

**TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Meeting held August 12, 2004**

Commissioner Cragun called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. at the Wasatch Front Regional Council offices located at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Attendance**

Michael Cragun, Chairman	Commissioner, Davis County
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful
Darrell Smith	Mayor, Draper
Fred W. Oates	Mayor, Harrisville
R. Mont Evans	Mayor, Riverton
Fred Panucci	Mayor, Syracuse
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City
Michael Jensen	Councilman, Salt Lake County
Jim Horrocks	Utah Air Quality Board
Ken Warnick	Utah Transportation Commission
Jan Wells	Utah Transportation Commission
Steve Call	Federal Highway Administration
Tom Smith	Davis County
Wendell Rigby	West Jordan
Kevin Farley	Baker Engineering
Lorraine Richards	Baker Engineering
Bryan Adams	Utah Department of Transportation
Matt Swapp	Utah Department of Transportation Planning
Mick Crandall	Utah Transit Authority
Cheryl Heying	Utah Division of Air Quality
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Doug Hattery	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoue'	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ben Wuthrich	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sharon Gray	Wasatch Front Regional Council

**Minutes**

**ACTION: Commissioner Jan Wells moved that the minutes of the June 10, 2004, Trans Com meeting be approved as written. Mayor Joe Johnson seconded the motion, and the voting was unanimous.**

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **Transportation Improvement Program**

***Action on Requests for Additional Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Funds:*** Commissioner Cragun reported that two requests have been made for additional project funding. He asked Mr. Ben Wuthrich to explain the requests.

Mr. Wuthrich stated that in a letter dated April 19, 2004, West Jordan City submitted a request for an additional \$678,323 in Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for its 7800 South project. He stated that Sandy City, in a letter dated July 14, 2004, submitted a request for an additional \$231,107 in Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the Light Rail Trail project. Copies of the letters from West Jordan City and Sandy City were included in Trans Com members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich reported that the West Jordan request came in response to eight change orders that required work not originally identified in the original work scope, including work with asbestos and gas service removal, an additional barrier wall for safety, supervision costs due to the delays, additional borrow necessary to stabilize the roadbed, and turf sod and broadcast seed omitted from the bid schedule. He stated that after a review of the current programmed funds for 7800 South and the current cost estimates, it appears that adequate funds may already be available. Therefore, the Salt Lake Technical Committee recommended that action on this request be delayed until a later date. He added that the 7800 South project currently has a sufficient balance of unobligated funds to allow for continued work. He stated that with the uncertainty of future STP funding levels in the new Transportation Act and a desire not to delay other projects, the Technical Committee felt it was best not to take action at this time. The WFRC will continue to work with West Jordan and UDOT to monitor the funding needs for this project.

Mr. Wuthrich reported that the request from Sandy City was for their Light Rail Trail from 8400 South to 11400 South. He stated that this request came as a result of the need to include additional safety improvements and design provisions as identified in their agreement with UTA. He noted that after reviewing this request, the Salt Lake Technical Committee recommended that the additional funds be approved for the project. He added that Sandy City's request will not delay any other project at this time.

In answer to a question on why Sandy City's request wasn't included in the original project, Mr. Wuthrich explained that the change added safety features that UTA is requiring that Sandy City had not originally anticipated. He stated that the additional funds will cover gates and chain link fence which will increase safety along the line.

Mr. Mick Crandall from UTA explained that the fences and gates will require pedestrians and cyclists to slow down and stop before crossing streets crossing UTA's tracks. He stated that some of the safety issues are a learning process.

**ACTION: Mayor Oates moved that the West Jordan project be tabled indefinitely to allow time to resolve the project's uncertainties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.**

In answer to a question Mr. Wuthrich explained that Sandy's project wouldn't impact other planned projects. He also explained the funding for the project.

**ACTION: Councilman Jensen moved that Trans Com recommend to the Wasatch Front Regional Council approval of Sandy City's Light Rail Trail project. The motion was seconded by Mayor Oates and passed unanimously.**

***Approval of Amendment to 2004-2008 Transportation Improvement Program:*** Commissioner Cragun reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) has received a request from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to amend the 2004-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to make it consistent with the 2005-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) UDOT is preparing. Copies of a list of projects to amend the 2004-2008 TIP along with copies of a resolution to amend the 2004-2008 TIP were included in Trans Com members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich explained that this request would make the TIP consistent with the 2005-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that UDOT is preparing. He stated that it would also include new projects in concept development, it would program preliminary engineering funds in FY2006 for several projects programmed in FY2007, and adjust the funding amounts for projects currently in the program. He noted that because of air quality conformity requirements, the WFRC will not be able to adopt a new TIP until August 2005. Therefore, the amended 2004-2008 TIP will be incorporated into UDOT's 2005-2009 STIP.

