



Board Minutes

Meeting Time: 11 Feb 13, 6:00 PM

Location:

*Knox Presbyterian Church
806 W. Knox Avenue
Spokane WA 99205*

Attendees

Board: Don Cain, Dick Raymond, KC Traver, Phyllis Holmes, Rich Bryant, Keith LaMotte, and Nick Nickoloff.

Friends: Bob Voris, Bill Goetter, Mary Lee Nickoloff, and Trudy Raymond.

Agenda Notes

1. Chair's Call to Order (D. Cain) at 6:05 pm;

- **Administrative Items**

Don provided an update on the first staying, now resigning head of the U.S. Dept of Transportation. The mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa, is rumored to be a strong contender to replace the outgoing Secretary, Ray LaHood.

- **"In the News" Items**

KC provided updates on five items in the news with URL references provided for follow-up;

1) <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2012/12/18/regional/golden-valley-considers-approval-of-bottineau-rail-route>. *This article discusses on-going plans for a fourth light rail line in the Minnesota Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.*

2) <http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/feb/11/trimet-tells-clackamas-county-its-too-late-stop-li/>. *This article discusses a potential political battle between Oregon's Clackamas County commissioners and the regional planning authority for Tri-Met in Portland over planned extensions of light rail south from Portland to the city of Milwaukie, OR.*

3) <http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/news/2013/02/11/sound-transit-wants-to-know-how-you.html>. *This article solicits public input regarding how extension of the Tacoma light rail line ought to connect with the growing regional system being built / operated by Sound Transit.*

4) <http://www.opb.org/news/article/light-rail-on-wheels-portland-ponders-bus-rapid-transit/>. *This article outlines one idea for continued expansion of Portland Oregon's regional transit system using Bus Rapid Transit to complement their light rail system. Of particular interest are the comments at the end that reflect the typical national debate between LRT and BRT.*

5) http://www.mercurynews.com/traffic/ci_22264605/25-years-later-vta-light-rail-among-nations. *This is an article indicating that not all LRT systems are as successful as the majority of them. Valley Transit Authority in Santa Clara County, CA, is not performing up to expectations. It really is an example of how bad planning combined with bad management can prevent the successes experienced by almost every other light rail line in America.*

2. Vice President's Report: (D. Raymond)

- *The website has experienced 21,089 contact hits from inception to date with 736 hits occurring since our last meeting in January 2013.*
- *Dick reported that the InlandRail.org website now makes past meeting minutes available on its website but it requires that you register your email address to gain access. The website is now hosted on a different server by the paid provider which enables better list management and other features.*
- *The preferred design concept for the Latah Creek Bridge on the Sunset Highway officially includes a wide geometry to specifically accommodate future LRT. The inclusion of multi-mode transit also serves to increase the potential funding sources for the required design and subsequent rehabilitation.*

3. Treasurer's Report: (N. Nickoloff)

- *The organization's account balance stands at **\$2,918.01** all bills paid and none pending. This represents no change from the Jan '13 account balance*

4. Secretary's Report: (K.C. Traver)

• **Minutes from previous Board Meeting**

*Action: Phyllis Holmes moved to approve the minutes from the 14 Jan '13 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick Raymond and was **approved** by unanimous vote of the members present. Dick will post the approved minutes to the InlandRail.org website.*

5. Old Business

- *The Board members who met with Scott Chesney, Director of Planning for the City of Spokane, reiterated the results of the meeting to the other members and guests as an informational update.*
 - *A previous suggestion to arrange a meeting with Mick McDowell, Chairman of the Public Facilities District Board and private developer, was revisited.*
- Action: After some discussion, it was decided that KC Traver would try to set something up for the Executive Committee during late February or early March 2013.*
- *Rich Bryant gave an informational update on his efforts to promote concurrent bicycle/pedestrian pathway with future high capacity transit on the public right-of-way along the Old Milwaukee railroad route through Spokane Valley. He committed to keeping the Board apprised of future developments in that regard.*

6. New Business

- *Nick Nickoloff initiated a discussion regarding the positions of the new WA Governor, Jay Inslee, and steered the conversation toward consideration of taking some type of action to help promote regional light rail in Eastern Washington. Phyllis Holmes informed the group that she has sent a letter to the governor reminding him of our existence and his expressed prior support of light rail for Spokane County*
- *Phyllis Holmes has drafted a proposed letter to Kevin Wallace, Executive Director for the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, emphasizing that the current discussions regarding increased freight rail traffic due to greater coal exports could be an incentive for further cooperation and funding by the railroads to complete the project referred to as "Bridging the Valley". While not essential to a regional light rail system, it would be beneficial to the overall community and a regional rail transit system by further removing surface traffic conflicts, specifically at level grade crossings..*

Action: KC Traver was asked to review the draft letter for any relative information or points of emphasis based on his prior experience with the project and concepts for regional rail transit.

7. Public Relations and Outreach (Trudy Raymond)

- *Trudy presented two upcoming events that are potential opportunities for further promotion of regional rail transit and/or a more balanced transportation system. The first is the Mayor's Ball scheduled for Friday, 15 Feb '13, and the second is a public hearing on expansion of the urban growth boundary before the county commissioners on Wednesday, 27 Feb '13.*

8. Comments by General Membership

- *Bill Goetter inquired about Walt Worthy's proposal to build a hotel in support of the expanded convention center. He encouraged others to consider actions that might further support light rail as a benefit to the project, particularly if there was a connection to the airport. Bill suggested additional persons of influence for future light rail discussions; Duane Hagadone/CdA Resort, and Sandy Bloem/CdA Mayor.*

9. Comments by Board Members

- *KC reported on the Transportation Advocacy Day planned for Tuesday, 12 Feb '13 as an opportunity to meet with legislative representatives and discuss transportation initiatives. An open invitation has been distributed by "Futurewise" who is helping promote the event.*
- *Phyllis reported that Candace Mum plans to run for Spokane City Council in the position vacated by Nancy McGlaughlin due to term limits.*

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: 11 March '13/6:00 pm in the usual location at the Knox Presbyterian Church.