



Spokane Regional Transportation Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, 05/08/2025 at 1:00 PM

Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting

- **In Person: 421 W Riverside Ave, Suite 504, Spokane, WA 99201**
- **Online via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88995178182?pwd=SFRkSIRQSHE3UIFpQ3ZFeHJvbWMxdz09>

Meeting ID: 889 9517 8182 | Passcode: 604873

By Phone 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 889 9517 8182 | Passcode: 604873

Or find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ki0sqJNVp>

SRTC welcomes public comments at Board meetings.

The deadline for submitting written comments is 10:00 am on the day of the meeting and can be submitted:

- By email: contact.srtc@srtc.org
- By mail: 421 W Riverside Ave Suite 500, Spokane, WA 99201
- By phone: 509.343.6370

Verbal comments may also be provided during the comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

SRTC is committed to nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.O. 100.259) and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable accommodations can be requested by contacting the SRTC office by telephone at 509-343-6370 or by email at contact.srtc@srtc.org at least 48 hours in advance.



Time	Item #		Page #
1:00	1	Call to Order/Record of Attendance/Excused Absences	
1:10	2	Public Comments	
<u>FOR ACTION</u>			
1:15	3	Consent Agenda	
		a. April Board Meeting Minutes	3
		b. Vouchers Paid for the Month of April 2025	7
		c. Spokane Regional Commute Trip Reduction Plan: 2025-2029: Amendment One	8
1:20	4	Congestion Management Process (CMP) – Final Draft <i>(David Fletcher)</i>	10
<u>INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS</u>			
1:35	5	SFY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Update <i>(Lois Bollenback)</i>	12
1:40	6	Horizon 2050 – Regional Priority Networks Update <i>(Michael Redlinger)</i>	13
1:45	7	Horizon 2050 - Review of Financial Constraint and Project Needs <i>(Jason Lien)</i>	14
<u>INFORMATION: No Action or Discussion</u> <i>(Written reports only)</i>			
2:00	8	Executive Director’s Monthly Report <i>(Lois Bollenback)</i>	15
		• Ongoing/Upcoming Events and Activities	
		• Transportation Funding – Awards & Opportunities	
		• Correspondence	
	9	Transportation Technical Committee & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries	19
<u>DISCUSSION</u>			
2:05	10	Board Member Comments <i>(Chair)</i>	
2:10	11	Chair Comments	
2:15	12	Adjournment <i>(Chair)</i>	



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025– 1:00 pm

1 Call to Order/ Excused Absences

Council Member Higgins called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and attendance was taken.

Excused Absences:

Mayor Kevin Freeman
City of Millwood

Daniel Clark
Kalispel Tribe

Council Member Kitty Klitzke
City of Spokane

Doug Yost
Major Employer

Council Member Micki Harnois
Small Cities/Towns Rep

Commissioner Mary Kuney
Spokane County

Council Member Barthels made a motion to approve excused absences. Mayor Haley seconded the motion

In attendance were:

Board Members:

Council Member Jennifer Morton
City of Airway Heights

Council Member Vincent Barthels
City of Cheney

Council Member Dianne Pfaeffle
City of Deer Park

Mayor Cris Kaminskas
City of Liberty Lake

Mayor Terri Cooper
City of Medical Lake

Council Member Jonathan Bingle
City of Spokane

Mayor Pam Haley
City of Spokane Valley

Council Member Rod Higgins
City of Spokane Valley (Chair)

Matt Ewers
Rail/Freight Rep

Commissioner Al French
Spokane County

Karl Otterstrom
Spokane Transit Authority

Char Kay
WSDOT-ER

Commissioner Kelly Fukai
WA State Transp. Commission

Guests:

Sean Messner
CivTech

Samantha Hennessy
SRHD

Larry Larson
WSDOT-ER

Wende Wilber
Kittleson

Paul Kropp

Victor Ramos
Spokane Tribe

LeAnn Yamamoto
Commute Smart NW

Kevin Picanco
City of Spokane

Jeremy Clark
City of Spokane Valley

Cecilia Evans
Spokane Tribe

Staff:

Lois Bollenback
Executive Director

Eve McMenamy
Deputy Exec. Director

Megan Clark
Legal Counsel

Savannah Creasey
Comm. & PR Coord.

