

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of August 20, 2009

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, August 20, 2009 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Bruce Burrows, 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:

Ralph Becker	Mayor, Salt Lake City
Lewis Billings	Mayor, Provo City / MAG
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale City
Mick Crandall	UTA
Louenda Downs	Commissioner, Davis County
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Alan Matheson	Envision Utah
Neka Roundy	Mayor, Kaysville City
JoAnn Seghini	Mayor, Midvale City
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Gary Whatcott (for Mayor Kent Money)	South Jordan City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

Non-Members Present:

Chris Chesnut	UTA
Christopher Clifford	The Planning Center
Robert Jeppsen	Salt Lake County Mayor's Office
Rick LeBrasseur	Center for Green Space Design
Mitch Shaw	Ogden Standard - Examiner
Sumner Swaner	Center for Green Space Design
Kathy VanDame	Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
Lynn Vinzant	Clinton City
Rodger Worthen	Syracuse City
Wayne Bennion	WFRC
Chuck Chappell	WFRC
LaNiece Davenport	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Val John Halford	WFRC
Doug Hattery	WFRC
Jory Johner	WFRC
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC

Members / Representatives excused: Lane Beattie, Commissioner Stuart Adams, Justin Allen, Mayor Byron Anderson, Steve Call, Mayor Peter Corroon, Cheryl Heying, Wilf Sommerkorn, Colonel Keith Squires, Gary Uresk

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Louenda Downs moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held May 21, 2009 be approved as written. **Commissioner Jan Zogmaister** seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments

3. Action – Green Infrastructure Plan

LaNiece Davenport, WFRC, reported that just over a year ago in May 2008, the Wasatch Front Regional Council staff hosted a Green Infrastructure Workshop. Workshop participants learned the basics of green infrastructure and the need for communities to consider these principles when planning their future. Following the Workshop, the Wasatch Front Regional Council was asked to initiate a green infrastructure plan for our region.

Ms. Davenport reminded members that green infrastructure is an inter connected network of open space and natural areas such as greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preserves, farmland, watershed, ecological areas, recreational and scenic areas. The Green Infrastructure Plan will connect communities to their landscape and enable them to identify which lands to develop, protect, preserve or conserve. The Plan will identify specific economic advantages for communities and have a strong emphasis on implementation strategies.

Ms. Davenport said for those who would like to review the information she presented on the Green Infrastructure Workshops at the May 15, 2008 RGC meeting, the full presentation is available and may be viewed on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.org.

Ms. Davenport reported that over the last year, with help from other agencies and entities, a scope of work has been identified and \$81,000 has been secured. The \$81,000 will fund the first two phases of the project leaving the third and final phase yet to be funded. It is estimate the total project will cost no more than \$175,000 and take about 18 months to complete.

She stated that the Center for Green Space Design, a local non-profit organization, has agreed to work with the Wasatch Front Regional Council to develop the Plan and secure additional financing through foundation grants and other sources. The Center for Green Space Design has agreed that with the \$81,000 they can complete the first two phases of the Plan. This work will be to establish committees, identify goals and priorities for the region, gather data and then work with that data to create a database. The second phase will focus on outreach that will include visioning workshops and public input.

At this point, Ms. Davenport introduced Mr. Sumner Swaner and Mr. Rick LeBrosseur from the Center for Green Space Design and invited them to share their passion for this project and how their organization will be involved through each phase.

Mr. Swaner, Mr. LeBrosseur and Ms. Davenport addressed questions and concerns of the members that included:

- Is there adequate funding to take the project to completion?
 - Ms. Davenport stated that funding for Phase 1 & 2 is already in place.
 - The Center for Green Space Design will be assisting with the fund raising for Phase 3 and using a set of donors they have worked with for over ten years.

- Is this a duplication of work that is being done by the municipalities or other entities?
 - Ms. Davenport responded that the information that is gathered would be made available perhaps as a "tool kit" with some steps they can follow that will support the work they are doing.

- Many communities in the region are working very hard to develop and implement plans that use the growth principles. They may be at varying levels and using different approaches. Would ideas you come up with be superimposed on work that we are engaged in within our communities?
 - Ms. Davenport stated this is a regional perspective. It will allow for cities and counties to view green infrastructure from a larger perspective.
 - Mr. LeBasseur noted that updated information and strategies would be provided on how to consider green infrastructure within your communities. You may choose to use the information or go another direction. We will not tell you what you must do – we're going to give you suggestions that fit to your certain needs.

ACTION: Mayor Ralph Becker moved that the Regional Growth Committee recommend to the Regional Council the proposed project with the caveat to focus on coordination throughout the region without superimposing on the work already being done. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Louenda Downs and passed unanimously.

4. Action – WFRC Urban Planning Process Certification

Wayne Bennion, WFRC, informed members that each year the Wasatch Front Regional Council and the Utah Department of Transportation are required to certify that the transportation planning process in the region meets all federal planning requirements. The WFRC and UDOT staffs have worked together to evaluate how well the federal requirements are being met. Based on this effort, a resolution has been prepared certifying the planning process for the region.

Mr. Bennion briefly reviewed the Resolution and the Certification Determination that were included in the packets distributed prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Jan Zogmaister moved that the Regional Growth Committee recommend to the Regional Council that they approve the Resolution of the Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification–2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Louenda Downs and passed unanimously.

5. Action – Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Wayne Bennion, WFRC, informed that there is a need to commit additional funds now in order to secure them for the update of the Regional Transportation Plan in FY2011. It is proposed that we amend the current FY2009 and FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget to include additional federal dollars and anticipated local match from future contributions into the current work program and therefore secure those funds for the RTP.

