

OPERATIONS
MEMORANDUM

December 9, 1998

To: Mayor John Talbott
Council Member Orville Barnes
Council Member Rob Higgins

From: Nick Dragisich, Assistant City Manager - Operations

Subject: **Public Works Committee**

The next Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for December 14, 1998 @ 1:30 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room. An agenda is attached as well as the minutes of the November 23rd meeting.

c: Bill Pupo
Molly Myers
Jim Sloane
Pete Fortin
Plan. & Eng. Svcs. Dept. Heads (10)
Bob Eugene
Gerry Shrope
Dick Cook
Dennis Beringer
Larry Neil
Dave Mandyke
Hope Findley
Stan Schwartz (memo & agenda)
Brenda Corbett (memo & agenda)
Joan Poirier (memo & agenda)
Alice Pickard (minutes)

jlf

Spokane
Public
Works
Committee

John Talbott, Mayor
Orville L. Barnes, Council Member
Rob Higgins, Council Member

*Engineering * Construction & Building Services * Water * Hydroelectric * Planning
General Services * Waste Water * Solid Waste * Traffic Engineering * Streets
Environmental Programs * Capital Programs * Real Estate*

A G E N D A

December 14, 1998
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
5th Floor Conference Room

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| I | Trent Avenue Realignment | Terry Novak, SIRTI
Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT |
| II | North/South Freeway | Jerry Lenzi, WSDOT |
| III | Stormwater Project Management Office | Gale Olrich |
| IV | Sidewalk Policies (<i>if time allows</i>) | John Bjork |

- Updates/Reports

MINUTES

November 23, 1998

ATTENDEES

Committee:

John Talbott, Mayor
Rob Higgins, Council Member
Orville Barnes, Council Member

Staff:

Nick Dragisich, Asst. City Mgr.-Operations	Dennis Hein, Dir. Solid Waste Mgmt.
Roger Flint, Dir. General Services	Laurie DeVarney, Dir. Communications
Bruce Steele, Dir. Transportation	Glenn Miles, Transportation Mgr. SRTC
Gale Olrich, Dir. Wastewater Mgmt	Lloyd Brewer, Env. Programs
Katy Allen, Dir. Capital Programs	Don Ramsey, Transportation
Brad Blegen, Dir. Water/Hydro Svcs.	Jan Freese, Operations
Gerry Shrope, Program Engineer	
Dale Arnold, Dir. Env. Programs/RSWS	

The meeting convened at 1:35 p.m.

EPA Mandated Water Quality Reporting

Brad Blegen briefed the committee on the Federal Mandates for Water Quality Reporting being enforced by EPA. By April 1999 a report is due to City wholesale customers and by October 19, 1999 a report to all customers is required. The next report to all customers will be due July 1, 2000 and every July 1st thereafter. Brad gave some examples they are looking at to use for the reporting and will keep it user friendly and condensed. Effort will be taken to reach as many water users as reasonably possible.

Contents of the report will include: source of water, treatment employed, definition of terms i.e. MCL & MCLG, reporting on contaminants found in system, any violations (none to date), specific language addressing any risks and results of monitoring specific contaminants.

Brad expressed the following concerns they have with water quality: Ray Street Well with nitrates, radon, wells located close to the river and some lead alloy piping. In regard to the lead pipes, the Water Dept. will send out a letter to owners of homes where lead containing pipe was used in connecting the home to the City's drinking water system with some steps they can take to insure lower tap water lead levels.

Trent Avenue Realignment

Gerry Shrope informed the committee on the status of the proposed Trent Avenue Realignment which is a State project.

The state is proposing to realign Trent Avenue from Division Street to east of Hamilton Street. They need to either replace the Trent Avenue Bridge west of Hamilton in the next two years or construct a by-pass. The Higher Education Facility is also interested in the realignment. Their interest is to promote Trent Avenue going around the campus instead of through it.

Gerry noted the following concerns with the realignment: Logan Neighborhood is concerned about traffic patterns increasing; there are some CO emission concerns because of congested intersections at Hamilton and Trent; and historical land use contamination has been found in the area on the south side of the river at the Brown Building Supply Site.

Gerry recommended the City obtain a good estimate of the costs for this project from WSDOT and for the State to decide on a final route for the realignment.

Discussion was held on whether the City should participate in this project or let the State build a new bridge and leave Trent Avenue as is.