Anadia Grier
Admin-Executive Coord.

Jason Lien
Principal Transp. Planner

David Fletcher
Principal Transp. Planner

Michael Redlinger
Associate Transp. Planner 3

Ben Kloskey
Associate Transp. Planner 2

Ex-Officio Members:

Barry Greene
TTC Chair



Ms. Bollenback recognized Deputy Executive Director Eve McMenamy for her 30th anniversary at SRTC, commending her contributions and delivering a brief speech to celebrate this significant milestone. In response, Ms. McMenamy expressed her gratitude and shared her excitement for future collaborations with government officials, partner agencies, and the community.

2 Public Comments

Mr. Lowe urged the Board to prioritize pedestrian safety, citing repeated fatalities along the Bloomsday route and a strong link between crashes, transit stops, and low-income areas. He shared data, including a study introducing a “Bus Stop Safety Index” (SSI) to identify high-risk locations, and criticized the Board’s low prioritization of safety, calling for tools like SSI to address the crisis.

ACTION ITEMS

3 Consent Agenda

- a. March Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b. Vouchers Paid for the Month of March 2025
- c. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment-April
- d. CY 2025 First Quarter Budget Report

Mayor Haley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Otterstrom seconded the motion.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

4 Guest Presenter – Spokane Regional Health District

Ms. Hennessy presented the Walk Audit Pilot Program, launched in response to pedestrian safety and accessibility concerns. The audits assess sidewalk conditions and support grant applications and infrastructure planning. Five audits have been completed, four in Spokane and one in Spokane Valley, with sixteen more routes requested. While internal audits move faster, she emphasized the importance of community input. In 2024, the program partnered with The Zone on an EPA Community Change Grant. Findings will be published online by the end of April, with 2025 planning underway.

Following the presentation, Mr. Ewers encouraged coordination with the Spokane Business Association, which already conducts walk audits and has identified significant safety issues. Council Member Bingle pointed to Spokane Public Schools as a potential collaborator, citing challenges with student transportation and declining attendance at Regal Elementary. Commissioner Fukai emphasized the importance of reaching rural communities with limited resources.



5 Horizon 2050 Needs Assessment – Regional Project Matrix

Mr. Lien and Mr. Messner provided an update on Horizon 2050, SRTC's long-range transportation plan that outlines regional multimodal needs and strategies through the year 2050. The plan will align with regional priorities while meeting state and federal requirements.

They presented a draft project matrix organized by jurisdiction with projects that are regional in scope. The matrix was informed by agency interviews, Committee input, and local studies and plans. Mr. Lien highlighted categories of need that will be defined in Horizon 2050, namely Operations & Maintenance, Preservation, Regionally Significant projects, and Programmatic Buckets. The Regionally Significant category has a specific definition, and these projects are named for inclusion in the region's travel demand model. The Program Areas (Active Transportation, Bridge, Planning, Road Capital, Safety, Transportation Demand Management, Transit, and Transportation Systems Management & Operations) are defined by funding targets and illustrative projects. All the categories of need are financially constrained, meaning they are capped by the amount of revenue the region expects to reasonably receive through 2050. SRTC is generating a Financial Forecast to align expected revenue with expenditures in the categories of need. This process will document the anticipated backlog of transportation needs beyond what is cost-feasible within the plan.

Next steps include final refinements to the project matrix, identifying the Regionally Significant list and program area funding targets, updating cost estimates and revenue forecasts, and continuing public engagement. Project identification and funding targets will be a key decision point at upcoming Committee and Board meetings. A Horizon 2050 draft is anticipated in September, with adoption targeted for November 2025.

