

Meeting Summary
Air Quality Committee
Meeting of March 15, 2012

A meeting of the Air Quality Committee was held on Thursday, March 15, 2012 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Ralph Becker, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Mayor Becker welcomed committee members and guests and introductions were made.

AQC Members and Alternates Present:

Ralph Becker	Mayor, Salt Lake City
Kip Billings	WFRC
Bryce Bird	Department of Air Quality
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
Richard Harris	Mayor, North Ogden City
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Cory Pope	UDOT
Matt Sibul	UTA
Darrell Smith	Mayor, Draper City
Kathy VanDame	Utah Air Quality Board

AQC Representatives and Others Present:

Vicki Bennett	Salt Lake City Mayor's Office
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Cris Cowley	UPHE
Gabe Epperson	Envision Utah
Ingrid Griffiee	Utah Moms for Clean Air
Susan Hardy	MAG
Karen Hevel-Mingo	Breathe Utah
Linda Johnson	League of Women Voters – Salt Lake
G. J. LaBonty	UTA
Dan Locke	UTA
Kate Lohnes	SL Chamber of Commerce
Deborah Sigman	Breathe Utah
Wayne Bennion	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Doug Hattery	WFRC
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC
Sam Klemm	WFRC

Members excused: Mayor JoAnn Seghini and Andrew Gruber

Approval of Meeting Summary

Commissioner John Petroff moved that the meeting summary for the January 19, 2012 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Carlton Christensen** and the meeting summary was unanimously approved.

Information: Utah Division of Air Quality Report

Bryce Bird, Director of the State Division of Air Quality, reported that the 2011-2012 winter conditions as well as emission reductions resulting from improvements in transportation infrastructure, less driving due to gas prices, and people making better decisions about their travel combined to give Utah a year that may be unprecedented in having good air quality days.

Mr. Bird reported that DAQ has posted on their website an interactive emissions inventory tool for the 2008 emissions used in the PM_{2.5} State Implementation Plan (SIP) analysis. He also provided the following timeline for completing the SIP:

- March 29, 2012 – general stakeholder workshop
- May 2012 – final round of workshops
- June 2012 – identify control strategies
- September 2012 – Air Quality Board approval of the SIP for public comment
- December 2012 – Air Quality Board approval to submit the SIP to the EPA

Mr. Bird encouraged the Air Quality Committee to continue to work proactively and collaboratively with other organizations and agencies, in determining strategies that could help to reduce emissions as we move forward.

Information: Proactive Transportation Related Air Quality Strategies – Progress Report

Mayor Becker said that for more than a year the WFRC Air Quality Committee has taken a proactive approach to address air quality issues rather than just responding to the regulatory programs that come down through the Clean Air Act. The Committee, after a lengthy process, came up with a series of specific strategies on which to concentrate. Kip Billings made a progress report on the following Proactive Transportation Related Air Quality Strategies:

- **Signal Coordination** – The original project was to increase signal timing improvements to 150 additional locations. UDOT has endorsed to a larger vision for a “World Class Traffic Signal System”. A main focus of this effort will be on maintenance of the existing signal system. UDOT will be moving from a reactive to a proactive approach in both signal maintenance and signal timing and coordination. Two new employees have been hired and funding increase requested for the signal maintenance and consultant budgets. Target Implementation is July 1, 2012.
- **Travelwise** – Increase public education on air quality and transportation issues. UDOT is reporting that they have established a partnership with 20 businesses including the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce with another 10 in progress. They will continue to build these relationships and lines of communication where they can educate people about the programs offered through Travelwise. Some of these programs include ride sharing, telecommuting, reduced idling, etc. CMAQ funds from WFRC are programmed to sustain the Travelwise program. UDOT will explore ways for Travelwise to coordinate with UTA Rideshare efforts.

- Mid-Jordan TRAX Access – Provide bike and pedestrian access to the 2700 West Station. West Jordan City initiated the construction on a project to improve pedestrian and bicycle access for the 2700 West Station in January 2012. The work is expected to be completed by May 2012. The improvements will make access for pedestrians and bicycles safer than it has been previously. UTA will monitor the impacts of these improvements and when and if they could be applied to other communities.
- Add 40 Vanpools – Vanpools have been highly successful. However, current demand for vanpools has been affected by the federal transit benefit subsidy allowed for employee transportation costs, which was reduced in January 2012. About 10 existing vans in the fleet have been returned as people have dropped the program because of the reduced benefit. Also Deseret Chemical is closing which involves 27 vanpools, although some operations may move to Tooele Army Depot. UTA Rideshare does not see a demand for 40 additional vanpools at this time.
- Fuel Tax – The AQC Working Group will re-evaluate this strategy including consideration of the recent variability in gasoline prices. (This strategy will remain on the list as future transportation funding is considered).
- Double Speeding Fines on Air Quality Alert Days – A meeting was held in February with WFRC, UDOT, and the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) regarding this strategy. A number of logistical concerns were raised about implementation and enforcement of this policy. After discussion and closer examination, the potential air quality improvements from this strategy appear limited. It was recommended that this strategy be abandoned for now.
- Sandy Transit Oriented Development (TOD) – Original strategy is to develop retail, office, and residential units with integrated transit plaza for buses, TRAX, park and ride, and trail connections to serve as a model for transit oriented development. UTA has applied for and received some funding in 2013 and 2014 from STP funds for this project. Sandy TOD is one of six catalytic sites identified in the Wasatch Choice for 2040 project. UTA and Sandy are working with Envision Utah and a developer on plans for this site.

Mayor Becker said that the Committee is making some real progress in some of the strategies discussed. He suggested that the Committee review what strategies have been identified, look at some of the other strategies discussed during the initial first phase of planning and perhaps add to the list of Proactive Strategies.

Mr. Billings suggested that the Air Quality Working Group meet and strategize about which of the projects are working and make recommendations to the Committee of other strategies that may be considered for implementation.

Other Business

There was no other business

The next meeting of the Air Quality Committee will be held on **Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.