

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held May 11, 2006

Mayor Dennis Nordfelt called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. at the Wasatch Front Regional Council offices located at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah. He excused Commissioner Ken Bischoff, Chair, and Commissioner Dannie McConkie, Vice-Chair. He invited all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Attendance

Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City
L. Mitch Adams	Mayor, Clinton City
Kelvyn H. Cullimore, Jr.	Mayor, Cottonwood Heights City
Darrell H. Smith	Mayor, Draper City
J. Lynn Crane	Mayor, Herriman
Jeff Acerson	Mayor, Lindon City
David Newton	Mayor, West Jordan City
Jim Horrocks	Utah Air Quality Board
Steve Randall	Utah Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Ken Warnick	Utah Transportation Commission
Jan Wells	Utah Transportation Commission
Tom Smith	Davis County
Steve Handy	Layton City
David Lovell	Salt Lake County
Tom Roach	Salt Lake County
John Hiskey	Sandy City
Shane Greenwood	South Jordan City
Yonel Grant	Booz Allen Hamilton
Jared Perry	Senator Bennett's Office
Steve Call	Federal Highway Administration
Carlos Braceras	Utah Department of Transportation
Robert Hull	Utah Department of Transportation
Michael Allegra	Utah Transit Authority
Doug Hattery	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoué	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ben Wuthrich	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Renae Bodily	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Minutes

ACTION: Commissioner Ken Warnick moved that the minutes of the April 13, 2006, Trans Com meeting be approved as written. Steve Randall seconded the motion, and the voting was unanimous.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments.

Report on Utah Highway Safety Plan and Zero Fatalities Campaign

Robert Hull, UDOT's Traffic and Safety Engineer, presented a PowerPoint presentation on UDOT's Zero Fatalities Campaign. He said 282 persons died last year on Utah's highways. He asked if it is possible to have zero fatalities in a year? What is the acceptable number of fatalities in your own family? Zero is the only number that is acceptable.

Mr. Hull said the State's Safety Leadership team has prepared a comprehensive safety plan on the ultimate goal of zero fatalities. Fatal crashes are not a result of destiny or fate – they are preventable! He went over five behaviors that need to be changed to reach the goal of zero fatalities:

- Drowsy driving
- Distracted driving
- Aggressive driving
- Impaired driving
- Not buckling up

Mr. Hull said that the biggest target in this campaign is to teach young children how to be safe in vehicles. It is also important to make sure teenagers learn safe driving habits and older drivers are driving safely. He said that many speaking engagements are scheduled to get this message out and cover all the safety areas.

The core group of Zero Fatalities sponsors currently includes: AAA, UDOT, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Utah Department of Public Safety. Mr. Hull says they are encouraging other organizations, businesses and private citizens to share and support the message. He encouraged everyone in attendance to: adopt the philosophy personally, become involved, support and spread the message, and influence others by being an example for safe driving.

Mr. Hattery said that the Wasatch Front Regional Council has been invited to participate on the safety leadership team. Since the major emphasis on the new SAFETEA-LU authorization is safety, it would be appropriate for the WFRC and local governments to participate in this campaign.

Commissioner Warnick asked how installing barriers in the freeway medians along the Wasatch Front has affected fatalities. Mr. Hull responded that barriers definitely stop fatalities from occurring. For example, the average number of fatalities in Utah County along I-15 was five per year; after a cable barrier was installed, there was only one serious injury crash with no fatalities.

Mr. Hull concluded his presentation by emphasizing the campaign slogan: ***“Zero fatalities --- a goal we can all live with!”***

Mayor Nordfelt said safety is definitely an important goal and asked for a motion.

ACTION: Mayor Smith moved that Trans Com recommend to the Regional Council that they support the Zero Fatalities campaign. Mayor Adams seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

Mayor Newton asked if there were data available to identify specific problem areas that individual cities could work on to improve. Mr. Hull responded that UDOT would be happy to help identify those areas and make suggestions for improving traffic safety.

