

**MINUTES  
REGIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE  
Meeting of June 15, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, June 15, 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 9:30 a.m. Mayor Corroon welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

**Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:**

Claudia Anderson	Mayor, City of Bluffdale
Brad Barber	Quality Growth Commission
Lewis Billings	Mayor, Provo City/MAG
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Steve Call	Federal Highway Administration
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
Russell Fox	Kennecott Land Company
Jim Gentry	Weber County COG Staff
Mike Hansen	GOPB
Jim Horrocks	Utah Air Quality Board
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, City of Bountiful
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
Kent Money	Mayor, City of South Jordan
Joseph Moore	West Valley City/SL County COG
Carol Page	Commissioner, Davis County
Kim Schaneveldt	UDOT
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, City of Murray
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County Planning
Jan C. Wells	Commissioner, Utah Transportation Commission

**Non-Members Present:**

Kevin Daniels	GOPB
Kelly Lund	Federal Highway Administration
Jeff Daugherty	Salt Lake County Planning
Tom Roach	Salt Lake County Planning
David D. White	Salt Lake County Planning
Brian Tucker	City of Midvale
Andrew Weeks	Standard-Examiner
Michael T. Packard	
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
LaNiece Dustman	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ned Hacker	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val John Halford	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Doug Hattery	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:** Byron Anderson, Camille Cain, Mick Crandall, Joseph E. Gertge, Robert Gray, Edward Lunt, Robin Riggs, Robert Spendlove.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: UDOT Commissioner JanWells** moved that the minutes of the May 18, 2006, Regional Growth Committee meeting be approved as written. **Mayor Daniel Snarr** seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no comments.
3. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

a. **Amendment to the 2004-2030 Regional Transportation Plan**

**Doug Hattery**, WFRC, discussed the Utah Department of Transportation's (UDOT) request that one project be added to the **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**, under Phase I. The project involves the widening of SR-201 from SR-202 to I-80 in Salt Lake County (adding a general purpose lane in each direction to SR-201 and making safety improvements). UDOT has identified this project as a means of eliminating a "bottleneck" and to improve safety. The 2006 Special Session of the Legislature appropriated one-time funding of \$80 million for these "choke point" projects. \$10 million of these funds will be used to complete this project. Mr. Hattery added that the Technical Advisory Committee has recommended approval of this amendment.

The WFRC staff plans to complete a regional emissions analysis in June to determine if the proposed amendment will conform to state air quality plans. The proposed amendment will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period in July. The Regional Council could then approve the amendment at its August 24th meeting.

**ACTION: Commissioner Carol Page** moved to recommend that the Regional Council make the proposed amendment available for public review. **Russell Fox** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. **Approval of public involvement procedures/policies**

**Sam Klemm**, WFRC, briefed members on draft revisions in the public involvement policy plan as discussed at the May 18th Regional Growth Committee meeting. Revision of the plan is a requirement of the recently adopted transportation re-authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU. He said the draft was circulated to 83 transportation policy stakeholders, and comments were incorporated into the draft plan. Mr. Klemm said that one of the comments was that public involvement procedures should include other government agencies, in addition to the public and special interest groups. Mr. Klemm said he would, at the least, wish to add community council chairpersons to WFRC mailings. The next step in the revision process is to submit the revised draft for a formal 45-day public comment period in July and August, as required by federal regulations. (A copy of the revised draft was included in the meeting packet.)

**ACTION: Mayor Joe Johnson** moved that the June 2006 revised draft of WFRC's "Public Comment and Review Procedures" be submitted to the Regional Council with a recommendation that the draft be approved for presentation to the public for the 45-day comment period. **Mike Hansen** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**c. RTP Financial Plan Update**

**Doug Hattery** reported that the RTP Finance Committee has been meeting with representatives of UDOT, UTA, MAG and the WFRC to discuss the financial assumptions to be used in the next update to the Regional Transportation Plan. The current RTP makes assumptions about the amount of funding that will be available through the year 2030 for both highway and transit projects. On the highway side, the plan assumes that the state fuel tax will increase by five cents a gallon every six years beginning in 2006 and that \$100,000,000 in state general funds will be appropriated for highway projects each year, beginning in 2008. While the gas tax has not been increased, the Legislature did increase the amount of sales tax revenue devoted to highways in 2005 and 2006. The amount of revenue generated, or projected to be generated, by the sales tax in these years is consistent with the amount of funding that was assumed in the current plan to be generated from the fuel tax for the same time period.

Mr. Hattery then reviewed UDOT's "barrel" chart (included in the meeting packet) titled: "Transportation Funding – FY 2007." The chart shows funding levels approved by the Legislature for UDOT for FY 2007. For transit, the plan assumes the sales tax in the region will be increased by ½ percent by referendum in the fall of 2006. The revenue generated will pay for expanded service and new rail lines. At this time, Salt Lake County is considering placing consideration of a general obligation bond, supported by a property tax, on the ballot this fall. This would allow UTA to complete four new light rail extensions in the next ten years, but not to complete the whole plan for the County. It would not fund planned projects in Davis and Weber Counties.

