

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of May 17, 2007

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, May 17, 2007, in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Joe L. Johnson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mayor Johnson welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:

Stewart Adams	Utah Transportation Commission
Lewis Billings	Mayor, Provo City
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Steve Call	FHWA
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
J. Lynn Crane	Mayor, Herriman City
Russell Fox	Kennecott Land Company
Dave Hardman	Ogden/Weber Chamber of Commerce
Jim Horrocks	Air Quality Board
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful City
Sherri B. Lindstrom	Centerville City Council
Kelly Lund	FHWA
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
Kent Money	Mayor, South Jordan City
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale City
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County / UAC
Robert Spendlove	GOPB
Lynn E. Vinzant	Clinton City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

Non-Members Present:

D. J. Baxter	Salt Lake City
Peter Donner	GOPB
Marc Heilesen	Sierra Club
Robert Wall	South Jordan City
Janneke House	Salt Lake City
Matt Riffkin	InterPlan
Brian Tucker	Midvale City
Nicole Warburton	Deseret News
Jim Wright	O'Melveny & Myers
Wayne Bennion	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Kip Billings	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
LaNiece Dustman	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Scott Festin	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ned Hacker	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val John Halford	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Des Heyliger	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Jory Johner
Pam Jorgensen
Sam Klemm
George Ramjoue'
Greg Scott
Barbara Thomas

Wasatch Front Regional Council
Wasatch Front Regional Council

Members / Representatives excused: Commissioner Louenda Downs, Lane Beattie, and Rick Sprott.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Kent Money moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held March 15, 2007, be approved as written. **Elden Bingham** seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: 2007 - 2030

a. Information - Summary of Public Comments Received on Draft Plan

Sam Klemm, WFRC, distributed a revised copy of a document titled: *Comments Received During The Formal Comment Period from April 6, 2007 through May 7, 2007*. He said the information members and others received in their packets did not have the responses to comments regarding air quality. These responses were included in the document being distributed. Also distributed to those in attendance was a *General Summary of Issues Addressed During the Formal Public Comment Period*. Mr. Klemm stated that the summary describes the primary comments and responses received during the formal public comment period for the Regional Transportation Plan that ran from April 6, 2007 through May 7, 2007. He briefly reviewed each of the ten comments and responses. Some of the comments and responses reviewed are as follows:

- **Comment:** The Draft Plan commits a grossly disproportionate 35% of capital construction funding to transit when it represents only .9% of all passenger miles traveled in the Region.
Answer: The Regional Council understands that the Draft Plan places a very large emphasis on transit relative to current usage. This is because the Regional Council is seeking a "balanced" transportation system that incorporates the best features of each mode. For example, in certain highly congested corridors, we cannot easily or inexpensively add capacity. However, we could add additional TRAX or commuter rail cars. In addition, in more urbanized areas of the Country, it has been determined through experience that while free flow on a freeway lane may collapse under demand of more than 2200 vehicles per hour, a fixed guideway transit system will keep moving, even when it is packed. Locally, we have begun to reach that threshold in certain areas and, therefore, need the transit program as outlined.
- **Comment:** Highways will only induce more demand and sprawl.
Answer: In order to help reduce sprawl and the growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), the Regional Council has accepted the results of the Wasatch Choices 2040 visioning process, and the growth principles used to guide further development. The RTP is based on that process. The growth principles, which are the foundation of the proposed RTP update, include such elements as the creation of new and intensification of existing

regional activity centers served by high capacity transit, encouragement for contiguous development and the shifting of employment opportunities toward residential areas to minimize the need for travel. However, even with the implementation of these measures, VMT is expected to increase 50% by 2030 while the population will grow 42%. While there is an overall increase in VMT, it still represents a considerable reduction in the VMT growth rate compared with previous periods and what it would be without the measures the RTP calls for.