During the discussion, Mr. Otterstrom highlighted the importance of incorporating emerging STA projects and long-term planning for high-capacity transit. Ms. Bollenback inquired whether any unplanned but desired projects had surfaced. In response, Mr. Messner noted the continued focus on maintenance and preservation. Mr. Lien added that refining cost estimates and applying guiding principles will be key to prioritizing projects within available funding.

Outreach events are scheduled, including upcoming events at the Spokane Central Library on April 17 and the Spokane Bike Swap on April 19.

6 SFY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Draft Document Overview

Ms. Bollenback presented the draft SFY 2026–2027 UPWP, which reflects feedback from the Board's March discussion. The document outlines SRTC's planned work over the next two years, organized into eight task categories with associated budgets and comparisons to previous programs. Key focus areas include program administration, enhancements to public outreach, and improvements in data management, such as updates to the High Injury Network and the travel demand model. Planning tasks will involve completing the Horizon 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, updating the Human Services Transportation Plan, and integrating



resiliency metrics into project scoring. She informed members that several of the projects recommended by the board were incorporated into the UPWP, including a truck parking study and a study to explore potential financial resources.

Ms. Bollenback noted that initial feedback from WSDOT and FHWA has been limited to minor grammatical corrections, with no significant concerns regarding content or budget. A coordination meeting with those agency partners is scheduled for next week, however, and input may be provided then. She presented next steps, including a public review period, and then welcomed any questions or comments from the Board.

No questions or comments.

10 Executive Director's Report

No questions or comments.

11 Transportation Technical Committee & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries

No questions or comments.

12 Board Member Comments

Commissioner Fukai thanked Ms. Bollenback for supporting the Transportation Commission, noting concerns about potential changes in state legislation that could limit the Commission's scope and reduce representation for the East Side. She highlighted efforts to raise community awareness and advocated for maintaining a voice in state transportation policy. Commissioner Fukai stated she would continue to keep the Board updated as the legislative session continues.

13 Chair Comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM

Anadia Grier, Clerk of the Board



VOUCHERS PAID FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

Date	Voucher	Vendor	Description	Amount
4/4/25	V122623	Kittelson & Associates	Regional Needs Assessment 1/01/25-1/31/25	46,788.76
	V122624	Intermax Networks	VOIP telecom April 2025	243.36
	V122625	Rehn & Associates	Q-2 2025 Agency H.S.A. contributions LB,GG,SC,MR,BK	2,500.00
	V122626	Diamond Parking Services	Acct parking for Board, Cmte, Staff mtg parking - March2025	122.00
	V122627	WA State Dept Retirement	Employee and Employer Contributions: March 2025	13,497.25
	V122628	Cycrest Systems	Managed IT Services - Mnthly April; SaaS Security	1,593.06
			Softwr subscptns; Office splys/eqpt; Virtual mtg subscptn; staff	
	V122629	Washintgon Trust Bank	regs; webnrs/conf trvl	4,190.76
	V122630	Manpower	Temp services for 3.25.25 to 3.28.25	1,225.41
	V122631	Rehn & Associates	Staff Payrl Deduct Health Ins Contributions: Pay Per 2025-07	627.00
4/11/25	V122632	Spokesman Review	Public Notice for TIP amendment	84.43
	V122633	WA State Dept Retirement	OASI (Old Age & Survivors Ins) admin fee for 2025	25.00
	V122634	ASAP Translations	Translator at El Mercadito event	309.00
	V122635	Rehn & Associates	Admin fee March '25	75.00
	V122636	Associated Industries	Membership for 2025-Q2	437.00
4/18/25	V122637	EMLVO P.C.	March legal svcs: Board mtg	725.00
	V122638	Rehn & Associates	Staff Payrl Deduct Health Ins Contributions: Pay Per 2025-08	627.00
	V122639	Comcast	Fiber Services, May 2024	233.53
	V122640	AWC Emp Benefit Trust	May '25 Benefit Insurance Premiums	9,433.56
			Website update - Branding/Messaging Guide/Business Cards new	
	V122641	The Woodshop LLC	logo	2,765.33
	V122642	Manpower	Temp services for 3.31.25 to 4.4.25	1,531.76
	V122643	National Color Graphics	BikeMap printing qty 4,000	5,632.29
4/25/25	V122644	Greater Spokane Inc	EM Reg for D.C. GSI fly-in	2,550.00
	V122645	Manpower	Temp services for 4.7.25 to 4.11.25	1,531.76
	V122646	Junk-N-Dump LLC	Junk removal from office	550.00
	V122647	Pacific Office Automation	Copier Lease/Usage March 2025	199.54
	V122648	Diamond Plaza LLC	Paulsen Center Suite 500/504 Lease for May 2025	5,800.00
	V122649	Minuteman Press	Printing brochures, fact sheets, sign	533.72
	V122650	WA St Transit Association	Advertising open Planner position	50.00
Vouchers: V122623 - V122650				103,881.52
Reimbursement(s)				-
Salaries/Benefits Pay Periods Ending: 3/29/25 & 4/12/25				84,860.46
Spokane County Treasury Monthly SCIP fee - March 2025				26.16
				188,768.14

