

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held February 14, 2008

Mayor J. Lynn Crane called Trans Com 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

Members:

J. Lynn Crane, Chair	Mayor, Herriman City
Bret Millburn, Vice-Chair	Commissioner, Davis County
Darrell H. Smith	Mayor, Draper City
Jay Jenkins	Mayor, Plain City
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City
Michael Jensen	Councilman, Salt Lake County
Terry Diehl	Utah Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Stuart Adams	Utah Transportation Commission

Others:

Don Wood	Mayor, Clearfield City
Chris Hillman	Clearfield City
Scott Hodge	Clearfield City
Shane Greenwood	South Jordan City
Steve Call	Federal Highway Association
Darrell Cook	Mountainland Association of Governments
Ahmad Jaber	Utah Department of Transportation
Michael Allegra	Utah Transit Authority
Justin Jones	Utah Transit Authority
Bruce Daley	Weber State University
Kevin Hansen	Weber State University
Chuck Chappell	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Wayne Bennion	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ned Hacker	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Doug Hattery	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Jory Johner	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Barbara Thomas	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Ben Wuthrich	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Renaë Bodily	Wasatch Front Regional Council

MINUTES

ACTION: Councilman Michael Jensen moved that the minutes of the November 8, 2007, Trans Com meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Bret Millburn 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 2008

Wayne Bennion briefly explained the responsibilities of the Wasatch Front Regional Council and its committee structure. He said that the Transportation Coordinating Committee (Trans Com) is a successful forum for cooperation among UDOT, UTA, and local elected officials for short range highway and transit transportation planning and programming issues. The Regional Growth Committee is responsible for long range planning issues. Mr. Bennion referred members to the Memorandum of Agreement between UDOT, UTA, Utah Transportation Commission, and WFRC which explains the purpose and membership of Trans Com. He also went over the schedule and topics of Trans Com meetings scheduled in 2008. Meetings for the remainder of the year are scheduled for: April 10 (later changed to April 17), June 12, August 14, and November 13.

Mr. Bennion distributed a handout that listed the different funding sources and program responsibilities for highway and transit projects. The Wasatch Front Regional Council is responsible for programming urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton areas. (Please contact the WFRC office if you would like a copy of the handout.)

ACTION ON BOARD MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2008-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ben Wuthrich reported on the following projects on the 2008-2013 TIP for which WFRC had received requests for additional funding:

County / Sponsor	Project Location	Type of Work	Funding Source	Requested Additional Funding
Weber / Weber State University	University's Access on Harrison Blvd	Intersection Improvements	STP funds	\$990,845
Davis / Clearfield	200 South Railroad Overpass	Overpass Stabilization	STP funds	\$617,100
Salt Lake / UDOT	3300 South; I-215 East Bridge	Bridge Replacement	State Gen. Bridge Funds & State Bridge funds	\$600,000 \$900,000

Representatives from Weber State University, Clearfield City and UDOT were in attendance to answer any questions. Mr. Wuthrich said that the three projects will not impact any projects currently on the TIP.

In response to a question, Mr. Wuthrich and Mr. Jaber explained that the reason for the additional funding requests is because of increases in construction costs.

ACTION: Councilman Michael Jensen moved that Trans Com approve the resolution to modify the 2008-2013 TIP as requested. Terry Diehl seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

Mr. Wuthrich mentioned two project changes that the Regional Council had approved at its meeting in January 2008:

County / Sponsor	Project Location	Type of Work	Funding Source	Approved Funding Changes
Salt Lake / UDOT	Redwood Road; Bangerter Hwy to Saratoga Springs	Roadway Widening	State General Fund	Move \$18 million from Concept Development into FY 2011
Salt Lake / UDOT	I-80; State Street to 1300 East	Reconstruction & Widening & Bridge Deck replacement over State Street	State General Fund	Additional funding of \$5 million

Mr. Wuthrich also discussed several proposed projects to be added to the Concept Development phase of the TIP so that if “Choke Point” or “Immediate Need” funds become available, these projects would be part of the TIP and ready to come up through the normal process. Adding these projects to Concept Development will also enable UDOT to begin refining the cost of the projects.

CONCEPT REPORTS RECEIVED FOR THE 2009-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Wuthrich said the Wasatch Front Regional Council has the responsibility each year to update the TIP for programming the Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton Urbanized Areas. He referred members to a list of 49 Concept Report applications that had been submitted in January. He asked Trans Com members to review the list for any projects that might have been omitted.

Mr. Wuthrich said the WFRC has the responsibility to recommend how the projects submitted should be prioritized. He distributed a handout with a rough draft of the suggested project selection criteria. Mr. Wuthrich said that in past years there have been as many as 28 criteria used to prioritize projects. This year the criteria have been narrowed down to nine which include:

- Safety
- Pavement condition/ management practices
- Cost per lane mile
- Delay reduction
- Growth principles/ economic improvements
- Existing average daily traffic
- Operations, TSM/ TDM & ITS improvements
- Traffic growth
- Existing volume/ capacity

Mr. Wuthrich continued to explain in greater detail the suggested prioritization process including specific weighting for capacity, reconstruction, and operations projects. Mr. Wuthrich asked Trans Com members for any suggestions, questions, or concerns regarding the project selection criteria or the process. He pointed out that this initial process helps to prioritize projects as the data dictates. However, there are several other steps and factors that are examined in selecting which projects to recommend for inclusion in the TIP.

