion of the NSC will have many benefits for the freight system and there will be many environmental and safety concerns if it is delayed.

Ms. Meyer said that from STA's perspective, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Division St is a companion project to the NSC and it depends on the NSC to proceed on schedule. She also commented that the Small Starts Grant received by STA requires a dedicated bus lane; if the modifications to Division St are delayed by construction delays to the NSC, it could be problematic. She said the future of the Division St projects depends on the NSC taking some of the traffic off Division.

Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve Resolution R-23-03 opposing state funding delays for the North Spokane Corridor. Member Schmidt seconded. Motion passed with unanimously (Mr. Frucci abstained).

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

6 SRTC 2024-2026 Preservation Call for Projects

Ms. McMenemy stated that SRTC holds a call for preservation projects every two to three years; the Board set aside \$9.2 M of funding from the 2021 Call for Projects to fund capital maintenance and preservation projects to be implemented in 2024-2026.

The TIP Working Group and the Transportation Technical Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee have discussed the following principles of investment for this call (which are very similar to those from the 2021 preservation call) as follows:

- Limit project applications to include grand and overlays, chip seals & other sealant projects;
- Limit project awards not to exceed \$1.5M; and
- Limit any one jurisdiction total awards not to exceed \$3M

She reviewed the project application, which is a slightly modified version of the previous application. She summarized application scoring areas, with pavement condition being the most critical scoring factor. Members of the TTC and TAC will make up the scoring team.

Frucci asked how it was decided to not include equity as a scoring area. Ms. McMenemy said TIP Working Group members discussed scoring equity as a criteria and some members said their jurisdictions do not have areas of disadvantage in their communities so would introduce some discrepancy in the scoring. She said also there has not been a clear recommendation made regarding equity scoring; however, since the Equity Framework was adopted by the Board in December, staff wanted to bring attention to equity by mapping projects as they fall into areas of disadvantage and to let that inform the process before adding specific weight. She said the proposed application scoring is still open to discussion.

Chair Wilkerson said seeing a map overlay that will be a telling point for discussion as to what the Board's recommendations will be for funding projects in areas of disparity.

Ms. Zentz said that from the perspective of the TAC, part of discussion was that since equity framework has not been fully defined by the Board, it would be premature to adopt equity scoring at this time. She said the TAC feels it will be important to seeing the project data overlay to provide to be a better understanding of where there are disparities.

Ms. McMenemy said the principles of investment and application will be brought to the TTC and TAC in January to discuss and make a recommendation and will be before the Board for action in February.

7 Transportation Performance Management: PM1 Safety

Mr. Ulrich provided a background of the development of transportation performance management at the federal level and provided details statistics in our region in the five safety performance measures:

1. Fatalities
2. Fatalities per 100M vehicle miles traveled
3. Serious injuries
4. Serious injuries per 100M vehicle miles traveled
5. Non-motorist fatalities and serious injuries

WSDOT requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (such as SRTC) in Washington establish safety targets on an annual basis. MPOs may choose to plan and program projects that support the targets outlined in Target Zero, WSDOT's transportation safety plan; or choose to develop quantifiable regional targets. In 2021 the Board approved a resolution to support the state targets in Target Zero.

Mr. Ulrich reported that SRTC recently applied for a Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant, which, if awarded, will be used to explore developing a regional safety plan. Award announcements are expected to be released very soon. The TTC and TAC will be asked to make a recommendation for selecting safety targets at their January meetings and the Board will be asked to take action on setting safety targets at the February meeting.

The group discussed:

- Of the five measures, two are rates, adjusted for population growth, but other three are not.
- Safety measures are headed in the wrong direction both regionally and statewide.
- Target Zero type approaches have been successful in some areas in the nation, notably Hoboken, NJ.
- A larger percentage of fatalities and serious injury incidents are caused by drivers' impairment, which is very challenging to overcome with roadway design.
- The regional Target Zero Task Force, led by Spokane County, brings together law enforcement with transportation planners to help address the behavioral side of the safety issues.
- Improving transit access at night in the downtown core could help alleviate drunk driving.

8 Board Member Comments

Ms. Bollenback reminded the group about the short survey emailed to everyone recently regarding SRTC's communication effectiveness and future work plan items.

9 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Clerk of the Board

