

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held February 17, 2011

Mayor Darrell Smith called Trans Com 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.

ATTENDANCE

Members:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Darrell Smith, Chair | Mayor, Draper City |
| Jamie Nagle, Vice Chair | Mayor, Syracuse City |
| Kelvyn Cullimore, Jr. | Mayor, Cottonwood Heights City |
| Brent Marshall | Mayor, Grantsville City |
| JoAnn B. Seghini | Mayor, Midvale City |
| Tina Kelley | Councilmember, Morgan County |
| Richard Harris | Mayor, North Ogden City |
| Doug Clifford | Mayor, Pleasant View City |
| Bill Applegarth | Mayor, Riverton City |
| Carlton Christensen | Councilman, Salt Lake City |
| Mike Winder | Mayor, West Valley City |
| Jan Zogmaister | Commissioner, Weber County |
| Matt Sibul | Utah Transit Authority |
| Terry Diehl | UTA Board of Trustees |
| Dan McConkie | Utah Transportation Commission |

Others:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dave Peterson | Farmington City |
| Shane Greenwood | South Jordan City |
| John Taylor | Taylorsville City |
| Elden Bingham | Utah Department of Transportation |
| Jason Davis | Utah Department of Transportation |
| Kris Peterson | Utah Department of Transportation |
| Brandon Weston | Utah Department of Transportation |
| Chris Chesnut | Utah Transit Authority |
| Andrew Gruber | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Wayne Bennion | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Ned Hacker | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Doug Hattery | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Andy Li | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Barbara Thomas | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Ben Wuthrich | Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| Rena Bodily | Wasatch Front Regional Council |

1. MINUTES

ACTION: Mayor Marshall moved that the minutes of the November 18, 2010, Trans Com meeting be approved as written. Mayor Applegarth seconded the motion, and the voting was unanimous.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR 2011 AND DISCUSSION OF TRANS COM'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Wayne Bennion said that Trans Com was created by an agreement between WFRC, UDOT, and UTA and is a forum for cooperative planning. It is a part of the process that allows the region to receive federal transportation funding. He said Trans Com is responsible for advising the Regional Council on short range planning issues, mainly the 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The annually-updated TIP includes all transportation projects in the region funded through various sources of federal, state, and local revenues. Trans Com has the primary responsibility to recommend which transportation projects receive Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds within the Salt Lake and Ogden-Layton Urbanized Areas. Trans Com's Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) review individual projects that have been submitted to be considered for funding and make recommendations to Trans Com on which projects should receive funding. Trans Com reviews and discusses recommendations made by the TACs and then makes recommendations to the Regional Council.

The Regional Council has delegated to Trans Com the authority to approve amendments to the TIP and approve the draft TIP, especially in months when the Regional Council does not meet.

Mr. Bennion reviewed and asked for comments on the proposed 2011 Trans Com meeting schedule, including the process of approving the TIP on a yearly basis. Remaining meetings in 2011 are scheduled for April 21, June 16, August 18, and November 17.

4. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

A. Report on WFRC Board Modifications to the 2011-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ben Wuthrich said that since Trans Com's last meeting, WFRC received a request from UDOT to modify the current 2011-2016 TIP. The request was for an additional \$2.5 million for the 10400 South Project in South Jordan from Bangerter Highway to Redwood Road. During the final voucher process it was determined that some Centennial Highway Funds (CHF) had been counted twice and that the project had a shortfall of \$2.5 million. Region Two has enough funds currently available in the Region Two Efficiency Funds (unprogrammed funds due to good bids and project cost savings) to cover the project shortfall.

Because this modification was approved at the Regional Council meeting, this item was for Trans Com's information only. No action needed to be taken.

