

**Minutes**  
Regional Growth Committee  
Meeting of October 18, 2007

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Mayor Bruce Burrows**, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Mayor Burrows welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

**Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:**

Mike Allegra	UTA
Justin Y. Allen	Quality Growth Commission
Keith Bartholomew	UTA Board
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale City
Steve Call	FHWA
Russell Fox	Kennecott Land Company
Joe Gertge	Mayor, South Weber
Kris Hamlet (Representing Keith Squires)	Department of Public Safety
Meghan Holbrook	Commissioner, Utah Transportation Commission
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County / UAC
Gary Whatcott (Representing Mayor Kent Money)	South Jordan City
Brent Wilde (Representing Mayor Lewis Billings)	Provo City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

**Non-Members Present:**

Jerry Benson	UTA
Darrell Cook	MAG
Andrew Gemperline	Carter & Burgess
Steve Handy	Northern Utah Transportation Alliance
Phillip Hill	Midvale City
Justin Jones	UTA Governmental Relations
G.J. LaBonty	UTA
Sherri Lindstrom	Centerville City Council
Kelly Lund	FHWA
Richard Manser	UDOT
Andrea Packer	UTA
Mitch Shaw	Standard Examiner
John Taylor	Taylorsville City
Russell Weeks	Salt Lake City Council Staff
Brandon Weston	UDOT
Jonathan Yip	UTA
Wayne Bennion	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
LaNiece Dustman	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Ned Hacker  
Val John Halford  
Doug Hattery  
Jory Johner  
Pam Jorgensen  
Sam Klemm  
Greg Scott

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**Members / Representatives excused:** Mayor Peter Corroon, Mayor Joe Johnson and Joe Moore

### 1. Approval of Minutes

**Mayor Joe Gertge** moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held August 16, 2007 be approved as written. **Keith Bartholomew** seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### 2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments

### 3. Report on UTA Financial Plan

**Mike Allegra**, UTA, using a PowerPoint presentation informed members on the Utah Transit Authority's Financial Plan for constructing five rail lines by 2015. The five rail lines included in the plan are:

- 1) Mid-Jordan Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension
- 2) Draper LRT Extension
- 3) FrontRunner – South
- 4) West Valley LRT Extension
- 5) Airport LRT Extension

Mr. Allegra stated that these five rail lines are being treated as one project. He said this would result in a tremendous savings because there will be only one series of contracts, one order of cars, one administration and one management team. He further stated that because these projects are considered as one package the Federal agencies are very favorably disposed to assist with the project.

Other topics addressed by Mr. Allegra were: program principles, a summary of program capital costs, and a summary of capital revenues-debt financing. He highlighted the following key points:

- UTA has the ability to access the capital markets and fund the entire 2015 Plan at the current project cost.
- Inter-local agreements with both Salt Lake and Utah Counties must be finalized prior to issuing bonds to finance projects in the 2015 Plan.
- The 2015 Plan will adjust over time to reflect changes in interest rates, sales tax growth rates, O&M costs, and the actual amounts and timing of capital expenditures.

### 4. Action to Endorse Commuter Rail South Locally Preferred Alternative

**G. J. LaBonty**, UTA, presented background information on the Commuter Rail South Locally Preferred Alternative. He commented that preparation of the Environmental Study Report (ESR) began a little more than three years ago as an element of the Environmental Impact Statement

(EIS) on the I-15 Corridor from Utah County to Salt Lake County. When UTA decided to fund this project using only local funds, they prepared a separate ESR for the commuter rail project in the corridor. He stated that the ESR has been presented to the communities throughout the corridor and formal public hearings were held in both Salt Lake County and Utah County. As a result of technical evaluation and public input, the stakeholders have designated a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The LPA has been presented to both the Utah County Council of Government and the Wasatch Front Regional Council Technical Advisory Committees and unanimously endorsed by both organizations.

At this point Mr. LaBonty took questions from members and others in attendance. Commissioner Meghan Holbrook thanked UTA for all the effort they have put into planning projects. She added there are a few problems with one of the lines and asked Richard Manser from the Utah Department of Transportation to explain the concerns.

Mr. Manser said that his Department is supportive of these projects. However, they would like to "go on the record" with their concerns of one particular location on the prepared line discussed by Mr. LaBonty. He said that the Union Pacific crossing at 14600 South is sub-standard and that is problematic for UDOT and the City of Bluffdale. He proposed that the location of this crossing be moved two blocks south of the current crossing. He added that if the crossing remains at its existing location the problems will remain unresolved.

Mr. Allegra answered that the UTA was aware that there were problems at the crossing, but had confidence they could be resolved if the concerned agencies would work together on the solutions.

**ACTION: Mayor Dan Snarr** moved to adopt the Resolution endorsing the Locally Preferred Alternative, as identified in the final Environmental Study Report, for the Provo to Salt Lake City FrontRunner Project. Secondly that the Resolution be forwarded to the Wasatch Front Regional Council with a recommendation for its approval. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Meghan Holbrook** and passed unanimously.

## **5. Action to Support Passage of One-Quarter Cent Sales Tax in Davis and Weber Counties**

**Sam Klemm**, WFRC, stated that the Weber and Davis County Commissions have placed a question on the November ballot regarding a proposal to raise sales taxes by one-quarter cent for the purpose of funding transportation projects and corridor preservation. A copy of a Draft Resolution to support a positive response to the questions was included in the packets distributed prior to the meeting.