- **Comment:** The model used to predict transit ridership is “notoriously unable to predict transit ridership.”
Answer: The travel models have recently been upgraded with 2006 data from UTA’s On Board Survey. Generally, models are used as only one tool among several and are compared to actual data as it becomes available. Also, the 1993 Home Interview Survey has been updated with information from the 2000 Census and the 2001 National Household Travel Survey.
- **Comment:** The plan did not specify the importance of sidewalks for pedestrian, and bike lanes. The importance of bike lane and sidewalk design, especially around transit stops, is very high.
Answer: The Regional Council agrees on the need for additional non-motorized transportation improvements. To this end, the bicycle portion of the Draft Plan includes a “complete streets” provision meaning all highway projects should provide for non-motorized travel needs.

Mr. Klemm also noted that there were other comments, not addressed in this document related mostly to individual projects. He said these comments are noted and answered in the “comment-by-comment” summary in the Public Involvement Appendix to the 2030 RTP.

b. Information - Air Quality Conformity Determination

Kip Billings, WFRC, informed members and others that the Clean Air Act requires the WFRC to demonstrate that projected emissions related to the traffic conditions defined in the proposed 2030 RTP conform to the goals and objectives defined in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). He reported that the WFRC staff has drafted Air Quality Memorandum 21 to document this conformity determination.

Mr. Billings distributed copies of *Section D. Conformity Determination* from the Air Quality Memorandum 21 and briefly reviewed the contents. He informed the group that there are four non-attainment areas within the Wasatch Front Region:

- 1) Ogden City (carbon monoxide or CO),
- 2) Ogden City (particulate matter or PM10),
- 3) Salt Lake City (carbon monoxide or CO), and
- 4) Salt Lake County (particulate matter or PM10)

Mr. Billings also discussed the ozone standard and distributed information regarding the new PM2.5 standard. He noted that:

- The 1-hour ozone standard was revoked in 2005 and that the Wasatch Front area is currently in attainment for the 8-hour ozone standard.
- By 2013 the State of Utah will be required to submit a new section of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) documenting how the state will meet the new PM2.5 standard. Once the EPA approves the PM2.5 SIP, the WFRC will be required to make a conformity determination verifying that transportation related emissions are within the

limits established in the SIP. During the interim period from 2011, when PM2.5 conformity is required, and 2013, when emission limits are established in the SIP, WFRC will be required to establish conformity by demonstrating that future PM2.5 emissions are lower than 2002 levels.

Jim Horrocks, Air Quality Board, commented that the new PM2.5 standards would be a major problem for state and local governments in the next few years.

Mr. Billings again stated that the regional emissions analysis contained in Air Quality Memorandum 21 demonstrates that the 2030 RTP conforms to the SIP.

c. Information - Description of Plan Proposed for Approval

Val John Halford, WFRC, said that three years ago, 22 issues were identified by the WFRC staff to consider in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. He reported that all 22 issues have been considered in varying degrees. Mr. Halford reviewed and discussed the following from the list of issues:

- Incorporating the results of the Regional Visioning process
 - Identifying objective means of selecting and phasing of regionally significant projects
 - Development and evaluation of viable alternatives or future scenarios
 - Developing region-wide financial assumptions
 - Increased safety and homeland security
 - Incorporation of “active living principles”
- (Note: A complete list of the 22 issues is attached)

Mr. Halford concluded by stating that many different groups have reviewed the 2030 RTP, including the county COGs, the technical advisory committees of both Trans Com and the RGC, and the general public during the four separate open houses that were held at the end of April and the beginning of May. Many planners, engineers, interest groups, and other public officials along the Wasatch Front have also had opportunity to review the RTP. Their comments and suggestions have been given due consideration and, where appropriate, incorporated into the document.

d. Opportunity for Public Comment on the Plan

Marc Heileson, Sierra Club, thanked UDOT for the balanced system on the redesign of the Legacy Parkway. He also spoke to the importance of transferring this balance into other planned transportation projects throughout the Region and specifically the Mountain View Corridor project. Mr. Heileson expressed the need to protect communities from pollution, sprawl and poor air quality; all major concerns on which planning efforts should be focused.

