

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of August 18, 2011

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, August 18, 2011 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Jan Zogmaister, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Zogmaister welcomed committee members and guests and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Members, Representatives & Alternates Present:

Len Arave	Mayor, North Salt Lake City
Keith Bartholomew	UTA Board
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale
Eric Craythorne	Mayor, West Point City
Peter Donner	GOPB
Reid Ewing	University of Utah
Tina Kelley	Councilmember, Morgan County
Dan McConkie	Utah Transportation Commission
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Cory Pope	UDOT
Matt Sibul	UTA
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Derk Timothy	Mayor, Bluffdale City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

Non-Members Present:

Jacob Anderegg	Senator Mike Lee's Office
Christopher Chesnut	UTA
Jesse O. Glidden	UDOT Region One
Shane Greenwood	South Jordan City
Robin Hutcheson	Fehr & Peers
Rob Jeppsen	SL Co. Mayor's Office
Linda Johnson	League of Women Voters-Salt Lake
Lee Logston	West Valley City Planning
Chad Mullins	SL Co. Bicycle Advisory Committee
Kathy Olson	UTA
Lynn Vinzant	Clinton City
Russell Weeks	Salt Lake City Council
Renae Widdison	UBET
Wayne Bennion	WFRC
LaNiece Davenport	WFRC
Andrew Gruber	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Val John Halford	WFRC

Jory Johner	WFRC
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC
Sam Klemm	WFRC
Julia Reynolds	WFRC

Members / Representatives excused: Mayor Brent Marshall and Mayor JoAnn Seghini

1. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bruce Burrows moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held May 19, 2011 be approved as written. The motion was seconded by **Mayor Dirk Timothy** and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments

3. Action – Self-Certification of the Transportation Planning Process

Ben Wuthrich, WFRC, said that each year the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) certify to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that the transportation planning process is addressing the major transportation management issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Mr. Wuthrich said that metropolitan transportation planning is the process of examining travel and transportation issues and needs in metropolitan areas. It includes a demographic analysis of the community in question, as well as an examination of travel patterns and trends. The planning process includes an analysis of alternatives to meet projected future demands and for providing a safe and efficient transportation system that meets mobility while not creating adverse impacts to the environment.

Mayor Erik Craythorne moved to recommend to the Wasatch Front Regional Council that the Resolution certifying the transportation planning process be approved as presented. **Mayor Bruce Burrows** seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

4. Information – Green Infrastructure Study Update

LaNiece Davenport, WFRC, gave an update on the status of the Green Infrastructure Study that was endorsed by the Regional Growth Committee in August 2009. She reminded that green infrastructure is an interconnected network of open space and natural areas such as greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preserves, farmland, watershed, ecological areas, recreational and scenic areas. She noted that in the planning process it is important to consider green infrastructure as you would gray infrastructure.

Ms. Davenport said that there are a lot of green infrastructure lands that are important in the Wasatch Front Region and that is the reason the Wasatch Front Regional Council was asked to initiate a Green Infrastructure Study. The Study has been a collaborative effort with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands and the Center for Green Infrastructure Design and encompasses the five-county region of Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele and Weber Counties.

Ms. Davenport reported that the Study called *(Re)Connect: Green Infrastructure in the Wasatch Front* has two components: 1) a planning component, and 2) a mapping component. The planning component tells the picture of green infrastructure and includes implementation strategies and recommendations that may be used by multiple entities, agencies, cities, counties, and others.

The mapping component illustrates the regions high priority green infrastructure lands that have been identified and provides a regional view of green infrastructure systems in our region. The maps may be viewed on the Wasatch Front Regional Council's website at www.wfrc.org. The Plan is expected to be complete in another few months and at that time will also be included on the website.

Ms. Davenport said that the project has led to increased awareness and understanding of green infrastructure on the part of involved citizens, planners, agencies, and other organizations through workshops, open houses and consultations. After some discussion, Ms. Davenport suggested that the project information could be presented to the COGs. She also suggested that the project team would look into other methods (electronic media) to make the information available to the cities and counties for their use in their planning efforts.

5. Information – Wasatch Choice for 2040 and HUD Grant Sustainable Communities Update

Ned Hacker, WFRC, reminded RGC that the Wasatch Choice for 2040 is the land-use and transportation "Vision" for Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah Counties, developed by elected officials and the public to improve our quality of life as our region experiences dramatic growth. A Wasatch Front partnership consisting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Envision Utah, Salt Lake County, Mountainland Association of Governments, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Transit Authority, and the American Planning Association is progressing on work to implement the Wasatch Choice for 2040 with assistance through the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant.

