

**WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL  
REGIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Regional Growth Committee (RGC) serves as the policy advisory body to the Regional Council on long-range transportation planning and related land use and other growth issues. The RGC is responsible for the Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan and developing regional growth planning strategies in cooperation and coordination with local governments, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Utah Transit Authority (UTA), and other organizations and stakeholders.

**PRIMARY OBJECTIVES**

(1) **To provide guidance and oversight to the Long Range Transportation Plan and the process.** It was suggested by the Committee that there be a greater emphasis in the future on: coordinating with local governments on long-range planning issues, linking transportation with land use, integrating environmental principles into the long range planning process, regional growth strategies and principles, and economic and community development issues. Also, this would require providing assistance to local governments and public outreach in implementing the goals and objectives of the region's plans.

(2) **To provide guidance and oversight to the corridor preservation process.** Corridor preservation is a long-range planning issue and requires a great deal of coordination with, and cooperation by local governments. Corridors that should be preserved would be identified and corridor preservation strategies implemented. Also, the Committee is responsible for making recommendations to UDOT's Corridor Advisory Council, which in turn makes recommendations to the Transportation Commission on pre-emptive and hardship acquisitions that require the use of the Corridor Preservation Revolving Loan Fund. Also, this would require providing technical planning assistance and dissemination of information to local planners and other officials for implementing the goals and objectives of the corridor preservation program.

(3) **To facilitate the coordination of planning in the region.** This includes the planning coordination of developments that are critical to the public and of regional significance, open space and trails, affordable housing, water resources, hazard mitigation; and for the resolution of land use and other growth-related conflicts. This also includes facilitating communication between local, state and federal planning officials on various planning issues, and educational opportunities for improving technical planning skills and learning about new developments in planning.

**RGC RECOMMENDATIONS**

**WFRC Committees:** The Regional Growth Committee (RGC) suggested that the Regional Council use both Trans Com and the Regional Growth Committee in developing policy recommendations concerning planning and transportation issues. It suggested that the planning process responsibilities be divided between Trans Com and the Regional Growth Committee. Trans Com would be concerned with short-range planning issues, such as the TIP, programming of funds, and administration of the Technical Advisory Committees. The Regional Growth Committee would be concerned with the long-range planning issues, such as the Long Range Transportation Plan, corridor preservation planning, planning coordination, and other long-range planning responsibilities.

**Reconstitute the RGC:** The Committee suggested that the membership of the Regional Growth Committee be reconstituted. Currently, the Committee is comprised of mostly local and state planning officials. It was suggested that the Committee be comprised mostly of members of the Regional Council and other elected officials similar to Trans Com. In addition, there would be other members of the Regional Growth Committee that would come from chambers of commerce, Envision Utah, Quality Growth Commission, and other

organizations, some of which could be non-voting members. Planners and others would continue to participate as Sub- or Technical Committee members (i.e. Transportation/Land Use; Housing; Open Space/Trails; and Taxation/Land Use).

(**Note:** The above recommended changes and a revised Regional Transportation Planning Memorandum of Agreement between UDOT, UTA, and the WFRC, which reflects the above recommended changes, were approved by the Regional Council at its regularly scheduled May 22, 2003 meeting.)

## **CLARIFYING INFORMATION**

The Regional Growth Committee's role will be to provide overall direction and guidance to the Regional Council staff and Subcommittees in carrying out the programs and activities associated with the objectives listed above. The clarification is intended to provide more details about proposed tasks, or areas of focus for the Committee. Many of the tasks listed are currently being conducted by the WFRC to a greater or lesser degree. Some will receive greater and others less emphasis, depending on decisions that will be made in the future with regard to priorities by the RGC and the Regional Council. The tasks for each of the objectives are further clarified below:

## **REGIONAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

(1) **Long-Range Transportation Plan/Linking Land Use and Transportation:** This involves the preparation of the LRP. The RGC will insure that alternative growth strategies, quality growth principles/guidelines, the region's vision for future growth, the land use/transportation connection, and appropriate multi-modal transportation facilities are considered and incorporated into the LRP.

(2) **Integrating NEPA/Determining LRP Impacts:** This involves reinforcing and strengthening of the region's transportation planning process by integrating National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) principles into the transportation planning process. This will insure that in the early stages of the planning process that proposed transportation facilities of the LRP will be evaluated with regard to the purpose and need, transportation infrastructure balance, alternatives, environmental protection and community/neighborhood preservation, NEPA fatal flaws and other factors.

(3) **Regional Planning Strategies/Quality Growth Principles:** This involves developing regional growth principles, a vision, and growth strategies that consider transportation and land use together, along with the needed implementation strategies. Growth scenarios should be developed and evaluated so that the fiscal, social, and environmental impacts become apparent and are used in decision-making. The Long Range Plan should guide growth related decisions, and as a tool for implementing regional goals. The growth/land use component of the Plan would be implemented on a local level.

