

## MINUTES

Regional Growth Committee  
Meeting of January 18, 2007

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, January 18, 2007, 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 9:35 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
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
Mick Crandall	UTA
Louenda Downs	Commissioner, Davis County
Russell Fox	Kennecott Land Company
Joe Gertge	Mayor, South Weber City
Robert Grow	Envision Utah
Jim Horrocks	Utah Air Quality Board
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale City
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, City of Murray
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County Planning
Gary Whatcott	for Kent Money, Mayor, South Jordan City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

#### **Non-Members Present:**

Donald Adams	City of Taylorsville
Tom Bacus	Kennecott Land Company
John Bennett	GOPB
Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Jeff Daugherty	Salt Lake County
Marc Heilesen	Sierra Club
Raylene Ireland	for Lewis Billings, Mayor, Provo City
Toshiharu Kano	City of Holladay
Brian Tucker	Midvale City
Lynn Vinzant	Clinton City
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val 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
Ned Hacker	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoue'	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Grèg Scott	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Barbara Thomas	Wasatch Front Regional Council

**Members/Representatives excused:** Mayor Joe Johnson, Commissioner Jan Wells and Joseph Moore.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Alan Matheson moved that the minutes of the October 19, 2006 Regional Growth Committee meeting be approved as written. Gary Whatcott seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** Roger Borgenicht was acknowledged. However, Mr. Borgenicht said he would wait to make comment during the discussion portion of Item 6 on the Agenda.

#### **4. PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES, OUTREACH EFFORTS, AND AGENCY COORDINATION PROCESS**

Sam Klemm, WFRC, informed members that one of the main requirements within the Federal Legislation that sets the parameters for development of the Long Range Plan is public involvement. He stated that over the past year considerable effort has been made to reach out to elected officials, transportation stakeholders, special interest and minority groups, and the general public to provide opportunities for involvement in the planning process and the adoption of an updated Regional Transportation Plan. The WFRC staff has carefully catalogued comments on specific improvements these agencies, groups, etc. would like to see in the transportation system.

Mr. Klemm said that during the review of alternative transportation scenarios, open houses were held in Davis, Weber and Salt Lake Counties. The open houses were "pretty well" attended. Staff kept track of comments received at the open houses, "in accordance with regulations". Mr. Klemm distributed a sheet, documenting each comment, who made the comment, the date of the comment, and the WFRC staff response. Mr. Klemm stated that planners use these comments as a basis, along with their other research, to develop draft plans that are to be presented later.

Mr. Klemm said that comments received as part of the review process are public records and can be made available to anyone who may have an interest in them.

#### **5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Sam Klemm, WFRC, reviewed the Mountainland Association of Governments, Dixie MPO, Cache MPO, and WFRC Position Paper on draft 2007 Transportation Legislation that was made available to those in attendance. Mr. Klemm stated this paper is a summary of several important legislative issues. It has been strongly recommended that a common position be adopted by the four metropolitan planning organizations on these legislative issues. He then briefly reviewed the position paper. His comments are summarized as follows:

- Representative Lockhart's bill that would dedicate 100% of the State's portion of automobile related sales tax to the transportation fund. That percentage was cut to half in last year's legislative session. Representative Lockhart will attempt to push the percentage rate back to 100%. This action would generate approximately \$319 million per fiscal year for the transportation fund.

- The Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties are actively supporting lifting the cap off the 1/16 cent portion of the sales tax that goes into the B & C Road Fund. Presently, everything above the first \$18 million from the tax goes back into the State General Fund. Lifting the cap would put much more money back into local roads.
- Senator Howard Stephenson is proposing a bill that would authorize UDOT to issue up to \$500 million in bonds to use for corridor preservation purposes. Some of the projects that could benefit from the money would be Mountain View Corridor, North Legacy, the ring road around St. George, and corridors in Utah County.
- The Legislature, over the last two years, has established its commitment to increased transportation funding. However, adopted long range plans and established needs cannot be met using current and projected revenues. Therefore, additional funding will be needed. In this regard, an increased locally assessed and locally prioritized gasoline tax would be desirable. It is also anticipated that other sources of funding will be required at some future date.
- There are other groups and institutions advocating for enhanced transportation funding. Close cooperation and coordination with these groups is encouraged and will ensure a quicker and more complete realization of our common goal.

## **6. ALTERNATIVES AND PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS: HIGHWAY / TRANSIT NETWORKS, FINANCIAL ASSUMPTIONS, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AND ISSUES**

Val John Halford, WFRC, reviewed the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Alternatives and Projects Recommendations with members. Mr. Halford said that staff efforts are now focused on the evaluation and refinement of the selected system alternative. Using a PowerPoint Presentation, the following items were presented and discussed:

- RTP Requirements
- RTP Planning Process
- RTP Growth Principles
- Alternative System Process
- Unconstrained Needs Scenarios
- Current RTP / Wasatch Choices Alternative
- Freeway / BRT Emphasis Alternative
- Arterial / Streetcar Emphasis Alternative
- System Evaluation Criteria
- System Alternatives Evaluation
  - Highway
  - Transit
  - Both Highway and Transit
- System Evaluation Summary – Relative Benefits and Costs
- Transit System Evaluation – Selected Criteria
- Highway System Evaluation – Selected Criteria
- Combined System Evaluation – Selected Criteria
- RTP Project Definition Process
  - Highway
  - Transit

- Major Highway Projects
  - Weber County
  - Davis County
  - Salt Lake County
- Major Transit Projects
  - Region-wide
  - Davis and Weber Counties
  - Salt Lake County (North-South)
  - Salt Lake County (East-West)
- Example: Highway Planning Process
- Where Do We Go From Here

Throughout and following the presentation comments and questions were received from members and guests as to how the chosen RTP Alternative would affect their communities.