The committee recommended Terry Novak of SIRTI and Jerry Lenzi of WSDOT be invited to a future Public Works meeting to talk about their vision of the new realignment. The committee would also like to hear about the status of the North/South Freeway from Jerry Lenzi.

Regional Transportation Systems Center

Glenn Miles briefed the committee on the Regional Transportation Systems Center that will be housed at the Spokane Intermodal Center. An interlocal agreement to establish a TSC operating board is being completed and the board members will include SRTC, WSDOT, Spokane County, City of Spokane, STA and operating personnel. The TSC Operating Board will begin meeting in December and funding is provided through CMAQ funds and local funds provided by local participating agencies.

Glenn listed the following purpose and need for this center:

1. Congestion on regional facilities needs to be managed during week day peak hours and special events.
2. Growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is exceeding our ability to expand the system.
3. Working together as a region saves time, money and effort in creating a seamless delivery system, even though each jurisdiction retains control of improvements, maintenance and operational authority.

Elements of the Centers Functions include operational surveillance using video cameras on major areas, providing for notification of appropriate agencies for timely response, operational use of Variable Message Signs (VMS) for driver information and operational use of Highway Advisory Radio (HAR).

Glenn explained the coordination of the systems will interconnect traffic signal control to address incidences and special events disrupting the transportation systems performance. There will be an internet web page providing images of current traffic conditions, media traffic advisories for incidences, special events or reroutes and public information on performance of our transportation system.

They hope to have the center operational by fall of 1999 and are establishing personnel needs which will probably be to hire two additional full time employees.

Mayor Talbott was concerned the City would have to contribute more money for the new employees and there were no funds to do this. Glenn assured the mayor they were not asking the City for any additional money.

Updates/Reports

Mayor Talbott indicated he had learned earlier in the day that Operations was considering providing construction inspection for the downtown parking garage. Assistant City Manager, Nick Dragisich, stated this has been discussed because the City will ultimately be the owner of this facility. He believed appropriate construction inspection would protect the City's long term interest. Mayor Talbott stated he does not want the City providing construction management of the new downtown parking garage. In his opinion, the private non-profit organization should provide this on-site. Councilmember Barnes also opposed any inspection by the City. The consensus of the Public Works Committee was to not do any inspection of this facility.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

REQUIRED BY EPA - 1996 FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

APRIL 1999 - REPORTS TO OUR WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS

OCTOBER 19, 1999 - REPORTS TO ALL CUSTOMERS

JULY 1, 2000 - NEXT REPORT TO ALL CUSTOMERS &
EVERY JULY 1ST THEREAFTER

MUST BE GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO GET INFO TO EVERY CUSTOMER

CONTENTS OF REPORT

SOURCE OF WATER

TREATMENT EMPLOYED

DEFINITION OF TERMS ie MCL & MCLG

REPORTING ON CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN SYSTEM

ANY VIOLATIONS

SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ADDRESSING ANY RISKS

RESULTS OF MONITORING SPECIFIC CONTAMINATES

Dear _____,

We are very fortunate in Spokane to have very high quality drinking water. In our continuous study of our water system to assure high quality water, we have found a situation you should be aware of to assure that you have high quality water coming out of the tap in your home. City records indicate that your home was one of 975 homes built during World War II where lead containing pipe was used in connecting the home to the City's drinking water system. Testing done by the City indicates that in most cases lead levels coming out of the tap in such homes are well below the federal action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion). The average reading from homes like yours was 5 ppb of lead. The action level was exceeded three times out of 175 tests at 65 homes, with a maximum reading of 71 ppb lead detected. For comparison, lead has not been detected in the City's source water at or above 2 ppb.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you are concerned about lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and/or run your water tap until the water is cold before using it. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791. You may also seek additional information from the City Water & Hydroelectric Department at 625-7800.

The following are additional steps you can take to insure lower tap water lead levels:

If water has been standing in the pipes for six hours or more run the water till cold.

Use only cold water for cooking, drinking and making baby formula.

Use only lead free solder when making plumbing repairs.

Check replacement faucet labeling for lead content.

I need to emphasize again that our information shows that lead levels in homes like yours in almost all cases have been well below the allowable standard. Nevertheless, we want to call the situation to your attention so that you can take the appropriate steps to minimize lead in your water.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Brad Blegen, Director