

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of March 21, 2013

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, March 21, 2013 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 Jan Zogmaister welcomed committee members and guests. The following were in attendance:

RGC Members and Alternates Present:

Steve Call	FHWA
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
Reid Ewing	University of Utah
Charles Henderson	UTA Board
Tina Kelley	Councilmember, Morgan County
Brent Marshall	Mayor, Grantsville City
Steve Pastorik (for Nicole Cottle)	West Valley City
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Angelo Papstamos (for Cory Pope)	UDOT
Matt Sibul	UTA
Dan Snarr	Mayor, Murray City
Kathy VanDame	Utah Air Quality Board
Don Wood	Mayor, Clearfield City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

RGC Representatives and Others Present:

Deborah Burney-Sigman	Breathe Utah
Janelle Ericson	UTA
Kevin Fayles	Envision Utah
Patti Garver	UTA
Linda Johnson	Utah League of Women Voters-Salt Lake
Jeremy Keele	Salt Lake County
Ron Phillips	Phillips Associates, Inc.
Chad Mullins	Salt Lake County BAC
Wayne Bennion	WFRC
LaNiece Davenport	WFRC
Andrew Gruber	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Val John Halford	WFRC
Doug Hattery	WFRC
Jory Johner	WFRC
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC
Sam Klemm	WFRC
Jon Larsen	WFRC

Julia Reynolds
Greg Scott

WFRC
WFRC

Commissioner Dan McConkie was excused from the meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner John Petroff moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held January 17, 2013 be approved as written. Reid Ewing seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

Linda Johnson, Utah League of Women Voters, said she is concerned regarding the continued growth along the Wasatch Front and how that affects the water supply. She said that the Bureau of Reclamation is conducting educational outreach sessions to provide in-depth information regarding the findings of the recently completed Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study being held March 25 at the Utah Division of Water Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Room 1040 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Ms. Johnson also said that Governor Gary Herbert just announced (article in the Deseret News published March 20, 2013) plans to convene a Utah water summit in late October to refine the best long-term strategies to manage one of the state's most precious resources.

3. Information – Wasatch Choice for 2040 Update

Julia Reynolds, WFRC, gave an update on the Wasatch Choice for 2040 effort and the tools that are being developed. She noted that in previous updates to the RGC, staff has highlighted the process for how the tools would interconnect and be used together in steps which are outlined in the illustrative planning process. She reported that all the Wasatch Choice 2040 tools require data including: 1) Envision Tomorrow Plus; 2) Housing Plan; 3) Form Based Code; 4) Implementing Centers financial methods; and 5) Demonstration/Catalytic Sites. Data is the key to success for the tools. Ms. Reynolds then explained the process for gathering the data and stated that the data will be obtained from many sources. Once the raw data is collected it will be formatted to create a cohesive and comprehensive database to support the tools and users. She said that the tools are being created to provide cities, counties, and other agencies and organizations the resources to assist in the planning efforts of their communities. Ultimately, the Wasatch Choice for 2040 website will be the portal for how the user will access the tools, with the end result being a widely accessible and user friendly toolbox.

Ms. Reynolds then provided details for the spring consortium and encouraged RGC members to get the information out to their staff and other of their constituents that may be interested. The Consortium will be held on May 29, 2013 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Salt Palace. Keynote speakers include two nationally renowned authors – Charles Marohn and Jeff Speck. She noted that more information and invitations will be distributed in the next few weeks.

4. Information – 2015 RTP / Unified Plan

Ned Hacker, WFRC, said that the WFRC staff has presented several aspects of the regional transportation planning process to the RGC. Updates were provided on the progress being made in developing the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP 2015) as well as the agency collaboration conducted in coordinating the development of the next statewide Unified Transportation Plan. He reported that to date, the Regional Council has concurred with the proposed planning process and adopted performance measures that will be used to evaluate the RTP. Mr. Hacker said that in preparation for the next Statewide Unified Transportation Plan both a Policy and Coordinating Committee have been formed as well as five technical groups. This early collaboration of the four MPOs in the state, UDOT and UTA will ensure that both the MPO's Regional Plans as well as the Unified Plan are coordinated across the State.