In response to comments regarding the need for more freeways and more arterials, Robert Grow stated a transit system has to be a part of the Plan. "You can't fix everything with freeways alone or arterials alone," Mr. Halford commented, noting that the emerging system be "multi-balanced".

Concerns and thoughts expressed by members and others in regard to the proposed RTP Alternative included:

1. Preserving rights of way beyond 2030.
2. Having a smaller group of experts, along with Mr. Chappell, take another look at some of the proposed projects, both transit and highway, and
3. Reconsidering plans for 5600 West with regard to transit.

Mr. Halford said that he and other members of the WFRC would certainly take into consideration the concerns and comments from RGC members and guests in further refining the selected RTP Alternative.

Mr. Halford stated that the next step in the 2030 RTP update process is to determine the timetable for implementing each highway and transit project. This effort, which will require a number of model runs, is currently underway. "Project phasing" should be completed by the end of January. The formation and development of the RTP will continue through February, along with an in-depth analysis of benefits and impacts that can be expected from implementation. Following this period of public review during March and April, the 2030 RTP is scheduled for adoption in May.

**ACTION: Mayor Joe Gertge**, moved to forward the Regional Transportation Plan Alternatives and Project Recommendations to the Regional Council for their consideration, noting that there are still opportunities for further comment and changes. **Gary Whatcott** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **7. PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR THE RTP AND GROWTH PRINCIPLES IMPLEMENTATION**

Discussion on this item postponed until the next meeting.

## **8. WASATCH CHOICES 2040 REPORT**

**George Ramjoue'**, WFRC, reported that copies of The Wasatch Choices 2040 Report were distributed to all local government offices during January with a request that copies be provided to elected officials, planning commission members, and key staff members. Copies of the report were also delivered to agencies, such as FHWA, DEQ, GOPB, Quality Growth Commission, the UTA Board, and others.

The cover letter included comments as to how the contents of the report could be used by local governments in drafting their own master plan updates. Mr. Ramjoue' encouraged those in attendance to become familiar with the contents of the report, as it is intended as an important resource for local planning efforts. He further stated that the principles and strategies in the document were developed to serve as a resource and to provide ideas on how the "principles" and "vision" could be implemented at the local level. Mr. Ramjoue' said workshops involving members of planning commissions are being planned for February and March to promote this effort.

Mr. Ramjoue' stated that a few hard copies of the report are still available. He added that the document can be downloaded from WFRC's website ([www.wfrc.org](http://www.wfrc.org)).

## **9. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: STATUS OF PARTICIPATION**

**George Ramjoue'** WFRC, reported that the WFRC staff is concerned about the participation rate in meetings of the Ogden / Layton and Salt Lake County RGC Technical Advisory Committees (TACs). The participation rate for the two TACs is about 30%. This means that two-thirds of local governments may not be represented at the meetings depending on the pattern of attendance. The TAC's make technical recommendations to the Regional Growth Committee.

A list was provided of those who are invited to attend TAC meetings. Mr. Ramjoue' asked community officials to encourage their designated representatives to regularly attend the meetings. If local representatives do not attend and participate, then input from many communities is missing.

Jim Horrocks asked if it would be possible to receive information about the attendance of specific representatives for the last year. Jory Johner, WFRC, said the attendance list is included at the end of each of the meeting summaries; their information can be found on the website ([www.wfrc.org](http://www.wfrc.org)) by clicking on the Committees link on the left of the page, and then clicking on Technical Advisory Committees.

## **10. LOCAL CORRIDOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SLCO) – GRANTS AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA**

**Barbara Thomas**, reported that in July of 2006 Salt Lake County implemented a \$10 vehicle registration fee for corridor preservation within the County. She stated that it is anticipated the fee will generate about \$6.8 million per year. To receive monies from this fund, applications are submitted to the Salt Lake County COG and the Salt Lake County Council for review and approval. To date applications have been approved from Holladay, Herriman and Sandy.

Ms. Thomas further stated that the SL County Council has held up review of any other applications until reconsideration of the application criteria. The criteria review should be completed by March. The County will be considering additional applications during April. Ms. Thomas encouraged communities who want to participate in the corridor preservation program to secure an application and program documentation.

**11. NEXT MEETING / FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:** The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, MARCH 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council.** A schedule for future RGC meetings was included in the information packet mailed out prior to the meeting (and is available upon request). **Mr. Ramjouw** reviewed the schedule, noting that there are fewer meetings scheduled for this year to accommodate busy schedules.

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

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.