

Joint Policy Advisory Committee

MOUNTAINLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIXIE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL
UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
CACHE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Joint Policy Advisory Committee

Studio B at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center
1355 West 3100 South
West Valley City, Utah

Thursday, December 4, 2008
1:30 Noon

MINUTES

Members Attending:

Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC)
Mayor Burtis Bills	Trustee, Utah Transit Authority Board
Darrell Cook	Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG)
Mayor J. Lynn Crane	Herriman (WFRC)
Mayor Jay Franson	Highland (MAG)
Commissioner Meghan Holbrook	Utah Transportation Commission
John English	Utah Transit Authority
Mayor John Petroff, Jr.	West Point City (WFRC)
Mayor Darrell Smith	Draper (WFRC)
Mayor Russ Wall	Taylorsville (WFRC)
Mayor Jerry C. Washburn	Orem (MAG)
Commissioner Jan Zogmaister	Weber County (WFRC)

Other Officials Attending:

Mayor Claudia Anderson	Bluffdale City
Mayor Tom Dolan	Sandy City
Representative Jim Dunnigan	State House
Representative Wayne Harper	State House
Councilman Michael Jensen	Salt Lake County
Councilman Eric Jergensen	Salt Lake City Council
Representative Todd Kiser	State House
Mayor JoAnn Seghini	Midvale City
Senator Michael Waddoups	State Senate

Others Attending:

George Benford	Ogden City
Carlos Braceras	UDOT

Mick Crandall	UTA
Jamie Davidson	Lehi City - MAG
Chad Eccles	Mountainland AOG
David Graves	Provo City
Sharon Gray	WFRC staff
Jodi Hart	WFRC
Doug Hattery	WFRC staff
John Hiskey	Sandy City
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Andrew Jackson	MAG
Rob Jolley	WFRC
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council staff
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake City Mayor's Office
Dan Nelson	Consultant
John Patterson	Ogden City
Craig Peterson	MAG
Ryan Peterson	MAG
Shaun Seager	MAG
Barbara Thomas	Salt Lake COG

Members Not In Attendance:

Councilwoman Suzanne Allen	Dixie MPO
Mayor Lewis K. Billings	Provo City (MAG)
Councilman Carlton Christensen	Salt Lake City (WFRC)
Orrin T. Colby, Jr.	Trustee, Utah Transit Authority Board
Mayor Dennis A. Dunn - excused	Elk Ridge City
Commissioner Larry Ellertson	Utah County (MAG)
Lowell Elmer	Dixie MPO
Jeff Gilbert	Cache MPO
Mayor Matthew Godfrey - excused	Ogden City (WFRC)
Mayor Mike Johnson	Millville City (Cache MPO)
Commissioner Bret Millburn	Davis County (WFRC)
Commissioner Kent Millington	Utah Transportation Commission
John Njord	Utah Department of Transportation
Mayor Dennis Nordfelt	West Valley City (WFRC)

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. with Mr. Chuck Chappell conducting.

Mayor Dennis A. Dunn and Mayor Matthew Godfrey were excused from the meeting.

Minutes

Commissioner Meghan Holbrook moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Wall and passed unanimously.

Federal Surface Transportation Multiyear Authorization & Federal Stimulus Funds for Transportation

Mr. Chappell turned the meeting over to Mr. Cook who introduced Mr. John Hassell and Mr. Bill Simmons, who are contacts from Washington D.C. He stated that they would share their perspective on the Federal Surface Transportation Multiyear Authorization & Federal Stimulus Funds for Transportation relating to our local, state and national projects.

Mr. Cook encouraged those attending to be open and ask any questions they had, and stated that everything was “fair game”.

Mr. Hassell distributed copies of a PowerPoint Presentation titled ***Planning for Success in 2009***. [An outline of the slide presentation follows the discussion notes.] He stated that Congressional proposals for the Federal Surface Transportation Multiyear Authorization & Federal Stimulus Funds for Transportation are changing so rapidly, that the handout was already out-of-date.

Mr. Hassell and Mr. Simmons discussed Election Overview, the 2009 Federal Transportation agenda, and Strategy/Tactics:

The following are points discussed by JPAC members during the presentation:

- Discussed possible funds for transit – discussion on new starts.
- Discussed funding for health care and state reimbursement of unemployment.
- Discussed transit – more likely to have more growth in transit projects.
- Officials caution – don’t be grabbing at more money than you can use. It will create problems for the next several years. Important to know what you want to do and be ready to go to use the funds.
- Energy package and energy independence bill will be overlaid with energy debate and infrastructure.
- Mayors and Commissioners can get funding for local projects. The numbers will be tracked as the legislation goes along and the state and local pieces will be combined.
- Can we afford a new transportation bill or reauthorization, as trust fund is empty. Gas tax increases may be necessary along with more innovative approaches.
- Discussion on infrastructure bank which would provide funding for loans for projects and be recycled over time. Discussion on how to free up bond market – infrastructure bank concept – got reinvigorated. Bank of last resort for states. Discussion about getting markets working for states, because credit market isn’t there.
- Discussion on carbon tax relative to transportation projects.
- President-elect Obama will do everything they can or need to do to get the economy going again.
- Federal officials noted that the stimulus checks didn’t work – misestimated how deep the problem was. Need to error on the side of too large, not too small. Will need \$79 or \$80 billion over the next year or two.
- Discussion on Utah federal lands – more money to the state.