After the WFRC staff analyzes the projects, the Councils of Governments and Technical Committees will provide input, and then in April, Trans Com will make recommendations to the Regional Council as to which projects should be added to the draft 2009-2014 TIP.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Sam Klemm distributed a handout listing transportation related bills currently being considered at the Legislature. A few of the bills he highlighted were:

- ***H.B. 105 – Rep. Julie Fisher – Transportation Loan Fund Amendments.*** Mr. Klemm said this bill would allow cities and counties to tap into the infrastructure Loan Fund currently administered by UDOT. Presently, the Fund is available only for state projects. Mr. Klemm said this Bill would be especially advantageous to counties and smaller cities because it would allow them to borrow from the Fund for local road projects.
- ***H.B. 183 – Rep. Wayne Harper – Sales and Use Tax Amendments.*** Mr. Klemm said this is a very comprehensive bill designed to establish a uniform statewide sales tax rate. He said the WFRC staff recommends that Trans Com oppose this bill because it would remove the voter approved ¼ cent local sales tax which is currently dedicated for commuter rail and TRAX and replace it with a state sales tax. This tax would be dedicated at a lesser degree to transit.
- ***H.B. 221 – Rep. John Mathis – Agricultural and Industrial Protection Amendments.*** Mr. Klemm said this bill would require local governments to establish agricultural protection zones in which no transportation corridor could be designated unless there is no other “reasonable alternative.” He said that the WFRC staff encourages Trans Com to oppose this bill. It would be detrimental to the Legacy Highway project in Weber County.
- ***H.B. 298 – Rep. Wayne Harper – Transit Fare Reduction.*** Mr. Klemm said this bill would have free transit fares on red air quality alert days and cut transit fares by half on yellow air quality alert days. Mr. Klemm said the WFRC staff feels that this would be a good idea; however, several things would need to be considered including how fare meters could be quickly changed, how UTA would be held harmless for any lost revenue, how park and ride lots could accommodate extra cars, and how extra busses and drivers could be available on red and yellow alert days. Last month the Regional Council recommended further study of this proposal to see if these obstacles can be overcome.
- ***S.B. 208 – Sen. Sheldon Killpack – Transportation Corridor Preservation Amendments.*** Mr. Klemm said this bill would require local governments to notify UDOT in case zoning changes are requested in declared transportation corridors. UDOT would be required to identify these priority corridors. He said the WFRC staff approves this bill.
- ***S.B. 227 – Sen. Sheldon Killpack – Transportation Governance.*** Mr. Klemm said this bill would place four new board members on the UTA Board. Three would be appointed by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Governor. A voting member would also be appointed from the Utah State Transportation Commission.
- ***House Joint Resolution 8 – Rep. Julie Fisher – Joint Resolution Urging Congress to Eliminate Transportation Earmarking that Overrides State Transportation Priorities.*** Mr. Klemm said this Resolution asks the Utah Congressional Delegation to avoid earmarking

federal transportation funds. It was amended to urge Congress not to increase the federal gasoline tax. He said the staff remains neutral on this bill.

Mr. Klemm asked if there were any questions. There were none.

ACTION: Councilman Michael Jensen moved that Trans Com adopt the recommendations of the WFRC staff to support, oppose, or remain neutral on the bills discussed and agree with the recommendation to remain neutral on House Joint Resolution 8 with the exception of opposing the sentence “to urge Congress not to increase the federal gasoline tax.” Mayor Dennis Nordfelt seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Proposed Amendments to RTP** -- Mr. Bennion said he wanted to inform Trans Com that the Regional Council had approved putting out for public comment proposed amendments to the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. The proposed amendments include:
 - **5600 West Transit** – In Phases 1 and 2, extensions of Bus Rapid Transit service along 5600 West.
 - **TRAX service** – In Phase 3, extension from SLC International Airport to 5600 West and down 5600 West to Herriman.
 - **Denver & Rio Grande Western Corridor** – Designate as a multi-modal transportation corridor in Davis and Weber counties.
 - **14600 South and D&RGW RR structure replacement and realignment.** (This project was discussed in further detail and explained by Michael Allegra that it is an excellent opportunity to save money since this will allow the 14600 South roadway project and the rail overpass to be constructed at the same time.)
 - **Bangerter Highway grade separated interchanges** at 6200 South, 7800 South, Redwood Road, and 600 West.

Mr. Bennion said that that the public comments are due by March 12. He said the WFRC staff will evaluate these comments and asked Trans Com members to contact him if there were any questions or comments.

- **UDOT Meeting Schedule** – Mr. Bennion distributed a schedule detailing UDOT’s annual visits with cities and counties. He encouraged officials to attend these meetings that make local governments aware of UDOT’s programs for local government assistance and service opportunities.
- **Change in Trans Com schedule** – Mayor Nordfelt mentioned that the next Trans Com meeting scheduled for April 10 conflicts with a Utah League of Cities and Towns meeting in St. George. After discussing possible dates, a motion was made by Councilman Jensen to move the meeting to the following week on Thursday, April 17. Commissioner Milburn seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Next meeting: April 17, 2008