

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

1 Call to Order/ Excused Absences

Chair French called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and attendance was taken.

In attendance were:

Board Members:

Commissioner Al French, *Spokane County (Chair)*
Council Member Jennifer Morton, *City of Airway Heights*
Council Member Vincent Barthels, *City of Cheney*
Council Member Dianne Pfaeffle, *City of Deer Park*
Council Member Terri Cooper, *City of Medical Lake*
Council Member Kitty Klitzke, *City of Spokane*
Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley (Vice Chair)*
Daniel Clark, *Kalispel Tribe*
Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight Rep*
Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County*
Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Larry Larson, *WSDOT-ER*

Absent Members:

Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*
Mayor Cris Kaminskas, *City of Liberty Lake*
Council Member Jonathan Bingle, *City of Spokane*
Doug Yost, *Major Employer Rep*

Guests:

Sean Messner, *CivTech*
LeAnn Yamamoto, *CommuteSmart NW*
Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*
Jerremy Clark, *City of Spokane Valley*

Staff:

Megan Clark, *Legal Counsel*
Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
Angel Jackson, *Admin.-Exec. Coord.*
Ryan Stewart, *Principal Trans. Planner*
Jason Lien, *Principal Trans. Planner*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Trans. Planner*
David Fletcher, *Principal Trans. Planner*
Michael Redlinger, *Assoc. Trans Planner 3*
Ben Kloskey, *Assoc. Trans Planner*
Savannah Creasey, *Comm.& Pub. Relations*

2 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3 Election of CY 2025 Board Chair and Vice Chair

Chair French began by outlining the procedure for electing the new Chair, ensuring all SRTC Board members were familiar with the process. Following this, he opened the floor for nominations, inviting Board members to put forward their candidates for consideration.

Mayor Haley nominated Councilman Higgins for the Chair position. Councilmember Barthels seconded the motion. Council Member Higgins accepted the nomination and expressed gratitude to Chair French for his leadership. No other nominations were made. The motion to elect Council Member Higgins as Chair was approved unanimously.

Leadership of the meeting was passed to Chair Higgins, and he opened the floor for nominations for SRTC Vice Chair noting the rotation prescribed in the adopted Interlocal Agreement.

Mayor Haley nominated Mayor Kaminskas for Vice Chair. Council Member Barthels seconded the motion. Mayor Kaminskas was not present to accept the nomination. No other nominations were made. The motion to elect Mayor Kaminskas as Vice Chair passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

4 Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of the December 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- b) Vouchers for December 2024
- c) Appointment of 2025 Transportation Advisory Committee and Transportation Technical Committee Officers
- d) CY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) January Amendment

Mayor Haley made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Ewers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

5 Transportation Performance Management: Bridges Update

Mr. Redlinger provided an update on bridge performance as part of Transportation Performance Management (TPM), highlighting current bridge condition data from the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) in the context of the current four-year cycle ending in 2025. He commented on the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which support infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Bridges included in the NBI must be over 20 feet long and open to the public. Of the 307 national bridges in the region, 157 are in good condition, 129 are fair, and 21 are poor—an improvement from 2022. However, NBI data can lag behind local data and may not account for recent inspections.

While the region is on track to meet WSDOT's target of less than 10% of bridges in poor condition, Mr. Redlinger noted that long-term trends show a decline in overall bridge conditions. Bridges rated as "fair" have increased, raising concerns about future deterioration. Despite recent short-term improvements, challenges with funding and prioritization remain.

Mr. Ewers inquired about bridges potentially facing closure or weight restrictions. Mr. Redlinger clarified that while there are operational bridges in poor condition, those rated as 4 are not necessarily near closure or weight restrictions. Bridges rated 3 or below are increasingly at risk of these issues as they continue to deteriorate.

6 Transportation Performance Management: PM1 - Safety

Mr. Ulrich provided an update on safety performance measures and funding mechanisms. He explained that PM1 operates on an annual cycle, whereas bridge-related measures are on a three-year cycle. He noted the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) dedicates funds to safety improvements, with \$3 billion allocated nationally each year and approximately \$30 million available annually in Washington State. Historically, 2–3 projects in Washington are funded through these resources each year.

He reviewed various safety measures, emphasizing fatalities (Measure 1), where the most recent data point is from 2023. Mr. Ulrich highlighted troubling trends, including some cases of extreme increases in fatalities. He explained

the federal requirement for states to identify target goals, with WSDOT using a five-year rolling average to chart progress toward a reduction goal of 477 fatalities.

He stated MPO's must establish their own targets or align with the state's targets. Historically, SRTC has chosen to support WSDOT's targets when presenting this information. Mr. Ulrich also discussed SRTC's recent SS4A grant and the RSAP as a supplemental supporting grant, noting the importance of addressing behavioral elements in safety campaigns.

7 2025 Call for Projects Criteria and Principles of Investment

Mr. Stewart provided an update on the Call for Projects (CFP) for the 2027-2029 funding cycle, highlighting an estimated \$36 million available. He outlined the funding programs involved, including Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), STBG Set-Aside, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

He explained how the CFP integrates preservation efforts with project funding and includes revised safety and equity sections in the application. Mr. Stewart reviewed the Principles of Investment, noting prior allocations and established funding limits. A historical set-aside of \$3.8 million for smaller cities was discussed, along with current allocations for planning and operations: \$1.5 million for SRTC planning, \$2.7-2.8 million for the Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center (SRTMC) operations, and an estimated amount of \$800k for the I-90 study.

He presented a detailed schedule for the 2025 CFP timeline and outlined next steps, including a February approval by the Board of Directors.

8 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Strategies

Mr. Fletcher reviewed the Congestion Management Process (CMP) strategies outlined in the Toolkit of Strategies and the Strategies Matrix. The Toolkit provides practical, cost-specific strategies to address congestion in the Spokane region, categorized into areas such as Transportation Demand Management (TDM), operational improvements, and roadway capacity improvements. The Strategies Matrix identifies applicable strategies for each Tier 1 CMP Corridor, ensuring a cost-effective approach. Both documents, updated with feedback from SRTC's October CMP workshop, guide the development and implementation of tailored strategies to address regional congestion challenges.

9 Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Needs Assessment

Mr. Lien provided an overview of the needs assessment process for the Horizon 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), noting it is consultant-assisted. The needs assessment will summarize various transportation investment options, drawing from the Unified List, agency plans and studies, Board and committee input, and public outreach. Projects will be evaluated using approved criteria from the Unified List, with additional screening from the RSAP and Smart Mobility and Resiliency Plans. The final outcome will be a master project list categorized by type, evaluated for consistency with the Guiding Principles, and used for informing Horizon 2050 projects.

During the discussion, members emphasized the importance of including all potential projects, even those not initially sponsored by an agency, and ensuring safety concerns like the US-195 and I-90 interchange are addressed. Challenges such as limited funding, the need for data to support project prioritization, and the differing roles of MPOs and WSDOT were acknowledged. Members agreed on the need to document concerns and consider how land-use decisions impact transportation needs on the regional system.

10 Executive Director's Report

No comments or questions.

11 Transportation Technical Committee & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries

No questions or comments.

12 Board Member Comments

Board members highlighted events in their perspective areas.

13 Chair Comments

No comments or questions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM

Signature on File

Angel Jackson, Clerk of the Board