As of 5/8/25, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors approves the payment of the April 2025 vouchers included in the list in the amount of: **\$188,768.14**



To: SRTC Board of Directors
From: Benjamin Kloskey, Associate Transportation Planner II
Topic: Spokane Regional Commute Trip Reduction Plan: 2025-2029:
Amendment One

Requested Action:

Approval of Resolution R-25-10 Amendment One of the Spokane Regional Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Plan: 2025-2029.

Key Points:

- SRTC staff have amended the recently approved [2025-2029 Spokane Regional CTR Plan](#), Table 1, to include corrected Drive Alone Rate numbers for the local affected agencies to accurately reflect their adopted baselines and targets.
- The new four-year plan will be in effect from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2029.
- SRTC's requirements as part of the update cycle included reviewing all affected local agency plans for consistency with SRTC major planning documents and the draft Regional CTR plan.
- SRTC submitted local agency plans and the regional plan to the statewide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Technical Committee in November 2024.
- Local plans and the regional plan were approved by the TDM Technical Committee at their December 6th and January 8th meetings, respectively.

Board/Committee Discussions:

The TAC and TTC discussed and recommended approval for this plan at their January and February 2025 meetings. The SRTC Board of Directors discussed and approved the plan at their February and March 2025 meetings.

Public Involvement:

CTR outreach garnered 246 survey responses and participated in 13 public events.

Staff Contact: Benjamin Kloskey | bkloskey@srtc.org | 509.343.6370



RESOLUTION
of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the
SPOKANE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
R-25-10

APPROVING AMENDMENT ONE OF THE COMMUTE TRIP REDUCTION (CTR) PLAN

WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board (SRTC Board) of Directors serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Spokane Metropolitan Planning Area (SMPA) and as the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 1999, the Board of County Commissioners for Spokane County approved Ordinance No. 99-0690, which adopted the Spokane County Commute Trip Reduction Plan in accordance with RCW 70.94.527 to reduce the number of single occupant vehicle trips for the purpose of improving air quality in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, this is amendment one to the Commute Trip Reduction plan, which was first approved by the SRTC board on March 13, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval to the SRTC Board of Directors; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SRTC BOARD: does hereby amend the 2025-2029 Regional Commute Trip Reduction Plan.

ADOPTED: 05/08/2025

ATTEST

Anadia Grier
SRTC Clerk of the Board

Rod Higgins
Council Member, City of Spokane Valley
Chair, SRTC Board of Directors



To: SRTC Board of Directors
From: David Fletcher, Principal Transportation Planner
Topic: Congestion Management Process (CMP) – Final Draft

Requested Action:

Approval of Resolution R-25-11, update to the congestion management process (CMP).

