

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of August 16, 2007

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, August 16, 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 9:40 a.m. Mayor Johnson welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:

Justin Y. Allen	Quality Growth Commission
Keith Bartholomew	UTA Board
Lewis Billings	Mayor, Provo City
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale City
Steve Call	FHWA
Russell Fox	Kennecott Land Company
Joe Gertge	Mayor, South Weber
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful City
Joseph Moore	West Valley City
Peter Matson	Davis County
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale City
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County / UAC
Robert Spendlove	GOPB
John Thomas	UDOT
Lynn E. Vinzant	Clinton City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

Non-Members Present:

Chris Butte	Midvale City
Darrell Cook	MAG
Mark Gertge	South Weber
Justin Jones	UTA Governmental Relations
Ron Phillips	Morrison-Maierle, Inc.
Greg Schulz	Salt Lake County
Mitch Shaw	Standard Examiner
Rob Wall	South Jordan City
Wayne Bennion	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Kip Billings	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val John Halford	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Doug Hattery	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Pam Jorgensen	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoue'	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Greg Scott	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Barbara Thomas	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Members / Representatives excused: Lane Beattie, Mayor Peter Corroon and Alan Matheson

Chuck Chappell, Executive Director of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, announced that George Ramjoue' would be retiring the end of August. He noted that Mr. Ramjoue' has been serving as the primary staff support for the Regional Growth Committee since it's inception. Mr. Chappell thanked Mr. Ramjoue' for his more than 15 years of service at the WFRC and wished him well in his future endeavors.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Bruce Burrows moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held May 17, 2007, be approved as written. **Justin Allen** seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments

4. Information - "SCORECARD" FOR AIR QUALITY AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

Kip Billings, WFRC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the region's air quality and how it relates to transportation. He reported that all the Wasatch Front areas currently meet conformity standards for carbon monoxide (CO) and for particulate matter (PM₁₀). Tailpipe emissions have decreased significantly since 1980 and will continue to decrease in the future. Mr. Billings also presented a "report card" on the PM_{2.5}, Ozone, PM₁₀, and CO levels in Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Tooele Counties. All counties received a "B" grade for failing the new PM_{2.5} standard except Tooele, which got an "A" for meeting all four pollutant standards.

Mr. Billings reported that in addition to the new PM_{2.5} standard, EPA will soon lower the standard for ozone. When that occurs, Salt Lake, Davis and Weber Counties will likely be in violation of the standard. He said the schedule for implementing the new air quality standards for PM_{2.5} and Ozone will be:

	PM_{2.5}	Ozone
Promulgation of Standard	September 2006	March 2008
EPA Final Designations	April 2010	August 2010
Conformity Test Required	April 2011	August 2011
State Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP) Due	April 2013	August 2013

Mr. Billings said it will be a challenge to meet these new standards in our urban areas. While PM_{2.5} concentrations have been declining in recent years and are expected to go down further with future emissions reductions, ozone levels have remained rather flat even with reduced vehicle emissions of pollutants causing ozone. He asked if there were any questions.

5. Action – RESOLUTION CERTIFYING WFRC'S TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

Doug Hattery, WFRC, said the WFRC and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) are required to annually certify that the transportation planning process sponsored by the Regional Council meets federal requirements. Mr. Hattery stated there are eight factors in SAFETEA-LU that need to be addressed and the planning process in the region addressed all eight. A copy of a Resolution certifying the process was included in the packets distributed prior to the meeting (a copy is attached). It was stated that the WFRC meets regularly with UDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff and both agencies agree that requirements are being met.

ACTION: Mayor Joe Gertge moved to forward the Resolution certifying WFRC's transportation planning process to the Wasatch Front Regional Council for approval. The motion was seconded by **Mayor Bruce Burrows** and passed unanimously.

6. Information – COPIES OF 2007 - 2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Val John Halford, WFRC, reported that on May 24, 2007 the WFRC adopted the *Regional Transportation Plan: 2007 - 2030*. He stated that Technical Report 46 compiles the planning process and recommendations. Of particular note is Chapter 8 that addresses recommended improvements, Chapter 9 that discusses plan impacts and benefits, and Chapter 10 that suggests implementation strategies. Mr. Halford reminded members that the RTP was developed in close cooperation with representatives from local governments within the Region, UDOT, UTA, MAG, and other state MPOS, and includes recommendations for highway, transit, and other transportation mode improvements. Mr. Halford said that a number of the RTP reports would also be distributed to environmental groups, UDOT, UTA and others.

