

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held April 17, 2007

Commissioner Ken Bischoff called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Wasatch Front Regional Council offices located at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah. Commissioner Bischoff acknowledged Ken Warnick and Jan Wells and said this would be the last official Trans Com meeting they would be attending because their terms on the Utah Transportation Commission were ending. He thanked them for their years of dedicated service and good associations they had with members of Tran Com.

Attendance

Ken Bischoff, Chair	Commissioner, Weber County
Bret Millburn	Commissioner, Davis County
L. Mitch Adams	Mayor, Clinton City
Darrell H. Smith	Mayor, Draper City
Tim Wheelwright	Mayor, Pleasant View City
David Newton	Mayor, West Jordan
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley 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
Justin Allen	Centerville City
Brad Gilson	Cottonwood Heights City
Kevin Smith	Cottonwood Heights City
Mike Gladbach	Sandy City
Shane Greenwood	South Jordan City
Donald Adams	Taylorsville City
Ben Horsley	Congressman Bishop's Office
Mary Taylor	Senator Hatch's Office
Shane Farver	Standard Examiner
Jason Davis	Utah Department of Transportation
Ahmad Jaber	Utah Department of Transportation
Mike Allegra	Utah Transit Authority
Wayne Bennion	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Doug Hattery	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Val John Halford	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Sam Klemm	Wasatch Front Regional Council
George Ramjoue	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Barbara Thomas	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ben Wuthrich	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Renae Bodily	Wasatch Front Regional Council

Minutes

ACTION: Mayor Nordfelt moved that the minutes of the October 12, 2006, Trans Com meeting be approved as written. Mayor Smith seconded the motion, and the voting was unanimous.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments.

Discussion of Trans Com's roles and responsibilities and proposed schedule for 2007

Doug Hattery said that two main responsibilities of the Regional Council are to develop a long range transportation plan (responsibility of the Regional Growth Committee) and to program federal highway and transit funds (responsibility of Trans Com). He discussed a page from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that listed the different categories of funds and who is responsible for each of the programs.

Mr. Hattery specifically mentioned that Trans Com is responsible for making recommendations to the Regional Council on two programs under the Federal Highway Administration: the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. He said WFRC works closely with UDOT and UTA on federal highway and transit programs as well as State and local funded projects.

Mr. Hattery said that WFRC is trying to minimize the number of meetings this year. He briefly discussed Trans Com's schedule for 2007. Trans Com is scheduled for three more meetings during the year: June 14, August 9, and October 11.

Action on Board Modification to 2007-2012 TIP

Mr. Wuthrich presented the following three requests that WFRC had received to modify the current 2007-2012 TIP:

- Sandy City requested an additional \$932,300 of Surface Transportation Program funds for the State Street & 11400 South intersection project.
- Farmington City requested an additional \$100,000 of Surface Transportation Program funds for the Shepard Lane & 1075 West intersection project.
- UDOT requested an additional \$3.5 million of State Transportation Investment funds for the 4500 South, I-15 to State Street project.

Mr. Wuthrich referred Trans Com members to a list of Centennial Highway Program Fund Projects. He requested approval for these projects as well as the three projects listed above. He asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Nordfelt asked what the reasons were for the increases in project costs. Mike Gladbach, City Engineer at Sandy City, responded that Sandy's request is because of cost increases in quantities, fuel, oil, utility relocations, and right-of-way costs. All of these increases also resulted in additional construction management costs.

Mr. Wuthrich said that Farmington's project was originally programmed to be an intersection, then it was changed to be a round-about, and now (because of the amount of traffic) it has been changed back to a full intersection. The additional requested funding is to help with signal installation.

Mr. Hattery said that since the Regional Council is not meeting this month, Trans Com has been asked to give approval for these Board Modifications instead of a recommendation.

ACTION: Commissioner Wells moved that Trans Com approve the resolution to amend the 2007-2012 TIP as requested. Mayor Newton seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

Action on draft 2008-2013 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Action on draft 2008-2013 Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Program (CMAQ)

Mr. Wuthrich began by referring members to a list of "*Project Candidates - 2008-2013 Submitted CMAQ Projects.*" He briefly reviewed the 20 ranked CMAQ projects in the Salt Lake Area and the nine ranked CMAQ projects in the Ogden-Layton area. Mr. Wuthrich then referred members to a list of "*Project Ranking According to Data Review Scores.*" He briefly reviewed the 13 ranked STP projects in the Ogden-Layton area -- specifically noting that \$99.5 million in federal funds has been requested for these 13 proposed projects; however, only \$16 million in federal funding is available. He next briefly reviewed the 34 ranked STP projects in the Salt Lake area -- specifically noting that \$295 million in federal funds has been requested for these 34 proposed projects; however, only \$35.7 million is available.

