

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

March 14, 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 Jennifer Morton, *City of Airway Heights*
Council Member Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney*
Council Member Diane Pfaeffle, *City of Deer Park*
Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*
Council Member Kitty Klitzke, *City of Spokane*
Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
Daniel Clark, *Kalispel Tribe*
Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight Rep*
Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Rep*
Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County*
Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*
Mike Frucci, *WSDOT-ER*
Kelly Fukai, *WSTC*
Paul Vose, *TAC Chair*

Board Alternates:

Council Member Don Kennedy, *City of Medical Lake*
Barry Greene, *TTC Vice Chair*

Absent Members:

Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, *City of Spokane*
Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley (Vice Chair)*
Doug Yost, *Major Employer Rep*

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

- Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, *City of Spokane*
- Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley*
- Doug Yost, *Major Employer Rep*

Mr. Ewers made a motion to approve the excused absences from the meeting. Council Member Klitzke seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Guests:

Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
Thomas Sanderson, *Special Mobility Services*
Char Kay, *WSDOT-ER*
S. Montgomery
Paul Kropp
Karl Otterstrom, *STA*
Larry Larson, *WSDOT-ER*

Staff:

Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*
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*
Benjamin Kloskey, *Assoc. Trans. Planner*
Savannah Hayward, *Comm. & PR Coord*
Greg Griffin, *Admin. Services Manager*
Angel Jackson, *Admin.-Exec. Coord.*
Megan Clark, *Legal Counsel*

3 Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of the February 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- b) Vouchers for January (revised) and February 2024
- c) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment for March 2024
- d) Cooperative Planning 314 Agreement
- e) Appointment of a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Member
- f) SRTC Website Request for Qualifications

Ms. Bollenback identified a correction to be made to the TIP memo to reflect the verbiage “Scott Elementary Sidewalk” project for the City of Spokane. The note states the action is to “remove project” however it should read to “remove PE phase” only. Ms. Meyer made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda with the updated language to the TIP Memo. Mayor Haley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4 SRTC Office Lease Update

Mr. Griffin is requesting approval to execute Amendment #2 of the SRTC office lease, which will extend the term to seven years starting in June 2024. This extension would exclude suite 504 which was included in the current lease. Mr. Griffin provided a comparison of the current monthly rates with the new amended option for the 2024-2026 lease term. Additionally, he reviewed new parking arrangements, eliminating guest parking validation at lot B100 but instituting reimbursement for guest parking during board or committee meetings. Ms. Bollenback affirmed that this change is financially advantageous for SRTC.

Council Member Klitzke motioned to approve Resolution 24-06: SRTC Office Lease Update as presented. Mayor Haley seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5 Washington State Department of Transportation-Eastern Region: Transportation Priorities

Mr. Trepanier, from the Washington State Department of Transportation – Eastern Region (WSDOT-ER), emphasized the agency's priorities, with employee safety as the foremost concern. He outlined strategic plan strategies aimed at achieving their goals, highlighting completed projects such as the NSC phase 1 and Children of the Sun Trail in 2023, as well as upcoming initiatives like future NSC Stages starting in late 2025. He cautioned against simply adding lanes to alleviate traffic congestion, instead advocating for low-cost effective alternatives such as J-turns. He identified the major concern about the rising trend in traffic fatalities, with 818 reported in 2023, prompting a continued focus on safety and cost-effective solutions.

He expressed concern for the state of repair needed on 30% of WSDOT's equipment needed to maintain healthy roadways. Mr. Trepanier identified the shortfall in funding for maintenance projects, with half of the state highways overdue for repairs due to inadequate funding. Despite limited staff resources, maintenance efforts, such as the completion of the SR25 Northport bridge, have been undertaken through budgetary shifts. WSDOT's focus remains on completing ongoing projects, ensuring employee safety, facilitating future investments, promoting system user safety, and responsible stewardship. However, funding shortages, with an annual shortfall of \$1.5 billion, presents a significant challenge. The discussion also touches on concerns about truck detours affecting local roads, the need for a unified approach to planning, and the importance of transitioning to alternative fuel sources while addressing safety considerations.

6 Data Applications for Transportation Analysis (DATA) Project Update

Mr. Ulrich explained the origin of the project within the previously adopted strategic plan. He emphasized the comprehensive nature of phase 1 in determining the most efficient investment of \$1 million. Stakeholder input from member agencies was gathered through a three-meeting series, with six tasks identified along with corresponding deliverables such as completing a household travel survey. Essential components like traffic counts were necessary to

validate the travel demand model. Additional elements include a land-use allocation tool and an online data hub accessible via a forward-facing website. Mr. Ulrich explained that he would be presenting those deliverables in more detail at the April Board meeting.

7 2025 Unified List Development & Project Evaluation Criteria

Mr. Fletcher provided an overview of the 2025 Unified List development process and timeline. He noted that this will be SRTC's second year of preparing both a state and federal version of the list. He also highlighted key dates for the 2025 update. Changes in the project evaluation criteria's safety and equity questions were discussed. He explained that the changes to the safety criteria incorporate new information from the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP).

He also reviewed the alignment between the 2025 Unified List and RSAP development schedules, noting that outputs from the draft RSAP would be used for initial Unified List project evaluations due to the overlapping schedules. Three potential options for the safety criteria were discussed with the committees (Option A: use current criteria, Option B: use revised safety action, Option C: hybrid approach). Concerns were raised by TTC regarding the use of draft output from RSAP, while TAC favored Option B.

8 Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB): Solicitation for Project Funding

Mr. Fletcher conducted a review of the application process and pointed out the project submittal deadline of April 29th. He explained the project eligibility requirements and provided an overview of FMSIB's project evaluation criteria. He also provided a summary of the regional priority freight projects submitted to FMSIB in 2022, emphasizing projects from that list that were included in their Early Action Projects List. Additionally, he highlighted projects in the 2024 SRTC Unified List that are potentially eligible for funding through this process.

9 Transportation Performance Management (TPM): New Greenhouse Gas Rule and Targets

Mr. Redlinger provided details on setting targets for the new Transportation Performance Management (TPM) performance measure, describing the process for the current performance period from 2022 to 2025. He covered aspects such as the new greenhouse gas (GHG) rule, associated CO2 emissions metrics, target-setting due dates, and the extended performance period timeline until 2030. He also described reporting obligations for states and MPOs, focusing on WSDOT's targets and target-setting methodology. His presentation discussed MPOs' requirements, the potential turnaround time for analysis, and the necessary action items to move the implementation process forward.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Angel Jackson, Clerk of the Board