Mr. Halford said that a copy of the *Unified Plan* for Utah developed in conjunction with UDOT, WFRC, MAG, the Dixie, and Cache MPOs and UTA is available for review. Included in the document are all of the transportation projects – Phase I and Phase II – for the entire State, including transit projects, and maps showing where these projects are to be located.

Mayor Johnson expressed appreciation for all the work that goes into preparing the RTP. He said it gives a vision for the future and a list of projects local governments need to plan for and implement to meet future needs.

John Thomas stated that UDOT would like to recognize the four MPO's for their tremendous cooperation in developing the State-wide Plan. The extent of cooperation (and the resulting final product) is something that has never occurred before. It brings all of the projects into perspective and hopefully helps local decision-making.

Mr. Halford reminded members that the *RTP* and consolidated *Unified Plan* have been presented to them "for information only". He said that as transportation planning is an on-going process, the Regional Growth Committee members and others are invited to offer comments and ideas that would improve the planning process in the future.

7. Information – REPORT ON EAST / WEST STUDIES IN SALT LAKE, DAVIS AND WEBER COUNTIES

Wayne Bennion, WFRC, briefly updated members on the east / west transportation studies of areas in Davis, Salt Lake, Weber and Utah counties authorized by the State Legislature, during the 2007 general session.

Mr. Bennion said that the Legislature's interest is to identify and prioritize ways and means of increasing capacity. There is specific interest in identifying options for limited access facilities. Transit solutions will also be considered.

Mr. Bennion said steering committees with considerable local representation have been established for the Davis / Weber County Study. A plan for public involvement has been developed and consultants have been selected. The focus of the coordinated study, at least initially will be, north Davis County and Weber County south of 12th Street. The contract with the consultants is under negotiation, but it is anticipated that the products will be practical short and long term recommendations for using a multi-modal approach to resolving east / west congestion.

Mr. Bennion said the focus of the Salt Lake County study is the area west of I-15 and south of Route 201 to the Utah County line. The consultant has been under contract for several months. A few workshops have been held with local government officials to gather socioeconomic data, identify local planning objectives and to gain insights on community issues. Mr. Bennion offered the assessment that the consultant may be close to identifying preliminary alternatives for resolving congestion problems. He added that each of the studies are providing new opportunities for coordination between communities, UDOT and UTA and should yield excellent recommendations for solving chronic congestion problems.

Mr. Bennion responded to a number of questions about the studies, finally noting that for both studies, Salt Lake and Davis / Weber, an interior report in the form of a Technical Memorandum to the Legislature is due November 2007. The final report is due September 2008.

8. Action – REPORT ON WFRC’S STRATEGIC GOALS FOR FY08

Doug Hattery, WFRC, commented that the Regional Council held a retreat with the WFRC staff on June 28, 2007 to establish strategic goals for FY 2008. He identified and discussed with those in attendance the following seven goals:

1. Enhance the Council’s relationship with the Legislature, so that local transportation issues are known and considered as decisions are made for transportation funding.
2. Coordinate economic development, other transportation modes, and land use planning with transportation plans, so that all regional and local plans become mutually supportive.
3. Reduce vehicle emissions through the transportation planning process, so that the air quality is improved.
4. Increase transportation funding and wisely invest those funds, so that UDOT, UTA, and local agencies are able to maintain, manage, and expand the transportation system to enhance regional mobility.
5. Make safety one of the criteria in the planning and programming process and coordinate with others on safety, so that crashes, fatalities, and injuries are reduced.
6. Educate council members and the public about WFRC processes, so that they are knowledgeable and able to participate in the transportation planning process; make good, informed local decisions; and are supportive of regional decisions.
7. Improve Council operations, so that the Council’s mission is clear and that the goals are met.

Some of the comments from the discussion of the strategic goals are as follows:

Regarding item 1 – Relationships with the Legislature, **Mayor Johnson** suggested that the WFRC provide members with a succinct number of understandable “talking points” that could be used in discussion with legislators about specific legislation. He said the time local elected officials have to speak to their legislators during the session is very limited and positions must be discussed quickly. Sam Klemm, WFRC staff, commented on what is currently being done to present the positions of the Regional Council to legislators and then agreed to follow-up on Mayor Johnson’s suggestions. He also agreed to send bullet points and other background material by e-mail to all members, as further suggested by Mayor Johnson.

In response to a question from **Justin Allen**, Quality Growth Commission, about adding a position for a legislator on the Regional Council, Mr. Hattery said that the Executive Committee of the

Regional Council would discuss the suggestion soon, along with other suggestions about adding representatives from UDOT and UTA. There are a number of issues to be considered, including time commitments, the nature of the organization, By-laws, etc. The Regional Council will be notified and an effort made to determine the level of interest in formally expanding membership.

