

# EQUITY WORKING GROUP

## MARCH MEETING NOTES

**Location:** 421 W Riverside Ave, Suite #500  
**Date:** March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Time:** 4:15 – 5:15 pm  
**SRTC Staff:** Michael Redlinger, Savannah Creasey, Ben Kloskey, Angela Papparazzo  
**SRHD Staff:** Devyn Bell, Mia Parker  
**Attendees:** Monica H., Madeline A., Katy P., Paul K.

Michael welcomed attendees, led brief introductions, and previewed the day's three main agenda items.

The first agenda item, SRTC's Public Participation Plan (PPP), was presented by Savannah Creasey. Savannah provided an overview of the Public Participation Plan (PPP), a federally required document that outlines how the agency engages the public in its planning and decision-making processes. She described the purpose of the PPP as both a guide for the public on how to participate in SRTC's work and an internal framework for staff outlining legal requirements and organizational outreach commitments. She noted that the plan was last updated in 2021 and that the current update reflects lessons learned since the COVID-19 pandemic, including expanded use of hybrid engagement. Outreach conducted to inform the update has included an online survey, in-person stickerboard activities at community events, workshops with committees and partners, distribution of printed materials through partner networks, and promotion through external newsletters. Planned outreach includes a transportation open house, public meeting, and public comment period. Staff outlined a timeline for completing the draft, conducting public review, and advancing the plan for committee recommendation and board adoption by July. *[SRTC staff note: the adoption timeline has since been pushed back due to Savannah's departure]* The presentation also highlighted key updates to the document structure, including clearer sections for public and internal audiences, defined audience categories, expanded equity-informed outreach strategies, and new procedures for evaluating and measuring outreach effectiveness. Group questions asked about how members of the public can find and engage with the document and complimented SRTC for its emphasis on public outreach. Savannah mentioned that information on the update will be shared through social media, email, and public meetings such as SRTC's Board and committee meetings. One group member commented on an area of public need – namely expanded STA service hours after 10 PM and access to a bus stop near Canterbury Court without requiring vulnerable residents to travel up and down the hill.

Next, Mia Parker from SRHD presented an overview of SRHD's Childhood Fatality Review & Prevention Activities. Mia first introduced herself, then explained that the Childhood Fatality Review examines deaths of Spokane County residents under age 19 resulting from injury or violence in order to identify opportunities for prevention. She described the review process, which includes identifying eligible cases using state and local data, compiling detailed case summaries, and conducting confidential, multidisciplinary reviews focused on understanding contributing factors rather than assigning blame. For each case, staff identify risk and protective factors and develop initial prevention recommendations, which are later evaluated in

aggregate to establish annual priority prevention strategies. Mia shared the program's three priority prevention recommendations from 2024 and 2025, including safe firearm storage, safe infant sleep, youth and parental mental health, and prevention of transportation-related and other unintentional injuries. Transportation-related recommendations included impaired driving prevention, increased access to driver education, improved safety signage, and roadway design changes to enhance safety. Mia emphasized that data are released in limited form to protect family privacy and noted that additional discussion on implementation strategies will be shared at the next Equity Working Group meeting in May. Michael noted alignment between SRTC's transportation safety concerns and the Health District's child injury prevention work, particularly related to impaired driving and vulnerable road users, and expressed interest in continued collaboration between agencies. Group discussion highlighted connections to WSDOT's Target Zero program and ongoing coordination with the local Target Zero coordinator on transportation injury prevention and messaging. Mia also explained that the Health District's ranked prevention priorities are based on aggregate risk factors and potential impact and are primarily used to guide focus and messaging rather than funding decisions. The presentation in May will expand on the ranking system and overall findings.

For the next item, SRTC's Angela Papparazzo presented an overview of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP), a federally and state-required plan that must be updated every four years to support eligibility for human services transportation funding. The presentation described the plan's purpose of improving transportation access for seniors, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, and youth by identifying service gaps, minimizing duplication, and supporting cost-effective service expansion. Staff outlined current outreach efforts conducted in coordination with Spokane Transit Authority, including transit plaza kiosks, community events, and service provider engagement, and shared preliminary themes emerging from outreach such as the importance of maintaining existing services, unmet rural transportation needs, volunteer shortages, barriers related to aging in place, and technology challenges for both users and providers. Ben noted ongoing coordination with service providers, including Special Mobility Services, and reiterated that public outreach and comment opportunities are ongoing as plan development continues. Angela then pointed group participants to a public survey and provided an overview of the plan development timeline, with adoption expected over the summer. Group questions clarified that paratransit and other services such as those provided by SNAP and Cancer Can't are included in the scope of the plan. Angela clarified that part of the purpose of the plan is to identify where paratransit services can go and where they currently cannot in order to identify gaps and minimize duplication of services. Mia provided Angela feedback on some areas of need identified through Health District work.

Michael then thanked presenters and participants. SRTC staff confirmed with participants that the new Monday schedule for meetings is convenient and provided an overview of some of SRTC's upcoming outreach activities. Michael mentioned that SRTC has been in contact with Spokane County Emergency Management and hopes to have them present over the summer. Savannah then addressed the group, announcing that she is moving to a new job and this would be her last Equity Working Group meeting. Michael noted that there will be a significant gap to fill with her departure, but emphasized SRTC's intent to continue Savannah's work to advance improvements to the agency's outreach and communications.