

EQUITY WORKING GROUP

MARCH MEETING NOTES

Location: 421 W Riverside Ave, Suite #500
Date: March 29th, 2024
Time: 4:15 – 5:15 pm
SRTC Staff: Michael Redlinger, Savannah Hayward, Ben Kloskey, Wende Wilber (K&A on behalf of SRTC)
Attendees: Erik Lowe, Allison Zimmerman, Naghmana Sherazi, Thomas Baldwin, Madeline Arredondo

Michael welcomed the group and gave participants a brief introduction. After introducing the newest SRTC staff member, Ben Kloskey, the group went into the website discussion led by Savannah.

Savannah explained the process SRTC has been undergoing to put out an RFQ (request for qualifications) to have a consultant redesign the website. The RFQ was set to go out the following Monday, April 1st. The discussion was centered around a few main points: the website needed to be equitable, accessible, navigable, and understandable.

The discussion started out with general approval of the website, with all members of the Equity Working Group stating that the website is generally in a good place, and that more focus needs to be put on accessibility as opposed to a full redesign. Some of the main points the group liked were: the navigability of the website and categorization, overall look of the website, and mobile viewing. Participants commented that the website's front page was a little busy and that items become obscured when viewing in alternative screen resolutions. Otherwise, the suggested areas of improvement centered around accessibility and increased coordination between planning agencies and emergency services.

Expanding on that point, a member of the group pointed out that during emergency situations like the wildfires of previous years, many different groups had difficulty navigating evacuations or understanding the situation due to language barriers.

Wrapping up the discussion, a member summarized the group input and commented that website did not need a full redesign, rather that most of the effort should be focused on improving the accessibility aspects of the website.

Michael and Savannah thanked the group for their feedback, and Savannah suggested that it may be beneficial to add an emergency services page to the website, with general acknowledgement from the group. The consensus was that the website simply needs more accessibility services, and otherwise needs minor design tweaks.

Following the discussion about the website, Wende Wilber began her presentation about the Regional Safety Action Plan. Some key points from the presentation were:

- The goal of getting everyone home safely, with zero fatal and serious injury crashes.
- This project takes a safe systems approach, including better behaviors, safer vehicles, safer speeds, and safer streets.

- Wende went over the concordant themes from the data and from community outreach, with a focus on equity.
- This plan brings together all regional partners/member agencies.
- One key focus is the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.
- The team is developing a set of strategies, either transformative or supporting, to address the safety issues identified.

A member asked Wende who SRTC's member agencies are, and Wende listed them out: Deer Park, Latah, Fairfield, Spangle, Spokane Valley, City of Spokane, Liberty Lake, Millwood, Airway Heights, Medical Lake, and Rockford.

Member comments following the presentation covered a variety of concerns. First, a member described their discontent with the number of unmarked intersections in Spokane, and that Spokane can be scary driving through especially if you are not from the area. In response to one of the themes in Wende's presentation, a member commented that humans should be allowed to be erratic and different, that doesn't mean they should be hit in the streets when they cross. Wende clarified that both drivers and pedestrians need to change their behaviors, not just pedestrians. The same member also mentioned that lights and other preventative measures have their value, but real solutions should be concrete. Wende then mentioned that the City of Spokane now has \$9 million in concrete funds to change the streets and make them safer, adding that the whole road system needs redesigning.

Michael and Savannah wrapped up the meeting and thanked everyone for participating and reminded them of the upcoming meeting in May.