Regarding item 2 – Coordination of planning, Mr. Hattery commented that the WFRC staff interprets the position of the Regional Council as being desirous of incorporating the Regional Growth Principles into local government planning processes, (as well as the WFRC's transportation planning), working with the communities and UDOT to effectively preserve transportation corridors and to help identify property with potential for economic development. There is a need for further acceptance of the principles and more "follow up" to ensure that the principles are incorporated into the individual community planning processes.

Keith Bartholomew, UTA, said actually incorporating the growth principles into planning processes is an excellent idea. However, it can be difficult to accomplish. He commented on UTA's recent experience in changing its route structure in the Salt Lake Valley. He said it is the "right thing to do", but the "political flack" the agency has taken points to the need to do a better job of educating their local government partners on the need to create the kind of conditions that are conducive to promoting the use of public transit. Mr. Hattery mentioned that the UTA staff is in the process of preparing an update of a handbook regarding planning with transit in mind. It is also helping to organize an October workshop on incorporating the growth principles into local government planning processes and overcoming barriers.

The third item – Improving air quality, is of deep concern to Regional Council members and of immense importance to the transportation planning process. It is a global challenge and will continue to impact the quality of life along the Wasatch Front.

The fourth item – Increasing transportation funding, involves helping the general public become more aware of needs and then clearly identifying ways and means for paying the cost of required improvements.

The fifth item – Improving safety, is becoming a bigger issue nationwide. One side of the issue is eliminating safety problems with highways, transit and other modes of transportation. The other is protecting vital facilities and identifying evacuation routes that would be needed in an emergency.

In response to a question from **Mayor Johnson**, regarding coordination with public safety officials, Mr. Hattery said Ned Hacker, WFRC staff, has been working with Homeland Security officials who are a conduit to local public safety agencies.

Mr. Hattery said that the last two items (6 and 7) regard Regional Council operations. There may be a need to further improve the structure of the Regional Council and to re-examine how information is provided to elected officials and the general public. He said the planning process can be a bit complicated and hard to understand. The staff is especially concerned that Regional Council members, members of WFRC committees, and the local government staffs understand the programs, acronyms, etc. There is also a need to constantly improve public affairs programs. He added that the public awareness program improved in recent years with greater access to the media in general and a greater number of informative transportation related stories in the newspaper. With regard to council operations, there has been a conscious effort to reduce the number of meetings and to ensure that there are meaningful agendas for each meeting that is held. Thought has also been given to moving meetings occasionally to other locations so that members from Weber, Davis and Morgan County's do not have to travel so far. Delegating more of the decision-making process to the COG's and committees is also under consideration; as well as a further delineation of the Regional Council's mission. Mr. Hattery added that the staff would

like the Regional Council to adopt what are currently draft goals and requested the Regional Growth Committee members to take a favorable action on the goals.

Joseph Moore, West Valley City, commented that one of the ways under consideration for improving WFRC operations is to move the offices further into the urban core. He said moving may improve some efficiencies, but it would take away the ease of access to the offices. Chuck Chappell replied that the current location is isolated and has only minimal transit service.

Mayor Johnson reiterated Mr. Moore's comments regarding convenient access for people driving to the office, especially from the north and west.

Mr. Bartholomew, UTA, said the offices lack accessibility for people who do not drive a vehicle and especially persons with disabilities. He said that the Utah Transit Authority is concerned about accessibility and may move its headquarters to another location, (possibly large enough to include office space for the WFRC).

Mayor Burrows said that there are two separate issues: moving the location of meetings and moving the location of operations. He added that driving around downtown Salt Lake City is difficult once you leave the interstate. (Mr. Hattery said the Regional Council at its August meeting would consider the possibility of moving the WFRC offices). Mayor Burrows said he really did not see the value of moving meetings, other than to placate members from the different areas, and expressed a preference for a central meeting place. He added that there is value in delegating authority to where it can be exercised effectively.

Mayor Johnson complimented Chuck Chappell and Wayne Bennion of the WFRC staff for the assistance they have given to Davis County area officials with planning for economic development. He added that the goals for the year are quite expansive and encourage the Regional Council and staff to center efforts on areas where they can make "headway".

