

**MINUTES**  
**REGIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting of October 19, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, October 19, 2006, in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Mayor Peter Corroon**, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Mayor Corroon welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

**Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:**

Claudia Anderson	Mayor, City of Bluffdale
Keith Bartholomew	UTA Board
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Steve Call	Federal Highway Administration
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
Russell Fox	Kennecott Land Company
Jim Horrocks	Utah Air Quality Board
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, City of Bountiful
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale City
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, City of Murray
Gary Whatcott	for Kent Money, Mayor, South Jordan City

**Non-Members Present:**

Raylene Ireland	for Lewis Billings, Mayor, Provo City
Brian Tucker	Midvale City Planning
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Scott Festin	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val John Halford	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Doug Hattery	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Jory Johner	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Pam Jorgensen	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoué	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Greg Scott	Wasatch Front Regional Council

**Members/Representatives excused:** Mayor Lewis Billings, Mike Hansen and Alan A. Matheson.

- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **Mayor Joe Johnson** moved that the minutes of the August 17, 2006 Regional Growth Committee meeting be approved as written. **Gary Whatcott** seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no comments.

#### 4. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

**Sam Klemm, WFRC**, reviewed the recent transportation re-authorization bill, noting the requirement that all metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) review their public involvement plan. The Wasatch Front Regional Council's Public Involvement Plan was last reviewed in 1997. Mr. Klemm said that most of the major components called for in the legislation already exist; however, a few elements have changed. The following are some of the changes that were explained and discussed:

**Internet** – The WFRC maintains a website that includes information about the Regional Council, the transportation planning process, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and various major corridor planning and/or environmental studies. The website is updated regularly and provides information for upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes of past meetings of the Regional Council, Regional Growth Committee (RGC), and the Transportation Committee (“Trans Com”).

**Visualization Techniques/Maps** – WFRC will prepare and update maps, geographic information systems (GIS) layering and make them available on the website, and at open houses, and other public meetings.

**Mailing Lists** – The WFRC will prepare, maintain and expand a mailing list of individuals and groups interested in transportation issues. The list shall include, but not be limited to, environmental groups, minority groups, chambers of commerce, community groups, news media representatives, legislators, state, local and federal agencies, Native American groups, organizations for persons with disabilities, highway user groups, senior citizen's organizations, historic preservation groups, etc.

**ACTION:** **Mayor Daniel Snarr** moved that the Public Involvement Plan be adopted and recommended to the Regional Council for their consideration. **Mayor Claudia Anderson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### 5. EXPLANATION OF H.B. 4001 ENABLING A COUNTY-BY-COUNTY VOTE ON A QUARTER CENT SALES TAX INCREASE FOR FUNDING TRANSPORTATION

**Sam Klemm, WFRC**, explained and discussed the main provisions in House Bill 4001 that was passed in the September special session of the Legislature.

- The voters may approve a quarter cent sales tax increase placed on the ballot by a county legislative body for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure with the county.
- The respective county councils of governments (COG) must subsequently approve a system of criteria to evaluate and rank proposed projects.
- The COGs may approve a prioritized project list only once per year. The county legislative body must approve the same list.
- Highway and transit projects must be ranked together
- The Executive Appropriations Committee of the Legislature must approve the prioritization criteria and any associated weights on a county by county basis for counties of the first and second class.
- One quarter of the quarter cent sales tax increase must be used for corridor preservation within the local, county based, local corridor preservation fund.

- In counties of the first class (Salt Lake County, only); the corridor preservation funds must be used for new state highway projects (such as Mountain View Corridor).
- The rest of the funds must be prioritized according to the county council of governments adopted prioritization criteria, which may include highway and transit projects.
- This revenue stream may be used for bonding purposes.
- After the ranking process, the COG may choose to take projects out of rank order, but must give a written reason as to why they are doing so.
- The funds may not supplant any other funds UDOT was going to use within the respective county.

**Mayor Corroon** encouraged those in attendance to support this funding, as it will allow, over time, for the projects in the Transportation Plan to be built sooner. It will appear as Proposition #3 on the ballot in November.

## 6. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

**Val John Halford, WFRC**, using a PowerPoint presentation, informed the members of the generalized timeline and the alternatives evaluation process that will be used as a guide in developing the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Halford indicated that considerable time and energy had gone into developing the three alternatives. He also stated that these alternatives would help set the parameters for the Plan which needs to be prepared by the end of the fiscal year 2007.

Mr. Halford stated that each of the alternatives includes highway and transit projects in different combinations for each scenario. He introduced each briefly:

**Alternative 1:** Includes a combination of the currently adopted 2030 RTP and the “Vision” developed as part of Wasatch Choices 2040 planning process.

**Alternative 2:** Emphasizes increasing freeway capacity, including the addition of a new east/west freeway near 6200 South in Salt Lake County. Transit improvements would focus on bus rapid transit service on HOV lanes.

**Alternative 3:** Emphasizes extensive improvements to the region’s arterial street system. Transit would focus on technologies that work well on arterial streets, such as streetcar and increased bus service. This alternative does not include additional freeways.

