

July 13, 2023 | Meeting Minutes

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

1 Call to Order/Excused Absences

Chair Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 1:01pm and attendance was taken. In attendance were:

IN ATTENDANCE

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*
- Council Member Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney*
- Mayor Cris Kaminskis, *City of Liberty Lake*
- Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
- Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley*
- Doug Yost, *Major Employer Representative*
- Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight Representative*
- Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Representative*
- Commissioner Mary Kunej, *Spokane County*
- CEO Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*
- Todd Trepanier, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*
- Heather Trautman, *Transportation Technical Committee Vice Chair*
- Kim Zentz, *Transportation Advisory Committee Chair*

Board Alternates:

n/a

Guests:

- Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*
- Steven Polunsky, *Dept. of Commerce*
- Tom Sahlberg, *City of Liberty Lake*
- Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
- Jody Belsick
- Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
- LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmartNW*
- Paul Kropp
- Shauna Harshman, *WSDOT-Eastern Region*

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*
- Kylee Jones, *Assoc. Transportation Planner III*
- Michael Redlinger, *Assoc. Transportation Planner II*
- Greg Griffin, *Administrative Services Manager*
- Julie Meyers-Lehman, *Admin-Exec. Coordinator*
- Megan Clark, *Legal Counsel*

Chair Wilkerson stated that the following members requested an excused absence from the meeting:

- Council Member Dee Cragun, *City of Deer Park*
- Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*
- Council Member Zack Zappone, *City of Spokane*
- Kelly Fukai, *Washington State Transportation Commission*

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

2 Public Comments - There were no comments.

ACTION ITEMS

3 Consent Agenda

- a) June Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b) June 2023 Vouchers
- c) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program July Amendment
- d) CY 2023 Quarterly Budget Update (2nd Quarter: Apr-May-Jun)

- e) CY 2023 Budget Amendment
- f) CY 2024 Member Financial Contributions
- g) SFY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program Budget Adjustment
- h) Transportation Improvement Program Database Contract with EcoInteractive
- i) Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Agreement with U.S. Dept. of Transportation

Commissioner French noted an error in the June minutes; both Council Member Wilkerson and Council Member Schmidt were listed as SRTC Board Chair. Council Member Schmidt is the Immediate Past Chair.

Commissioner French made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the correction to the minutes. Council Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4 Preservation Call for Projects: Approve Awards

Ms. Jones provided an overview of the call for projects process and presented the list of projects for proposed funding, eligibility categories, and funding recommendations. She explained the reasons why the annual federal allocation amount is lower than had been projected and said 2024 allocations should return to normal levels. The group discussed the application of future allocations.

Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve Resolution R-23-22 to award funding allocations for the 2023 Call for Preservation Projects as shown in the Attachment. Council Member Harnois seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Fletcher recapped the CMP's purpose and summarized the steps completed so far by the multi-jurisdictional CMP Working Group. He summarized the updates to the 6 regional objectives and presented a map showing additions to the CMP network and network designation criteria.

Commissioner French spoke about the second entrance being built to Fairchild AFB at Craig Rd; some federal funding has already been obtained to make improvements to Craig Rd in anticipation of this project. Currently there is limited congestion data available for this area, but that is not a requirement to be included in the CMP network. There was discussion about the ties between congestion and economic vitality/economic development.

Ms. Meyer made a motion to amend language of the first regional objective to say "the benefits of improved economic vitality MAY outweigh the disadvantages of congestion". Mr. French seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner French made a motion to add Craig Rd to the CMP Network map. Council Member Morton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The group considered the context of the CMP's stewardship objective.

Commissioner French made a motion to approve the CMP Regional Objectives and CMP Network as amended. Council Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

6 City of Spokane Valley: Transportation Priorities

Mr. Jackson presented status and funding information about Spokane Valley's current and future priority projects. Ms. Bollenback said that over the next several months the Board will receive presentations from various local partners to discuss transportation projects.

