

Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Transportation Advisory Committee

04/24/2024 | Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting at SRTC, 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 504, Spokane WA 99201 and virtually on Zoom

1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance 3:00 PM

Chair Vose informed that he would be delayed for the meeting. Ms. Zentz volunteered to be the Chair until Mr. Vose was available. She called the meeting to order at 3:03pm and attendance was taken. In Attendance:

Members

Michael Ankney
John Barber
Raychel Callary
Charles Hansen
Katie Melby
Tom Sahlberg
Paul Vose
Rhonda Young
Kim Zentz
Bill White

Guests

Spencer Montgomery
Heather Trautman
Wende Wilber, *Kittelson & Assoc.*

SRTC Staff

Lois Bollenback, *Executive Director*
David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Savannah Hayward, *Comm. & Public Rel. Coord.*
Angel Jackson, *Admin-Exec Coordinator*
Benjamin Kloskey, *Associate Transportation Planner*
Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*
Michael Redlinger, *Associate Transportation Planner 2*
Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*
Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*

2 Public Comments

No comments

3 TAC Member Comments

Each member was given the opportunity to highlight events/projects in their respective areas.

4 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Vose reviewed action and discussions from the April SRTC Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

5 Consent Agenda

- a) March TAC Meeting Minutes
- b) CY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) April Amendment

Mr. Sahlberg made a motion to approve the March TAC Meeting Minutes and the April TIP Amendment as presented. Mr. Barber seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

6 DATA Project Update

Mr. Ulrich described the work on the project since the last meeting. He explained that there was still some outstanding feedback from member agencies. In order to address this additional feedback, SRTC staff requested the committee take action to defer the item until next month.

Mr. Barber motioned to defer this action at this time. Mr. White seconded this motion. The motion to defer this action passed unanimously.

7 Special Transportation Planning Study Agreement: VMT Reduction

Mr. Stewart sought a recommendation from the TAC to the Board to approve execution of the Special Transportation Planning Study Agreement. The effort aims to strategically reduce per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

This allocated funding will be used to develop a framework for setting a regional per capita VMT reduction target and strategies to achieve the target. There have been discussions at the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) to the Steering Committee of Elected Officials about the benefit of coordinating this at a regional scale.

Ms. Zentz made a motion to approve Special Transportation Planning Study Agreement: VMT Reduction. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

8 City of Airway Heights: Transportation Priorities

Ms. Trautman, the Planning Director at Airway Heights (AWH) outlined several current and future focused projects to include the development of the STA Multimodal Routes, easing traffic on Hwy 2, and establishing alternative routes for freight, emergency services, and pass through traffic at Fairchild Airforce base. She detailed the 18th/21st corridor as a freight alternative route, explaining its phased development and impact on different areas. Additionally, she highlighted the 6th/10/12 alternative route and it was funded in collaboration with the Spokane Tribe and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. She emphasized its critical connections and potential for additional transit stops. She referred to the City of Airway Heights website to review the design, phases 1 & 2 of US 2 with target timelines and goals, addressed safety concerns, identified transit needs, and highlighted the partners who shared the responsibility for the Craig Road project.

9 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding for Cheney

Mr. Stewart recapped that the city of Cheney submitted a request for \$471,000 for the preservation call for projects in 2023 but was ultimately awarded \$184,000 under the urban small categories, a shortfall that hindered their project's full realization. SRTC staff worked with city staff to come up with a new project: a combination of the STBG funding and Carbon Reduction funding, proposed for the acquisition of seven electric vehicles for their maintenance fleet and the installation of a charging canopy.

The proposed award is \$237,559 (CRP) and \$113,126 (STBG) for a total of \$350,685, with a 13.5% local match of \$54,731 from Cheney.

10 SRTC Guiding Principles and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Lien introduced a new guiding principle and elaborated on the essence of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). He emphasized Horizon 2045 and introduced Horizon 2050 as the forthcoming long-range plan. The guiding principles were broadened to encompass a draft equity guiding principle, reflecting extensive

discussions held throughout 2022 among SRTC committees and the board regarding the enhancement of equity within their initiatives.

A significant recommendation was the integration of equity into the guiding principles, demonstrated through a draft statement highlighting its significance in addressing transportation disparities and vulnerabilities within communities. Four draft policies were delineated, aiming to enhance public information and feedback mechanisms, execute customized outreach initiatives, bridge access and multimodal connectivity gaps, and ensure positive community impacts.

The timeline for the 2024 MTP was outlined, detailing the tasks to be accomplished in each quarter of the year. The next steps involve deliberations with the board, potential adjustments to the principles, and revisiting committees for further assessment in the coming months. Committee comments on the draft equity guiding principle include use of more directive language in the narrative (“must” and “will” instead of “should”); note equity is not just a product of existing conditions, rather it is an outcome of both past and present transportation decisions; and consider methods to track transportation equity over time to validate that progress is being made.

11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Ms. McMenemy delved into the process of amending the UPWP budget to accommodate new deliverables. She provided an overview of the UPWP's functions and its components, underscoring the cooperative planning endeavors with Spokane Transit Authority and WSDOT-ER to finalize studies and analyses. These amendments encompass elements such as the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) target and framework alongside budget details, a Regional Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) plan, activities focused on ensuring safe and accessible transportation, and the integration of WSDOT-ER planning activities. Additionally, she shared insights into the upcoming steps in this process.

Agency Update and Future Information Items

12 Mr. Foster stated that the Smart Mobility Plan and the Resiliency Plan have started and SRTC is looking for members to join the stakeholders advisory group. Mr. Lien gave additional details for the stakeholder group and stated they would likely meet 5-6 times throughout the year. Mr. Barber volunteered to join the group on behalf of the TAC Committee.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Angel Jackson, Recording Secretary