Mr. Wuthrich explained that the WFRC staff worked with UDOT and FHWA to ensure that funding for projects in the existing three funded years (2004, 2005, and 2006) within the Wasatch Front Region was maintained. They also identified exempt projects that UDOT wants to add to the STIP that would normally move into a funded year (FY2007) and recommended programming \$25,000 in FY2006, so that work could begin without additional delay on these projects. Mr. Wuthrich reported that although the TIP could be amended with these qualifying exempt projects, the TIP must remain financially constrained; thus, it restricts the option of moving all the 2007 projects into the funded year of 2006 (the latest funded year in the 2004-2008 TIP).

Mr. Wuthrich reminded Trans Com members that federal regulations require that the TIP be 1) approved by local elected officials serving on the Regional Council, 2) that the public also be given an opportunity to review and comment on the TIP, 3) that the TIP be financially constrained, 4) and that the TIP be found to conform with state air quality plans. Because the projects in the proposed amendment are qualifying projects, exempt from air quality conformity requirements, additional conformity analysis does not need to be completed for these projects. He also noted that the amendment was made available for public review and comment by the Utah Department of Transportation and the Wasatch Front Regional Council from July 1, 2004, through July 31, 2004. He stated that no comments were received.

**ACTION: Councilman Jensen moved that Trans Com recommend approval of the resolution to amend the 2004-2008 TIP to the Wasatch Front Regional Council, as requested by UDOT. The motion was seconded by Mayor Oates and passed unanimously.**

### **Action on Resolution Certifying the Transportation Planning Process**

Commissioner Cragun asked Mr. Doug Hattery to explain the resolution certifying the transportation planning process. Copies of the resolution certifying the planning process were included in Trans Com members' packets.

Mr. Hattery explained that each year when Trans Com reviews and recommends the approval of the Transportation Improvement Program to the Regional Council, they also need to certify that the transportation planning process meets all federal planning requirements. He stated that the WFRC and UDOT staffs have worked together to evaluate how well the requirements are being met. He noted that

recommendations that were made by the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations during a certification review two years ago have been addressed. He stated that based on this effort, a resolution has been prepared certifying the planning process for the region. He stated that the resolution will also be reviewed by the Regional Growth Committee. He noted that the WFRC staff is comfortable recommending approval of the resolution.

In answer to a question by Mayor Smith, Mr. Hattery stated that the corrective actions included a review of the Council's public involvement process along with providing an annual report on obligated federal highway and transit funds. He noted that although there haven't been any new regulations in the last three years, re-authorization of the transportation bill could bring about additional changes.

**ACTION: Councilman Jensen moved that Trans Com recommend to the Regional Council that they approve the attached certification resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Panucci and passed unanimously.**

### **Report on UDOT Environmental and Corridor Studies**

Commissioner Cragun reported that UDOT has a number of major environmental and planning studies underway at this time. He stated that three agencies have been asked to make a brief report on their projects to Trans Com.

***I-15 in Weber County - Environmental Impact Statement:*** Commissioner Cragun introduced Mr. Kevin Farley from Baker Engineering, the consultant for the project.

Mr. Farley reported on the I-15 Environmental Impact Statement recently completed for I-15 in Weber County. He distributed copies of a handout titled ***I-15, 31<sup>st</sup> Street to 2700 North - Description of the Preferred Alternatives***. He stated that the Preferred Alternative is a composite of Mainline Option 4B and a variety of Interchange Options which are described in the handout. He explained that the estimated construction cost of the Preferred Alternative is \$235 million. He noted that the construction will likely be implemented in phases and is subject to availability of funding. He stated that Phase I improvements would range between \$173 and \$177 million, depending on the interchange design.

Trans Com members briefly discussed the project phases and the problems that will have to be dealt with relating to the widening of 2700 North and work on a connector road in Ogden City that is included in Phase II.