Mr. Bennion said that the amendment extends the UPWP into FY2011 and focuses on the primary work necessary to update the RTP. Direct work on the RTP includes project selection and phasing, document preparation, environmental evaluation and performance measures analysis. Supporting work includes travel forecasting and implementation strategies for the Growth Principles.

Commissioner Zogmaister asked whether the amount of matching funds would stay the same as they currently make. Mr. Bennion stated that the local contributions from each county would remain the same.

ACTION: Mayor JoAnn Seghini moved that the Regional Growth Committee recommend to the Regional Council that they approve the Amendment to the United Planning Work Program Budget FY2009 and FY2010. Commissioner Louenda Downs seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Information – Bicycle Routes and Trails Planning Efforts

Jory Johner, WFRC, reported that in May of 2009 the Wasatch Front Regional Council staff hosted a kickoff for the Regional Bicycle and Trails Planning Committee. The Committee includes representatives from Davis, Salt Lake and Weber Counties, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Planning, Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG), and WFRC. The meeting allowed agencies to share existing and past planning efforts with regard to bicycle routes and trails and to present upcoming planning efforts.

Mr. Johner stated that the goals and objectives of the committee are to:

- Establish and define criteria to identify a backbone / prioritized bicycle route and trails network
- Develop the backbone / prioritized network
- Review of the backbone / prioritized network by local jurisdictions
- Identify and resolve bicycle route and trail inconsistencies at county and city borders
- Identify potential funding sources for bicycle routes and trails.

He further commented that some future goals of the Committee could include:

- A Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) or Bicycle Compatibility Index (BCI) for existing road network and
- Requests to cities and counties for Bicycle Master Plan amendments / updates

Mr. Johner briefly discussed the Shoulder Inventory Map that was included in the packets sent out prior to the meeting. He noted that at the beginning of the summer, WFRC hired two interns, Anders Fillerup from Brigham Young University and Spencer Hymas from the University of Utah, who worked on the highway shoulder inventory. They identified shoulders in Davis, Salt Lake and Weber Counties that are four feet wide or greater. They used the UDOT bicycle priority database, aerial photographs and Google Street View to help categorize their findings. A map and spreadsheet of the shoulder inventory will be provided in the near future to all cities and counties allowing them to further explore the opportunity of adding striped bicycle lanes in appropriate corridors.

Some of the concerns and thoughts expressed by members and others for the Regional Bicycle and Trails Planning Committee to consider include:

- Education of bicyclists and drivers of vehicles on the rules of the road. Some suggestions included:
 - Davis County has a program for every fourth grade class in the district
 - UTA also has a program on safety they take into the schools
 - Traffic schools may also be an option
- Bring bicycle and trail information to the attention of the public, at least annually, through public service announcements, billboards, community organizations, or other means
- Make sure bicycle lanes are maintained and free of debris
- Locate and use the brochures, information and materials already available rather than try to “reinvent the wheel”.
- Look for balance in the best routes and take into consideration that high traffic volume, access points and high speeds are prone to being more risky in terms of accident rates

It was noted that the Regional Growth Committee is supportive of the Bicycle and Trails Committee in their effort to make Utah a more bicycle savvy State.

ACTION: Commissioner Louenda Downs moved that the Regional Growth Committee recommend to the Regional Council that we look at ways to support legislative recognition / funding specifically for bicycles. **Mayor Ralph Becker** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Information – Life On State Project Update

Christopher Clifford, The Planning Center, using a slide presentation, informed the members on the progress of the “Life on State – Our Street Our Vision” project. He said the project is a collaborative effort and partners include: Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County/Millcreek Township, South Salt Lake, Murray, Midvale, Sandy, Draper, Salt Lake Chamber and Downtown Alliance.

Mr. Clifford stated the Life on State project has three elements:

- 1) To establish a broadly supported Vision which includes:
 - Draft released in September 2009
 - Finalized in January 2010
- 2) Explore applications and implementation of the Vision
 - Charette August 4 to 8
- 3) Develop a tool box of best practices

The primary goal of this project is to enhance State Street and the surrounding land so that good planning and market forces will help, over time, to form a more livable corridor. A livable corridor would include the following elements:

- Access to high frequency and reliable transit that connects to desired destinations
- Provision of various motorized and non-motorized transportation modes
- Creation of purposeful walking opportunities for a higher percentage of residents
- Traffic calming, reduced accidents, and greater safety

- Redevelopment should intensify land use adjoining the corridor to its highest and best use
- Trans-jurisdictional zoning ordinances that establish land use, building height, street setbacks, footprint, parking restrictions, type of signage, and access management
- A coordinated streetscape design that allows for visual themes, lighting, art, street furniture, trees and landscaping, awnings, open space, plazas, sidewalk, pavement treatment, etc.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the timeline/schedule for the Life On State project as follows:

- Visioning Workshops – June-July, 2009
- Small Area Charettes – August, 2009
- Town Hall Meetings – September, 2009
- City Presentations and Discussion – October-November, 2009
- Vision Product Development – November-December, 2009
- Final Product – The Vision – January, 2010

Alan Matheson, Envision Utah, commented that this project is more than just dealing with aesthetics. He said the research that has been done by them, WFRC and others shows that by absorbing a lot of the new growth in our community in areas of regional transportation significance which includes not just transit stops and interchanges but also key corridors, we could create very significant regional transportation benefits.

It was noted that information regarding the “Life on State – Our Street Our Vision” could also be found on the web at www.lifeonstate.org or by following the link on Wasatch Front Regional Councils website – www.wfrc.org

8. Information – West Side Transit Study Project Update

This item deferred until the next meeting – October 15, 2009

9. Other Business

- WFRC Air Quality Committee Meeting to be held immediately following RGC at 11:00 a.m. today.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held at **9:30 a.m. on THURSDAY, October 15, 2009** in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.