

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

February 8, 2024 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 Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley (Vice Chair)*
 Council Member Jennifer Morton, *City of Airway Heights*
 Council Member Kitty Klitzke, *City of Spokane*
 Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
 Daniel Clark, *Kalispel Tribe*
 Doug Yost, *Major Employer Rep.*
 Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*
 Tiger Peone, *Spokane Tribe*
 Kelly Fukai, *WSTC*
 Heather Trautman, *TTC Chair*

Guests:

Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
 Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, *WSDOT*
 Paul Kropp
 Steven Polunsky, *WA Dept of Commerce*
 Barry Greene, *Spokane County*
 Wende Wilber, *Kittleson and Assoc.*
 Karl Otterstrom, *STA*
 Jane Wall, *CRAB*
 Charles Hansen, *TAC Member*
 Lukas Garcia, *Greater Spokane Valley Chamber*
 Eric Lowe
 S. Montgomery

Board Alternates:

Council Member Paul Dillon, *City of Spokane*
 Commissioner Josh Kerns, *Spokane County*

Staff:

Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
 Jason Lien, *Principal Trans. Planner*
 Mike Ulrich, *Principal Trans. Planner*
 David Fletcher, *Principal Trans. Planner*
 Michael Redlinger, *Assoc. Trans. Plan.II*
 Benjamin Kloskey, *Assoc. Trans Plan*
 Savannah Hayward, *Comm. & PR Coord.*
 Greg Griffin, *Admin. Services Manager*
 Angel Jackson, *Admin.-Exec. Coord.*
 Megan Clark, *Legal Counsel Council*

Absent Members:

Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*

*Vacant, *City of Deer Park*

Chair French stated the following members requested an **excused** absence from the meeting:

- Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney*
- Cris Kaminskas, *City of Liberty Lake*
- Terri Cooper, *City of Medical Lake*
- Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight*
- Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Rep*
- Todd Trepanier, *WSDOT*

Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the excused absences from the meeting. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2 Public Comments

Mr. Lowe delivered remarks based on his prepared document ([Public Comment](#)).

3 Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of the January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- b) Vouchers for December (revised) and January 2024

There was a motion to edit the minutes to include the language “*Ms. Meyer reminded the group when the temperature drops below 32 degrees a passenger will receive fare exception if they inform the bus driver that they are headed to a warming center and cannot afford to pay the fare.*”

Ms. Meyer made a motion to January SRTC Board Minutes as amended. Council Member Klitzke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Meyer made a motion to approve the vouchers as presented. Mr. Higgins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4 Transportation Performance Management: PM1 - Safety Targets

Mr. Ulrich is seeking approval of Resolution R-24-05 establishing annual performance targets for safety. He provided an overview of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding rotation and the corresponding allotments within the designated timeframe. Each of the safety measures were discussed across five metrics, with each metric reviewed in detail. Mr. Ulrich emphasized an increase in fatalities and noted that the trend lines for all five safety measures are trending in the wrong direction.

The Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) "Target Zero" initiative was highlighted, detailing how this target is identified and pursued.

There were no questions.

Council Member Klitzke motioned to approve Resolution 24-05: Transportation Performance Management: PM1 as presented. Ms. Meyer seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5 Regional Safety Action Plan

Mr. Ulrich provided an overview of the Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) grant, which has allocated \$813 million across 385 grants. He detailed the eligibility criteria for implementation grants and outlined the components of the action plan, which form the basis for project scope.

The issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultant support and the establishment of a steering committee to guide the project were discussed. Ms. Wilber, Kittleson & Associates, presented insights from fatal and severe injury maps, identified qualifiers for the Safe System approach, and offered a schedule and timeline for project progression.

Key trends fatal or serious injury incidents were highlighted, including automobile runoffs, pedestrian crossings, and motorcyclist accidents. Speed was underscored as a significant factor in motorcyclist incidents. Maps depicting age and transportation type of those involved were reviewed, with DUI incidents comprising 20% of cases (not marijuana-related).

