

Spokane Transit Authority  
1230 West Boone Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99201-2686  
(509) 325-6000

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Draft Minutes of the December 19, 2013, Board Workshop  
Spokane Transit Boardroom  
1230 West Boone Avenue, Spokane, Washington

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chuck Hafner, City of Spokane Valley, Chair  
Amber Waldref, City of Spokane  
Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane  
Mike Allen, City of Spokane  
Al French, Spokane County  
Gary Schimmels, City of Spokane Valley  
Richard Schoen, Small Cities Representative  
(Millwood)  
Art Kulibert, Small Cities Representative  
(Medical Lake)  
Rhonda Bowers, Labor Representative

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Shelly O'Quinn, Spokane County

### **STAFF PRESENT**

E. Susan Meyer, Chief Executive Officer  
Steve Blaska, Director of Operations  
Karl Otterstrom, Director of Planning  
Lynda Warren, Director of Finance & Information Services  
Steve Doolittle, Director of Human Resources  
Beth Bousley, Director of Communications

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Sherry Little, Partner & Co-founder, Spartan Solutions, LLC  
Severn Miller, Partner & Counsel, Spartan Solutions, LLC  
Theresa Carr, Senior Project Manager, CH2M Hill  
Randy Knapick, Associate, IBI Group  
Jon Snyder, Councilmember, City of Spokane  
Kevin Wallace, Spokane Regional Transportation Council

### **PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL**

Laura McAloon, K & L Gates

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**  
Chair Waldref called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. **Central City Line Project Update**  
Mr. Otterstrom made a presentation on this subject. The powerpoint is attached for ease of reference.

#### **Questions and Comments from the Board**

Mr. French said there will need to be land use changes for the project to be a success.

Ms. Waldref said economic development is important and asked if the Central City Line will go to Spokane Community College (SCC) or just to Gonzaga University.

Mr. Knapick said it is planned to go to SCC.

Ms. Waldref asked if there are potential land use changes in the neighboring area at Mission and Greene which is industrial.

Mr. French said there are currently land use requirements to protect the integrity of a neighborhood.

Mr. Hafner asked if the City of Spokane will fund anything. Spokane Transit is regional and how does this plan affect other areas.

Mr. Otterstrom said it will be considered in the context of High Performance Transit (HPT). SCC is an important destination and a transit hub from which development will grow.

Mr. Schoen asked if it would interface with the North Spokane Corridor.

Mr. Otterstrom said staff is working with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the college. They are supportive of transit interests in that location.

Mr. Allen asked if there is a case study of a similar size city doing something like this. He added that there are already businesses along the alignment.

Mr. Otterstrom said other cities are looking at Bus Rapid Transit, trolleys and light rail. There are vacant lots on Riverside and Main, east of Howard and Stevens, and also in the University District. Ms. McLaughlin spoke about the planned pedestrian bridge in the University District and believes the projects will work well together. She asked if the universities are on board with the Central City Line project. Mr. Otterstrom said they are but they would like it to run on property other than their own. They will reduce parking when the line is in place.

3. Small Starts Process and Discussion

Ms. Little and Mr. Miller, Spartan Solutions, made a presentation on this subject. The powerpoint is attached for ease of reference.

Ms. Little said the federal New and Small Starts program is \$2 billion out of a budget of \$10 billion.

Questions and Comments from the Board

Mr. French said land use policies must be in place before the grant agreement; they cannot be vague.

Mr. Miller said the new system must be maintained and operated in addition to existing transit service.

Mr. French asked if there has to be a special transportation bill approved by the senate for the funding.

Ms. Little said the overall funding bill passed on December 18. She added that the Appropriations Program is very popular.

Ms. Bowers asked if the costs include the equation for the continued growth of existing transit service.

Mr. Miller said all of the plans going forward must be included.

Ms. Little said new projects for funding must not cannibalize the existing funding; local funding must be there and a fleet of vehicles in good repair.

Mr. Allen asked about making a grant application.

Ms. Little said it can be submitted at any time and it goes into the President's budget on February 1.

A letter may be submitted with preliminary information but a grant agreement will not be secured until zoning is agreed upon.

Ms. McLaughlin said STA is planning ahead and asked how to be competitive.

Mr. Miller said STA can be competitive if it receives a medium rating since in the current environment there are too many projects for the funding available.

Ms. Meyer said STA can be in the project development stage for two years and request an extension.

Mr. Miller said the Regional Administrator of FTA's Region 10 in Seattle, Rick Krochalis, is positive about STA's plans and public outreach process.

He added that the project must be clear in its expression of scope; either it goes to SCC or it doesn't.

Ms. Meyer said a full analysis will be brought to the Board in March, 2014.

Ms. Little suggested including estimated ridership numbers to see if it is worth the cost.

She added that the local financial commitment is very important – there needs to be a successful ballot initiative.

Ms. Meyer said considerable public outreach is ongoing.

4. ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board at this workshop, Chair Waldref adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Watson  
Executive Assistant to the CEO  
& Clerk of the Authority