B. ACTION on Board Modifications to the 2011-2016 TIP

Mr. Wuthich said that WFRC staff requested that the Project Planning Support Fund for the Ogden/Layton area be increased by \$128,000 for three years for a total of \$384,000 and increased in the Salt Lake area by \$272,000 for three years for a total of \$816,000. The need for these additional funds comes as a result of the need to collect home travel surveys to verify and calibrate the travel models used to justify projects on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Wuthrich said in the 2009 federal certification review for this region, both FHWA and FTA recommended that a new travel survey be conducted to update the models. The last such survey was done in 1993. He said this request for funds was discussed at the last Trans Com meeting in November and since then has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the TACs. This request will not negatively impact any projects currently on the program. The travel survey will cover most of the state and UDOT and the other MPOs are contributing funds as well.

Trans Com members discussed the need for the survey, why programming funds for the survey would not negatively impact other projects, and the importance of programming funds in times of federal budget uncertainties.

ACTION: Mayor Winder moved that Trans Com approve the Resolution to modify the 2011-2016 TIP as presented. Mayor Nagle seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

C. Review of fiscal year 2010 obligation of federal highway and transit funds

It was requested that this item be postponed until Trans Com's next meeting in April.

D. Review of Concept Report Applications Received for 2012-2017 STP and CMAQ Programs and Program Schedule

Mr. Wuthrich referred members to the list in their packets of all the project evaluation concept reports that had been received. He encouraged Trans Com members to review the list and notify the WFRC staff as soon as possible if any projects are missing. The project reviews will take place over the next few weeks.

E. ACTION on Proposed Modifications to Evaluation Criteria for Urban Surface Transportation Program

Mr. Wuthrich stated that last year during the project recommendation phase of the TIP, Trans Com asked that prior to the next project evaluation process, the evaluation criteria for Urban STP projects be reviewed and updated. The purpose of the request was to ensure that all projects, including transit projects, could be measured and evaluated fairly. By a coordinated effort of WFRC staff and Technical Advisory Committee members, the criteria were adjusted to not only include other types of projects but to improve several of the evaluation criteria for potential projects.

Mr. Wuthrich explained the "previous" and "proposed" evaluation criteria charts included in member's packets. Nine general areas of evaluation were reviewed:

- Safety
- Pavement condition/management practices
- Federal investment per user
- Delay reduction
- Vision implementation/growth principles/ economic improvements
- Existing average daily traffic
- Operation, TSM/ TDM, and ITS improvements
- Traffic growth
- Existing volume/ capacity

Trans Com members brought up the following points in discussion:

- There are definite advantages of being able to compare transit and highway projects with the proposed evaluation changes.
- The proposed evaluation criteria were tested on previous year's projects and the results showed that both highway and transit projects could be better compared.
- Making changes in evaluation criteria is an important step for the challenging work of implementing the multi-modal principles of the recently adopted Wasatch Choice for 2040 vision.
- The evaluation process will continue to be examined every year.
- The evaluation criteria will not be the only tool used to select projects but they help in the process.
- There should be a desire in the future to efficiently plan for combined highway and transit projects where both UDOT and UTA can share in the financial costs of the same project.

ACTION: Mayor Marshall moved that Trans Com approve the proposed Modifications to Evaluation Criteria for the Urban Surface Transportation Program as presented. Mayor Nagle seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous.

5. OUTCOMES OF UDOT REGION STIP WORKSHOPS

Jason Davis, UDOT Region Two Director, highlighted the following top priority capacity projects in Region Two that came from the Statewide Transportation Improvement (STIP) Workshops:

- **I-215; 4700 South to SR-201.**
\$94 million, add auxiliary lanes, pavement rehabilitation.
- **5400 South (SR-173); Mountain View Corridor to Cougar Lane.**
\$50 million; widen to 7 lanes, need based on traffic modeling after MVC is complete.
- **State Street; 9000 South to 8000 South**
\$17 million, widening, reconstruction, drainage improvement.
- **I-15 Southbound; 2100 South to 3300 South**
\$3 million, funding for EIS, several merging movements at this location.
- **I-215 East; Southbound at 3300 South**
\$7.5 million, convert exit only lane to thru lane, eliminates the weave between I-80 to I-215 and exiting traffic.

