

**MINUTES
REGIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE
Meeting of May 18, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, May 18, 2006, in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Mayor Peter Corroon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Mayor Corroon welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:

Elden Bingham	UDOT
Lewis Billings	Mayor, Provo City/MAG
Steve Call	Federal Highway Administration
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
Mick Crandall	UTA Planning
Joseph Gertge	Mayor, City of South Weber
Jim Horrocks	Utah Air Quality Board
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
Joseph Moore	West Valley City/SL County COG
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, City of Murray
Jan C. Wells	Commissioner, Utah Transportation Commission

Non-Members Present:

D. J. Baxter	Salt Lake City Mayor's Office
Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Brian Carver	GOPB
Margaret Grochocki	For Mayor Anderson, City of Bluffdale
Jeff Daugherty	Salt Lake County Planning
Somner Swaner	Center for Green Space Design
Russell Weeks	Salt Lake City Council
Wayne Bennion	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ned Hacker	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val John Halford	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Jory Johner	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Christine Lamentia	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoué	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Greg Scott	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Members/Representatives excused: Claudia Anderson, Brad Barber, Keith Bartholomew, Camille Cain, Craig Dearden, Russell Fox, Robert Gray, Mike Hansen, Richard Hendrix, Joe Johnson, Dannie McConkie, Carol Page, Kim Schvaneveldt, JoAnn B. Seghini, Wilf Sommerkorn, Rick Sprott, and Dennis Webb

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Joseph Gertge** moved that the minutes of the March 16, 2006, Regional Growth Committee meeting be approved as written. **Commissioner Jan Wells** seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no comments
3. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- a. **Discussion – Needs assessment**

Wayne Bennion, WFRC, explained that an essential step in preparing the Regional Transportation Plan update is the assessment of the new capacity transportation infrastructure needed for the future. He distributed copies of a document titled: **“Summary/Status of Needs Assessment for the Regional Transportation Plan.”** This document, prepared by WFRC staff, describes the approach being taken to identify future system, corridor and other project needs. It also provides an indication of anticipated transportation infrastructures needs in the region for the next 24 years. Mr. Bennion reviewed segments of the document which address: Overall Needs, Highway, Transit, Safety, Security, Freight, Pavement Management, System Management/Demand Management, Pedestrians/Bicycles, and Public Involvement. He said that more details on needs assessment would probably be sent to members in June. He urged members to share their thoughts on the most critical transportation needs from a local and regional perspective. Mr. Bennion can be contacted at 363-4250 ext. 112 or wbennion@wfr.org.

In response to a question from **Joseph Moore**, Mr. Bennion said that he would make a note to investigate the possibility of identifying on the “Geological Faults” graph the interchanges that might fail as a result of seismic activity. **Roger Borgenicht** commented that all indications show that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) will continue to grow. He asked if there was an attempt in this needs assessment to apply mechanisms to reduce VMT growth. Mr. Bennion replied that the WFRC staff will be reviewing system management/demand management for ideas that might prove feasible in reducing VMT growth. He noted that additional investment in all modes of transit would have a major impact on VMT growth.

(**Note:** A copy of the document distributed by Mr. Bennion can be obtained by calling Christine Lamentia at 363-4250.)

- b. **Discussion – Proposed modification to the system/project evaluation process**

George Ramjoué, WFRC, distributed two documents titled: **“General Measures for System, Project, and Phase Selection”** and **“Ideas on an “Alternative Evaluation Approach.”** He explained that the WFRC was considering an improved approach to the ranking of systems and projects for the Regional Transportation Plan. The components would be the same, but further subdivided. Under the new system, a project would receive several individual “scores,” instead of one overall score. This enhanced scoring would illustrate to the Regional Council and the Regional Growth Committee the differences and possible trade-offs between the ranking systems.

Mayor Billings agreed with the idea of trying to objectively quantify and identify what needs to be done, but he expressed concern about the effect politics could have, considering the possibility of using more than one through which different results could be expected. Mr. Ramjoué replied that: (1) the WFRC was working closely with MAG on this evaluation system; (2) there will be a scoring mechanism; and, (3) politics will always be a contributing factor, although this system will minimize the effect.

Jim Horrocks suggested testing the approach by applying it to projects from last year to see what the outcomes would have been with the new approach. Mr. Ramjoué agreed and said the WFRC wants to apply the system to the projects from the last Long Range Transportation Plan to see if the priorities would be any different than they were.

In response to a question from **Joseph Moore**, Mr. Ramjoué replied that the Technical Advisory Committee was consulted, provided input, and gave the go ahead to apply and test the new approach. Mr. Moore then suggested adding another principle to the approach – “Contact Sensitive Solutions” (CSS). He explained that the CSS principle provides a means of considering what is most important to a particular community about a roadway that passes through it. Whereas the usual objective of building a roadway is increased capacity, perhaps an individual community also needs wider sidewalks, different landscaping, power lines buried, etc. The CSS concept forces the state to partner with the community in a different way. He said he would like to see the relationship between UTA and UDOT strengthened further so that all modes of transportation are viewed with equality. Mr. Ramjoué said he would certainly take note of the interest in the CSS concept. He added that UDOT has a separate ranking system, and all projects will go through that system, as well. **Ahmad Jaber** commented that there is no conflict between UDOT’s system and the proposed WFRC system.

Chuck Chappell reiterated that the WFRC is not going back to “square one.” The major difference in this approach is that, initially, the evaluation factor was to emanate from one score. Now the original criteria list is reorganized, and each project would be evaluated on five or six scores. The Council would make the decision on how to consider the different scores in ranking projects.

