

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Transportation Advisory Committee

06.28.2023 | 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 Kim Zentz called the meeting to order at 3:04pm and attendance was taken. In attendance were:

TAC Members

Raychel Callary	Charlie Wolff
Todd Coleman	Rhonda Young
Charles Hansen	Claudine Zender
Paul Vose	Kim Zentz
Todd Williams	

SRTC Staff

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

Guests

Jeremy Jewkes, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*
 Shauna Harshman, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

2 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

3 TAC MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

4 CHAIR REPORT ON SRTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chair Zentz reviewed action and discussions from the June SRTC Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS**# 5 CONSENT AGENDA: MAY TAC MEETING MINUTES & 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM JULY AMENDMENT**

Mr. Vose made a motion to amend the consent agenda to include the April TAC minutes since there was no quorum at the May meeting and those minutes could not be approved. Mr. Wolff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

6 PRESERVATION CALL FOR PROJECTS: FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Jones outlined the requested action and summarized the funding gap strategy contained in the supplemental information document, which was: (1) Request to utilize \$7.9M in STBG allocation from 2027 to fill the gap on an interim basis and (2) if annual allocations return to normal levels, the 2027 borrowed allocation will be returned for programming.

She summarized the Call for Projects process and reviewed project scores, draft award amounts, and spoke about project funding eligibility. She discussed the funding caps per the SRTC Board's principles of investment.

Ms. Jones provided a background of the recent state and federal actions that have reduced this year's obligation authority (OA) and shared information about past year's OA levels. She presented a map that showed where the proposed projects are located in relation to areas of potential disadvantage.

There was discussion about the reasons for the funding reduction the anticipation of a return to normal levels next year.

Ms. Young made a motion to recommend Board approval to fund projects as shown in the Attachment for the 2023 Call for Preservation Projects by using the strategy outlined in the Supplemental Information document. Ms. Hoffman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS: REGIONAL OBJECTIVES AND NETWORK

Mr. Fletcher provided an overview of the congestion management process. He reviewed the what has been completed thus far by the multi-jurisdictional CMP Working Group to evaluate updates to existing CMP objectives and the CMP network; these are steps 1 and 2 of the 6-step update process. He spoke about draft changes to the objectives, proposed CMP network designation criteria and draft additions to the network (a portion of Bigelow Gulch, 32nd Ave in Spokane Valley and the south Regal corridor).

Ms. Callary made a motion to recommend Board approval of the proposed regional objectives for congestion management and CMP network, as shown in the Attachment. Mr. Hansen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

8 WSDOT HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Jewkes, WSDOT-Eastern Region, shared information about the development of the plan update, the public outreach completed and upcoming, and next tasks of the WSDOT Highway Systems Plan update. He spoke about proposed funding recommendations which is \$17.3B for preservation and maintenance, \$5.4B for safety/efficiency and \$1.4B on strategic capacity expansion.

Ms. Young commented that with the state legislature's focus on safety, the proposed amount for safety seems relatively small.

9 SRTC/WSDOT SAFETY COLLABORATION PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Ulrich recapped the project's objectives and spoke about what agencies are participating on the pilot project team. H described the methodology/data analysis that identified 10 potential safety projects which align with regional and state safety objectives.

The pilot team will meet again to narrow the project list to 3-5 and the TTC will be asked to review and recommend Board approval at the August meeting.

The group discussed and comments included:

- The region should do a better job at assessing user vulnerability.
- The Washington State Patrol (WSP) collects accident data and shares that with SRTC, but WSP does not develop forecasts.
- Passive data can provide detailed information about accidents and near misses.
- Areas with a lot of accidents should be analyzed to identify design flaws.

- Upcoming implementation of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant will provide greater bandwidth for increased regional safety analysis.

10 WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Mr. Redlinger explained the objective of this effort is to more clearly define the role of SRTC's working groups by developing charters for each group and shared an overview of the draft charter for the Equity Working Group (scheduled to be implemented later this year). Members are encouraged to share suggestions about good strategies for recruiting Equity Working Group members.

11 DRAFT 2024 UNIFIED LIST OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

Mr. Fletcher gave an overview of the Unified List and it's purposes. He reviewed the 2024 Unified List project application previewed the 2024 Unified List project application process, provided feedback received from state and federal legislators on the previous version, and shared two project list options – one with 16 projects and the other with 21 projects. Members discussed looking where natural breaks occurred in scoring to help narrow the list is a good practice.

They also discussed:

- Including information about distribution funding for projects by agency
- Reviewing equity factors and distribution of project locations
- Identifying project types and funding allocations to help inform the decision making in the future
- The strategic opportunity to include a variety of projects that can access different types of funding

12 BICYCLE LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS

Mr. Lien stated that data collection and technical analysis of the regional bicycle network is complete. He explained the rating methodology and noted that a map of the LTS network ratings is available online. Comments and input from members will be accepted until early August. Members discussed the bike lane on Riverside Ave and challenges with vehicles parking in the bike lane.

11 AGENCY UPDATE

Mr. Lien announced that the July TAC meeting would likely be cancelled. He spoke about a FHWA highway urban boundary adjustment review for the region.

12 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:31pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Recording Secretary