

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Board of Directors

June 13, 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 Vincent Barthas, *City of Cheney*
 Council Member Diane Pfaeffle, *City of Deer Park*
 Council Member Cris Kaminskas, *City of Liberty Lake*
 Council Member Don Kennedy, *City of Medical Lake*
 Council Member Kitty Klitzke, *City of Spokane*
 Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, *City of Spokane*
 Mayor Pam Haley, *City of Spokane Valley*
 Council Member Rod Higgins, *City of Spokane Valley (Vice Chair)*
 Daniel Clark, *Kalispel Tribe*
 Doug Yost, *Major Employer*
 Matt Ewers, *Rail/Freight Rep*
 Council Member Micki Harnois, *Small Towns Representative*
 Susan Meyer, *Spokane Transit Authority*
 Mike Frucci, *WSDOT-ER*
 Kelly Fukai, *WSTC*
 Paul Vose, *TAC Chair*
 Heather Trautman, *TTC Chair*

Absent Members:

Council Member Paul Schmidt, *City of Cheney*
 Mayor Kevin Freeman, *City of Millwood*
 Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County*

Guests:

Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*
 Morgan Dean, *Kittleson and Assoc.*
 Charlotte Sobol, *Kittleson and Assoc.*
 Wende Wilber, *Kittleson and Assoc.*
 Karl Otterstrom, *Spokane Transit Auth.*
 Madeline Arredondo, *Spokane Transit Auth.*
 Char Kay, *WSDOT-ER*
 Larry Larson, *WSDOT-ER*
 Paul Kropp
 Spencer Montgomery
 Barry Greene
 Ryan J

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*
 Ben Kloskey, *Assoc. Trans Planner*
 Savannah Hayward, *Comm. & PR Coord.*
 Greg Griffin, *Admin. Services Manager*
 Angel Jackson, *Admin.-Exec. Coord.*
 Steve Lamberson, *Legal Council*

2 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS**# 3 Consent Agenda**

- a) Minutes of the May 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- b) Vouchers for May 2024
- c) SRTC Website Redesign and Update Contract
- d) Calendar Year 2024 Budget Amendment
- e) State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 United Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Council Member Higgins made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda. Council Member Klitzke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**# 4 Spokane Transit Authority (STA): 2024-2025 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update**

Mr. Karl Otterstrom, STA staff, explained to the board that each year, STA creates a plan that includes service and capital improvement programs. This plan must align with city and county growth plans and as well as meet federal funding requirements. STA's plan is guided by key documents like Connect Spokane, STA Moving Forward, and STA Connect 2035. The new strategic plan has three main goals:

1. Improving customer experience,
2. Collaborating with community partners to enhance regional quality of life, and
3. Strengthening our capacity to meet regional demands.

In this draft, STA outlined service changes for 2025-2027 based on feedback and growth needs, especially around Airway Heights. The six-year capital improvement program includes \$450 million in projects, such as the Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and fleet electrification. Project highlights include:

1. Division Street BRT: Our second BRT project focusing on a complete streets vision.
2. I-90 Valley Corridor: Improving east-west mobility with a new route combining current services.
3. High Performance Transit Corridor on Wellesley Ave: Upgrading our busiest route with improved stations and amenities.

There will be a public hearing on June 20th and plan to present the final plan to the STA board in July, aiming to submit it to the state by August 1st.

6 Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) Draft

Mr. Ulrich, SRTC staff, reminded the board that he's presented this item several times, summarizing what was presented in previous meetings. Ms. Wilber, Kittleson and Associates, explained how the RSAP was created and how the plan was developed. The goal is to reduce serious and fatal crashes by 50% by 2030 and aim for zero by 2042, with reviews every 4-5 years. She shared the planning structure and the list of partners involved.

She explained that 43% of fatal and serious injury (FSI) crashes are captured by the High Injury Network (HIN). The high priority network was developed for smaller communities with little to no FSI crash history to highlight significant safety concerns. Regional corridors were identified to further analyze necessary safety related treatments.

The next steps are to address committee comments and create an updated draft to be discussed at the next meeting.

Council Member Klitzke noted that the available safety data does not include attributes that could be useful for further analysis like proximity to transit stops or other relevant land uses. She also asked whether or not there were opportunities to leverage other data sources to understand transportation safety beyond those instances when someone is killed or seriously injured.

7 DATA Application for Transportation Analysis (DATA) Project Update

Mr. Ulrich, SRTC staff, provided an update on the ongoing coordination with model users regarding the newly delivered travel demand model. He discussed its uses, as a regional model, and limitations. He explained the 4-step model's limitations in conducting more microscopic analysis. Some of the newly implemented features have changed the way it was used in the past. The delivered model represents a step forward but was never intended to provide a complete inventory of assets. A regional model can't meet all needs, so adding different tools could help users complete more refined analyses. He suggested making the current model available next month. SRTC staff maintains that the project has been delivered according to the agreed scope.

8 Smart Mobility & Resiliency Projects

Mr. Lien, SRTC staff, discussed current and completed studies and plans undertaken by SRTC. He highlighted additional items for 2024 and explained how a needs assessment summary will be created from this information. He highlighted how the summary helps identify overlaps or trade-offs within the various planning work in the region.

Smart mobility includes infrastructure, vehicles/logistics, and information technology. The project also reviewed what other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are doing, like ITS solutions, micromobility, clean fuels, automation, broadband, scenario planning, dedicated funding, and pilot projects. The Resiliency assessment is a concurrent project that will identify critical infrastructure and vulnerabilities to major disruptions or disasters. Recommendations will stem from both projects that support progress toward regional transportation goals.

9 Unified List Regional Transportation Plan: Legislative Priority Statements

Ms. McMenemy, SRTC staff, talked about the history and legislative priorities of the unified list of projects. This is the fourth version, and it's being prepared ahead of the governor's budget in October. She mentioned the members involved in coordinating these efforts. The top priorities include improving safety (Target Zero), maintenance & preservation funding, and increasing funding for Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). Additional priorities are affordable housing projects, addressing the loss of gas tax revenue, and enforcing regulations around the air force base.

Ms. McMenemy suggested bringing the full-page safety section to the front in the redesign and moving other priority statements up, thus making room for another top priority. She introduced the concept of modernizing the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) public financing method, currently designed to support local improvements. Councilmember French explained how the TIF could be expanded to allow for state-owned transportation facilities to qualify as well under the method. The TIF has been successfully used in the county, including in Latah Valley. Councilmember French and Mr. Yost discussed using this tool in Liberty Lake and expanding its use for significant transportation improvements. Ms. McMenemy reviewed maintenance and preservation needs, stating she would consider today's feedback. She asked if the board supported the full-page change and the TIF language, the Board suggested to proceed in this direction. Councilmember French requested staff to reach out to FMSIB/CRAB/TIB for coordination on these issues.

10 Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) & Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Summaries

There were no comments.

11 Board Member Comments

Board members gave updates to events happening in their regions.

12 Chair Comments

There were no comments.

13 Adjournment

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

Angel Jackson, Clerk of the Board