Mr. Ramjoué said the next step is to test some approaches and make some refinements. He will report back to the members on the progress.

c. Amendment to the 2004-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Val John Halford, WFRC, discussed the Utah Department of Transportation’s request that the project in the **Regional Transportation Plan** (RTP) consisting of the widening of I-15 from 12th Street to 2700 North in Weber County (adding a general purpose lane to I-15 in each direction and making improvements at the 2700 North interchange) be moved into Phase 1 of the RTP. The legislature fully funded the project in its session held this year. The proposed amendment, which has been found to conform to state air quality plans, was made available to the public for a 30-day review. No comments were received.

ACTION: **Joseph Moore** moved to recommend adoption of a resolution by the Regional Council approving the proposed amendment to the RTP. **Mayor Snarr** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. GROWTH PRINCIPLES/VISION ACTIVITY

a. Information – West Valley City’s “Checklist”

George Ramjoué told the members that since the adoption of the **Regional Growth Principles** by the Wasatch Front Regional Council in October 2005, several local governments have taken, or will be taking formal action to associate the growth principles in some fashion with their planning

processes. For example, West Valley City adopted the growth principles and developed a checklist for use in evaluating applications for development that are submitted to the city. (A copy of this checklist was distributed to all members with the meeting agenda. Mr. Ramjoué said that the WFRC plans to mail the checklist to all municipalities as a good example of what is being done with regard to the growth principles.)

Joseph Moore clarified that the growth principles were adopted by West Valley City by resolution, not by ordinance and, therefore, are not codified. He said city officials continue to modify the development checklist. It is currently attached to all recommendations to the Planning Commission and, subsequently, to the City Council. He said they are discussing the possibility of including the checklist in the packet of information the developer is expected to complete. He added that the growth principles are now a part of the analysis of development applications. He provided an example of how the growth principles were used in the analyzing of a motel and new residential community proposed near the E Center.

b. Information – Salt Lake County’s Resolution

Mayor Corroon informed the members that Salt Lake County has a resolution on their agenda for their May 23 Council meeting for the adoption of the growth principles as a policy for transportation and land use. He added that a WFRC presence at the meeting would be helpful. (A copy of the proposed resolution was sent to all members with the RGC meeting agenda.)

5. Discussion – Approval of Public Participation Plan

Sam Klemm, WFRC, told the members that the recently adopted Federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, requires metropolitan planning organizations (MPO’s) to review their public involvement procedures and to circulate them to area stakeholders and interested members of the public for review and comment. Since the WFRC’s last revision was adopted in 1997, Mr. Klemm said he was in the process of sending letters to 40-50 stakeholders asking for comments on the 2006 draft revision. (A copy of the draft revision was distributed with the meeting agenda to all RGC members.) A revised draft will be brought to the RGC with a request for a recommendation to the Regional Council. In response to **Mayor Corroon’s** question, Mr. Klemm said major changes in the draft involved more discussion of the WFRC website, more media involvement, the expansion of the mailing list, and more newsletter involvement. These modifications would open up all of the WFRC’s planning processes and products to greater public scrutiny.

6. Discussion – Adding members to the Regional Growth Committee

George Ramjoué, WFRC, commented that the WFRC staff and that of the State Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security feel that there is a need for better communications between emergency preparedness organizations and local governmental entities. To achieve this, the WFRC was asked to add two new non-voting members to the Regional Growth Committee. One would be from the State Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security; the other would be from the Utah Local Government Association of Emergency Services/Security. These appointments are consistent with the SAFETEA-LU requirements to address security in the MPO planning process. In return, WFRC staff would be invited to participate in the state’s Emergency Plan update process. At its April 27 meeting, the Regional Council unanimously adopted a motion to add the two non-voting members.

Mayor Corroon and **Mayor Gertge** agreed that additional interaction was a “good idea.” No concerns were voiced by RGC members.

7. Discussion – Update on Local Corridor Preservation Fund implementation

George Ramjoué gave a brief update on Local Corridor Preservation Fund implementation. He reminded RGC members that the additional vehicle registration fees, authorized by the Senate legislature for corridor preservation, are to be used only in the county in which they are generated. As of this date, Salt Lake County is the only county within the WFRC to establish the fund. The Salt Lake County Council of Governments will prioritize the use of these additional funds for the purposes of corridor preservation, provided that the corridor to be preserved is first identified in the Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the area MPO. **Mayor Corroon** noted that the Council of Governments recently stressed the need to first identify several corridors of importance and then proceed to purchase the land – rather than buying land parcels without a constructive plan.

Mr. Ramjoué informed the members that the WFRC staff is working with the Salt Lake County Council of Governments and the Salt Lake County Council on a proposed process for administering the Local Corridor Preservation Fund program. A draft application, preservation project prioritization criteria, and administrative process (including a staff plan) were prepared by the WFRC staff and presented to the Salt Lake COG's Public Works Committee on May 16. The Public Works Committee approved the documents "in principle" subject to change, and for use in administering the program. Recommendations were to be presented to the full membership of the COG and County Council for consideration and action. The fund implementation process is anticipated to be in place by July 1, 2006, which is the date funds will start being collected by the State Tax Commission.

- 8. OTHER BUSINESS: Jim Horrocks** inquired about the status of the Regional Transportation Plan, scheduled for approval in April 2007. **George Ramjoué** replied that the WFRC staff is currently on schedule. **System Needs Identification** will be completed in June. **Systems Alternatives Development** will begin in July. By November 2006, final projects should be identified and the financial plan should be in place.
- 9. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, June 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council.**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.