

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of August 16, 2012

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, August 16, 2012 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. The following were in attendance:

RGC Members and Alternates Present:

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| Len Arave | Mayor, North Salt Lake |
| Carlton Christensen | Councilman, Salt Lake City |
| Tina Kelley | Councilmember, Morgan County |
| G.J. LaBonty (for Michael Allegra) | Utah Transit Authority |
| Brent Marshall | Mayor, Grantsville City |
| Dan McConkie | Utah Transportation Commission |
| Jeff Monroe | Mayor, South Weber City |
| John Petroff | Commissioner, Davis County |
| Daniel Snarr | Mayor, Murray |
| Derk Timothy | Mayor, Bluffdale City |
| Jan Zogmaister | Commissioner, Weber County |

RGC Representatives and Others Present:

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| Richard Brockmyer | UTA |
| Saffron Capson | H.W. Lochner |
| Chuck Gates | Utah League of Cities & Towns / UTA |
| Jesse O. Glidden | UDOT |
| Jason Green | H.W. Lochner |
| Linda Johnson | League of Women Voters–Salt Lake |
| Chad Mullins | SL County Bicycle Advisory Committee |
| David Petersen | Farmington City |
| Wayne Bennion | WFRC |
| Muhammad Farhan | WFRC |
| Andrew Gruber | WFRC |
| Ned Hacker | WFRC |
| Jory Johner | WFRC |
| Pam Jorgensen | WFRC |
| Sam Klemm | WFRC |
| Greg Scott | WFRC |
| Val John Halford | WFRC |
| Ben Wuthrich | WFRC |

1. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Derk Timothy moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held May 17, 2012 be approved as written. The motion was seconded by **Mayor Brent Marshall** 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, reported 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 communities, 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.

ACTION: Mayor Derk Timothy made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution to the Regional Council certifying the transportation planning process. **Commissioner John Petroff** seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Action – Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 Amendments

Ned Hacker, WFRC, reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is required to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years. The current RTP was adopted by the Council in May 2011. He said there is a process the Regional Council staff uses to prepare the RTP and federal guidelines that must be followed. The RTP is a living document which means that it may be amended if necessary.

Mr. Hacker reviewed the following proposed projects to be amended into the Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 (a more detailed description of each project was included in member packets):

- Weber County – 1-15 widening-2700 North Weber County to Brigham City.
- Davis County – 500 South and I-15 Interchange Operation Improvements; 2600 South and I-15 Interchange Operational Improvements
- Salt Lake County – Cottonwood Street, (one-way couplet on Hanauer St. and Box Elder St.) Vine Street to 4500 South Murray; Monroe Street, 10000 South to 10200 South, Sandy

Mr. Hacker said that the Ogden-Layton and Salt Lake-West Valley RGC Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed amendments on August 1, 2012 and voted unanimously for their adoption. He also noted that the proposed projects were released for public comment from June 30 through August 4, 2012. A copy of the comments and the WFRC response to each was distributed. Mr. Hacker reviewed and discussed several of the comments on the handout.

Following Mr. Hacker's presentation Commissioner Zogmaister asked for public comments regarding the RTP 2011-2040 Amendments. The following commented:

- Linda Johnson, League of Women Voters, expressed concern that adding more lanes to I-15 will only add to VMT and air pollution. She suggested using the money to fix and / or repair sidewalks and bike paths throughout the area.
- Chad Mullins, Salt Lake County Bicycle Advisory Council, said that the proposed diverging diamond interchanges (DDI) at 500 South and 2600 South in Bountiful with their complexity and non-intuitive traffic patterns are inherently pedestrian and bicycling unfriendly.

Following are a few of the comments made in response to the DDI concerns:

- Commissioner Dan McConkie said that at their last Commission meeting this subject was discussed and UDOT will further study and look at DDI concerns.
- Commissioner John Petroff commented that the idea of an interchange somewhere between 500 South and 2600 South – perhaps 1500 South might be the better alternative for bikers.
- Jesse Glide, UDOT, said that DDIs are a challenge for accommodating bikes and pedestrians and each DDI is unique. He said that each planned DDI will be evaluated on a case by case basis to find the best way to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

ACTION: Commissioner John Petroff made a motion to recommend to the Regional Council that the Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 Amendment 1, as presented, be amended into the Plan. **Councilmember Tina Kelley** seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Information – Network Planning Study

Mr. Ned Hacker, WFRC, said that the Network Planning Study is focused on determining the next wave of transit projects which will further strengthen the transit system and support the Regional Transportation Plan and the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Vision. He said that one tool that has been developed as part of this study is a "Transit Preparedness Index" that helps identify land use that is more accommodating to transit.