7 2024 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities: Legislative Priority Statements

Ms. McMenemy provided a summary of the annual Unified List development process. The creation of state legislative priority statements has been moved up to occur earlier in the year since state budget discussions begin in October. The group reviewed the ten draft legislative statements intended to be used with state legislators and modifications from last year's statements:

- A. Expand resources to improve transportation safety in support of Target Zero
- B. Pursue strategies to effectively address maintenance and preservation needs
- C. Support increased funding for Regional Transportation Planning Organizations
- D. Ensure access to transportation in support of affordable housing strategies
- E. Fund regionally critical projects on the SRTC Unified List
- F. Encourage diversity in the development of clean fuel technologies
- G. Address funding gaps that are anticipated due to the loss of gas tax revenues
- H. Enhance transportation investments that support Fairchild Air Force Base as the significant military installation in Spokane County
- I. Maintain Move Ahead Washington investments
- J. Modernize the Federal Funding Formual for transportation

Board members were asked to provide input. There was a suggestion to change "Maintain Move Ahead Washington investments" to "Maintain Legislative investments" since the North Spokane Corridor is not part of the Move Ahead Washington package, and the Division BRT funding is tied to NSC completion as well.

8 Draft 2024 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities

Mr. Fletcher spoke about the use of the Unified List as a strategic tool to communicate with legislators about current regional transportation priorities for potential funding opportunities. He summarized the project submittals from member agencies, and presented a map showing where projects are located.

Mr. Fletcher displayed two options of proposed project lists that contained project scores and project status category. Feedback received from legislators last year about the project list was to make it shorter. Using natural scoring breaks, Option A has 16 projects Option B contains 21 projects. At their June meetings the Transportation Technical Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee supported Option B because it more accurately represents the region's true needs. The Board was asked to provide input.

Commissioner French noted that the Craig Rd list is near the bottom of the Initiation category, but some funding has already been obtained. There was discussion about the self-scoring nature of the project application process and challenges of presenting regional needs while supporting member agency priorities.

9 SRTC/WSDOT-Eastern Regional Safety Collaboration Pilot Project Update

Mr. Ulrich reported on the Safety Collaboration project underway between SRTC and WSDOT and the safety project candidate locations. He summarized the process by which the locations were identified and shared metrics for crash severity by road segment, crash severity by intersection, fatal crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists, and posted speeds at fatal and serious injury crashes occur. Mr. Ulrich reminded the board that this effort is intended to explore opportunities for collaboration between the two agencies.

This activity provides foundational safety analysis that will support the regional safety action plan that will begin later this year.. Selection of the projects will be brought before the Board in September as part of the Unified List. There was discussion about identification of accident causal factors in the future as part of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant.

10 Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress Update

Mr. Lien stated the purpose of this analysis is to institute a grading system on the Regional Bicycle Priority Network so that users and agency staff can easily identify the level of interaction with vehicular traffic. He explained the Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) grading methodology. Region wide results of the bike network show that 30% of the network is classified as Level 1 (lowest stress) and 45% is Level 4 (highest stress), primarily due to the mileage of rural roads which do not generally have bike facilities. Results from the urban area show 37% of the network at Level 1, 29% at Level 4 and 34% Level 2 and 3 combined.

Results will continue to be reviewed with additional information being added for unsignalized crossings at major intersections. The Board will be asked to approve the LTS analysis in September.

11 Working Group Update

Mr. Redlinger spoke about the effort underway to define the roles and scopes of SRTC's existing working groups, future working groups, and subcommittees more clearly. These are not addressed in existing policies of SRTC. To improve clarity of purpose, SRTC staff has developed a draft charter that defines the role of a working group along with a template to serve as an outline for each group as it is established.

He shared information about the upcoming implementation of the Equity Working Group and summarized highlights of the group's draft charter. Further discussions about the Equity Working Group will be brought back to the Board and both committees later this year.

12 Board Member Comments

Chair Wilkerson thanked SRTC for contributing to the swag bags for the Association of Washington Cities event. Mr. Trepanier shared information about upcoming events for the next section of the North Spokane Corridor and for the Trent Bridge re-opening. Ms. Meyer spoke about the big celebration planned for the City Line launch on July 15. Council Member Harnois expressed concerns about the dangerous driving conditions on Highway 27.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Julie Meyers-Lehman, Clerk of the Board