

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of January 17, 2008

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, January 17, 2008 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions

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

Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:

Justin Y. Allen	Quality Growth Commission
Elden Bingham	UDOT
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale City
Steve Call	FHWA
Mick Crandall	UTA
Louenda Downs	Davis County Commission
Joe Gertge	Mayor, South Weber
Jeff Graviet (Representing Keith Squires)	Department of Public Safety
Meghan Holbrook	Commissioner, Utah Transportation Commission
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Joe Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful City
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
Joseph Moore	West Valley City
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County / UAC
Gary Uresk	Utah League of Cities & Towns/Woods Cross City
Linda Walker (Representing Claudia Anderson)	Bluffdale City

Non-Members Present:

Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Sharen Hauri	MGB+A Land Planners
Kelly Lund	FHWA
Teri Newell	UDOT
Brad Sanderson	South Jordan City
Mitch Shaw	Standard Examiner
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
LaNiece Dustman	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Muhammad Farhan	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ned Hacker	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
Andy Li	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Greg Scott	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Barbara Thomas	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Members / Representatives excused: Mayor Lewis Billings, Mayor Peter Corroon, Mayor JoAnn Seghini, Commissioner Craig Dearden, Commissioner Jan Zogmaister and Jim Horrocks

1. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bruce Burrows moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held October 18, 2007 be approved as written. **Justin Allen** seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments

3. Information on RGC Mission and Objectives

Ned Hacker, WFRC, reviewed the Regional Growth Committee's mission, objectives and membership. He reminded members that the primary mission is "to serve as the policy advisory body to the Regional Council on long range transportation planning and related land use and other growth issues." He further stated that the primary objectives are:

- 1) To provide guidance and oversight for preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the ongoing planning process.
- 2) To provide guidance and oversight to the corridor preservation process, and
- 3) To facilitate the coordination of planning in the region.

Copies of the formal documents describing the mission statement, objectives, etc. and the RGC member list were distributed.

4. Action to Recommend Release for Public Comment Proposed Amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan

Ned Hacker reported that since the Council's adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2007-2030 in May 2007, the WFRC staff has received requests from several municipalities and agencies to amend the document. It has been recommended that the Regional Transportation Plan be amended to include the following projects and the list of amendments be released for public comment:

- **5600 West Transit**
 - A transit line on 5600 West would be added to the RTP to compliment the MVC freeway already included in the RTP.
 - The transit line on 5600 West would eventually connect the Mid-Jordan and the Airport LRT lines and would be built in sections over the course of the RTP.
 - The technology (e.g. BRT, street car LRT) would evolve as appropriate.
 - Adoption of the transit sections into phases of the RTP would be conditioned on finding potential transit funding.
- **Designate the Denver and Rio-Grande Western Corridor (D&RGW) as a multi-modal Transportation Corridor** (from 400 North West Bountiful, Davis County to 3300 South and Midland Drive in West Haven, Weber County). The Utah Transit Authority requested that the portion of the D&RGW corridor they own be designated as a future transportation corridor so the right-of-way is protected and preserved. The corridor is currently designated in the Rails to Trails program and is in use as a trail.

- **14600 South Roadway and D&RGW RR Structure Replacement and Re-alignment.** The City of Bluffdale and UDOT have requested that this project be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In order for it to go into the TIP it must first be moved from Phase II to Phase I of the RTP. The Phase change will allow coordinated construction of the project with the construction of Commuter Rail from Salt Lake City to Provo.
- **Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at 6200 South.** The City of Taylorsville and Utah Department of Transportation requested a grade separated interchange at Bangerter Highway and 6200 South. With preliminary information from the Salt Lake County E-W Corridors Study this interchange will improve east-west movement.
- **Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at 7800 South.** The City of West Jordan and Utah Department of Transportation requested a grade separated interchange at Bangerter Highway and 7800 South. According to preliminary information from the Salt Lake County E-W Corridors Study this interchange will improve east-west movement.
- **Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at Redwood Road.** The City of Riverton and Utah Department of Transportation requested this project be moved from Phase II to Phase I of the Plan. According to preliminary information from the Salt Lake County E-W Corridors Study this interchange will improve east-west movement.
- **Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at 600 West.** The Utah Department of Transportation requested a grade separated interchange at Bangerter Highway and 600 West. According to preliminary information from the Salt Lake County E-W Corridors Study this interchange will improve east-west movement.

Mr. Hacker stated that following the public comment period; the Regional Council will receive detailed technical analysis of these projects from the WFRC, UTA and UDOT staff. Further discussion, will take place prior to the RTP being amended to include the projects.

ACTION: Commissioner Louenda Downs moved that the RGC recommend to the Regional Council that it release for public comment the proposed amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Meghan Holbrook** and was passed unanimously.

5. Presentation on Legacy Parkway Scenic Byway

Gary Uresk, Woods Cross City, and **Sharen Hauri**, MGB+A Land Planners, informed members and guests of the progress being made on the Legacy Parkway Scenic Byway. A PowerPoint presentation was given with the following concepts outlined for discussing:

- The Legacy Parkway is a comprehensive development proposal for land along the Parkway
- The Parkway represents a coordinated vision for five cities (Farmington, Centerville, Woods Cross, West Bountiful, North Salt Lake) and Davis County
- The Parkway Plan suggests amenities and designs to enhance traveler experience
- The Parkway Plan guides local land use decisions
- The Parkway Plan provides background for National Scenic Byway application when the roadway opens
- The Parkway Plan makes local wishes known to UDOT and other agencies

The presenters further discussed the planning process, design guidelines, a model ordinance and the vision for the Parkway. Ms. Hauri stated that when the roadway opens UDOT will apply for national scenic byway status.