Mr. Hull said that he would like this Zero Fatalities message to be presented at communities and schools. Several Mayors expressed their interest in forwarding this message in their communities. The Zero Fatalities flyer can be downloaded at the www.zerofatalities.com website.

Transportation Improvement Program

a. Report on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) / Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) staff modifications

Ben Wuthrich referred members to an attachment in their packets that listed all the modifications and changes that have been made to the TIP and STIP since March. Also included were changes resulting from Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and Transportation Commission action.

Doug Hattery said that most of the changes on the list were from moving projects forward from future years so that sponsors can begin working on them. This report is for information only. Future modifications will be presented for review at every Trans Com meeting.

b. ACTION on amendment to 2006-2010 TIP

Mr. Wuthrich reported that the WFRC had received a request from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to amend the 2006-2010 TIP and referred members to a Resolution in their packets. He said as a result of the 2006 Legislative session, additional funds were identified and programmed to complete the widening of I-15 from 12th Street to 2700 North in Weber County and to reconstruct the interchange at 2700 North. These new funds allowed the project to be moved into the current phase of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Mr. Wuthrich said that amending the RTP and the TIP required a new conformity analysis. The conformity analysis determined that this project will not have a significant impact on emissions and that the TIP will continue to conform with state air quality plans. An amendment to the RTP and TIP and the conformity finding were made available for public review and comment by WFRC and UDOT from April 1-30, 2006. No comments were received.

Mayor Nordfelt said he appreciated the Legislature taking action on the funding for this project in Weber County.

ACTION: Mayor Crane moved that Trans Com recommend to the Regional Council that they approve the resolution to amend the 2006-2010 TIP as requested. Commissioner Warnick seconded the motion.

In response to a question from Commissioner Wells, Mr. Braceras said there is money available for this action.

Mayor Adams asked that, for a matter of public record, language be included in the motion saying that the Regional Council had previously committed to support this amendment if the Legislature approved funding for it and that Trans Com was following up on that commitment. Everyone agreed that this wording should be included in the motion and the voting was unanimous.

c. APPROVAL of draft 2007-2011 TIP for public review

Mr. Wuthrich said the WFRC is responsible for developing the TIP (a six-year program of highway and transit projects funded by federal, state, and local revenues). He said the WFRC staff has worked with UDOT, UTA, and the cities and counties in the region to compile a list of proposed projects for inclusion in the 2007-2012 TIP. Mr. Wuthrich reviewed the project lists included in member's packets which included the draft Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP), the draft Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Program (CMAQ), and the draft TIP for both the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton urbanized areas.

Mr. Wuthrich said that over the next month, the information on the TIP will continue to be reviewed and updated to be ready to go out for public comment in June. He said a special legislative session to be held this month might make more money available so that additional transportation projects can be added to the draft TIP. Mr. Braceras commented that the Legislature will be holding their special session on May 24 and the Transportation Commission will meet the morning of May 25. He said everyone is working hard to obtain the additional money. Mr. Hattery said that the majority of new projects are enhancement and safety projects – there are not many capacity projects. The Regional Council will meet in the afternoon of May 25 to amend the TIP if new money does become available.

Mayor Nordfelt said that this is a work in progress, and if Trans Com is comfortable, this draft TIP needs to be recommended to go forward today. Trans Com will be able to review the TIP in August, after the public comment period.

Mr. Hattery added that this information and any updates will be presented at the Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber County Councils of Governments meetings in June so that local officials have a chance to review this and make any recommendations before it goes out for public comment. If anyone would like additional information, please contact the WFRC staff to answer any questions or to schedule an additional meeting.

ACTION: Mayor Adams moved that Trans Com recommend to the Regional Council that the draft TIP and the conformity analysis be made available for public review, to allow the final 2007-2012 TIP to be approved by the Regional Council in August. Mayor Crane seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

Report on UTA Performance Audit

Michael Allegra said that last fall UTA engaged the firm of Booz Allen Hamilton to conduct a performance audit of its operations. The period covered by the audit is from January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2004. Both Mr. Allegra and Mr. Randall said that UTA was pleased with the results of the audit.