Key Points:

- The congestion management process (CMP) is a systematic and regionally accepted approach for managing congestion that provides accurate and up-to-date information on the transportation system's performance and identifies strategies for congestion management that meet the region's needs.
- A CMP is federally required in metropolitan areas with a population exceeding 200,000, known as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). As part of the metropolitan transportation planning process, SRTC is required to continuously monitor and improve the CMP.
- SRTC staff, with input from a multi-jurisdictional CMP working group, has updated the CMP to incorporate recent SRTC planning efforts, apply new data sources and analytics, and refresh the CMP's strategies for managing congestion in our region.
- SRTC's updated CMP is detailed in the draft CMP Report, which can be viewed at <https://srtc.org/our-work/transportation-analysis/>.

Board/Committee Discussions:

The TTC and TAC unanimously recommended SRTC Board approval of the CMP update at their 04/23/2025 meetings. The draft CMP was initially presented to the SRTC Board for information and discussion at their 03/13/2025 meeting. It was presented to the TTC and TAC for information and discussion at their 02/26/2025 meetings.

Public Involvement:

All SRTC committee and Board meetings are open to the public.

Staff Contact: David Fletcher, SRTC | dfletcher@srtc.org | 509.343.6370



RESOLUTION
of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the
SPOKANE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
R-25-11

APPROVING THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Board (SRTC Board) of Directors serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Spokane Metropolitan Planning Area (SMPA) and as the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, the SRTC Board is the governing body of SRTC and responsible for agency policy decisions;

WHEREAS, a Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a systematic, regionally accepted approach to managing congestion and is federally required for urbanized areas with populations exceeding 200,000, designated as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs); and

WHEREAS, SRTC has updated its CMP to incorporate recent planning efforts, apply new data sources and analytics, and refresh existing strategies; and

WHEREAS, 2025 CMP Report outlines the updated methodologies, data sources, and strategies that will guide the updated process;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SRTC Board hereby approves the Congestion Management Process as defined in the 2025 CMP Report.

ADOPTED: 05/08/2025

ATTEST

Anadia Grier SRTC
Clerk of the Board

Rod Higgins, Council Member, City of Spokane
Valley Chair, SRTC Board of Directors



To: SRTC Board of Directors
From: Lois Bollenback, Executive Director
Topic: SFY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program - Update

Requested Action:

None. For Information Only.

Key Points:

- The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a foundational document that outlines the core functions, planning activities, technical support, and other ongoing support provided by SRTC.
- Over the past several months, S.250.2RTC staff have been developing a UPWP to guide activities of the organization over a two-year period spanning the State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2026 and 2027.
- Development of the work plan has been informed by state and federal guidance provided through WSDOT as well as input from the SRTC board and advisory committees.
- SRTC staff submitted the draft SFY 2026-2027 UPWP to state and federal oversight agencies for review, and a monitoring meeting was held with these agencies on April 15, 2025, to review the work plan.
- A formal public review period for the draft UPWP began on April 16, 2025. The draft document is [linked here](#).

Board/Committee Discussions:

An overview of the UPWP was presented to, and input was received by, the TTC, TAC, and Board during their monthly meetings in January, February, March and April. A presentation on the draft document and formal public review period is currently underway.

Public Involvement:

SRTC meetings are publicly noticed and open to the public. Additional public notice regarding the draft document has been issued, and comments will be considered prior to adoption by the SRTC Board on June 12, 2025.

Staff Contact: Lois Bollenback, SRTC | lbollenback@srtc.org | 509.343.6370



To: SRTC Board of Directors
From: Michael Redlinger, Associate Transportation Planner III
Topic: Horizon 2050 – Regional Priority Networks Update

Requested Action:

None. For Information Only.

Key Points:

- SRTC is working on an update to its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The new plan, Horizon 2050, is scheduled for adoption in November 2025.
- The current MTP, Horizon 2045, identifies priority networks for transportation modes that include bicycles, freight, automobiles, and transit. These priority networks represent the region's key transportation facilities and guide SRTC's planning efforts.
- As part of the MTP update, the priority networks are being refreshed to ensure they align with future regional needs.
- In March, SRTC staff sent out a link to an interactive ArcGIS Online web map featuring the draft priority networks. [You can access the map here.](#)
- SRTC staff asked that member agencies review the draft networks this spring and provide comments by Friday, May 30.
- GIS Files for the draft networks are also available upon request.