Sherri Lindstrom, Centerville City Council, speaking today as a citizen, also expressed concern about air quality problems as they relate to the RTP update. She stated that a passing grade “just isn’t good enough any longer” and that air quality must be improved.

ACTION: Mayor Kent Money moved that the draft 2030 RTP be forwarded to the Wasatch Front Regional Council with a recommendation for approval and adoption. **Commissioner Jan Zogmaister** seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. INFORMATION - GOPB 2008 BASELINE COUNTY LEVEL SOCIOECONOMIC PROJECTIONS

Robert Spendlove, Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, announced that the GOPB is beginning the assembly of 2008 Baseline socioeconomic projections. He said he and his

colleague would briefly introduce RGC members and guests to the methodology, assumptions, and preliminary output of the projections model for the Wasatch Front Region. He stressed that “this is preliminary data” and they welcome and encourage feedback from the RGC and others before finalizing the report. Mr. Spendlove said that the report is due to be released early in 2008.

Peter Donner, using a PowerPoint presentation titled “Long Term Projections - Wasatch Front Region – Preliminary Results” discussed the information outlined below:

- Background Data
 - Utah is in the center of the fastest growing area of the country.
 - Even in the long term – Utah’s population growth is among the fastest in the nation.
 - Utah was the fourth fastest growing state from 1970 to 2000.
- 2008 Baseline – Summary Results
 - Projected Population by County.
- 2008 Baseline – Accuracy Analysis
 - Historical Projections: State, Wasatch Front MCD (Multi County District), and by County
- 2008 Baseline – Assumptions / Process
 - Last Baseline was in 2005
 - 2008 Baseline data will be released in the *2008 Economic Report to the Governor*.
- Long-Run Assumptions / Process
 - Survival – Survival Rates are assumed to increase along with projected U.S. survival rates.
 - Fertility – State level birth probabilities by age are assumed to remain constant at their current estimated levels.
 - Components of Change
 - State of Utah Projections Process
 - 2008 Baseline Process
- 2008 Baseline Results - Employment
- 2008 Baseline Results – Population

6. INFORMATION – 2008 NATURAL HAZARDS PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

Des Heyliger, WFRC, commented that the Wasatch Front Natural Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is authorized by the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and also the Utah Department of Public Safety. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 replaces the Stafford Act.

The Plan assesses risk to life and property from natural hazards and establishes mitigation strategies. As an additional requirement, the State has asked that an evaluation of technical (human-caused) hazards be completed.

Mr. Heyliger informed members and guests that there are three good reasons to prepare this Plan:

1. Protection of citizens;
2. Protection of the economy; and the
3. Plan is required for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant and increased disaster relief funds.

He said that there are three data collection phases to the Plan:

- 1) Conducting risk assessment (to be carried out between February 2007 and September 2007,
- 2) Holding assessment meetings with county emergency managers; and
- 3) Collecting public comments after the first two phases.

Mr. Heyliger said Mitigation Strategies Development would follow from September 2007 – January 2008. Meetings open to the public to discuss mitigation will be held in:

Morgan County on September 5, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the Morgan County Council Auditorium;

Weber County on September 18, 2007, from Noon to 4 p.m., in the Weber County Sheriff's Office;

Tooele County on October 11, 2007, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the Tooele County Auditorium;

Davis County on October 25, 2007, from Noon to 3 p.m., in the Davis County Sheriff's Auditorium; and in

Salt Lake County on November 20, 2007, from 9 a.m. to Noon, in the Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center.

He added that implementation would be considered between March 2008 and August 2008 with presentation of the plan to the county COGs

Mr. Heyliger further stated that in order to be eligible for increased funds for mitigation grants, local governments have to be considered a "participating jurisdiction". In order to be considered a participating jurisdiction they will need to formally adopt the plan by resolution. This action can be accomplished through the county COGs as well as by individual jurisdictions.

7. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the RGC is scheduled for **THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.** (if needed) in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council. Members and other interested persons will be informed if there is to be a meeting. (This meeting was later cancelled)

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was considered.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.