Yonel Grant, from Booz Allen Hamilton, presented a PowerPoint presentation to summarize the results of the audit. He emphasized that the performance audit provides a balanced assessment of UTA's efficiency and effectiveness. The audit gleaned perspectives of UTA's strengths, opportunities, and challenges by interviewing internal and external stakeholders. UTA's accomplishments over the past five years are highlighted by expanded mobility along the Wasatch Front resulting in significant increases in annual ridership. Major UTA successes came from light rail, Flextrans, vanpools, and the successful transit ridership during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Mr. Grant talked about some of UTA's other improvements including:

- Success in obtaining funding for major projects;
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness by reorganizing to decentralize decision making;
- Controlled operating costs and operated effectively; and
- Took steps to reduce the cost of providing Flextrans service by encouraging riders to try fixed route services.

The following recommendations were highlighted by Mr. Grant to further improve UTA's efficiency and effectiveness:

- Develop a strategic business plan
- Develop a workforce and succession plan
- Conduct a pulse-check of the organization restructuring
- Consider bus operations and maintenance changes.

In response to a question from Mayor Adams, Mr. Grant and Mr. Allegra explained that Flextrans service is a very popular and special transit service for the mobility impaired. It is also very expensive. Many comments were made about how to encourage riders to change from using Flextrans service to fixed routes. All UTA buses are now wheelchair accessible.

Mayor Adams asked about the perception of inequities in transit service – are some areas serviced more than others? Mr. Grant said the performance audit showed that service was relatively fair. Mr. Randall said the UTA Board of Trustees is constantly looking for any inequities in service.

Mr. Randall said Senator Bennett's office should be thanked for Utah receiving \$1.3 billion in extra transportation funds. Mr. Randall feels Utah has one of the best teams in the country, if not the best, working on funding issues. Mr. Grant added that one key advantage to reorganizing UTA is that it freed Mr. English from the day-to-day issues so he could focus more on obtaining federal funding.

Mayor Cullimore expressed his surprise that there has not been a significant decrease in cost per boarding since ridership has gone up. Mr. Grant said that costs are affected by other factors such as operating costs, pensions and health costs.

Mr. Randall added that UTA is continually working on increasing ridership, frequency, convenience, and capacity. He said that UTA has already started and will continue to follow-up on all of the recommendations from Booz Allen Hamilton.

APPROVAL of public participation plan for public review

Sam Klemm said that the recent transportation re-authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, requires metropolitan planning organizations to review their public involvement procedures and circulate them to area stakeholders and interested members of the public for review and comment. Mr. Klemm said that public involvement procedures were last updated in 1997. He said the WFRC staff has reviewed and updated the current policies and now plans to work with stakeholder groups to consider their input.

Mr. Klemm talked about some of the public involvement areas that WFRC continues to work on and improve including open houses, kiosks in malls, websites, email, interactive maps, community newsletters, public service announcements on radio, ads in major newspapers, etc. Mr. Hattery said that this public participation plan will go out for a 45-day public review comment period during June and July. He said the federal agencies have set June 2007 as the date to comply with the new SAFETEA-LU requirements. Approving the public participation plan is one of the steps that needs to be completed.

Mr. Klemm said that letters will be going out to stakeholders next week to receive their comments. The formal 45-day comment period will be held after that. Any comments received will be presented at the August 10th Trans Com meeting for discussion and recommendation to the Council for approval.

In response to a question from Mr. Randall, Mr. Klemm said that public meetings have been held in Davis, Salt Lake and Weber Counties. The ads for these meetings have not run in the major newspapers for more than one day because of the financial limitations – it costs about \$900 for each ad per day. However, information is also distributed to the public through numerous emails, city newsletters, public service announcements on radio, mall kiosks, and reports at the councils of governments and the chambers of commerce. These public meetings are usually held in October and November; and the information can always be found on the WFRC website at wfrf.org.

Mayor Nordfelt asked Trans Com members to quickly make any recommendations they might have since this will be going out for public review shortly. No action needed to be taken at this time.

Mayor Nordfelt thanked all for their attendance and participation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next meeting date: August 10, 2006