Mr. Halford introduced **Jory Johner, WFRC**, who provided more details on the major highway projects for each of the alternatives. Following his presentation, **Greg Scott, WFRC**, provided more details on the major transit projects for each of the alternatives.

Highway System Alternative 1 - Current RTP/Wasatch Choices Vision

Highway System Alternative 2 – Freeway Emphasis

Highway System Alternative 3 – Arterial Emphasis

Transit System Alternative 1 – Current RTP/Wasatch Choices Vision

Transit System Alternative 2 – BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) On Freeway Emphasis

Transit System Alternative 3 - Streetcar On Arterial Emphasis

**Chuck Chappell, WFRC**, suggested that the three alternatives not only be presented to the Committee for review and recommendations, but that local government and UDOT officials should also be given that opportunity. The input obtained from this review can then be incorporated into the refining and testing process.

**Mr. Halford** stated that in order to make a balanced comparison, those analyzing the three system alternatives would use the same general revenue projections and the same land use assumptions. The alternatives will be modeled and analyzed in the next few weeks. The transportation alternative, or combination of the three alternatives that best meets the Wasatch Front Region's growing needs will form the foundation for the Regional Transportation Plan.

Those in attendance were encouraged to ask questions of the staff following the meeting and were informed that the maps and project lists are available on the website at: <http://www.wfrc.org> under **What's New**, for closer review.

**ACTION:** **Gary Whatcott** moved to approve the three alternatives as presented and that they be recommended to the Regional Council for its consideration. **Mayor Claudia Anderson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **7. SOCIOECONOMIC PROJECTIONS FOR USE IN THE 2030 RTP**

**Scott Festin, WFRC**, presented the methodology used to compile the socioeconomic projections that will be used as base line data in preparing the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Festin stated he compiled basic land use information provided by county assessors and also looked at emerging land use patterns. To generate the projections, the UrbanSim model was run and results used to match the county control totals produced for 2005, by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. WFRC staff also utilized input from local government officials. The projections were also adjusted to reflect building permit data, current as of July 1, 2005.

Mr. Festin distributed a document entitled **City Populations Projections** for review, noting that it is a region-wide set of projections to be mainly used in preparing the transportation plan.

**ACTION:** **Mayor JoAnn Seghini** moved to recommend that the socioeconomic projections as presented by Mr. Festin be forwarded to the Regional Council for its consideration. **Mayor Daniel Snarr** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **8. ENDORSEMENT OF GROWTH PRINCIPLES REPORT AND PROPOSAL FOR ASSOCIATED INFORMATION PROGRAM**

**George Ramjoué, WFRC**, reviewed the Wasatch Choices 2040 report completed late in 2005. The report has now been finalized and is ready to go to the printer. The report contains strategies for implementing the Regional Growth Principles. These strategies are primarily directed to the local governments, which have authority over local planning, zoning, and the granting of development approvals. The report focuses on the following:

1. The Wasatch Choices 2040 Process
2. Growth Principles and Objectives for Transportation Planning
3. The Wasatch 2040 Vision Scenario
4. Implementation of Strategies

Mr. Ramjoué said that the report would be distributed to a wide audience, including the media, governmental agencies, and other organizations. He said local government officials would be targeted to receive the report. They will be encouraged to become very familiar with it and to use the information to implement Regional Growth Principles and the "Vision". Workshops will be conducted throughout the region to further explain the document and how to use the implementation strategies.

**ACTION:** Mayor Daniel Snarr moved to endorse the report and to recommend it to the Regional Council for its consideration. Mayor JoAnn Seghini seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**9. UPDATE ON NORTH LEGACY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY**

George Ramjoué, WFRC, informed members that funding has been obtained to further study the North Legacy Transportation Corridor in Weber County. A previous Corridor Study in Davis and Weber counties was completed in 2001. However, during the course of that study, there was considerable opposition voiced by many of the residents from the west Weber County area.

Mr. Ramjoué stated that the primary objective of the study in Weber County is to: (1) determine a more reasonable terminus and alignment for preservation; (2) determine an adequate and reasonable typical section and corridor width; and (3) develop possible future growth scenarios for western Weber County.

The study primarily focuses on a highway option, but does not preclude public transit for the corridor.

**10. REGIONAL THINKING: THE DENVER MODEL**

George Ramjoué, WFRC, provided information about how Denver area officials are addressing regional growth, as a matter of interest. Denver is a sister city to the East and the information will give members an idea of what Denver is doing to maintain its economic stability. He suggested that RGC members could compare the Denver experience with what local and state officials are doing in the Wasatch Front Region and draw conclusions.

Mr. Ramjoué also stated that Denver recently voted to spend \$1.7 billion on light rail and highway projects. Recently, residents of the Denver area voted to spend \$4.7 billion on commuter rail, light rail and other mass transit projects in their region. The Wasatch Front area is planning to spend \$1 billion.

Members were encouraged to read the article "Regional Thinking" which was included in their information packet.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS:** No other business was considered.

**12. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council. (This meeting was later postponed to **Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.**)

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.