Val John Halford, WFRC, then reported that as a part of the overall 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan process, the WFRC staff is developing a series of land use and transportation alternatives representing a 2040 year horizon. Each scenario is designed to address anticipated Wasatch Front regional growth in population, employment, and travel demand. He said that exploring alternative solutions helps the staff, elected officials, and the general public make better decisions. He noted that each of the four 2015 RTP scenarios (briefly described below) represents a possible future for the Region based on different land use and transportation policy decisions made today:

Scenario 1: A “no vision” or trendline alternative that continues the current type of land use development patterns and transportation networks that exist throughout the Region.

Scenario 2: A “Vision” alternative based on the adopted Wasatch Choice 2040 Vision with land use patterns and transportation networks similar to those found in the adopted 2011-2040 RTP.

Scenario 3: An alternative that focuses a portion of the Region's anticipated new growth in identified Wasatch Choice 2040 Vision centers and boulevards with transportation improvements designed to support this type of future development.

Scenario 4: An alternative with even more growth allocated to centers and communities.

Mr. Halford said that scenarios are invaluable tools that allow planners to look at different ideas for the best solution for anticipated growth in population and travel demand. They are also a means to determine how various land uses and transportation networks interact. He noted that ultimately, the development, testing, and refining of scenario ideas help to define a preferred scenario which will be used as a basis for the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan. He further said that all of the scenarios will use the same socioeconomic control totals, both projected population and jobs, for the Region, will be needs-based and evaluated with specific performance measures.

Following is the generalized timeline and outreach effort for the scenario development:

- April 2013 – Scenario development to be completed
- May 2013 – Review with UDOT, UTA, and other agencies
- June 2013 – Small area meetings and review will take place

- August 2013 – General public review
- September 2013 – Draft preferred scenario
- January 2014 – Finalized preferred scenario

Andrew Gruber, WFRC, noted that at the Regional Growth Committee meeting scheduled for May 16, the expectation is that the four draft scenarios would be presented and discussed prior to being taken out for review to the local governments and the public.

5. Action – Active Transportation Committee: Complete Streets Vision-Mission-Principles

Greg Scott, WFRC, said that Complete Streets are road systems that provide safe, convenient access for all users. He said that Complete Streets are not a mandate to accommodate everyone everywhere, but rather for each jurisdiction to weigh tradeoffs and determine how to design specific transportation facilities for what is feasible and desired on specific streets. Mr. Scott said that Complete Streets are an essential element of the adopted 2040 Vision and Growth Principles. He noted that roads make up about 20%-30% of our land area and are the vast majority of our public spaces. Proper planning of street networks has the potential to connect our communities.

Over the past year a steering committee drafted and vetted through partner transportation agencies, city staffs and the WFRC Technical Advisory Committees a Complete Streets Vision – Mission – and Principles to guide the approach. The WFRC Active Transportation Committee took action in November 2012, recommending that the RGC adopt the Complete Streets Vision, Mission and Principles.

Mr. Scott discussed the Complete Streets Vision Statement: “Complete Streets improves the value of the Wasatch Front Region’s transportation network through a variety of connected transportation choices designed to meet the needs of all users”. Following the discussion the RGC suggested that the wording of the vision statement be modified to say: “Complete Streets Vision Statement—Improve the value of the Wasatch Front Region’s transportation network through a variety of connected transportation choices designed to meet the needs of all users”.

