

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

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 4, 2019, Meeting
Southside Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lori Kinnear, City of Spokane *
Josh Kerns, Spokane County
Mike Kennedy, City of Liberty Lake (Ex-Officio)
Rhonda Bowers, Labor Representative
E. Susan Meyer, CEO (Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kate Burke, City of Spokane
Sam Wood, City of Spokane Valley
Veronica Messing, City of Airway Heights (Ex-Officio)

* Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Roger Watkins, Chief Operations Officer
Karl Otterstrom, Director of Planning and Development
Brandon Rapez-Betty, Director of Communications and Customer Service
Nancy Williams, Director of Human Resources
Sam Guzman, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer

PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL

Laura McAloon, McAloon Law PLLC

GUESTS

(none)

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Kinnear called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made

2. **PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS**

(none)

3. **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Kinnear had no report at this time.

4. **COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

A. Minutes of the November 6, 2019, Committee Meeting

Mr. Kerns moved to recommend approval of the November 6, 2019, Committee meeting minutes. Chair Kinnear seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. **COMMITTEE ACTION**

A. Board Consent Agenda

1. Approval of 2020 Spokane Police Department (SPD) Agreement Renewal

For nearly 15 years STA and SPD have utilized an interlocal agreement to provide additional SPD presence in and around the Plaza area downtown. The agreement has been modified and changed slightly over time, and there are a few additional changes for 2020. STA's goal is to provide a safe environment while being a good neighbor in the downtown Spokane area.

The 2020 agreement strategy is to increase SPD presence in and around the Plaza. The agreement will include:

- A designated full-time SPD officer assigned to the Plaza. An SPD officer will be present at the Plaza 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. (The current agreement doesn't provide the same constant coverage. For example, when the officer is on vacation or otherwise gone from work there is no replacement.)
- Special communication protocol between STA officers and officers at the downtown precinct.
- Various SPD-lead trainings for new STA officers and refresher classes as needed.

The estimated cost of the agreement for 2020 is \$117,800. Ms. Williams requested that the Committee review and recommend the Board approve the SPD interlocal agreement as presented.

Discussion followed about the security impacts of the library opening on the 2nd floor of the Plaza.

Mr. Kerns moved to approve item 5A1, Chair Kinnear seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Board Discussion Agenda

1. Draft 2020 State Legislative Priorities

Ms. Meyer deferred the presentation of item 5B1 to Mr. Ropez-Betty. Each year the Board adopts a list of priorities that allows the CEO to guide our government relations efforts for public policy as it's addressed by the state legislature during their sessions. The 2020 year will be an interesting year for the legislative session. There will be standard issues to keep an eye on, as well as I-976 implications.

The Transportation Secretary released a letter outlining WSDOT's plan to defer projects that were not yet underway to allow maximum flexibility for leadership to make funding decisions as they move forward. Mr. Ropez-Betty went over some of the anticipated account losses from I-976, as well as a list of evaluation criteria used to identify the projects that will be deferred for at least 6 months.

STA's state funded items include:

- Central City Line – assumed to be at low risk
- Cheney Line – deferred by WSDOT
- Special Needs (Paratransit) Funding – not at risk currently
- Vanpool Investment Program – deferred by WSDOT

Mr. Ropez-Betty went on to review the mitigation strategies specific to I-976 for the projects listed above. He then requested that the Committee recommend the Board approve the 2020 legislative priorities as presented and grant authority to the CEO to determine STA's interest on specific pieces of legislation, convey those interests to legislators and others, and report to the PMER Committee and the Board during the legislative session.

Mr. Kerns moved to approve item 5A1 as presented. Chair Kinnear seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

6. REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

A. Purchase of Four 40' Battery Electric Fixed Route Replacement Coaches

Mr. Watkins began by stating that the vehicles slated for purchase will be delivered in 2021 to meet the STA commitment of Battery Electric Buses for the Monroe-Regal line.

Background:

Over the last several months the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) has conducted a study on the Monroe-Regal line, the Central City Line, and a full fleet transition plan. After reviewing the report from CTE, it was determined that both Proterra and New Flyer buses were very competitive in

terms of their performance in the modeling simulation. STA had intended to purchase the buses from the Washington State contract; however, several protests were filed in the heavy bus category, and the contract has been suspended. It must go out for rebid and is not expected to be available until after April of 2020. Both Proterra and New Flyer are available on the Virginia State contract; an FTA approved contract from which any transit agency can buy.

Action:

Rather than purchase all ten (10) buses identified in the Capital Improvement Plan at once, STA plans to implement a four (4) bus pilot, with two (2) buses from each manufacturer. This will allow STA to validate the modeling and simulation that CTE has done, as well as collect additional information through real-world performance. After internal data has been collected (estimated 12-16 months) STA will make a determination on the remaining six (6) buses to complete the Monroe-Regal purchase.

Mr. Watkins reviewed the pricing breakdown from the Virginia State contract. The estimated total for the four (4) 40' battery electric buses is \$3.7M.

7. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- October 2019 Operating Indicators – *as presented*
- October 2019 Financial Results Summary – *as presented*
- November 2019 Sales Tax Revenue Information – *as presented*
- January 2020 Service Changes – *as presented*
- 2020-2022 Service Changes – Outreach Update – *as presented*

8. FEBRUARY 5, 2020 - COMMITTEE PACKET DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW

(No changes requested)

9. NEW BUSINESS

(No new business at this time)

10. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPRESSIONS

- Mr. Kennedy asked if Small Cities members can send alternates to Committee meetings. Ms. McAloon affirmed that STA's bylaws include a provision for every jurisdiction to appoint alternates. The Small Cities, jointly, can designate their alternates.

11. ADJOURN

Chair Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

11. NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020, 1:30 P.M, STA SOUTHSIDE CONFERENCE ROOM, 1230 WEST BOONE AVENUE

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Guzman, Executive Assistant