

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of October 20, 2011

A combined meeting of the Regional Growth Committee and the Air Quality Committee was held on Thursday, October 20, 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, RGC 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:

RGC and AQC Members and Alternates Present:

Keith Bartholomew	UTA Board
Ralph Becker	Mayor, Salt Lake City
John Bennett	GOPB
Bryce Bird	UDAQ
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
Eric Craythorne	Mayor, West Point City
Peter Donner	GOPB
Reid Ewing	University of Utah
Bruce Kartchner (Representing Mayor Timothy)	Councilman, Bluffdale City
Tina Kelley	Councilmember, Morgan County
Brent Marshall	Mayor, Grantsville City
Jon Osier	Kennecott Land
Angelo Papastamos	UDOT
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Cory Pope	UDOT
Matt Sibul	UTA
Darrell Smith	Mayor, Draper City
Daniel Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Don Wood	Mayor, Clearfield City
Gary Uresk	Woods Cross City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

RGC and AQC Representatives and Others Present:

Peter Ashcroft	Citizen
Vicki Bennett	Salt Lake City
Christopher Chesnut	UTA
Steve Call	FHWA
Robert Ett	Consulting - Architecture
Jesse O. Glidden	UDOT Region One
Shane Greenwood	South Jordan City
Susan Hardy	MAG
Linda Johnson	League of Women Voters-Salt Lake
G.J. LaBonty	UTA
Rick LeBrasseur	The Center for Green Infrastructure Design
Bill Lee	Senator Mike Lee's Office
Kate Lilja	Salt Lake City
Lee Logston	West Valley City Planning

Kate Lohnes
Kelly Lund
Kelsy Pudlock
Mitch Shaw
Debbie Sigman
Lynn Vinzant
Gary Whatcott
Kip Billings
LaNiece Davenport
Scott Festin
Ned Hacker
Doug Hattery
Jory Johner
Pam Jorgensen
Sam Klemm
Ali Oliver
Barbara Thomas
Eloise Thomson

Salt Lake City
FHWA
The Center for Green Infrastructure Design
Standard Examiner
Breathe Utah
Clinton City
South Jordan City
WFRC
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Members / Representatives excused: Mayor Bruce Burrows, Commissioner Dan McConkie and Mayor JoAnn Seghini.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Brent Marshall moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held August 18, 2011 be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Petroff and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments

3. Information – Agricultural Land Preservation

Leonard Blackham, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, gave an informative presentation which included some of the agricultural issues the State of Utah faces today, trends in farming and recommendations to assist in protecting our productive agricultural lands.

Commissioner Blackham discussed the following four recommendations to assist and guide the region in protecting agricultural lands into the future:

- Dedicate county rollback taxes to purchasing conservative easements on important agriculture lands as determined at the county level. This is not open-land, wildlife, or any other priority value protection.
- Cluster multiple development rights from multiple farm land owners into a common area to allow for larger blocks of land to be farmed in more conducive and conventional agriculture manner.
- Encourage development of less productive lands.

- Honor policies that protect agriculture and zoning laws that will not steal property rights and especially development values from farm land.

Commissioner Blackham suggested that many tools are needed including laws and policies in planning, permitting, zoning and conservation easements to protect the critical agricultural lands along the Wasatch Front. He further noted that we have the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Vision to guide us into the future but that alone isn't enough. He said no one tool can do the job alone.

4. Information – Emerging Technology to view and understand projects and data

Scott Festin, WFRC, reported that shortly after the Regional Transportation Plan was adopted in May 2011, the mapping group within the WFRC staff was asked to examine and explore ways to better share that information. Mr. Festin said that ESRI, the manufacturer of the GIS software that staff uses at WFRC, has been working with online mapping and expanding the capabilities of that technology. He said that staff was able to create the maps contained in the current RTP in a matter of hours and days rather than weeks and months as was the case with the previously adopted Plan in 2007. He also said that this new technology will be used to access not only the Regional Transportation Plan but for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Green Infrastructure Maps and the work being done with the Mobility Management project in Tooele County.

Mr. Festin then demonstrated to the RGC how to view individual RTP project information in a map format and specific information about the projects online. He provided the link to the WFRC Regional Transportation Plan map (<http://www.arcgis.com>) and then explained that you would search for "WFRC RTP". He noted that since the ArcGIS Explorer is Flash based, iPad users will need to download the ArcGIS for iOS application from the App Store on their device before they would be able to perform this action. The map can then be found by searching for "WFRC RTP".