(4) **Community/Public Outreach:** This involves developing and implementing a comprehensive education/public relations/outreach program designed to help the public and local governments understand the Regional Council's transportation planning process, how they can best contribute to and benefit from this process. The education process should begin as early as possible, as this is essential for the "buy-in" needed for implementation of the region's plans.

## **CORRIDOR PRESERVATION**

(1) **Coordination:** This involves coordination with local governments, UDOT and private property owners/developers, the general sharing of information and obtaining specific information from the local governments on planning and development activities that have the potential of conflicting with corridor preservation objectives.

(2) **Corridor Preservation Advisory Council:** This involves providing input to UDOT's Corridor Preservation Advisory Council's process and making recommendations on land acquisition actions that involve the use of the Corridor Preservation Revolving Loan Fund.

(3) **Education/Information Dissemination:** This involves providing educational opportunities for local governments on the corridor preservation process, and corridor preservation planning methods, tools and strategies that are available to, and could be implemented by local governments.

(4) **Corridor Preservation Plans:** This involves the preparation of detailed plans for specific corridors that spell out in detail the corridor preservation strategies that will be implemented, the collection of property and other information, and identification of responsibilities between the local governments, UDOT and WFRC.

(5) **Resource To The County Councils of Governments:** Senate Bill 8, which passed the 2005 Utah State Legislature, designates the County Councils of Governments as the responsible party to prioritize funds for corridor preservation derived from an optional fee that may be imposed on vehicle registrations within the respective counties. The Regional Council and the Corridor Preservation Committee will act a resource to the respective County Councils of Governments in providing staff support and recommendations on possible corridor preservation opportunities.

## **PLANNING COORDINATION**

(Note: The items listed below are a combination of areas the RGC is currently involved in and areas of involvement suggested by the participants in the January Strategy Workshop and subsequent followup meetings held in February and March of 2003. These will be evaluated by the RGC to determine relevancy and priorities in near future RGC meetings.)

(1) **Regional Planning Coordination/Growth Conflict Resolution:** This involves offering opportunities for local, state, and federal planners, and others to meet on a regular basis to exchange information on planning and development activities, changes in planning law, new or innovative planning tools, and the like. Also, this involves the fostering of planning coordination between local governments, and assisting them in resolving inter-jurisdictional land use/development issues and disputes.

(2) **Open Space/Trails:** This involves planning coordination with the state and local governments on open space issues, providing information to local governments on the regions's Open Space Plan, open space areas that are recommended for preservation, and the tools available for implementing the region's open space strategies. This also involves coordination of trails planning in the region, providing of information on the regions Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to local governments, assisting local governments with trails implementation, and providing information on trails development funding

(3) **Affordable Housing:** This involves coordinating with local governments and the state on issues of affordable housing, identifying and eliminating regulatory barriers to affordable housing, working with the Legislature in an effort to streamline and clarify the existing statute on affordable housing plans, and identifying actions and programs that will make housing more affordable.

(4) **Natural Hazard Mitigation:** This involves planning coordination with local and state governments with regard to natural hazards and their mitigation, providing information to local governments on the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan, and facilitating a continuing dialogue on natural hazard issues.

(5) **Water Resources:** This involves coordinating with federal, state, local governments, and water agencies on the region's future growth, water infrastructure plans, resources required to meet future demand, water conservation, water shed and aquifer protection, and other water resources-related issues.

(6) **Developments of Critical Importance/Regional Significance:** This involves coordination with state,

federal, local governments, major private utility companies, water districts, and others, on facilities of critical importance to the public and developments of regional significance. This coordination should lead to the collection of information about future plans for regional infrastructure expansion, siting requirements, and implementation schedule. Early coordination and information dissemination about future plans and siting requirements, as well as site and/or corridor preservation should be facilitated.

(7) **Community/Economic Development:** This involves the administration of the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) for the region's small cities, coordination with the region's economic development organizations, and recommending provisions in the LRP that are conducive to the development of the regional economy.

(8) **Collaboration:** This involves coordinating, cooperating, collaborating and partnering with other organizations, such as Envision Utah, Quality Growth Commission, and other organizations with similar missions, goals and objectives as the Regional Growth Committee and Regional Council. This would provide synergy, efficiency and economy, and improve the potential of achieving each of the collaborating organization's goals and objectives.

(9) **Technical Assistance:** This program includes providing technical planning assistance to local governments, when needed, in order to help them understand the details of the regional plans and the implementation tools available.

F:\SHARED\JORY\Regional Growth Committee\RGC – Mission Statement.doc