

EQUITY WORKING GROUP

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

Location: 421 W Riverside Ave, Suite #500
Date: November 22nd, 2024
Time: 4:15 – 5:15 pm
SRTC Staff: Michael Redlinger, Savannah Creasey, Ben Kloskey
Attendees: Thomas B., Naghmana S., Erik L., Stevie W., Thomas B., Jared A.

Michael and Savannah welcomed the group and gave participants a brief introduction about the meeting agenda. Michael reminded the group that this was the last meeting of the year, but the Equity Working Group will continue to meet starting in January 2025.

The group's first agenda item for the meeting was the "Community Circle." This was an opportunity for group members to answer questions like: "How has your community changed?" and "What motivates you to participate in Equity planning?". After Michael briefly introduced the subject and gave a little background on himself and his experiences, each member of the group in attendance shared some of their life experiences. A lot of the discussion centered around Spokane's transit system, disadvantaged communities, and local infrastructure concern.

The next item on the agenda was a review of 2024; revisiting how projects which the Equity Working Group had heard about or given feedback on have developed or completed. The first item was the [Regional Safety Action Plan](#) (RSAP). Ben gave a quick overview on the RSAP, and informed the group that it was formally adopted by the SRTC Board in September. The RSAP is an extensive planning document which evaluates current and predicted transportation safety issues in the Spokane region and details strategies to address those issues.

Following the RSAP, the next item for discussion was the [Title VI/ADA](#) updates at SRTC. Michael went over how the Title VI and ADA updates progressed over the year, and particularly focused on both the new Nondiscrimination statement and the new translated Title VI and ADA complaint procedures and forms. Those materials were translated to Vietnamese, Russian, and Spanish. The new nondiscrimination statement came from federal recommendations which suggested removing non-Title VI protected classes from the Title VI statement and making a separate statement. Michael thanked the group for their input on Title VI and informed them that the agency planned on displaying Title VI and other Equity information prominently on the new website update. A member asked some questions about procuring language data, and after a robust discussion some potential sources of information were exchanged (Spokane Residential, Access and Accessibility Manager).

Next, the group was updated on the [Commute Trip Reduction](#) plan and outreach. Ben thanked the group for participating in the Commute Trip Reduction outreach effort through the survey and their feedback earlier in the year. The Commute Trip Reduction plan update process went through an extensive outreach campaign with a significant amount of public interaction both online and in person. After Ben shared some of the interesting data points and survey outcomes, Michael introduced the next item.

The [Guiding Principles](#) update (pg. 32 of Horizon 2045 document) was a process which lasted most of 2024 and has a particularly strong connection to Equity planning with the newly proposed Equity Guiding Principle. After briefly describing the purpose and objectives of the Guiding Principles, Michael went over the Equity Guiding Principle and showed the group how their feedback had been implemented in the rewrites.

The following item was the Smart Mobility and Resiliency plan project, which Michael gave an overview of. Michael went over the goals and key tasks for each of those efforts, but only briefly, as the meeting was running close to time.

Lastly, Savannah covered the forthcoming SRTC website update in early 2025. She informed the group that their feedback had been passed on to the website consultant and that she is excited to share the new developments with the group soon.

With some time constraints, the group moved to the final agenda item which was to discuss the standing meeting time and go over some housekeeping items for the month. Overall, most of the group expressed interest in continuing the meeting time.

After SRTC staff thanked everyone for attending the meeting, some members stayed around to chat about upcoming topics and ways for SRTC to connect with other local agencies to coordinate on projects.