Mr. Wuthrich then referred members to a "*Distribution of Funding*" chart which illustrated how currently programmed STP and CMAQ funds were distributed in eight areas in Davis, Salt Lake and Weber Counties. He discussed how the funds were distributed according to sponsor type (UDOT, UTA, local, or combination of the above) and project type (study, capacity, reconstruction, intersection, planning, or combination of the above) in the eight areas. Chuck Chappell pointed out that in the past Legislative Session, Legislators expressed concern that local governments are not putting in enough local funding into state highway projects in their areas. Mr. Chappell said that this issue has been discussed at Councils of Government meetings. He said that past and current TIPs show that local governments voluntarily program significant STP and CMAQ funds to UDOT projects.

Mr. Wuthrich led Trans Com in a discussion of the equity in STP and CMAQ funding according to population, employment and VMT in Davis, Salt Lake and Weber Counties. Mr. Hattery commented

that the WFRC strives to make sure that each of the eight areas receives its “fair share.” It was noted that the eight areas will not have the same number of projects nor receive the same amount in each five-year program; however, it is anticipated that over time the transportation funds will be distributed equitably.

Mr. Wuthrich then referred members to a list of existing CMAQ programs which illustrated the projects, sponsors, type of improvements, and costs. Trans Com members discussed whether the estimated projects costs were reflective of rising construction costs and how much of an “estimated cost cushion” should be added to projects when they are added to the TIP.

Mayor Nordfelt talked about the following three additional projects associated with the pilot Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program on 3500 South in West Valley City: (1) a fare collection system to give riders the opportunity to purchase tickets through ticket vending machines at all the bus stops on the BRT route; (2) surface the Park & Ride lot at 5600 West; and (3) message signs to provide information at each of the bus stops so the riders will know when the next bus is coming. Mayor Nordfelt said that since this is the first BRT project in Utah, it is important to make it successful. He asked Trans Com to discuss the possibility of assigning \$3.5 million in CMAQ funds for these three additional BRT projects.

Mike Allegra said the 3500 South BRT project (named the MAX system) is well underway. UTA’s goal is to have MAX up and running by April 2008. He said the ITS components that Mayor Nordfelt talked about are vital to the success of the project. Bus ridership on 3500 South is the second most for any corridor in Salt Lake County (after State Street). There will still be local bus service on 3500 South. BRT will reduce the 200 current bus stops to approximately 20. Mr. Allegra thanked the cities, WFRC and UDOT for the great partnership in working on this project.

Mayor Nordfelt noted that the 3500 South BRT project is not only a West Valley City issue – it is a regional issue. It is important to make this project a success so that we can get additional funding to install BRT in other areas along the Wasatch Front.

Mayor Wheelwright asked why these three additional BRT projects weren’t already included on the CMAQ project list. Mr. Allegra responded that the \$9 million BRT project has been divided into three phases because of funding limitations. The first phase, already on the CMAQ list, is to purchase buses, construct bus stops, and get the project up and running. The second phase includes the three additional projects that Mayor Nordfelt discussed. The third phase is to make the BRT an exclusive lane down the center of 3500 South.

Mr. Wuthrich led Trans Com members in a discussion of other CMAQ projects. There was a discussion that in order to add the Phase 2 BRT projects to the TIP, existing projects would have to be removed. Mr. Hattery said that the other projects are worthy projects, too. He suggested that WFRC staff work closely with the cities, UTA, UDOT, and other sponsors and come back to Trans Com at their June 14 meeting with more information and recommendations.

ACTION: Mayor Nordfelt moved that WFRC staff would work with cities, UTA, and UDOT to consider the phase 2 BRT projects and present their recommendations at the June 14, 2007 Trans Com meeting. Steve Randall seconded the motion.

Commissioner Bischoff asked if there were any other comments. Commissioner Warnick suggested that other cities participate in the discussions on which projects should be included on the TIP.

Commissioner Bischoff asked for a vote on the motion and the voting was unanimous.

Mr. Wuthrich presented the Ogden/Layton area CMAQ projects. He also went over the list of Salt Lake Area and Ogden/Layton area STP projects. He specifically highlighted nine Salt Lake area STP projects recommended by the Technical Committee that were each programmed with \$10,000 for FY 2008. Jim Horrocks asked why these projects were only programmed with small amounts of \$10,000. Mr. Wuthrich responded that these amounts were to assign project managers and begin the preliminary engineering process.

Mr. Wuthrich highlighted the six STP projects recommended in the Ogden/Layton area. He asked if there were any questions. Mr. Horrocks asked why the Layton interchange project is ranked #1 but isn't included on the STP program? Mr. Hattery explained that the STP budget is only \$6 million a year and the Layton project is estimated to cost \$65 million. He said that WFRC highly supports this project and is working with UDOT and others to figure out ways to do this project.

Mr. Wuthrich asked Chairman Bischoff and Trans Com if they would like to make a motion or give direction on federal funds being used for EIS documents for the Layton and/or Clinton projects. Mr. Hattery said that WFRC staff will continue to work with the cities and UDOT and come back with more information at the June 14 meeting. He said we don't want to give sponsors the wrong impression that their projects will go ahead when there won't be enough money in the future to complete projects. It is important that sponsors have an EIS and a good clear understanding of their project before requesting federal funds.