- **Bangerter Highway (SR-154) at 13400 South**
\$6 million, convert to CFI, will reduce delay.
- **SR-201; Westbound at 5600 West**
\$2 million, diverging diamond interchange, traffic backs onto SR-201 during PM peak.

Further prioritization of projects will be discussed at a workshop with the Utah Transportation Commission in April.

Kris Peterson, UDOT Region One Director, highlighted the following top priority projects in Region One that came from the Statewide Transportation Improvement (STIP) Workshops:

- **Washington Blvd; 36th Street to 26th Street**
Phase 1 - \$8.9 million, Phase 2 - \$6.8 million, new pavement, replace failing drainage, more effective signal systems.
- **SR-193 Interchange and US-89 to Cornia Drive**
\$6.4 million, dual left turns, add auxiliary lane
- **SR-26 (Riverdale Road); 1900 West to I-84**
\$29 million, additional lanes, on and off ramps, traffic signals, lighting systems, I-15 bridge may be replaced,
- **US-89; 200 North Interchange**
\$45 million, grade separated interchange, extends frontage roads, additional lanes.
- **I-15; 5600 South, Roy to 650 North, Clearfield**
\$8.8 million, add southbound auxiliary lane, widen current structures
- **I-15; 2700 North, Farr West to Weber/Box Elder County line**
\$5.7 million, add northbound auxiliary lane
- **I-15; Weber/Box Elder County line to 2700 North, Farr West**
\$5.8 million, add southbound auxiliary lane
- **I-84; US-89 Interchange**
\$7.84 million, improve lane merge, upgrade ramp over the Weber River

6. UPDATE ON 5400 SOUTH FLEX LANES PROJECT

Brandon Weston, UDOT, gave a presentation on the Flex Lanes Project on 5400 South between Bangerter Highway and Redwood Road. Mr. Weston explained how the flex lanes will operate:

- Overhead electronic signals will show drivers which lanes they can use.
- During A.M. peak times, there will be 4 lanes eastbound, 2 lanes westbound, 1 center turn lane.
- During P.M. peak times, there will be 4 lanes westbound, 2 lanes eastbound, 1 center turn lane.
- Left-hand turns onto 5400 South will be restricted during certain operational times.

Some flex lanes benefits include increased capacity without roadway widening, reduced construction impacts, and additional lanes when needed (heavy commute times, emergencies, and special events). In case of power outages, there is a 4-hour emergency battery back-up.

Trans Com members raised questions about the safety issues. Jason Davis said that UDOT staff went to Phoenix to observe a similar flex lanes project in operation. The Arizona Department of Transportation reported a very low accident rate.

Mr. Weston said that a large public education campaign is planned before the project begins operation in June, 2011.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Wayne Bennion reminded Trans Com members that there would be a WFRC orientation on Thursday, February 24 at 2 p.m. at the WFRC offices for new members and anyone else who is interested.

B. Andrew Gruber recently returned from Washington DC. He briefly reported on the following items.

- Congress is currently finalizing the budget for the remainder of Federal FY 2011 (March 4th through the end of September). The proposed budget the House is currently working on would cut \$8 billion from transportation. The majority of these cuts would be to new transit and high speed rail projects. The President and the Senate have indicated they would not agree to all of these cuts.
- President Obama released his proposed FY 2012 budget this week. He proposes an increase in transportation funding over the next six years as part of a new transportation authorization bill. (The previous six-year bill was \$256 billion; the new six-year authorization bill is proposed to be \$556 billion.) This represents a 48% increase on the highway side and a 127% increase on the transit side.

A funding source for these increases has not been identified other than the existing gas tax. It is possible that the budget would be cut down to what the gas tax can handle. Another alternative would be to have a two-year program rather than a six-year program.

- Mr. Gruber and Sam Klemm met in the offices of each of Utah's Congressional delegation to communicate the value of the investments in the Regional Transportation Plan while realizing the economic challenges that the country is facing.

The meeting ended at 3:35 p.m.

Next meeting date: April 21, 2011