Members of the Committee raised questions as to how the process for setting funding priorities would work. **Chuck Chappell** stated that the Resolution being presented is more a statement of support for the quarter cent tax increase and does not address prioritization. It is assumed each of the counties will determine a process for prioritization of projects through their council of governments.

**Steve Handy**, Northern Utah Transportation Alliance, distributed a copy of "An Open Letter" from the Davis, Ogden/Weber and Brigham City Area Chambers of Commerce supporting the one-quarter cent sales tax.

**ACTION: Justin Allen** recommended by motion that the Wasatch Front Regional Council be encouraged to adopt the proposed Resolution supporting passage of the one-quarter cent sales tax in Davis and Weber Counties. Commissioner Jan Zogmaister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Report on Growth Principles Workshop

**Jerry Benson**, UTA, reported that a workshop organized to encourage the implementation of the growth principles and strategies contained in the Wasatch Choices 2040 guidebook was held on October 16, 2007 at the South Towne Expo Center. The workshop entitled "*The Future Is In Your Hands*", had participants from 21 cities across six counties in the region as well as real estate developers, bankers and other parties interested in gaining practical knowledge on how to apply the Growth Principles. A little over 200 people participated in the workshop. The Utah Transit Authority, Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mountainland Association of Governments, Envision Utah and Utah Quality Growth Commission co-sponsored the workshop.

Mr. Benson informed members and others that the purpose of the workshop was to give the individuals who have the responsibility for implementation of the growth principles practical and useful ways to overcome barriers encountered in applying the principles. He reported that presenters had case studies from all four of the counties. The purpose of the case studies was to give participants in mixed diverse groups an opportunity to apply the growth principles to real situations.

In answer to a question as to whether the results of the workshop would be compiled and made available, Mr. Benson replied that the sponsors had always planned to produce a DVD to summarize the entire workshop. It is hoped that others can watch and receive 80% of the content of the workshop and then share the information with decision-makers involved in the planning processes.

## 7. Report on East / West Studies

**Ned Hacker**, WFRC, reported that the Utah State Legislature, during its 2007 general session, authorized the Utah Department of Transportation to analyze east-west mobility problems in Salt Lake County and counties of the second class. The Salt Lake County and the Davis/Weber Transportation Planning studies are the local response to the legislative initiative. These studies will help communities in the Wasatch Front address growing east-west mobility challenges.

Mr. Hacker introduced **Brandon Weston** from the Utah Department of Transportation to report on Salt Lake County East-West Study. Mr. Weston, using a PowerPoint presentation, reported that the study area runs from the Salt Lake County/Utah County line north to the SR 201 (2100 South) freeway, and from SR 111 (8400 West) east to the I-15 corridor.

He said the Study timeline is broken into three phases:

- 1) Phase 1: May – September 2007 – Identify Needs
- 2) Phase 2: October 2007 – May 2008 – Develop, Analyze and Evaluate Potential Transportation Improvements
- 3) Phase 3: June – August 2008 – Create an Action Plan and Final Report

The project Study Team led by UDOT, in conjunction with Utah Transit Authority (UTA) and the Wasatch Front Regional Council, will analyze the current transportation system, identify system improvement options and consider challenges related to those options. To assist in providing information and feedback to the study a "stakeholder-working group" was formed and is comprised of city and transportation officials. It has been charged to discuss transportation needs, issues and obstacles in their respective areas. The stakeholder-working group includes representatives from UDOT, UTA, WFRC and communities and interest groups from within the study area.

**Wayne Bennion**, WFRC, informed the committee that the Davis/Weber East-West Study would be holding their "kick-off" meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 from 2 – 5 p.m. in the Promontory Towers of Weber State University. He said that more information regarding the study would be distributed at that time. He said there would be a series of round-table discussions regarding east-west issues from Farmington to the northern end of Weber County. He further stated that during the meeting a steering committee of 15-20 people from throughout the area would be identified to help guide the study. He encouraged those interested to attend the initial meeting.

#### **8. Other Business:**

**Chuck Chappell**, WFRC, commented that, as directed by the Regional Council, he and Doug Hattery had visited each of the county councils of governments to further discuss the proposal to add four new members to the eighteen member body. The Regional Council is inclined to add four new non-voting members (representing UDOT, UTA, and the Legislature). He explained that there is a trend across the country to have transit and highway agency managers as members of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to ensure coordination and provide advice. This can be achieved locally by adding the non-voting members.

Mr. Chappell further commented that the Salt Lake County COG suggests that the two members who would represent the Legislature be given voting rights, while the other COGs felt they should be non-voting. He said the Regional Council would further discuss the matter with Salt Lake County COG members to try and reach a consensus. In the meantime, at least for this year, the Regional Council will probably move ahead with the proposal of adding the four as non-voting members.

In response to a questions about how the two legislators would be selected, Mr. Chappell said the Chair of the Regional Council would write to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives and ask them to each appoint one member of their respective bodies to serve on the Regional Council.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the RGC is scheduled for **THURSDAY, January 17, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.** in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.