***Legacy Parkway Supplemental EIS:*** Commissioner Cragun introduced Mr. Andrew Gemperline from UDOT.

Mr. Gemperline stated that he has accepted a job out of state in Dallas, Texas. He added that Mr. John Thomas, also from UDOT, will be heading up the Legacy Parkway project.

Mr. Gemperline reported on the progress of the Legacy Parkway Supplemental EIS that is being done in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers. He stated that the first cut of the supplemental EIS should be completed this fall. He noted that if all goes well, public meetings can be held in November 2004 with possible construction starting in the fall of 2005.

Mr. Gemperline answered questions from Trans Com members on the Legacy Parkway project relating to wildlife, noxious weed control on right-of-way land, a recently discovered ghost town, possible future lawsuits, and current court proceedings.

**Planning Study - I-15 in north Davis County and south Weber County:** Commissioner Cragun introduced Mr. Matt Swapp from UDOT.

Mr. Swapp discussed the planning studies just beginning for I-15 in north Davis County and south Weber County. He presented the project schedule and explained how they are interacting with the public and affected stakeholders. He stated that URS, a consulting engineering firm, has been hired to do the study, with Rachael McQuillen acting as project manager.

Mr. Swapp distributed copies of handout titled ***I-15 Corridor Plan, Kaysville to Ogden***. This handout listed the project study area, presented a project introduction, explained how the results will be used, listed important project milestones and dates for public involvement, explained how information will be exchanged, and listed the project team contacts.

***I-15, Salt Lake to Utah County EIS*** – Mr. Hattery said that UDOT is beginning to prepare an environmental study for the I-15 corridor from Salt Lake County through Utah County. This study will include improvements to I-15, commuter rail, and possibly a light rail extension to Draper. He distributed copies of a handout listing the ***Public Scoping Meetings***, which will be held, as follows:

- September 8, 2004 10 a.m.-noon - Agency Scoping Meeting (UDOT Complex, Salt Lake City)
- September 8, 2004 5-8 p.m. - Public Scoping Meeting (Draper City Council Chambers)
- September 9, 2004 5-8 p.m. - Public Scoping Meeting (Spanish Fork)
- September 11, 2004 2-4 p.m. - Public Scoping Meeting (McKay Events Center, Orem)

He also reported that workshops for local government officials are being planned for the week of August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Jan Wells stressed the importance for elected officials and citizens in Salt Lake County to become involved in discussions, especially relating to commuter rail from Salt Lake County south.

Mr. Crandall stated that the community workshop for Salt Lake County officials is scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. in UTA's office.

### **Discussion of Trans Com's Future Role in Short Range Planning**

Commissioner Cragun reported that the WFRC staff would like to place more emphasis in its planning efforts on identifying short-term congestion and safety problems and finding solutions to them. He asked Mr. Hattery to discuss this item and encouraged Trans Com members to provide input on the direction we should go.

Mr. Hattery reported that with the reorganization of the Council's committee structure last year and the creation of the Regional Growth Committee to lead the update to the long-range Regional Transportation Plan, Trans Com's responsibilities now focus on short-term planning issues. He noted that in the past,

the short-term responsibilities have included the Surface Transportation Program, the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program, and the overall Transportation Improvement Program. He stated that in addition, the WFRC staff would like to place more emphasis in its planning efforts on identifying short-term congestion and safety problems and finding solutions to them.

Mr. Hattery encouraged Trans Com members to discuss any problems or ideas they may have for solving congestion and safety problems. He stated that elected officials often have a better sense of priorities and could help identify problems and possible solutions. Commissioner Wells agreed that local elected officials would have good ideas of places to start.

Mr. Chappell stated that he felt UDOT and UTA have done a good job with customer service. He added that he hopes Trans Com can continue to help things work better by identifying problems, priorities, and possible solutions. He added that Trans Com has a real challenge and opportunity in the short range area.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Cragun noted that the next Trans Com meeting will be held on October 14, 2004. He stated that Mayor Nordfelt will chair the meeting, which is the last meeting of the year, as he will be unable to attend.

Mr. Chappell expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Cragun for his leadership and the effective and appropriate way he has run the Trans Com meetings this past year.

Mr. Chappell reviewed the meetings of the Legislature's Transportation Committee and its Task Force that have been scheduled for the next month. He encouraged Trans Com members to participate in the meetings whenever possible.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.