

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Transportation Technical Committee

05.24.2023 | 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 Char Kay called the meeting to order at 1:01pm. In attendance were:

TTC Members

Char Kay, *WSDOT-Eastern Region* (Chair)
Heather Trautman, *City of Airway Heights* (Vice Chair)
Roger Krieger, *City of Deer Park*
David Williams, *City of Liberty Lake*
Inga Note, *City of Spokane*
Colin Quinn-Hurst, *City of Spokane*
Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*
Julia Whitford, *Kalispel Tribe of Indians*
Barry Greene, *Spokane County*
Jami Hayes, *Spokane County*
Samantha Hennessy, *Spokane Regional Health District*
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Matt Kenney, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Glenn Wagemann, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

Guests

Sauna Harshman, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*
Paul Kropp
Brian Jennings, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Lisa Key, *City of Liberty Lake*
Steven Polunsky, *WA Dept. of Commerce*

SRTC Staff

Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*
David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Kylee Jones, *Assoc. Transportation Planner III*
Michael Redlinger, *Assoc. Transportation Planner II*
Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Admin-Exec Coordinator*

TTC Alternate Members

n/a

2 Public Comments

There were no comments.

3 TTC Member Comments

Members shared highlights of current projects/programs in their jurisdiction/agency.

4 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Kay provided an overview of actions and discussions at the April SRTC Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

5 Consent Agenda: April TTC Meeting Minutes & 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program June Amendment

Mr. Wagemann made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included a recommendation for Board approval of the June TIP amendment. Ms. Trautman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6 SFY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Stewart recapped the discussions and presentations since the beginning of the year about the update to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is done every two years. Topics presented to the TTC have been the UPWP's purpose, requirements, tasks, subtasks, and budget. He shared highlights of the upcoming plan including Equity Planning Framework Implementation, update to the Congestion Management Process, and outreach with state and federal legislators for the Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities, as well as other tasks. The UPWP also incorporates the work plans of Spokane Transit Authority and WSDOT-Eastern Region.

Chair Kay noted WSDOT-Eastern Region is one of the few regions that coordinates with the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the UPWP. She said WSDOT is discussing aligning work plans with MPOs in other regions as well.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion to recommend Board approval of the SFY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Picanco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7 City of Spokane Riverside Ave Project Scope Change

Ms. Jones reported that the City of Spokane submitted a request to change the scope of the Riverside Ave project, SRTC's Executive Director has approved it, and the TTC is being asked to concur with the scope change. Mr. Kevin Picanco took the floor and shared details about the proposed changes, primarily moving from a full rebuild to a grind and overlay. He stated the scope change does not include a request for additional funding, but a reallocation of previously awarded funds.

Mr. Otterstrom made a motion for TTC concurrence of the City of Spokane Riverside Ave Scope Change. Ms. Note seconded.

There was discussion about how this project may have been scored differently in the Call for Projects had it been a grind and overlay project from the start.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

8 Preservation Call for Projects: Preliminary Results and Strategies to Address Reduction in Obligation Authority

Ms. Jones recapped the process by which the Board set aside \$9.2M of funds in 2022 to fund a preservation call for projects in 2023. 18 project applications were received from 8 agencies totaling \$19M in requests. She described the scoring team, and the group reviewed the draft funding list, the amounts requested for each project, and award recommendations from the TIP Working Group.

The \$9.2M set-aside was based on historical federal funding allocations levels. Because of an unanticipated 12% reduction in federal obligation authority and a parallel action by the state temporarily reducing OA at the local level, there is only \$1.3M available. Staff and the TIP Working Group have been discussing possible strategies to address the shortfall; Ms. Jones outlined possible strategies. Members discussed the actions at the federal and state levels which led to this situation.

9 Congestion Management Process (CMP): Regional Objectives and Network

Mr. Fletcher provided a short refresher on what the CMP is and what it does. He spoke about the CMP update process, which is based on a Federal Highway Administration's 8-step CMP model. The multi-jurisdictional CMP Working Group met in April to evaluate updates to the CMP regional objectives network.

The group reviewed the planning factors influencing the development of the regional objectives, corridor data collection that feeds into defining the CMP network, and metrics that are used to analyze the CMP network. Mr. Fletcher presented examples of the travel time index, level of travel time reliability, and spoke about travel demand and crash data. The TTC will be asked to make a recommendation to the Board next month. There were no questions or discussion.

10 WSDOT-Eastern Region/SRTC Collaboration Pilot Project

Mr. Ulrich shared information about the statewide Investment Strategy Group by developed by the WA State Transportation Secretary in 2020, which was designed to reconsider how WSDOT and regional planning organizations coordinate together on transportation policy goals. From work done by the Investment Strategy Group, a pilot program focused on safety was developed to be worked on collaboratively by WSDOT-Eastern Region and SRTC. The program's goal is to identify 3-5 safety projects by 3rd Quarter which reflect regional and state safety goals and will be included on the 2024 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities. There were no questions or discussion.

11 Agency Update

Mr. Stewart spoke about the Association of Washington Cities conference in Spokane June 20-23 and a meeting scheduled in conjunction with the Joint Transportation Committee. Mr. Lien announced that work will be starting on an adjustment to the highway urbanized area boundaries and plans to update the TTC at the next meeting.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:24pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary