

# Spokane Regional Transportation Council – Transportation Technical Committee

September 25, 2024 | Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting at SRTC, 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 500, Spokane WA 99201 and virtually on Zoom

## #1 Call to Order/Record of Attendance

Chair Trautman called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

### In Attendance

#### TTC Members

Heather Trautman, *City of Airway Heights (Chair)*  
 Brett Lucas, *City of Cheney*  
 Luke Michels, *City of Liberty Lake*  
 Lisa Key, *City of Liberty Lake*  
 Lance Mueller, *City of Liberty Lake*  
 Kevin Picanco, *City of Spokane*  
 Tyler Kimbrell, *City of Spokane*  
 Adam Jackson, *City of Spokane Valley*  
 Jerremy Clark, *City of Spokane Valley*  
 Bob Turner, *City of Spokane Valley*  
 Sonny Weathers, *Small Cities/Towns Rep*  
 Jami Hayes, *Spokane County*  
 Margee Chambers, *Spokane Regional Clean Air*  
 Samantha Hennessy, *Spokane Regional Health District*  
 Brian Jennings, *Spokane Transit Authority*  
 Mike Pea, *WSDOT-ER*  
 Shauna Harshman, *WSDOT-ER*

#### Guests

Sean Messner, *CivTech*  
 Spencer Montgomery  
 Tony Baird, *The Woodshop*  
 Cassi Bruner, *The Woodshop*  
 Paul Kropp

#### SRTC Staff

Eve McMenemy, *Deputy Executive Director*  
 Jason Lien, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Michael Redlinger, *Asso. Transportation Planner*  
 David Fletcher, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Benjamin Kloskey, *Asso. Transportation Planner*  
 Ryan Stewart, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Mike Ulrich, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
 Savannah Hayward, *Communications & PR Coord.*  
 Angel Jackson, *Admin-Exec Coord.*

## #2 Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

## #3 TTC Member Comments

The members provided an update on the events happening within their organization.

## #4 Chair Report on SRTC Board of Directors Meeting

Ms. Trautman shared highlights of the SRTC Board meeting.

### ACTION ITEMS

## #5 Consent Agenda

- a) August Minutes for the TTC Meeting
- b) CY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) October Amendment

*Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Picanco seconded the motion. This motion was passed unanimously.*

## **#6 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Recommendation**

Mr. Stewart explained the TIP is a four-year plan for regionally significant and federally funded transportation projects. He discussed the project selection processes, ensuring alignment with regional and state transportation plans such as *Rising 2045*, the Congestion Management Process, and fiscal constraints. Key highlights include 65 total projects, 23 with SRTC-managed funding totaling \$32 million, and nearly \$896 million in project funding overall. Notable projects include the Division Street BRT, transportation demand management initiatives, and the US 2 Craig Road roundabout. Public engagement includes a 30-day comment period, with a public meeting scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Mr. Weathers motioned to recommend board approval of the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Recommendation. Mr. Picanco seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **#7 Guest Presenter: Spokane Transit Authority Connect 2035**

Brian Jennings, Spokane Transit Authority's Deputy Director for Community Development, reviewed the 2022 Strategic Plan update, highlighting Phase 2's focus on strategies and goals for adoption this year. Public feedback emphasized the need for more frequent service, expanded locations, longer hours, and a push toward sustainability. Key goals include enhancing the customer experience, strengthening community partnerships, and building capacity. Major investments include \$55 million for a clean energy campus and \$30 million for service enhancements. Public engagement through surveys and forums identified priorities like extended weekend service, safety, real-time info, and affordability.

He also discussed alternatives for using \$10 million in additional enhancements and sought input from the community and STA Board. The plan's final adoption is scheduled for December 18, with next steps outlined for implementation. Ms. McMenamy noted STA's role in shaping long-term transportation plans for metropolitan transportation plan (MTP), and Mr. Jackson requested links that could be used by the committee members on social media that could boost awareness.

### **#8 SRTC Guiding Principles Update**

Mr. Lien provided an overview of the six guiding principles that originated from the 2012 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) cycle, noting that they have remained unchanged since then. The current review aims to bring clarity to the policies associated with these principles, especially with the implementation of a new equity planning framework in 2022. Some of the key updates include revised guiding principle language, clearer text alignment, stronger connections to performance measures, safety updates based on the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP), enhanced ties to priority networks with an emphasis on technology and resiliency, and the introduction of a new guiding principle focused on equity.

During a pause for questions, Mr. Jackson asked how these updates would impact the scoring for the Call for Projects (CFP), particularly in relation to equity. He raised concerns about the possibility of equity efforts placing a disproportionate burden on disadvantaged communities. Mr. Lien responded by explaining that as these principles are translated into project criteria, further discussions would be needed to define what constitutes a benefit and ensure clarity moving forward.

Mr. Lien concluded the discussion by outlining the next steps, with the final adoption of the updated guiding principles scheduled for Horizon 2050 in November 2025. He invited attendees to reach out with any additional comments.

#### **#9 Congestion Management Process: Corridor Analysis and Strategies**

Mr. Fletcher reviewed the Congestion Management Process (CMP) network which includes National Highway System (NHS) routes with 15,000 or more vehicles and key connecting routes. The new CMP corridor mapping was displayed, explaining the division of sections based on regional destinations and traffic volume changes. Feedback was requested on the proposed network split. The previous network's Tier 1 and Tier 2 distinctions were reviewed, with Tier 1 including detailed congestion management strategies and Tier 2 serving as a watch list for potential future strategies if conditions worsen.

Key factors influencing congestion management, such as traffic volume, level of travel time reliability (LOTTR), peak hours of excessive delay (PHED), and the presence of regional activity centers, were also discussed. Participants were invited to attend an upcoming workshop for further details.

During the discussion, a congested area was highlighted due to interchange issues, though congestion data for that location is limited. Concerns were raised about certain roads not being included as Tier 1 despite their significance for grants and traffic impact, with suggestions for improving data coverage and addressing gaps. Additionally, there were questions about including a back road to Fairchild Air Force Base and alternative ways to represent the density element on US 2, which is currently classified as Tier 1.

#### **#10 Washington State Dept of Transportation (WSDOT) Consolidated Grant- Scoring Volunteers**

Mr. Redlinger requested volunteers to participate as scorers in the upcoming evaluation process. He provided a brief overview, noting that the application deadline is set for 9/13/24. He reviewed the scoring process and outlined the commitment required for evaluating the two submitted projects. The scoring process will run through October 2024, with individual scores to be completed by 11/9. He also mentioned key board review dates related to the process. Volunteers included Samantha Hennessy, Adam Jackson, and Kevin Picanco.

#### **#11 Agency Update and Future Information Items**

- Mr. Fletcher highlighted the Transportation Summit would take place October 16<sup>th</sup> and if anyone is interested in attending, please find the link on the SRTC Website.
- The Equity working group would be meeting September 27<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in attending please contact Ben or Michael.
- Mr. Ulrich showcased the regional data hub and how to access it on the website.

#### **#12 Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Jackson motioned the meeting adjournment, which was seconded by Mr. Weathers, to unanimous approval and adjournment at 2:25 p.m.

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Angel Jackson, Recording Secretary