There was a robust discussion and key points included:

- There was an inquiry about the need for a detailed review of the purple mapped items. This was identified for use in the assessment and based on severity of the crash.
- An explanation of the complexity of assessing the future growth projects for this area included evaluating road volume.
- There was an emphasis made on the importance of discussing changes that are needed to meet targets and an analysis expanding available funds.
- The data records sourced from the Department of Transportation (DOT) does not account for scooters. It was noted that Paris, France has moved to outlaw scooters for safety reasons and expressed curiosity about its potential impact locally.

6 WA State County Road Administration Board (CRAB) Presentation

Ms. Wall, the Executive Director of CRAB, conducted a comprehensive review of the agency's structure and funding sources. The review highlighted the infrastructure networks covered by the agency and emphasized unmet needs within these networks. Additionally, the historical purpose of the company was discussed, including its oversight of items such as the fuel tax and provision of technical training. Various funding programs, including RAP, CAPP, CFCIP, and ELP, were examined in detail, with attention given to their historical contexts. It was noted that the 49.4 cent fuel tax for Washington State is distributed unevenly across counties, with rates increasing from 23 cents in 1999 to 49.4 cents in 2019. Despite the rising tax rates, there has been a lack of proposed alternatives in legislative discussions.

The allocation of fuel tax revenue over the past decade was reviewed, revealing challenges in proposing alternative funding mechanisms. Paving roadways costs have escalated due to increases in material and labor expenses, while the 50/50 partnership model has shown diminishing support over time. Furthermore, some counties face challenges related to commercial parking availability, rendering the commercial parking tax an unsuitable funding option in those areas. Grant programs managed by the agency face high demand, with over \$100 million managed biennially, underscoring the need for sustainable funding solutions.

The Board member comments included:

- The amount of gravel and other paved roadways are included in the amount of lane miles in the state. However, the limited amount of funding for King County roads has caused several of the roadways to go back to dirt.
- The definition of "orphaned" county road was given to mean the road has been annexed on both sides (local; state; and federal)

7 SRTC Office Lease update

Mr. Griffin reviewed the latest office lease and various options for the SRTC office location. He highlighted multiple sites that were reviewed and toured by staff while eliminating locations that did not meet the basic needs or requirements. The list of properties was reduced from 14 possibilities to two best options based on the assessment.

Executive Session: Chair French called for an Executive Session to last for 10 minutes for the purpose of discussing the property leasing options. The session was extended for an additional 5 minutes before reconvening the meeting.

Once the meeting resumed, Chair French stated this will be brought back for action at a later SRTC Board meeting.

8 Cooperative Planning 314 Agreement

Ms. Bollenback emphasized the collaborative efforts between SRTC as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Spokane Transit Authority in coordinating an agreement as required by 23 CFR 450.314, known as the 314 Agreement. This collaborative planning process has been ongoing for several years, with the existing agreement dating back to 2013. However, due to changes in staffing and other pertinent factors, an update to the agreement is deemed necessary.

A marked-up copy was not provided due to the extent of the changes, however, a link to the draft document was provided to members for review. SRTC is responsible for ensuring the information remains current and relevant. This agreement encompasses various aspects of work and data exchange, necessitating clear outlines and sharing protocols to fulfill respective obligations. To ensure the document remains current, a scheduled review cycle set at five years has also been added. Details of the Planning agreement have potential budget impacts to SRTC, therefore it is being presented to the board for approval.

A question was posed regarding a review by the advisory committees and the board was informed that this agreement does not involve the work of the committees and did not receive their review.

9 Board Comments

Chair French introduced the newest SRTC Associate Planner: Benjamin Kloskey.

There was a question posed about the status of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which is a long-range plan. Initial planning activities are underway and to prepare for the i 2025 MTP update; the Board and committees will be frequently updated throughout the process. It will be available for review once completed.

There is a call for projects anticipated in March to be issued by the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB).

13 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.

Angel Jackson, Clerk of the Board