Trans Com members discussed the Clinton project and agreed that because this project affects several jurisdictions, it should be considered to use federal STP funds for the preliminary engineering and EIS. Even though the WFRC practice is not to use federal funds to pay for EIS studies, Trans Com agreed that each project should be analyzed on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Bischoff said that there would be no official recommendation today on the CMAQ and STP programs; however, as stated in the earlier motion, WFRC staff will continue to work with cities, UTA and UDOT to evaluate the projects and will present their recommendations at the June 14 Trans Com meeting. Any input on these projects would be appreciated.

Draft FY08 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget

Wayne Bennion said that each year the Regional Council is required to prepare a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that outlines work anticipated to be completed using local, state and federal planning dollars from the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. He briefly highlighted some of the programs that are anticipated to be worked on during FY 2008 including developing the Transportation Improvement Program, distributing the Regional Transportation Plan, providing services to local communities, and implementing several corridor studies.

Mr. Bennion asked if there were any comments or questions. He said suggestions and comments have already been received from the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations. The final draft will be on the WFRC website in about a week (www.wfrc.org).

Mr. Bennion also referred members to WFRC's proposed budget for FY 2008 included in their packets. Some items he highlighted were the source of funds, expenditures by functions, expenditures by programs, and local contributions by county. He explained that the budget anticipates an overall 5% increase in salaries and staff additions of one temporary full-time position and one temporary part-time position.

Mr. Hattery said the FY 2008 budget and UPWP will be presented to the Regional Council next month for their approval.

Legislative Update on Transportation Issues

Sam Klemm, Public Information Officer at WFRC, discussed transportation related bills that were addressed by the Utah Legislature during the 2007 General Session. Some of the bills he highlighted were:

- **HB 108 – East/West Transportation Corridor Study** – This bill requires UDOT to perform a study of all primary and secondary state and local highways west of I-15 in Salt Lake County and to study east-west travel needs in second class counties in the state. The Legislature also appropriated \$3.5 million to fund the studies.
- **HB 158 – Amendments to Transportation Provisions** – This bill re-allocates 70% of the \$10 vehicle registration fee in Salt Lake County for corridor preservation on the Mountain View Corridor. In addition, the 'quarter of the quarter' (1/16th cent) from the Salt Lake County sales tax for transit approved in 2000 was also designated for Mountain View Corridor funding.
- **SB 69 – Local Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund Amendments** – This bill requires county councils of governments to prepare a prioritized list of corridors to be preserved prior to any purchases using a local corridor preservation fund. The bill also requires that the funds be available for highways only.

Mr. Klemm also mentioned that the Legislature authorized a \$1 billion bond for highway projects throughout the state to be paid for with \$90 million a year in general fund money. He said UDOT and the Commission will need to develop a list of priority projects to use the money. The Legislature's Executive Appropriations Committee will need to approve the list before projects can begin.

2008 Transportation Funding for UDOT

Ahmad Jaber began by thanking Jan Wells and Ken Warnick for their service and help on the Transportation Commission and for their friendship. He then referred members to a bubble chart included in their packets on Transportation Funding for FY 2008. He discussed the four major categories of funding (Federal Aid - estimated \$303 million, State Transportation Funds – estimated \$162 million, on-going General Fund - \$380 million, and one-time General Fund - \$399 million) and

how these funds are planned to be spent. Trans Com members thanked Mr. Jaber for taking the time to illustrate the complicated transportation funding issues on a simplified chart.

Mr. Jaber said UDOT spent approximately one and a half years creating the new Transportation Investment fund prioritization process. He said all the MPOs including the Wasatch Front Regional Council were heavily involved in this process. So far UDOT feels this challenging process is working well.

Mr. Jaber said that UDOT has begun to develop a priority list of projects to use the funding from the \$1 billion bond authorized by the Legislature. This list will be reviewed by the Commission before it is presented to the Legislature in two or three months.

Comments from UTA

Mike Allegra expressed appreciation for Ken and Jan's work on the Transportation Commission. He thanked them for attending every policy meeting when Commuter Rail was first being discussed. He happily reported that the Commuter Rail project is now 75% complete.

Mr. Allegra also thanked Trans Com, the Regional Council, Mayors, and the League of Cities and Towns for their help and support during the recent Legislative Session. He also said that UTA is currently in the middle of a Legislative audit. He will report back to Trans Com at a later meeting on the results of the audit.

Regional Transportation Plan

Val John Halford said that after 3-1/2 years of work, the Regional Transportation Plan is completed and ready for public comment. He distributed maps and a project list which illustrate the main points of the RTP. He said the RTP represents 1,200 lane miles of highway improvements and 330 miles of fixed guideway systems being proposed.

The RTP public comment period runs from April 6 through May 7. A public Open House has already been held in Davis County and others are planned for Salt Lake County on May 3 and Weber County on May 7. It is anticipated that the Regional Council will adopt the RTP at their meeting on May 24, 2007.

Mr. Halford invited everyone to review the RTP maps in the Conference Room and to give any comments or concerns to WFRC staff. He said the RTP is on the WFRC website (www.wfrc.org) and has received several hits.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 14, 2007