

## Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

February 9, 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 Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 1:03pm and attendance was taken. In attendance were:

#### **Board Members:**

Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, *City of Spokane, Chair*

Commissioner Al French, *Spokane County, Vice Chair*

Council Member Jennifer Morton, *City of Airway Heights*

Mayor Terri Cooper, *City of Medical Lake*

Mayor Cris Kaminskis, *City of Liberty Lake*

Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*

Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley*

Sev Jones, *Kalispel Tribe of Indians*

Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight Representative*

Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Representative*

Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County*

Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*

Kim Zentz, *Transportation Advisory Committee Chair*

Charlene Kay, *Transportation Technical Committee Chair*

Mike Frucci, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

Kelly Fukai, *WA State Transportation Commission*

#### **Board Alternates:**

*n/a*

#### **Guests:**

Jameyn Allen, *Cowles Co.*

Charles Hansen, *Transportation Advisory Committee*

Steven Polunsky, *Dept of Commerce*

Tom Sahlberg, *City of Liberty Lake*

Paul Kropp, *Citizen*

Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*

Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*

Francis SiJohn, *Spokane Tribe of Indians*

Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*

Joe Tortorelli, *Spokane Good Roads Association*

#### **Staff:**

Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*

Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*

Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*

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 Wilkerson stated that Council Member Paul Schmidt and Mr. Doug Yost had requested excused absences.

***Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the excused absences. Mr. Ewers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

### # 2 Public Comments

There were no comments.

## ACTION ITEMS

### # 3 Consent Agenda

a) January 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

b) January 2023 Vouchers

c) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program February Amendment (Resolution R-23-04)

***Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### # 4 SRTC 2024-2026 Preservation Call for Projects

Ms. McMenemy provided a background of the preservation call for projects, which will assist in reaching the federal funding target and addresses the high need for pavement preservation. \$9.2M of funding was set aside by the Board in 2021 to fund capital maintenance and preservation projects implemented in 2024-2026.

She explained how Principles of Investment guide the call for project awards. The proposed principles are:

- 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 shared highlights of the project application and summarized application scoring areas, with pavement condition having the highest number of points. Suggested revisions include:

- Providing a map overlaying project locations to areas of potential disadvantage and areas on the WA Environmental Health Disparities map.
- Adding an option for small towns to use toll credits for local match dollars.
- Various language updates for consistency with Horizon 2045.

Ms. McMenemy reviewed the application deadline (4/14/23) and scoring schedule; volunteers from the TTC, TAC and SRTC Staff will assist with the application scoring. Both the TTC and TAC unanimously recommended Board approval of the Principles of Investment and draft application. There were no questions or discussion.

***Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve Resolution R-23-05 approving the 2024-2026 Preservation Call for Project Principles of Investment and application as reported in the Attachment. Ms. Fukai seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### # 5 Transportation Performance Management: PM1 Safety

Mr. Ulrich reviewed the development of transportation performance management at the federal level and shared 5-year rolling average data in the Spokane region for 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

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (such as SRTC) are required set safety targets each year in one of two ways; by agreeing to plan and program projects that support the targets outlined in Target Zero (WSDOT's transportation safety plan) or developing their own quantifiable regional targets. In 2021 and 2022 the Board approved the support of the state targets.

SRTC applied for and received a \$400,000 grant from USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, which will be used to develop a regional safety plan. Plan development will include stakeholder engagement, in-depth crash data analysis, project identification and prioritization. When it is time to set safety targets in 2023, the SS4A process will be complete and discussions about potentially setting region specific safety targets will be more applicable. He shared input and comments from the TTC and TAC discussions of this topic.

The group discussed and comments included:

- Zero fatalities and serious injuries is an admirable goal, but to really change the trends we will have to focus on the root cause of accidents, which is not road design, but distractions.

- The SS4A grant will give SRTC the opportunity to more thoroughly analyze the state patrol’s collisions dataset.
- 80% of freight accidents on highways are caused by other drivers.
- Planning for zero fatalities and serious injuries is really all that should be acceptable, even if it is aspirational.
- The target number itself is less impactful than what is actively being done to address safety issues.
- Ms. Zentz said the TAC conversation focused on the need for the region to have a greater focus on safety and to measure the right things, so that progress can accurately be determined.

***Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve Resolution R-23-06 establishing annual performance targets for safety. Mayor Haley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

**INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**# 6 Transportation Performance Management: PM2 Infrastructure**

Mr. Ulrich reported that, similar to the previously discussed safety performance measures, MPOs are required to set infrastructure performance measures set by MPOs for pavement and bridge condition every four years for those facilities in the region that are part of the National Highway System (NHS). He shared information about the condition rating of the 305 bridges in Spokane County, focusing on those on the NHS and statewide bridge condition targets.

He reviewed four pavement condition measurements and presented data showing how pavement condition on regional NHS roads has changed from 2016-2021. To address the need for pavement preservation, SRTC is currently holding the Preservation Call for Projects and highlighted the need for additional maintenance and preservation funding to the 2023 Legislative Priority Statements. The Board will be asked to take action on this topic in April.

The group discussed:

- New state fish barrier passage regulations increase the cost of building or repairing bridges; there may be a possible lower cost difference for bridges that do not cross water.
- New technologies for measuring for pavement condition.
- There is no regional pavement condition measurement program; each individual jurisdiction is responsible for measuring and reporting conditions in their area.

**# 6 SFY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program Development Overview**

Mr. Stewart said the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines all transportation planning activities to be undertaken by SRTC in the upcoming two state fiscal years; it defines both the activities and the dollar amounts associated with their completion. He summarized federal planning factors/emphasis areas and state transportation system policy goals/emphasis areas.

A draft UPWP will be presented to the Board in a few months. He shared details about the eight major SRTC work tasks within the UPWP:

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|--|--|
| 1. Program Administration & Coordination | 2. Public & Stakeholder Participation & Coordination       |
| 3. Data Management & Systems Analysis    | 4. MTP & General Long Range Transportation Planning        |
| 5. Transportation Improvement Program    | 6. Congestion Management Process                           |
| 7. Planning Coordination & Studies       | 8. Regional Transportation Planning Organization Functions |

SRTC’s UPWP coordinates with the work plans from Spokane Transit Authority and WSDOT-Eastern Region. The

UPWP development will continue until June, including obtaining input from both committees and the Board. The Board will be asked to approve the UPWP in June. If approved, the UPWP goes to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval and will be effective 7/1/23.

#### **# 7 Carbon Reduction Program Funding**

Ms. Jones reported that a new 5-year federal funding program has been created through the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is for projects that help reduce vehicle emissions from on-road highway sources. Allocation of funds are based on population and funds will be added to the region's federal annual obligation target.

She described the types of eligible projects and noted about \$4.4M will be available in the region over the next few years with allocations divided into urban, urban small and rural categories. By utilizing the SRTC TIP Guidebook's Contingency List Process and working with member agencies, staff will identify projects eligible to receive CRP funds. Mr. Jones described the next steps; the Board will be asked to take action on the CRP allocations in March.

#### **# 8 Board Member Comments**

There were no comments.

#### **# 9 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

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Julie Meyers-Lehman, Clerk of the Board