It was noted that progress being made on the Parkway is very commendable and that Neka Roundy has been very instrumental in achieving this success.

6. Information on Corridor Preservation Process

Barbara Thomas, WFRC, reported that in July 2006 Salt Lake County implemented a \$10 vehicle registration fee for corridor preservation. She stated it was anticipated that the fee would generate about \$6.8 million per year. The actual amount generated at the end of the first year was \$7.5 million. As of December 2007 \$4.6 million had been spent in Salt Lake County, The 2007 Legislature directed that 70% of the revenue generated by the fee would go to the Mountain View Corridor, with the remaining 30% to be used for the original purpose. Davis County has been collecting this fee for a shorter period and has raised just a little over \$1 million. Davis County has contracted with WFRC to do their corridor preservation management. Weber County will begin collecting corridor preservation funds starting this year (2008).

Ms. Thomas said that the goal of the Corridor Preservation Fund is to acquire relatively undeveloped property in areas slated for later road construction. The property can thus be preserved and lower the ultimate cost of road projects. Ms. Thomas commented briefly on informal policies for allocating corridor preservation funds between local and state roads. She also described requirements for participation in the fund and noted that the applicant must have an "Access Management Plan", a "Property Acquisition Plan", and a willing seller. The property must also be linked to a project in the WFRC's Transportation Plan.

Ms. Thomas then commented on the steps an applicant for funds collected in Salt Lake County must take to receive Corridor Preservation Funds (held in trust by UDOT). These steps are as follows:

- 1) The applicant fills out a copy of the uniform application and submits it to the WFRC staff;
- 2) The application is presented to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Salt Lake County Council of Governments;
- 3) Committee members review and prioritize proposed projects (utilizing previously approved weighted criteria) and makes recommendations to the Salt Lake County COG;
- 4) After decisions are made, recommendations are given to the Salt Lake County Council for approval or modification;
- 5) Staff then requests funds be sent to the applicant from UDOT to pay for the projects.

Ms. Thomas further discussed how the process has actually worked and problems that have occurred. She also commented on some of the specific criterion used by the Salt Lake County COG in establishing priorities.

7. Discussion of Growth Principles Outreach

Val John Halford, WFRC, reviewed with members and guests that the "Wasatch Choices 2040" Regional Growth Principles and Vision were formally adopted by the Regional Council in October of 2005. He said that the Growth Principles were adopted so that they can serve "as the regional context and decision-making framework for the Regional Transportation Plan, local general plans, and other related plans."

Mr. Halford explained that in an effort to keep the Regional Growth Principals and Vision in the forefront of local community and county planning efforts, the WFRC and their consultant, Envision Utah, are developing a region-wide outreach effort to re-emphasize the use of the principles as a

framework for planning at both the local and regional level. The objective is to encourage local communities to implement principles and strategies that are appropriate for their jurisdictions. Mr. Halford asked the members of RGC for their ideas and suggestions on how best to accomplish this objective. He then opened the meeting for comments and suggestions. The following are summaries of the comments:

- Mayors and county elected officials need to make sure that their managers and planning directors understand that they endorse the “Growth Principles and Vision” for their areas and strongly encourage the use of these Principles as guidelines for planning. They should specifically ask the responsible officials to report back on how they can implement the principles in their planning processes.
- The WFRC and Envision Utah should provide examples of communities that have made specific changes and approved developments based on concepts in the principles and guidelines
- Planning Commissions should be educated more effectively about the Growth Principles and Vision so they can implement concepts that are pertinent to their jurisdictions and communities. Each entity will have different needs and the presentation should tailor principles and guidelines to individual community situations.
- There needs to be a connection to the business community. Regional planners need to take the information to the chambers of commerce, the rotary clubs, etc. as they play an important role in planning.
- Presentations on the Growth Principle and Vision should be made at the Spring conference of the city managers group, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, etc.
- Information about the Growth Principles and Vision should be made available so the user can “click” on whatever they want to see that applies to their community and that way, they wouldn’t have to spend a great deal of time looking at options that would not apply – only those that could be implemented in their communities.

Mr. Halford thanked Mayor Johnson for the opportunity to discuss the renewed planning effort with the RGC. Mayor Johnson said there were certainly many suggestions made for gaining access to the planning functions of each jurisdiction and that different approaches would need to be tailored for each circumstance.

8. Other Business

Legislative Update - Sam Klemm, WFRC, updated members and guests on several bills concerning transportation issues that will be considered during the current legislative session. Mr. Klemm specifically discussed the following bills:

- **House Bill 105** – Representative Julie Fisher – **Transportation Loan Fund Amendments**. This bill would allow cities and counties to tap into the Infrastructure Loan Fund currently administered by UDOT. Presently, the Fund is available only for state projects. This change would allow cities and counties to borrow from the Fund for local roads.
- **House Bill 242** – Representative Wayne Harper – **Local Option Transportation Corridor Preservation Fee Amendments**. This bill would re-direct the remaining corridor preservation money in Salt Lake County to the Mountain View corridor. There

are serious reservations about this bill inasmuch as there are other pressing corridor preservation needs across the County. The Mountain View Corridor is already receiving 70% of the vehicle registration fee money and all of the 1/16 cent additional sales tax approved by the voters in November

- **House Bill 251** – Representative John Dougall – **Sales and Use Tax Revisions (as applied to transit)**. This bill is to clean up language that would affect only Utah County. It is meant to ensure that the State Tax Commission continues to collect the second quarter cent sales tax that was recently approved by the voters.

Mr. Klemm stated that he would continue to keep committee members informed on all transportation related legislation for their cities and communities.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee is scheduled for **THURSDAY, March 20, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.** in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.