Mr. Hattery explained that in updating the plan, the WFRC and MAG staffs have agreed to use optimistic assumptions about funding in developing system alternatives for evaluation this summer. More refined assumptions will be used in selecting projects and determining phasing later this year. He said that the Finance Committee is suggesting that a funding level that would allow the projects on the current plan to be built be used in developing system alternatives. Waiting to refine the final assumptions will allow the WFRC and MAG to consider any funding proposals being discussed at the Legislature and the results of any transit referendum this fall.

Commissioner Jan Wells commented that, the Utah Transportation Commission has, over the past four years, programmed the projects included in UDOT's "Ongoing General Fund" on the transportation funding chart. These projects have been released for public comment, and the list should be on UDOT's website soon ([www.utah.udot.gov](http://www.utah.udot.gov)). Mr. Hattery said these projects will also be included in the Transportation Improvement Program on the WFRC's website by the end of June ([www.wfrc.org](http://www.wfrc.org)).

Mayor Corroon asked members which of the potential funding sources for TRAX they would prefer – an increase in sales tax or in property tax. He said that Salt Lake County would prefer the sales tax increase. Mayor Joe Johnson said that Davis County has been talking about the sales tax. Although he thinks it has merit, he recommends caution. He said there are other municipal needs that require funding, and he is not sure all the remaining room for a sales tax increase should go to transit. In response to a question, Mayor Corroon clarified that what was being considered was an increase up to 1% of sales tax revenues for transit. Mayor Kent Money stated he would prefer the sales tax increase over a property tax increase. Mayor Claudia Anderson suggested looking at tax exemptions. She said other states have repealed sales tax exemptions for schools and government entities. She feels the citizens would appreciate governments shouldering some of the tax burden. Mayor Corroon said he would pass that message on. With no further comments, Mayor Corroon thanked Mr. Hattery for his presentation.

#### 4. SALT LAKE COUNTY'S WEST BENCH PLAN

##### a. Salt Lake County Resolution

**Mayor Peter Corroon** reported that, at its May 23rd meeting, the Salt Lake County Council passed Resolution No. 3857, recognizing the need to include West Bench planning data and transportation principles in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. (A copy of Resolution 3857 was included in the meeting packet.) In the resolution, Salt Lake County stresses the importance of the Regional Growth Principles and good transportation planning, including the concepts of connectivity, appropriate phasing, right-of-way preservation, and multi-modal transportation. With this resolution, the Salt Lake County Council has endorsed the WFRC's Regional Growth Principles as guidelines to be applied to the West Bench Plan, as well as the regional transportation planning process and Long Range Plan. In response to a question, George Ramjoué confirmed that West Bench Plan information is included in the RTP database through its projections to the year 2030.

##### b. West Bench Plan Presentation

**Jeff Daugherty, David White and Tom Roach**, Salt Lake County Planning & Development Services Division, and **Russell Fox**, Kennecott Land Company, used a PowerPoint presentation to update members regarding the Master Plan for Kennecott Land Company's West Bench holdings. They also distributed a packet titled "Exploring the potential of the West Bench," which included additional information and maps. The West Bench area encompasses the largest single area of developable land in the Salt Lake Valley (about 93,000 acres, 80,000 of which are in Salt Lake County). It could become the nation's largest planned community, with a potential population of 500,000.

It was noted that during the previous year the Salt Lake County Council of Governments, Kennecott Land Company and Salt Lake County embarked on a participatory multi-meeting process to engage regional stakeholders in the development of a long-range plan for the West Bench. The current plan incorporates input from the stakeholders regarding open space, employment centers, roadway and transit infrastructure, community structure, and other factors.

The West Bench Draft Master Plan is undergoing review and is being refined. Mr. Daugherty encouraged members and staff to review the plan and comment as it becomes available about the end of June through the Salt Lake County website, county complex, libraries, etc. Although there have been informal discussions with UDOT, UTA and the WFRC regarding West Bench transportation needs, more formal meetings will take place over the next few months. It is anticipated that formal adoption of the Plan by the Salt Lake County Planning Commission and Council will occur during October 2006.

In response to a question regarding the planned use of light rail, Mr. White said that before specific transit modes are planned, it is important to ensure that appropriate rights of way are reserved. Jim Horrocks commented that phasing would be a critical aspect. Mr. Fox agreed, noting that the first phase would probably start in the north where there is existing infrastructure, the second phase in the south, and the third phase in the middle. Mr. White stressed the need for Salt Lake County to look at a capital facilities plan that goes beyond five years. Joseph Moore asked if an analysis of public services needs will be carved out. Mr. White replied that some analysis has already been completed and County staff will continue to work on public service aspects of the project.