Board/Committee Discussions:

This SRTC Board discussed this topic at their February 13, 2025 meeting. SRTC staff presented an overview of the modal priority networks, details on the network updates, and discussed next steps. SRTC staff discussed this item with the TAC and TTC at their January 22 and April 23 meetings.

Public Involvement:

SRTC meetings are publicly noticed and open to the public.

Staff Contact: Michael Redlinger, SRTC | mredlinger@srtc.org | 509.343.6370



To: SRTC Board of Directors
From: Jason Lien, Principal Transportation Planner
Topic: Horizon 2050 – Review of Financial Constraint and Project Needs

Requested Action:

None. For Information Only.

Key Points:

- The agenda item will focus on areas of need for Horizon 2050—capital projects, operations & maintenance, and preservation. This will be compared to the forecasted revenue over the 2050 planning period as we develop the financially constrained long-range plan. The Financial Forecast will follow the methodology developed for Horizon 2045, as provided in [Appendix C](#), using updated data sources.
- Capital project needs will be documented in Horizon 2050's program buckets – Active Transportation, Bridge, Planning, Road Capital, Safety & Security, Transportation Demand Management, Transit, Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSMO), and projects of Regional Significance. To inform this, SRTC has been conducting a Needs Assessment.
- The Needs Assessment regional matrix of projects has been completed and can be [downloaded here](#) (Excel document as of 4/25). You may filter the Agency column to focus on select jurisdictions.

Board/Committee Discussions:

Staff last discussed the Needs Assessment project at the April Board meeting. A financial and project need review was provided at the April committee meetings.

Public Involvement:

[Horizon 2050](#) has an ongoing public outreach schedule.

Staff Contact: Jason Lien, SRTC | jlien@srtc.org | 509.343.6370



To: Board Members
From: Lois Bollenback, Executive Director
Topic: Executive Director's Monthly Report

Requested Action:

None. For Information Only.

Key Points:

Ongoing/Upcoming Events & Activities

- SRTC staff continues to promote a public survey to solicit input regarding the development of the Horizon 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9BPXY79>
- Staff also participated in public engagement events at the Spokane Bike Swap (04/19/25) and Spokane's Central Library (04/17/2025).
- Please help promote upcoming public meetings of SRTC to seek input on the development of transportation "needs" to support the development of the Horizon 2025 long-range plan:
 - May 17 | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Liberty Lake Farmers Market
 - June 14 | details to be determined – Juneteenth Celebration
 - June 21 | 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – Felts Field Neighbors Day
- The SRTC 2-year work plan, also known as the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), is currently posted for review and comment. The full document is available through a link on the home page of the SRTC website at www.srtc.org

Correspondence

- Submitted correspondence representing SRTC federal priorities to the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit regarding the 2025 surface transportation reauthorization process, see Attachment.

Transportation Funding – Awards & Opportunities

Program	Close Date	Available Funding	Agency
FY25 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	6/26/2025	\$982 m	USDOT

Staff Contact: Lois Bollenback, SRTC | lbollenback@strc.org | 509.343.6370



421 W Riverside Ave | Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

AGENDA ITEM 8
ATTACHMENT
509-343-6370
srtc.org

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Surface Transportation Reauthorization – Legislative Proposal Submission

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of Spokane Regional Transportation Council, we appreciate the opportunity to submit the following legislative proposals to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit as you begin the process of reauthorizing the Nation's surface transportation programs.

As a Metropolitan Planning Organization serving the Spokane region, we encourage policies that promote efficient, safe, and responsible transportation decision-making across the United States.

We respectfully submit the following legislative priorities for consideration:

1. Continue funding critical programs that provide needed resources to improve transportation safety

Roadway fatalities and the fatality rate declined consistently for 30 years, but progress has stalled over the past decade and recent years the United States has recorded more than 40,000 fatalities annually. More broadly, a report issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated the societal costs of motor vehicle crashes in 2019 to be approximately \$340 billion.