ACTION: Councilman Carlton Christensen made a motion to recommend to the Regional Council that the Complete Streets Vision, Mission and Principles be adopted as modified during the discussion and noted above. Mayor Dan Snarr seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

6. Action – Taylorsville-Murray Transit Study Locally Preferred Alternative

Ned Hacker, WFRC, reported that there has been high capacity transit connecting Taylorsville City and Murray City on the Regional Transportation Plan since 2001 and then in 2004 and 2007 the transit projects became more focused to actually connect specific anchors within Murray and Taylorsville. He said that a more focused study of the Taylorsville-Murray corridor began in 2008. He then introduced Patti Garver and Janelle Ericson, UTA, to discuss the Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the Taylorsville-Murray Transit Study Locally Preferred Alternative.

Patti Garver, UTA, said that UTA has been working over the past year with Taylorsville City, Murray City, Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake County, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) on the environmental study for this project. She reported that because the project is a non-federally

funded project, UTA policy requires that UTA complete an environmental study, identify a locally preferred alternative, that the UTA Board approves a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) prior to public comment, and that the Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the LPA prior to public review.

Ms. Garver said that the primary purpose of the project is to provide a transit connection between the Murray Central TRAX and Frontrunner stations, the planned Murray City Center District and Salt Lake Community College on Redwood Road. She noted that the project would improve transit service quality, frequency, and reliability to attract riders, enhance the local economy and increase transit capacity for future population and student travel demand.

Features of the LPA include:

- A bus rapid transit (BRT) alignment 4.4 miles long
- BRT dedicated lanes for 1.5 miles, most of which is on 3300 South
- An estimated cost of \$33 million
- Projected increase in person throughput on the 4700 South corridor (considering people projected in cars and people on transit) by 7% in 2016 and 10% increase in 2040.

The immediate next steps include:

- March 27, 2013 – Present LPA to the UTA Board for approval
- March 28 – Present to WFRC for approval
- April 21 – Upon approval of above the Environmental Study Report will be published for 30-day public review and comment

Mr. Chad Mullins commented that as a member of the Salt Lake City Bicycle Advisory Committee one of the Committee's concerns is to have a safe east – west bicycle route to the Salt Lake Community College and feels that 4800 South is an ideal bike route. He suggested that in the spirit of Complete Streets the Taylorsville-Murray Study consider utilizing part of the corridor to connect 4800 South with the campus.

ACTION: Commissioner John Petroff made a motion to recommend to the Regional Council that the Taylorsville-Murray Transit Study Locally Preferred Alternative be adopted as presented. Mayor Dan Snarr seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Other Business

Andrew Gruber, WFRC, distributed a final WFRC Legislative Summary of bills that WFRC was actively tracking, as the legislative session had recently ended. Mr. Gruber briefly highlighted the following bills:

- HB 168 – Rep. Patrice Arent – Air Quality Mitigation by Government Entities. This bill requires state agencies, school districts and state institutions of higher education along the Wasatch Front and in the Uintah Basin to develop air quality mitigation plans. Passed and enrolled.
- HB 377, Sub 1 – Rep. Brad Dee – Transportation Funding Modifications. This bill adjusts bonding authority to UDOT, specifies certain projects to be built with the proceeds. Passed and enrolled.
- SB 275 – Sen. Stuart Adams – Energy Amendments. This bill provides for the construction of natural gas fueling facilities to be paid for by natural gas ratepayers. Passed and enrolled.

- SB 63 – Sen. Wayne Harper – Transportation Planning and Funding Task Force. This bill would create a legislative task force to consider transportation needs and revenues. Held in the House Rules Committee in favor of assigning the task to the Transportation Interim Committee.
- SB 201, Sub 1 – Sen. Curtis Bramble – Public Use Trails Amendments. This bill would have restored some eminent domain authority for trails to counties of the first and second class. Passed the Senate Business and Labor Committee, never called up for a vote on Senate 2nd reading calendar.

Mr. Gruber expressed appreciation to all members of RGC and others who took the time to participate and be involved in the Thursday morning meetings during the legislative session.

Mr. Matt Sibul, UTA, invited everyone to the Grand Opening of the Airport TRAX Line on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Invitations and detailed schedule of activities will be sent out in the next week.

8. The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.