Mr. Hacker introduced **Robin Hutcheson**, Fehr and Peers, and the Project Coordinator for the work associated with the Wasatch Choice for 2040. Ms. Hutcheson reported on the technical work that is being done with regard to four programs. She discussed the following programs:

- Program 1: The development of the Envision Tomorrow Plus Software (ET+). This will be a tool for every community to use in their planning efforts. The University of Utah is completing a series of studies that will help to inform what kind of choices consumers are going to make with respect to housing and what to plan for.
- Program 2: The development of scenarios at six demonstration sites. There are six demonstration sites that are example sites. These sites will be the first to test Envision Tomorrow Plus by developing scenarios and then using the ET+ tool to predict how successful we are in meeting livability measures. The six sites include: 1) Provo City Intermodal Hub (Urban Center), 2) Downtown Sandy City (Urban Center/ Boulevard Community), 3) Magna Town Center (Main Street Community), 4) Salt Lake City Central Station (Metropolitan Center), 5) Salt Lake City Downtown Streetcar (Boulevard Community), and 6) South Salt Lake/ Millcreek Township (Station Community).

- **Program 3: Housing analysis.** Meetings and outreach with the Region's housing authority are being conducted by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Utah. They are working on an analysis of impediments which is specifically the analysis of impediments to affordable housing. The purpose of the housing analysis is to inform housing characteristics and opportunities in the future, to develop a range of housing types and styles and to break down the barriers of the impediments to affordable housing.
- **Program 4: Education and Outreach.** Ms. Hutcheson reported that there are several pieces to this program. One of those is the financial forum discussions. She noted that a forum in this context is a series of conversations. There has been some national interest from American Express, the Federal Reserve Bank and others. The Utah Transit Authority and Envision Utah have been leading the effort to continue these discussions at the national level as well as the local State level. There has also been interest from the development community with numerous meetings with local developers. Ms. Hutcheson also said that there has been some work done on the form based code for this project. This is something that is being prepared not just for the six demonstration sites but for this region to have as a tool.

Ms. Hutcheson reported that a fifth program has been developed because the work to engage the region has become its own program. She said it has become equally as important as the four technical pieces of work (noted above) and is called "The Consortium". The Consortium is an integral part of this program.

Andrew Gruber, WFRC, said that it is important that any interested stakeholder throughout the Region have a voice in the process and the Consortium is the vehicle for doing that. He distributed a copy of the *Consortium Member Letter of Intent* and explained that this is a nonthreatening way for anyone interested to become engaged, participate and have a voice. He also said that quarterly meetings of the Consortium will be held, where what is going on with the Programs will be explained with opportunities for discussion. The first of the quarterly Consortium meetings will be held on Monday, September 26, 2011 at the Salt Palace from 1:30-5:00 p.m. and there will be more information distributed in the coming weeks.

6. Presentation – Land Use and Transportation

Dr. Reid Ewing, University of Utah, made a presentation about the relationship between land use and transportation and how they are linked together. The planning and construction of new highways, transit lines, and other transportation improvements throughout the Wasatch Front Region affects existing land uses and plans for future development. Dr. Ewing's slide show presentation helps explain how land use directly impacts transportation and vice versa. He discussed and elaborated on the following items:

1. You cannot pave your way out of congestion
2. Travel is a derived demand
3. Land use and transportation aren't coordinated

Dr. Ewing said that we know a lot about travel and its relationship to transportation and its relationship to land use from more than 200 studies. He discussed the following "D" Variables. These Variables when implemented will reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and also help reduce congestion:

- Density
- Diversity
- Design
- Destination Accessibility
- Distance to Transit
- Development
- Demographics

Dr. Ewing responded to questions and comments from RGC members regarding the above "D" Variables. He also said that they apply to transit because you get a reduction in VMT just by getting jobs and housing closer together.

The information provided in Dr. Ewing's presentation will be useful as WFRC works to update the Regional Transportation Plan and also plans as they are developed and finalized for the six catalytic sites that are part of the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant process.

7. Discussion – 2015-2040 RTP

Val John Halford, WFRC, reported that WFRC staff has begun the process of developing the next Regional Transportation Plan, that has been assigned the planning horizon of 2015 – 2040. Mr. Halford said that building on previous efforts and desiring to improve the RTP's connection with the Wasatch Choice for 2040 regional vision, the staff is re-examining all relevant aspects of this important planning process. He said that the focus of this revision effort will be to more closely integrate the RTP's goals, objectives, performance measures, evaluation criteria, and implementation strategies with our Regional Vision and growth principles.

Mr. Halford distributed and reviewed the "Vision Integration Process Diagram" handout with RGC members. He said that at this time staff is seeking ideas on how to incorporate the various studies and elements of the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant into the RTP. Some of the comments from RGC members included:

- Will some sort of scenario testing be part of the process?
- External economic influences and how they affect and shape development patterns - such as higher fuel prices or if the housing market continues to stagnate and how to respond to them positively in the planning process.
- Is there any merit to backing into this concept and looking at the glaring "do not do". Start with a list of the really bad ideas and see where it leads.
- Are you looking at how costs are associated with development?

Mr. Halford expressed appreciation for all comments and ideas and noted that they would accept further comments and suggestions from RGC members through email to Ned Hacker at nhacker@wfr.org, Jory Johner at jjohner@wfr.org, or Val at vhalford@wfr.org.

8. Other Business

- WFRC Air Quality Committee Meeting immediately following RGC today.

9. The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held at 9:30 a.m. on THURSDAY, October 20, 2011 in the Wasatch Front Regional Council offices.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.