Mr. Hacker then introduced Saffron Capson and Jason Green of H.W. Lochner, and Richard Brockmyer, UTA to give an update on the Network Study and acquaint the Committee with the Transit Preparedness tool.

Saffron Capson briefly discussed the five goals of the Network Study: 1) Identify capital and operating investments, 2) Roadmap to improve project performance, 3) Inform the next RTPs, 4) Advance projects identified on the RTP, and 5) Link Planning and NEPA. She said that they are finalizing a document called “State of the Network” that will be available in the next couple of weeks. The document is a summary of the work completed focusing on defining problems and documenting the current performance of the system. It will not include recommendations – they are still being developed and will follow.

The Transit Preparedness Index was applied at each of the Wasatch Choice for 2040 centers and accounts for the following three elements:

- Transit supportive land use policies
- Proximity to amenities
- Intersection density

This index provides a useful tool for cities to highlight methods for communities to prepare for and develop around transit.

Ms. Capson said that the Transit Preparedness Index is an informational tool, to be used as an educational resource but will not be used as an evaluation tool for network scenarios.

Ms. Capson asked the Committee for suggestions on the best way to share this information with cities and counties. It was suggested that they contact each of the Council of Governments and be put on the Agenda to share specific county information and then members of each of the COGs could then take the information back to their cities and counties to be considered.

6. Information – Wasatch Choice for 2040 Update

Mr. Andrew Gruber, WFRC, said that there are so many efforts and tools that are under way through the Wasatch Choice for 2040 – Envision Tomorrow Plus community modeling tool, Form-Based Code, this new Transit Preparedness Index, and others. He said that we’ve done a lot of public outreach since the Wasatch Choice for 2040 was adopted and now with all of these tools coming out the real challenge in front of us is how to make sure that we make these tools available in a way that communities can actually use and produce value. He then turned the time to Sam Klemm, WFRC to provide an update on outreach and public involvement efforts on the Wasatch Choice for 2040.

Mr. Klemm reported that WFRC staff has made over 150 presentations to different groups, environmental justice groups, cities, the COGs, realtor associations, chambers of commerce, housing associations and social service organizations to inform and provide information on the tools that are being developed.

Mr. Klemm said that we are beginning the third year of the Wasatch Choice 2040 Sustainable Communities Grant and discussions have begun about what this year of outreach would include. The first of these activities is the semi-annual fall Consortium meeting that will take place on Thursday, September 27. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. The Consortium meeting will feature a presentation on the existing and emerging market for development centers and will feature breakout sessions that explore tools and case studies in a variety of topic areas.

Mr. Klemm said that other public involvement ideas are being considered one of which is a new website as a hub for all of the information that is being developed that would include the final versions of ET+ that city planners could use on their desks, a final version of Form-Based Code, and other tools. Mr. Klemm also said that staff would be presenting information to city planning commissions and city councils to explain how these tools would work for them.

7. Information – Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill Update, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21)

Mr. Andrew Gruber, WFRC, gave a report on the recently passed federal transportation bill – MAP-21, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century. MAP-21 authorizes surface transportation programs for two years – fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and begins October 1, 2012. Mr. Gruber said that MAP-21 funds federal transportation at basically current levels plus inflation. MAP-21 funding is \$50.8 billion. He said that Utah will receive \$400 million for the next two years, the same amount as received previously under SAFETEA-LU. The Bill maintains approximate 80/20 highway/transit split.

Mr. Gruber discussed the following three points regarding funding: 1) Stability for two years – however, normally federal transportation bills are multi-year, five or six years, which is really important in the transportation infrastructure planning context; 2) Does Not address long-term funding challenges for transportation; and 3) Formulas instead of earmarks and discretionary programs – which is a fundamental shift in the way transportation is funded.

Mr. Gruber briefly discussed the following program changes:

- Highway Programs
 - Consolidated from over 100 into 30 core programs
 - A new National Highway Performance Program
 - Surface Transportation Program
 - Highway Safety Improvement
- Transit
 - Formula grants
 - State of good repair
 - New Starts Program
- Other
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ): Focus on PM_{2.5}
 - Transportation Alternatives: New program that the MPO's including WFRC will have partial responsibility for administering. It combines the old transportation enhancements, safe routes to school, and recreational trail programs into one, cuts the funding by about 30% and then sub-allocates 50% to MPOs.

Mr. Gruber reported that the planning process includes:

- basically similar to current law: MPOs and States develop long range plans, TIP and STIPs;
- continuation of smaller MPOs
- focus on Rural areas: RTPOs and UDOT
- a new focus on goals and performance measurements

Mr. Gruber said that the MPOs, UTA, UDOT, FTA, and FHWA are already working together to figure out the best way to understand and then implement the new requirements. He said they are trying to find a way to have stability for projects that are underway as we move to implement the bill.

8. Other Business

There was no other business

- 9. The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.