

Spokane Regional Clean Transportation Coalition

Meeting Notes

May 16, 2024

In attendance: Rendall Farley, Jami Hayes, Jackie Churchill, Rick Giddings, Charlie Wolff, Christian Bigger, Kim Zentz, Michael Redlinger, Eve McMenemy, Jason Lien

- Agenda Item 1 – Announcements / Updates
 - Jason provided a few general updates:
 - It's Bike Everywhere Month and Spokane Bicycle Club is sponsoring various related events throughout May.
 - City of Cheney received a grant award through SRTC for purchase of EV fleet vehicles and charging infrastructure.
 - SRTC and partners will hold the 2nd annual Transportation Summit at CenterPlace in Spokane Valley. Event date is 10/17/24.
 - Of interesting note is an article in Scientific American describing the search for deposits of “natural hydrogen” that is trapped in seeps near the earth surface as the element moves up from the earth's core.
- Agenda Item 2 – Grant Opportunities / Coordination
 - [National EV Infrastructure Program](#) (NEVI)
 - Formula funding awarded to states through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). WA has been allocated \$71m over 5 years. Funding to support DCFC installation along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors.
 - WSDOT will release these funds through 3 RFP rounds. The first round will come later this year with around \$25m available. Additional funding rounds are planned for 2025 and 2026.
 - Eligible corridors in our region include I-90, US-2, US-195, and US-395.
 - [USDOT SMART Grant Program](#)
 - NOFO just released. Program is in its third year and will be accepting applications for Stage 1 Planning & Prototyping. Implementation funding will be made available through future Stage 2 grants starting later this year.
 - Funding is targeted at technological applications in transportation (connected vehicles, sensors, smart grid, etc.).
 - A How to Apply webinar is scheduled for 5/28/24. Applications are due by 7/12/24.
 - [Communities Taking Charge Program](#)
 - Notice of funding issued on 4/16/24 through the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation within the federal Department of Energy.

- \$54m is available for projects that will expand community electrified mobility access. This may include expanding access for individuals without home charging, supporting fleet electrification, and optimizing usage of the grid.
 - Concept papers are due 5/20/24. Full applications are due by 7/16/24.
 - [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program](#)
 - A new program under the BIL. A NOFO is out for support of active transportation networks and spines projects. \$45m is available and applications are due 6/17/24.
 - Jami asked about match requirements and later confirmed that there is a 20% match.
 - Rendall mentioned the WA Dept. of Commerce EV Charging Program grant will be coming out again this Fall. Avista is open to talking about partnerships for installation of EVSE that will be supported through this competitive program. Reach out to Rendall to discuss further.
- Agenda Item 3 – Smart Infrastructure
 - Demand for EV charging infrastructure was highlighted in a recent Journal of Business article. Interest in home installation remains steady and additional contractor business will likely be generated as recent WA building code updates include requirements for installation of EVSE in new construction of commercial and multi-family buildings. Be aware that these new building sites may not be eligible for funding provided for EVSE through certain grant programs.
 - Jason highlighted the Smart Mobility work that SRTC is leading, which will focus on the use of technology in the region’s transportation system. The Smart Mobility schedule includes convening a stakeholder group to discuss project milestones in more detail. An element of the work is an update to the regional EV charging buildout plan. Rendall asked if this would include areas outside of Spokane County. Jason responded it would include coordination with adjacent RTPOs.
- Agenda Item 4 – Next Meeting
 - General information was shared at the end of the meeting:
 - [Green Transportation Summit & Expo](#) will be held this August 20-22 in Tacoma. It will be a joint event with RE Northwest. Discounted early bird registration is available until the end of May.
 - The [NW Renewable Hydrogen Conference](#) will be in Spokane next month on June 4.
 - Christian Bigger provided a general update on STA activities including completion of their Fleet Transition Plan, incorporation of renewable diesel in their fuel mix, Boone garage charging infrastructure installation, and operation of 40 battery electric buses in the STA fleet. In response to a

question, Christian noted that STA is more on the leading edge for zero-emissions in Washington while some public transit agencies in California are already at 100% zero-emission in their fleets.

- The meeting ended at 3:50pm. Jason will send an invite for the next meeting in July 2024.