5. Information – Air Quality Issues

Mayor Ralph Becker, Air Quality Committee Chair, gave an update and reported on the work that has been accomplished by the Air Quality Committee over the last eighteen months the Committee has been meeting. Mayor Becker said that at the August 25, 2011 meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council it was recommended that the Air Quality Committee continue efforts to implement seven specific transportation related projects for the purpose of improving air quality. He discussed the following strategies:

- Timing Improvements for 150 Signals
- Travelwise
- Mid-Jordan LRT Ped & Bicycle Access
- Add 40 Vanpools
- Fuel Tax
- Double speeding fines on air quality alert days
- Sandy Transit Oriented Development

These projects were selected from a larger matrix of possible projects representing six general air quality strategy categories: Operational, Behavioral Changes, Alternative Transportation Modes, Financial Mechanisms, Land Use Development, and Vehicle Technology.

During the discussion of the above mentioned strategies Mr. Angelo Papastamos, UDOT, commented that John Njord, UDOT Executive Director, has challenged the Traffic Operations Center to develop a world class signal system. Mr. Papastamos said that more resources would be committed to maintenance upgrades and also to signal timing. He said that in three to four years UDOT will have a state of the art world class signal system.

Professor Reid Ewing, University of Utah, commented that regarding land use, the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Vision is moving in the right direction but perhaps not far enough. He said it is a Plan that defines centers and connects them with transit. He said, however, that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in this region are still going up and because of that it is even more important to focus on center developments and discourage sprawl.

It was noted that each strategy by itself isn't going to accomplish the air quality improvements desired for the region. All of these strategies are important, land use is critical but it can't be the only thing that is focused on. All of the strategies should be looked at comprehensively.

The following are other Air Quality Committee issues discussed and reported on:

PM2.5 SIP Progress Report

The Department of Air Quality (DAQ) has completed base year and attainment year emission inventories and some of the modeling required for developing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for controlling PM_{2.5} pollution. The first of three rounds of stakeholder workshops has been completed in each county affected. The second round of workshops will begin in December.

Air Quality Score Card

Kip Billings, WFRC, presented the semi-annual report of observed air quality conditions along the Wasatch Front based on DAQ air monitor data. Mr. Billings noted that the Ozone season for 2011 just concluded so this information was based on real data not modeling numbers. He said there are four pollutants that are being tracked: 1) PM_{2.5} sometimes referred to as fine particulate matter; 2) PM₁₀ or coarse particulate matter; 3) CO or carbon monoxide; and 4) Ozone. Mr. Billings reviewed each county Air Quality Report Card. Weber, Davis and Salt Lake Counties each received a grade of "B" and Tooele County received a grade of "A".

Mr. Billings also made a brief report on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. He said it is not a criteria pollutant in the same sense that the others are – there isn't a standard that we're trying to meet. He noted the DAQ and the EPA do not keep data on carbon dioxide so the information presented is from the vehicle emissions model and does not include other sources of CO₂ such as industry, businesses, and homes.

Ozone Standard Update

Kip Billings reported that EPA declined to review the standard so we are not impacted, at this time, as far as a requirement to do conformity tests for ozone or for the Division of Air Quality to write a State Implementation Plan for ozone. The current standard of 75ppb is now being implemented. All areas within the Wasatch Front Region are meeting the existing ozone standard so SIP and conformity requirements do not apply.

Bryce Bird, Utah Department of Air Quality, noted that the new proposed ozone standard being considered was 70ppb. He also noted that an updated data set would be used in the 2013 reconsideration of the standard as well as newer science and that the new recommendation may be even lower than the last recommendation.

MOVES Grace Period

EPA has proposed to extend the grace period for implementing the new Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) vehicle emissions model to March 2013. The WFRC 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) could be amended using the current MOBILE6.2 model if needed during this grace period. The WFRC is prepared to use either model at any time. Initial testing of the MOVES model finds that implementing the new model will not reverse the positive conformity status of the WFRC RTP or the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). [Since the date of this meeting, the EPA received adverse comments to the proposed grace period extension, so this proposal has NOT been signed by the EPA.]

AQC 2012 Meeting Schedule

Mayor Becker asked Committee members to review and be aware of the Air Quality Committee meeting schedule for 2012 that was included in member packets.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

- 7. The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.