ACTION: There being no further discussion, **Mayor JoAnn Seghini** moved to forward the Strategic Goals as presented, to the Regional Council for their approval. **Keith Bartholomew** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Information – PROPOSAL FOR MORE LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT AT RGC, TRANS COM AND REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Chuck Chappell, WFRC, briefly discussed the proposal for adding a legislator to the Regional Council. He stressed that it was an idea generated by Regional Council Members, not staff, in the recent retreat meeting. He stated that it may be difficult to add a member from the Legislature, regardless of whether or not it is a good idea, because it would require changes to the Council By-Laws. Every member entity (some fifty plus) would need to be contacted and an endorsement obtained to change the By-Laws. On the other hand, because several actions that would require changing the By-Laws are emerging, it is felt that now may be a good time to re-visit this issue as well. Mr. Chappell further commented that each of the goals, including those having to do with structure, are worthy objectives. It does not necessarily follow that all will be achieved immediately.

Mr. Chappell also addressed the idea of moving the offices to downtown, stating that this was discussed as a means to try to make it easier for local elected officials to attend Council meetings. It is not about staff desires. He said a downtown location would provide access to TRAX and the commuter trains, soon to be in operation.

Mr. Chappell reminded members that the two items he addressed were suggestions that came out of the Council Retreat – they, along with the other goals and suggestions will be considered by the Regional Council and, if accepted, guide staff efforts during the year.

10. Information – STATUS OF REGIONAL GROWTH PRINCIPLES / VISION IMPLEMENTATION

George Ramjoue', WFRC, reported that since the adoption of the Regional Growth Principles and endorsement of the Wasatch Choices 2040 document and its recommendation by the Regional Growth Committee and Regional Council, specific efforts have been and are being made to ensure their implementation.

Representatives from the WFRC staff have visited all local government member entities to provide information about the growth principles and vision. An overwhelming majority indicated that they would reflect the ideas in the principles and vision in future planning efforts. The Wasatch Choices 2040 document was distributed to all the local governments and was a topic of discussion at the Technical Advisory Committees, planning commission meetings, and city and county council meetings.

He stated that several local governments are, in fact, in the process of updating their general plans. They have indicated a desire to receive technical assistance from the WFRC staff to reflect provisions of the WC2040 findings in their revised plans. Workshops are being planned for the purpose of further educating and training local and other officials in the use of the WC2040 document that includes the growth principles, vision and implementation strategies. It is anticipated that implementation will take place over the next several months.

It was suggested by Mr. Ramjoue' that municipalities adopt the Growth Principles and Vision by Resolution. Several in attendance requested that they be sent through e-mail, a template of a resolution to assist them in adopting the Growth Principles and Vision. (The template was e-mailed to Regional Growth Committee Members and Others on August 20, 2007.)

11. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the RGC is scheduled for **THURSDAY, October 18, 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.

12. OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was considered.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

RESOLUTION
Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification – 2007

WHEREAS, the Governor has designated the Wasatch Front Regional Council as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Salt Lake and Ogden / Layton Urbanized Areas; and

WHEREAS, the Wasatch Front Regional Council is responsible together with the Utah Department of Transportation for carrying out the Urban Transportation Planning Process; and

WHEREAS, the Wasatch Front Regional Council and the Utah Department of Transportation are required to certify that the Urban Transportation Planning Process meets the requirements of the following:

1. 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 1607 with regard to transportation planning requirements.
2. 42 USC 7504, 7506(c), and 7506(d) with regard to the Clean Air Act requirements.
3. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI assurance executed by the State under 23 USC 324 and 29 USC 794.
4. Section 1003(b) of Public Law 102-240, Section 105(f) of Public Law 97-424, and 49 CFR 23 with regard to disadvantaged business enterprises.
5. Public Law 101-336 and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38 with regard to Americans with Disabilities Act.
6. The Older Americans Act, as amended 42 U.S.C. 6101, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.
7. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C., regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender.
8. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 35 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

WHEREAS, the Wasatch Front Regional Council and the Utah Department of Transportation have reviewed the Urban Transportation Planning Process for the Salt Lake and Ogden / Layton Areas as shown in the attached document and have found it to meet the requirements described above.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the Wasatch Front Regional Council and the Utah Department of Transportation certify that the Urban Transportation Planning Process for the Salt Lake and Ogden / Layton Areas meets the requirements of 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 1607; 42 USC 7504, 7506(c) and (d); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act; Section 1003(b) of Public Law 102-240, Section 105(f) of Public Law 97-424, and 49 CFR 23; and Public Law 101-336 and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38, 42 U.S.C. 6101, and Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C., and Section 504 of (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 35.

WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chairman

Executive Director

Executive Director

Date

Date

ATTEST:

ATTEST: