

# City of Spokane



## Citizens Street Advisory Commission

Tuesday, February 15, 2005  
1:00 p.m.  
Street Department Conference Room  
901 North Nelson

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Commissioners

##### Present

Dallas Hawkins, Chair  
Donna Jilbert  
Chuck Kearney  
Max Kuney  
Stan Stirling, Vice  
Chair

#### Commissioners

##### Absent

JoAnna Butler  
John Talbott

#### City Staff Present

Roger Flint, Director, Public Works & Utilities  
Tom Arnold, Director, Engineering Services  
Scott Egger, Director, Street Department  
Ken Brown, Principal Engineer, Eng. Services  
Mike Piccolo, Assistant City Attorney  
Charlotte Thacker, Admin. Asst.

Commission Chair Dallas Hawkins opened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

## I. **Funding Options**

### a. STA Funding

The Commission discussed the potential of receiving funding from SRTC through the SRTC *Call for Projects*. Tom Arnold will provide copies of the funding request that will be submitted on February 28. Max Kearney suggested that it would be good if an annual allocation could be arranged, to mitigate the damage done to City streets by their fleet, and all agreed. Roger Flint added that it would also be good to broaden the projects eligible for funding. He will also find out more information regarding whether STA funds would be tied to capital programs or might be used for maintenance.

### b. Charter Change for Maintenance Funding

Mike Piccolo provided an overview of the process for amending the City Charter and distributed a fact sheet of specific parts of the Code that would need changing (see attached). Completing a draft would be more than a minor project, he explained.

The group discussed the benefits and disadvantages of a Charter change. John Talbott's motives in proposing the change were endorsed enthusiastically, but the

Commission members present at the meeting were in agreement that a Charter change would reduce flexibility in regard to the General Fund budget by allocating a fixed percentage to street maintenance. Max Kuney observed that the City Council's hands would be tied when confronted with periods of high prices and the subsequent need for additional funds for maintenance. Donna Jilbert noted that wherever funds were promised in one area, they would be removed from another. Stan Stirling indicated that he would prefer a special taxation or levy containing a sunset clause.

Mr. Hawkins repeated his endorsement of Mr. Talbott's focus on obtaining adequate street maintenance funds, emphasizing its importance at the POG budget planning level that transportation issues rank high in the public mind. He added that the Commission has a strong mandate with the public with respect to safety and transportation, but that he is not in favor of making it more difficult for the City Council to deal with difficult budget issues. He noted that the voter brochure for the Street Bond specifically mentioned that the Commission would have a responsibility for addressing maintenance. He noted that the group would need to get a handle on how much funding would be required to maintain the status quo for maintenance and then go from there is exploring funding strategies.

In discussing potential ways of securing and sustaining maintenance funds, Ms. Jilbert wondered whether a levy against truckers' weight the streets would be appropriate, and the several members mentioned the Oregon model, where a gps system keeps track of driving miles and charges a fee at the pump. Mr. Flint noted that current State law doesn't allow us to craft a similar program, nor a Street Utility at this time, but all agreed that the Commission would wish to pursue a variety of possible funding remedies.

c. Local Improvement Districts (LIDs)

Ken Brown provided an overview describing the reasons and processes involved in establishing LIDs, and presented a list of LIDs that would be eligible at this time for such funding (see attached PowerPoint presentation). Commission members had a number of questions and were provided a good deal of information on LIDs, which were funded at \$1 million per year by the Street Bond. They concluded they would prefer even more fleshing out of the issues involved, and at the Motion of Mr. Stirling and Second by Mr. Kuney, the proposal to invite Mr. Brown back to the next meeting and that the Commission at that time would make specific decisions on the proposed LIDs was carried.

## **II. Public Information**

Members agreed that it is important to have a press release outlining the work the Commission will be doing. It was suggested that, since the Commission is subject to open meeting rules, that advertisement of the meeting times would be advisable. Mr. Hawkins will e-mail the draft press release to all members once it is prepared by City Communications Officer Marlene Feist.

### **III. Commission Organization**

Mr. Hawkins provided a draft *Policies and Procedures (Bylaws)* and emphasized that the document should be considered a draft only that he had built from a review of the Ordinance and other city's bylaws. He asked that members read the draft and make any suggestions through e-mail during the interim between meetings. Mr. Stirling noted that a provision for minority reports would be in order, and all agreed.

### **IV. Roadway Striping and Painting**

Scott Egger distributed a fact sheet about Arterial Striping, explaining that it was mainly self-explanatory. The group agreed that he would be invited to spend about 15 minutes on the topic at the next meeting.

### **V. Next Meeting**

Meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm until the point is reached when the Commission is comfortable with going to monthly meetings, hopefully by the end of March.

Topic on the next Agenda will include LIDs, Policies, and Striping. It was agreed that some time should be allowed before meetings with the judges should take place to discuss the adjudication of the overweight truck enforcement.

### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 3:00 p.m.