

Spokane Regional Clean Transportation Coalition

Meeting Notes

March 21, 2024

In attendance: Rendall Farley, Jami Hayes, Char Kay, Kelly Thomas, Ruby Nelson, Christian Bigger, Dan Baker, Dave Stensland, Michael Redlinger, Lois Bollenback, Jason Lien

- Agenda Item 1 – Announcements / Updates
 - Jason mentioned the EV Charging Summit & Expo is currently taking place in Las Vegas (March 20-22).
- Agenda Item 2 – Grants – Successes & Opportunities
 - Awards were announced for the [WA EV Charging Program](#) (application period closed in December 2023):
 - Commerce awarded \$85m statewide for 4,700 Level 2 and 271 DC Fast Chargers.
 - Avista had success as an applicant for multiple sites in our greater region—58 sites in total including workplace, public, and multifamily sites.
 - Rendall noted the new sites will require tribal consultation and archaeological assessments. This will take time.
 - Avista is open to discussing partnering opportunities anytime. The next round of Commerce funding for the EV Charging Program will commence later this year (expected NOFO in September 2024).
 - Char commented on varying vehicle charging costs per KW-hour. She asked if the rates were regulated. Rendall responded that if EVSE is installed by a utility, rates are subject to regulation. A private installer could charge whatever they want, but market competition should keep any one site from charging too much. Avista reports on the financial side in its grant reporting. Rendall can provide this.
 - Avista provides credit for lower income households looking to install charging equipment. It is also working to increase the number of multi-family sites with EVSE.
 - Jason discussed the federal NEVI formula funding for corridor charging buildout. An RFP is anticipated from WSDOT this year. The timing of this is not clear yet; Char can check on the timeline.
 - The [Priority Climate Action Plan](#) (PCAP) for WA was released at the beginning of March. It is a deliverable funded through the [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#) program (created through the federal Inflation Reduction Act). The PCAP outlines priority measures for reducing GHG emissions, including in the transportation sector. The PCAP is the first part of the funding program; Phase 2 offers competitive implementation grants to support projects/programs as

identified in the PCAP. The implementation grant NOFO is currently out and applications are due 4/1/24.

- WA Dept of Commerce is leading an effort to pursue implementation grant funding—City of Spokane is a partner in this effort with support from Avista and Itron.
- Dave Stensland mentioned another Commerce program—[clean energy funding opportunities](#) for grid resilience and equitable adoption of clean energy tech—offered through the Energy Programs in Communities. An estimated \$84m will be available for clean energy projects.
- The [Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grants](#) program released a NOFO in March 2023. It is not clear if there will be a 2024 funding opportunity through this program. Jason will track this.
- A new program under the BIL is the [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program](#). A NOFO is out now for support of active transportation networks and spines projects. Applications are due 6/17/24.
- Agenda Item 3 – Regional Smart Mobility Plan
 - Jason updated the group about this work effort. It is SRTC-led with consultant assistance. It will focus on potential technology investments in the region’s transportation system. Included in this will be a refresh of the EV charging buildout plan. SRTC is in final negotiations with the consultant. The work will include coordination with stakeholders and future updates will be provided to the Coalition.
 - The issue was mentioned again of whether the charging buildout plan would include the areas outside of SRTC’s planning area (Spokane Co.). Technically no, but there could be coordinating conversations with adjacent RTPOs. Char offered she could provide contacts for NEW RTPO and Palouse RTPO.
- Agenda Item 4 – Next Meeting
 - At the conclusion of the meeting, Christian Bigger provided a general update on STA activities:
 - Items include RFP release for smart charging software/equipment, charging investment at the Boone Ave garage, procurement of new electric buses, planning for all-electric Division BRT (anticipate pantograph infrastructure at north and south ends of line), and fleet management of 40 electric buses that are in service now. Twelve of the buses are manufactured by Proterra, which filed for bankruptcy and creates challenges for maintenance of these models.
 - Char asked if the Division BRT technology investments would be near the NSC. The decision on a potential Mead Transit Center (where charging infrastructure could be located) is uncertain at this time.

- Christian could provide a broader guest speaker type STA update at a future Coalition meeting.
- Jason suggested a speaker (as previously mentioned by Rendall) with expertise in fleet transitions that could also be sought as a future guest.
- The meeting ended at 4:01pm. Jason will send an invite for the next meeting in May 2024.