- Seeing a clear shift to increasing federal assistance for federal lands.
- New authorization bill due 9/30/09. Congressman Oberstar would like to see the Bill out of committee by March and on the floor by June. The Senate is on a similar track. Passage by the House and Senate by September, 2009.
- Congressman Oberstar is very skilled, with 35 years of experience with Congress, starting out as a “staffer”. He has the knowledge from decades on the committee, he knows the topic, has great respect, and has all the good arguments on his side.
- Stimulus funding is not available for land acquisition, environmental or engineering work. Funding is to hire people, run bulldozers and put up steel. No multi-year projects.

Outline of the handout titled *Planning for Success in 2009*:

Election Overview:

1. Election Overview
 - a. President-Elect Barack Obama
 - i. Electoral College – 365 to 173
 - ii. Popular vote – 52.8% to 45.9%
 - b. Senate
 - i. 58 Democrats (was 51)
 - ii. 40 Republicans (was 49)
 - iii. 2 undecided
 - c. House of Representatives
 - i. 256 Democrats (was 236)
 - ii. 175 Republicans (was 199)
 - iii. 4 undecided
2. Utah’s 111th Congress Delegation
 - a. Senate
 - i. Robert F. Bennett (R): Approps; Banking; Rules
 - ii. Orrin G. Hatch (R): Finance; Taxation
 - b. House of Representatives
 - i. 1st District – Rob Bishop (R)
 - ii. 2nd District – Jim Matheson (D)
 - iii. 3rd District – Jason Chaffetz (R)
3. Key Congressional Leadership Positions
 - a. Senate Majority / Senate Minority
 - b. House Majority / House Minority
4. Relevant Senate Committees (111th Congress)
 - a. Senate Appropriations
 - b. Senate Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
 - c. Senate Environment and Public Works
5. Relevant House Committees (111th Congress)
 - a. House Appropriations
 - i. David Obey (WI) – Chairman
 - ii. Jerry Lewis (CA) – Ranking Member
 1. Transportation, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee

- a. John Olver (MA) – Chairman
 - b. Frank Wolf (VA) – Ranking Member
 - b. House Transportation and Infrastructure
 - i. James Oberstar (MN) – Chairman
 - ii. John Mica (FL) – Ranking Member
 - 1. Highways and Transit Subcommittee
 - a. Peter DeFazio (OR) – Chairman
 - b. John Duncan (RN) – Ranking Member
6. Potential Secretary of Transportation
- a. Jane Garvey
 - b. James Oberstar
 - c. Earl Blumenauer
 - d. Mort Downey
 - e. Steve Hemminger
 - f. Peter DeFazio
 - g. Janette Sadik-Kahn

2009 Federal Transportation Agenda:

- 7. 2009 Federal Transportation Issues
 - a. FY 2009 Appropriations
 - b. Economic Stimulus
 - c. FY 2010 Budget
 - d. FY 2010 Appropriations
 - e. Highway / Transit Reauthorization
- 8. FY 2009 Appropriations
 - a. Federal Government funded through March 6, 2009 under a Continuing Resolution
 - b. Funding for Utah transportation included in the FY 2009 Appropriations bills
 - i. Senate - \$100.1 million (pending floor action)
 - ii. House – yet to identify project specific funding
 - c. Congress expected to pass a final FY 2009 transportation appropriations bill in February
- 9. Economic Stimulus
 - a. Several proposals under consideration by Congress, the President and the President-Elect
 - b. All proposals have discussed substantial transportation funding
 - c. Current options include:
 - i. \$61 billion House passed measure (H.F. 7110)
 - ii. Increasing the House bill to \$100 billion
 - iii. Combining and expanding a stimulus package with President-Elect Obama's priorities (could also include tax cuts)
- 10. Economic Stimulus Options (Transportation)
 - a. H.R. 7110 - \$61 billion House passed bill (funds available to September 30, 2009)
 - b. S. 3689
 - c. Comprehensive Stimulus Package

11. FY 2010 Budget/Appropriations
 - a. FY 2010 budget expected to be submitted in early February which is required by law
 - b. President-Elect Obama is expected to submit his revised budget to Congress in the March timetable
 - c. Need to determine MAG's FY 2010 appropriations requests by February
 - d. Congressional hearings will take place in spring/summer
12. Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization
 - a. Current bill expires on September 30, 2009
 - b. Congressional hearings underway
 - c. Opportunity to fund Utah transportation priorities
 - d. Reauthorization expected to be an early priority for 111th Congress

Strategy/Tactics:

13. Pursue Annual Appropriations Funding
 - a. FY 2009
 - i. Increase Senate mark through the House bill
 - ii. Optimize FY 2009 appropriations request
 - b. FY 2010
 - i. Develop request by February 2009
 - ii. Submit request to delegation in March 2009
14. Develop Reauthorization Request
 - a. Coordinate with UDOT/UTA and Regional Partners
 - b. Prepare information on priorities
 - c. Present priorities to Utah Congressional Delegation
 - i. Overview briefing for delegation staff
 - ii. One-on-one meetings with Members

Other Business

Next Meeting: February 5, 2009

Possible future topics:

- General Freight – Railroad Corridor
- Frontlines 2015 (70 miles/7 years) update
- Legislative Transportation Interim Committee
- Transit Performance (short/long term)
- Funding the Big Projects
- Energy
- Transportation Demand Models

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.