During the next transportation reauthorization, we encourage our federal partners to continue funding programs such as Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). Some local agencies are just getting underway with developing SS4A planning "action" grants and will need time to plan and prepare implementation grants to fully realize the benefit of this program. Additionally, we support the continuation and expansion of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to implement data-driven safety improvements on our highways.

2. Continue funding transportation system maintenance & preservation

Every day people, communities and businesses throughout our Nation rely on the existing network of highways, roads and bridges. Our transportation system gets goods to market, people to work, students to school, and so much more. Recently FHWA estimated a \$1 trillion backlog in repairs and maintenance needed to improve the condition of more than 619,000 bridges and 4 million miles of public roads. SRTC is appreciative of the BIL in providing a level of funding that addresses the need to repair and replace aging infrastructure. However, there will continue to be a need for investment in maintenance and preservation beyond the life of the current BIL.

SRTC supports a long-term balanced approach to funding that will allow states and local agencies to plan and program needed system preservation and maintain appropriate workforce levels to properly address and deliver roadway maintenance and preservation projects.

3. Modernize the federal funding formula to ensure funding equitably supports population centers

The current transportation authorization provided \$303.5 billion in contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund. Of this amount, 90% was apportioned to the states by formula. Another \$47.3 billion in funding from the General Fund was provided for the Highway Infrastructure Program. Roughly 72% of that was distributed to the states by formula. Unfortunately, the formula used to allocate highway funding relies on 2000 census data. Since 2000, the population in Washington increased just over 30% (from 5,910,912 in 2000 to 7,724,031 in 2020) while the US overall grew by just under 19%.

Utilizing outdated data in any calculation undermines the program it's intended to serve. SRTC encourages the use of updated population data to ensure that higher growth states receive the share of funding needed to address the economic prosperity and mobility demands of growing populations.

4. Expand Direct Recipient Status for Certain Federal Funding Programs

Currently MPOs rely on pass-through funding from state DOTs, which can lead to delays and reduce the flexibility needed to meet local transportation needs. Granting MPOs direct recipient status for specific federal funds would streamline the funding process, allowing for quicker and more efficient implementation of projects that directly benefit communities. This change would reduce administrative delays, enabling MPOs to align more closely with local needs and priorities while expediting project delivery.

SRTC supports direct recipient status for MPOs which would promote greater accountability and empower local government to have a more active role in shaping transportation investments that impact their regions.

5. Shift from Discretionary to Formula-based Funding for Certain Programs

Discretionary grants, while beneficial, can lead to unpredictable funding allocations that make long-term planning challenging for MPOs and other state and local agencies. Discretionary grant programs also act to circumvent the local collaborative planning process and shift the decision-making to federal agency staff. A shift toward formula-based funding for certain federal programs would allow for a more predictable and equitable distribution of resources.

SRTC supports a shift to formula-based funding to ensure a consistent and transparent project prioritization and funding process that supports global competitiveness and supply chain development. This would also help to reduce the need for federal staffing to oversee and administer grant programs.

Spokane Regional
Transportation Council421 W Riverside Ave | Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

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srtc.org

6. Continue federal investment in public transportation

Public transportation represents a vital part of the nation's transportation system. Public transportation in Spokane County is largely centered on urban areas, with service provided by Spokane Transit ranking above most of its peers for total ridership and cost effectiveness. Other intercity, tribal and special needs transportation operations connect rural areas and small cities to the urban core. Federal funds, largely provided through the surface transportation bill, are a crucial part of sustaining and improving services and connectivity.

SRTC supports continued federal investment in public transportation through the new surface transportation bill, including the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, which helped fund the region's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, City Line. Spokane Transit plans to seek CIG funding for Division Street BRT, a project identified herein as a regional priority, consistent with Horizon 2045.

As the federally designated MPO serving the Spokane County region of eastern Washington, SRTC strives to advance the collective transportation plans and projects needed to support the economic competitiveness and quality of life aspirations of our region. We thank you for the work you do in ensuring those goals can be met.