Mr. Daugherty said that public hearings are scheduled as follows: Salt Lake City – July 11, August 8 and September 20; Magna – July 10 and 17 and September 13; Copperton – July 19, August 16 and September 20. He said notices will be posted well before the hearings.

Mayor Corroon thanked Salt Lake County Planning & Development Services and Kennecott Land Company for their presentation.

## **5. PROPOSAL FOR A SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2001 NORTH LEGACY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDY IN WEBER COUNTY**

**George Ramjoué**, WFRC, reported that the Weber County Commission has requested that the WFRC re-evaluate the location of the North Legacy Transportation Corridor in Weber County. In response, the WFRC is proposing to conduct a supplemental study to the 2001 North Legacy Transportation Corridor Study in Weber County. The corridor is located on the east side of 5100 West and ends at 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Due to rapidly emerging growth pressures in west Weber County, there is a need to look at alternatives for a more logical corridor alignment and northern terminus which, ideally, would connect to the I-15. Funds available to the WFRC, and possibly UDOT, can be used for this purpose. A consultant will be selected to assist with the study, which is expected to get underway within the next couple of months. It will take 6 to 8 months to complete the study. Brad Barber asked about the status of the corridor further south in Davis County. Mr. Ramjoué replied that some minor adjustments have been made to a small part of the corridor, but that Davis County seems to be happy with the overall location. He added that he hopes Davis County will pass the \$10 vehicle registration fee increase for the critically needed funds for corridor preservation.

## **6. GOVERNOR'S QUALITY GROWTH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE TO THE WFRC**

**George Ramjoué** informed the members that the WFRC and MAG were honored at the recent 6<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Quality Growth Awards with an Award of Excellence for their work on Wasatch Choices 2040. The award, which is sponsored by the Utah Quality Growth Commission and Envision Utah, was presented by Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. Mayor Smith of Draper (in the excused absence of Mayor Nordfelt), along with Mayor Washburn of Orem, Chuck Chappell and Andrew Jackson, Deputy Director of MAG, accepted the honor. In addition, an Award of Merit was received by Salt Lake County Government, Kennecott Land Corporation and the Salt Lake County Council of Governments for the West Bench Planning Process.

## **7. UPDATE ON LOCAL CORRIDOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

**George Ramjoué** reported that the Salt Lake County Council of Governments has approved, in principle, the Local Corridor Preservation Fund application, prioritization criteria, administrative process, and staffing plan for the Local Corridor Preservation Fund Program in Salt Lake County. To date, Salt Lake County is the only county in the WFRC's region to pass the \$10.00 vehicle registration fee increase to fund this program. The program will be operational in Salt Lake County by July 1, 2006. Hopefully, by July 2007, all other counties will have adopted the fee. All the counties served by MAG have adopted the fee.

Local governments in Salt Lake County are now being encouraged to submit applications for property acquisitions within needed corridors. Applications can be obtained from the WFRC upon request and from the website ([www.wfrc.org](http://www.wfrc.org)). For the time being, assistance with questions, or in filling out the application, can be obtained from Mr. Ramjoué at 363-4230, ext. 111 or [gramjoue@wfrc.org](mailto:gramjoue@wfrc.org).

The Local Corridor Preservation staffing plan calls for the hiring of an “Intergovernmental Coordinator” to replace Ed Blaney, Executive Secretary of the Salt Lake County Council of Governments, who is retiring. This person will split his/her time between traditional COG business and corridor preservation. The WFRC has prepared a job description (available at [www.wfrc.org](http://www.wfrc.org)), and the position has been advertised in the newspapers and other media. The closing date for applications for this position is June 23rd at 5:00 p.m. The position is to be filled during July.

## **8. UPDATE ON GROWTH PRINCIPLES/VISIONING ACTIVITIES**

**George Ramjoué** said that work on the Wasatch Choices Visioning Report is progressing. The report documents visioning methodology, discussion of the Growth Principles with local governments, and implementation strategies. The report should be ready for printing within the next few weeks. He added that the preparation of a self-assessment tool is also in progress. This tool will consist of a series of questions intended to aid local governments in measuring how well they are doing relative to the Growth Principles and implementation strategies. Both documents will be made available in hard copy and electronic versions to all local governments and other interested parties. **Mayor Corroon** thanked Envision Utah for helping with these projects.

Mr. Ramjoué said that the report of the Salt Lake County Council’s approval of Resolution No. 3856, endorsing the Regional Growth Principles, is very encouraging. The County Council will use the Growth Principles in implementing reasonable and prudent transportation and land use planning and in developing and adopting policies in the County’s General Plan.

Mayor Corroon thanked Mr. Ramjoué for his presentations.

- 9. OTHER BUSINESS:** No other business was discussed.
- 10. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, at 9:30 a.m. in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council.**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.