
SRTMC OPERATING BOARD MEETING NOTIFICATION

WHEN: Wednesday, May 19, 2021
TIME: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
WHERE: Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

March Meeting Minutes
March-April Activity Reports
March-April Expenditure Summaries

OPERATING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Call to Order:** 1:00 PM
- 2) **Roll Call / Record of Attendance:** Jerremy Clark (CoSV), Frank Bezemer (STA), Larry Frostad (WSDOT), Jason Lefler (WSDOT), Ryan Kipp (CoSV), Ken Knutson (CoS), Nate Thompson (County), Becky Spangle (SRTMC), Mike Kress (SRTMC), Steve Milatz (SRTMC), Ryan Medenwaldt (SRTMC), Eve McMenamy (SRTC)
- 3) **Action – Consent Agenda**
 - a) **March meeting Minutes**
 - b) **March-April Activity Reports**
 - c) **March-April Expenditures**

Motion to approve Action items a-c made by Frank B., Seconded by Eve M. Vote Unanimous, carried.

- 4) **SRTMC Staff Updates**

- a) **IT Update** **10 Minutes – Steve & Ryan**

Steve and Ryan have been working on decommissioning legacy equipment, and re-cabled new network drops for SRTMC Operations office space. Steve installed and configured new switches for the TMC network. Steve ordered a toolchest to organize and secure SRTMC assets. He also created a new process to export controller database files to WSDOT and County signal technicians recurring weekly. Lastly, Steve assisted with deployment of a new DA-400 device to capture Origin-Destination at the Idaho border. He is working with Iteris to incorporate new VDS detectors into iPeMS service for long-term data capture.

Ryan removed legacy analog cables no longer in use at TMC as more devices are being deprecated. Ryan reviewed outstanding ATMS support tickets which he is



coordinating with Mike Kress and Dave Adams (TMC Ops Supervisor) for verification purposes to closeout or provide updates to the system vendor.

b) Operations Update 10 Minutes – Mike

Mike has been involved in providing feedback to WSDOT on new ramp metering operations for newly installed locations. From TMC observation, it appears to have impacted traffic patterns and peak commute periods which they have been adapting their incident management processes to. Mike has been assisting Dave Adams on ATMS issue review and new issue identification.

Becky stated that SRTMC staff have been meeting with Parsons to discuss a new opportunity to upgrade the ATMS platform to their latest version. Becky intends to use equipment grant funds to cover upgrade costs which will include new software improvements. Becky provided feedback that the DA-400 installation location was selected due to inquiries from Mike Gribner (WSDOT Regional Administrator) and Al French (Spokane County Commissioner) and STA regarding travel patterns between Idaho and Spokane. Additionally, Kathleen Weinand believes the data provided by this device could help STA determine travel times and route decisions between downtown Spokane and Idaho border. Becky is in process to create origin-destination routes in the system so that the information can start to be tracked. These routes will capture both directions of travel.

5) Information & Discussion

a) Ramp Meters – 1st Month 20 Minutes

Jason Lefler is a part of the WSDOT Traffic Office and serves on the TSMO Team in Eastern Region. Jason presented on the ramp meter deployment in the Spokane area. WSDOT Traffic consulted with QFree to develop the databases and algorithms necessary for the ramp meters to run adaptively. Some of the topics discussed during the presentation covered the purpose and operation of ramp meters, detection methods & placement, traffic flow relationships, timing strategies, and adaptive operations methodology. The project was based on I-90 operations study conducted in 2018 to assist with crash reduction and improved mainline performance. The ramp meter locations were installed at the following ramp locations along I-90: US-195, Walnut, Monroe, Browne, Division, and Hamilton.

b) Communications Team Meeting 20 Minutes

The SRTMC Executive Board tasked Becky to work with WSDOT and other agency Public Information Officers (PIO) to coordinate communication efforts among the partner agencies, with a focus on public travel information through the SRTMC and social media platforms to meet the public's desire for reliable transportation information and preferred methods to receive it. The first task was to focus on the 2021 construction season due to numerous expected impacts across the region which will affect commute routes. During a meeting, the group established the best means to share information across agencies, as well as gain an understanding of the internal methods used to communicate to the public by each agency. The group will establish at least one recurring message (frequency still to be determined) that will be communicated by each agency PIO office concurrently. For example, the first message will be to raise awareness to encourage travelers to check and consider alternative routes when necessary regarding construction impacts. The group is planning to add more construction and roadway impact information on the SRTMC website so it can be used as a common reliable resource. This included a



coordinated effort with the City of Spokane to get information out to the public and expand DMS sign usage related to the Division ST project.

c) Promotional Video

20 Minutes

The first 5-minute clip of the promotional video was shared and was positively received by members of the board. The clip highlighted the importance of the TMC as expressed by various staff members within the partnership. Additional clips are planned that will highlight different aspects of the services provided through the TMC such as Arterial Data gathering, ATSPM, Performance Measurements, and tools of the TMC such as DMS, website, etc.

6) Agency Updates

CoS: A meeting between the City and STA to occur next week to discuss the Spokane City Line. Ken hopes the outcome of meeting will set expectations and common objectives as well as guidelines between the two agencies as part of the effort of the project.

CoSV: Barker construction started soon after March meeting, working with East Valley School District to ensure a route is kept open. The valley is hoping to have a better route connection by the start of the new school year in September. Barker South near freeway will be back open soon with exception to Trent Ave. A DA-400 device is being mounted at Mirabeau / SR-27 as part of the Pines corridor to provide travel times north of the freeway. Added network connectivity for Trent / Vista, Trent / Park intersections which are now managed in the central signal management software.

STA: Frank expects in 5 years most the STA fleet will be electric buses based on current trend. Driver training on the new electric buses underway and expect to take ~ 3 months to completion. Reported paratransit fleet was suffering from on time performance. Previously, it allowed 1 person per trip per ride, but has since increased to 3 people per ride and on-time performance back into mid 90 percentile. The STA board passed a program to provide free bus passes to kids which will be available at the local libraries. They are starting the 2nd phase of I-90 HPT Planning Study to identify locations for new park and rides and other strategies on I-90 east of downtown Spokane. STA will be reaching out to their partner agencies soon for stakeholder interviews to serve on technical committee.

WSDOT: Geiger Heights interchange currently underway. Medical Lake Interchange nearing completion. WSDOT will be advertising next ramp meter project at US-2 Interchange in the next month. Working with NSC office on downsizing options for I-90 Interchange which will be based on findings in traffic modeling study.

SRTC: Expanding SRTC board from 16 to 22 board members. A New interlocal agreement was developed, and once ratified, the 6 new board members will be invited to take seats. This includes 2 tribal representatives, one additional seat for City of Spokane Valley, City of Medical Lake, City of Millwood, and one freight representative. The call for preservation projects is underway. The US-195 / I-90 study is close to making final project suite recommendation. Division St Study and Data Study is now in phase 2 with more information coming soon. Updates to the long-range plan to occur in September. The board asked to develop a unified list to provide to the members for legislative advocacy. I-90 TSMO is one item recommended by Mike Gribner (WSDOT) for the list.



County: Bigelow Gulch connection to Sullivan will be going on advertisement next month. The County is experiencing an influx of retirees which they will be working to fill positions as quickly as possible to keep outgoing projects on schedule.

7) **Future Agenda Items**

- a) Training for iPeMS
- b) SRTC Call for projects for early 2022.

8) **Adjournment:** 2:23 PM

Motioned by Ken K., seconded by Frank B. Vote unanimous, carried.