

**Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Transportation Advisory Committee**

10/25/2023 | 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 Zentz called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and attendance was taken.

In Attendance:

**TAC Members**

Raychel Callary	Todd Williams
Charles Hansen	Charlie Wolff
Carlie Hoffman	Claudine Zender
Paul Vose	Kim Zentz
Bill White	

**SRTC Staff**

Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Savannah Hayward, *Communications & Public Relations Coord.*  
 Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*  
 Angel Jackson, *Admin-Exec Coordinator*  
 David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*

**Guests**

Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*  
 Shauna Harshman, *WSDOT*  
 Steven Polunsky, *WA Dept. of Commerce*

**# 2 Public Comments**

No comments

**# 3 TAC Member Comments**

Rachel Callary mentioned that October is Pedestrian Safety month. She discussed the safety of sidewalks for pedestrians.

**# 4 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting**

A question was raised by Chairperson Zentz inquiring if TIB had presented to the TAC in the past. Mr. Lien confirmed they have not presented here.

**ACTION ITEMS****# 5 Consent Agenda**

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There were no questions or discussion.

***Mr. Williams made a motion to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Vose seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

**# 6 CY 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) GUIDEBOOK**

Mr. Stewart explained that the TIP Guidebook details the policies, procedures, and schedules for developing the TIP as well as for TIP amendments and administrative modifications. Some new items in the CY2024 Guidebook include a policy for time sensitive amendments, clarifying language for funding projects on the contingency list, and strategies for meeting our obligation target. Mr. Stewart is seeking a recommendation from the Committee that the Board approve the CY 2024 TIP Guidebook.

***Ms. Zender made a motion to approve. Ms Callary seconded. Motion passed unanimously***

**# 7 2024 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities–Federal**

Mr. Fletcher reviewed the differences between state and federal audiences and specified the focus of funding between the two target groups. He explained that the Unified List consists of the same set of projects that were included in the state version (which was approved last month), however, the project funding requests in this version of the list are intended for a federal audience. Like the state version, these funding request amounts were provided by local agencies in the project submittal process. Mr. Fletcher is seeking a recommendation of approval from the committee to take to the SRTC Board in November.

No questions or comments at this time.

***Mr. Vose made a motion to approve 2024 Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities (Federal) as shown in the attachment. Mr. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

**INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**# 8 City of Spokane Transportation Priorities**

Mr. Picanco highlighted the many unique challenges of having older infrastructure. Mr. Picanco identified various priority areas to include bike/pedestrian safety, bridge maintenance, and other major rebuilds. Inland Empire Way study was discussed and its impact on a variety of community resources in the US-195 corridor. He also identified and highlighted the Latah Bridge (Sunset/High Bridge) as a focused priority due to its aging concerns and structural issues. FHWA Grant (Bridge investment program) application should be available early 2024 and the City of Spokane are currently working on items to apply when the application is released. Construction in these areas, pending funding, would not begin until late 2027.

***Open for questions/Comments-***

Mr. Williams raised a concern about Eagle Ridge Road change and highlighted the safety issues that cause that to be rebuilt. He stated it is a dangerous area and was curious to know if this would add additional risk to that area. Mr. Picanco confirmed the safety rebuild and explained there are already J-turns on 195 that would drive conflict points away from each other. Yes, there would be similar movement but this would allow a safety improvement at a lower cost than a full interchange. Mr. Williams explained the US 2 intersection with Elk/Chattaroy Road at the transfer station also has various dangerous areas and would be curious to see if this eliminates some of the danger. Chairperson Zentz asked if the Latah Bridge was architecturally designed by the same group that designed the Monroe Street Bridge. Mr. Picanco stated he was not sure but would look into it. Chairperson Zentz asked will the architectural detail be preserved? Mr. Picanco stated that is the intent. Chairperson Zentz asked if the bridges were on the historic register. Mr. Picanco stated he was unsure but believed so.

There were no further comments.

**# 9 SRTC/WSDOT-Eastern Region (ER) Safety Collaboration Pilot Project**

*Mr. White left 3:48*

Mr. Ulrich explained the project's schedule and various touches the Committee has had with the project. WSDOT ER and SRTC worked together to create a workplan to implement the pilot project. With this being a new way to collaborate, the team anticipated some obstacles and there were times the teams needed to adjust. A data driven analysis identified 30 locations with safety issues. The project team narrowed that list to 10 based on a variety of factors. Conversations with member jurisdictions led to two locations that were included in the unified list (Spotted Rd/Airport Dr and 44<sup>th</sup> Ave/Regal Ave) Several other recommendations are included in the project's final report including WSDOT and the RTPO working together sooner during project selection for the Highway Safety Improvement Program. This pilot project will be presented to the RTPO coordinating committee next month to encourage them to work more collaboratively with their respective WSDOT regions.

***The floor was opened for questions/comments:***

Mr. Wolfe asked for clarification on how we stack up against other communities with the same growth and population as a trend. He further asked we stack up against Washington State and other regions. Mr. Ulrich stated that every region is trending in the wrong direction. Fatal crashes are trending higher as the areas grow. He stated they analyzed crashes to calculate each crash's severity which used the volume of a particular road in order to normalize crashes relative to try to account for growth. There were no additional comments.

**#10 TAC Officer Elections**

TAC chair and vice chair election will be held during December's meeting so that the elected person(s) can be seated in Jan 2024. Chairperson Zentz stated she would only continue to serve as chair if the seat remained vacant but stressed she had a busy schedule and would like to step down to focus on those items. Mr. Lien explained the current chairperson eligibility would be for another yearly term but reiterated that this seat will be open for election.

**# 11 Agency Update and Future Information Items**

- Mr. Lien explained the process for TMA certification that SRTC completed this week. This certification is conducted every 4 years by Federal agency partners. This certification includes an audit of SRTC processes and confirms compliance. Mr. Lien thanked all that completed the survey.
- FHWA Urban Boundary Adjustments were accepted through WSDOT and the adjustments will be submitted to FHWA to become our new federal urbanized area boundaries.
- The November and December meetings, that are typically the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, will be moved to November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup> due to the upcoming holidays.
- We are tentatively not having a November TAC meeting. But notifications will be sent once the final decision has been made.
- There are vacant seats in the current TAC group and SRTC is looking to fill those seats. Please talk to your community to get these seats filled by filling out the application, which will be available soon through our recruitment effort.
- Chairperson Zentz stated the Regional Transportation Summit was perfectly executed and hope many others had a chance to attend.

No additional comments

**# 12 Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

Angel Jackson, Recording Secretary