Sincerely,

Lois Bollenback, Executive Director

Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC)

SRTC MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Airway Heights
- City of Cheney
- City of Deer Park
- City of Liberty Lake
- City of Medical Lake
- City of Millwood
- City of Spokane
- City of Spokane Valley
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Spokane County Spokane Transit Authority
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Town of Fairfield
- Town of Latah
- Town of Rockford
- Town of Spangle
- Town of Waverly
- Washington State Dept of Transportation
- Washington State Transportation Commission



Transportation Technical Committee

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda, which included the March TTC meeting minutes and the Spokane Regional Commute Trip Reduction Plan 2025-2029: Amendment 1, was approved.

Mr. Weathers motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Picanco seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) UPDATE - FINAL DRAFT

Mr. Fletcher presented the final draft of the CMP for potential Board approval, highlighting revisions to regional objectives, expanded network, updated performance measures, and stronger integration with other planning efforts.

Ms. Hayes motioned to approve the CMP update as presented. Ms. Note seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

SFY 2026-2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. Bollenback provided an update on the UPWP, highlighting minor feedback from partners regarding the inclusion of the VMT and Comprehensive Plan Review process, a planning factors crosswalk table, and the transition to a consolidated federal planning grant.

HORIZON 2050 NEEDS ASSESSMENT - REGIONAL PRIORITY NETWORKS UPDATE

Mr. Redlinger updated the committee on the Horizon 2045 MTP priority networks, sharing a web map for local agencies to review and comment on by May 30. He also noted progress on rail and air component updates, with final network updates to be included in the broader MTP later this year.

HORIZON 2050 - REVIEW OF FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT AND PROJECT NEEDS

Mr. Lien updated the committee on Horizon 2050, explaining how project needs will be categorized within a financially constrained plan, guided by revenue forecasts and public input prioritizing maintenance. The draft plan is expected in September, with adoption in November, and the committee agreed to continue the Horizon 2045 approach for unfunded needs.

AGENCY UPDATE AND FUTURE ITEMS

Ms. McMenamy reminded the committee of upcoming project submission deadlines and announced SRTC's recruitment for an Associate Transportation Planner I/II, with first application reviews on May 9. She also provided an update on the TIP Obligation Authority Target.



Transportation Advisory Committee

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda, which included the March TAC meeting minutes and the Spokane Regional Commute Trip Reduction Plan 2025-209: Amendment One, was approved unanimously.

Mr. Barber motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) UPDATE - FINAL DRAFT

Mr. Fletcher presented the final draft of the CMP Update for potential Board approval. He highlighted revisions to regional objectives, an expanded network, updated performance measures, and stronger integration with other planning efforts.

Mr. White motioned to approve the CMP update as presented. Mr. Barber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

SFY 2026-2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Ms. Bollenback provided updates on the UPWP, noting minor partner feedback to include the VMT & Comprehensive Plan Review process, which is underway, a planning factors crosswalk table, and noted a transition to a consolidated federal planning grant.

HORIZON 2050 NEEDS ASSESSMENT - REGIONAL PRIORITY NETWORKS UPDATE

Mr. Redlinger shared an update on the Horizon 2045 MTP priority networks and encouraged local agencies to review and comment on the draft web map by May 30. He also noted that updates to the rail and air components are underway and will be incorporated into the final Horizon 2050 draft later this year.

HORIZON 2050 - REVIEW OF FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT AND PROJECT NEEDS

Mr. Lien outlined how the Horizon 2050 project needs will be organized within a financially constrained framework and informed by revised revenue projections & public feedback, emphasizing maintenance and preservation. The draft plan is scheduled for release in September, with Board adoption planned for November, and the committee supported continuing the Horizon 2045 strategy for addressing unfunded priorities.

AGENCY UPDATE AND FUTURE ITEMS

Mr. Fletcher shared that WSDOT recognized the City of Deer Park for its preservation project. He also announced an open Associate Planner position at SRTC.