

**Minutes**  
Regional Growth Committee  
Meeting of October 17, 2013

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Commissioner Jan Zogmaister**, RGC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Jan Zogmaister welcomed committee members and guests and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

**RGC Members and Alternates Present:**

Len Arave	Mayor, North Salt Lake
Steve Call	Federal Highway Administration
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
Reid Ewing	University of Utah
Jeff Harris (for Cory Pope)	UDOT
Charles Henderson	UTA Board
Hal Johnson (for Matt Sibul)	UTA
Christie Oostema	Envision Utah
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Darrell Smith	Mayor, Draper City
Derk Timothy	Mayor, Bluffdale City
Gary Uresk	Utah League of Cities and Town
Kathy VanDame	Utah Air Quality Board
Don Wood	Mayor, Clearfield City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

**RGC Representatives and Others Present:**

Eric Anderson	Farmington City
Gordon Haight	Herriman City
Linda Johnson	League of Women Voters-SL
Justin Morgan	FHWA
Chad Mullins	Bike Utah
Debbie Sigman	Breathe Utah
Kip Billings	WFRC
Julia Collins	WFRC
Andrew Gruber	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Val John Halford	WFRC
Sam Klemm	WFRC

Councilmember Tina Kelley and Mayor Dan Snarr were excused from the meeting.

## 1. Approval of Minutes

Mayor Derk Timothy moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held August 15, 2013 be approved as written. Reid Ewing seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## 2. Opportunity for Public Comment

No Public Comment

## 3. Information – 2015 Regional Transportation Plan – Process Update:

Jory Johner, WFRC, updated RGC members on the 2015 RTP process. He said that currently staff is working on the local and public review of the scenarios and the draft preferred scenario. A final preferred scenario and financial assumptions will be presented to the RGC in the Spring of 2014. Adoption of the 2015 RTP is anticipated in the Spring of 2015.

Mr. Johner said the small area meetings that were held in June focused around the four scenarios: Scenario 1: Less Centered; Scenario 2: Consistent with the last Regional Transportation Plan; Scenario 3: More Centered; and Scenario 4: Most Centered. He noted all the scenarios have the same population, jobs, and money spent on regional transportation. He reported that staff received significant input from cities and counties that included:

- Refinements to location and type of land use and centers
- Scenario preference through key pad polling
- General transportation needs
- Specific transportation projects
- Housing needs
- Potential employment locations
- Preservation of open space

Mr. Johner discussed how staff has used what they heard at the small area meetings and includes:

- Reference local comprehensive plans
- Responded to all local comments and concerns
- Reviewed all relevant land use, transportation, and special studies
- Finalize 2040 land use layer using the ET+ tool
- Develop a draft transportation networks
- Run the travel model and make adjustments
- Continue review with transportation partners – UDOT and UTA

He also noted that other considerations in developing the preferred scenario include: travel delay, access to employment and activity centers, freight movement, non-motorized connectivity, impacts on natural lands, community impacts, economic revitalization, and active transportation.

The schedule for the 2015 RTP: During October and November, the WFRC staff will further refine the draft preferred scenario. Various project refinement and selection criteria will be utilized to help further identify the highway and transit projects that should be included as part of the Draft 2015 RTP. Further modeling will also aid in the analysis of how well the preferred scenario performs. WFRC staff anticipates that a draft 2015 RTP will be available for review

on December 13. In January and February 2014 another round of small area meetings and open houses are planned, which will allow city and county planners, engineers, and the general public an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft 2015 RTP. Then in February and March staff will finalize the Preferred Scenario.

#### **4. Information – Wasatch Choice for 2040 Update – Toolbox Release:**

Julia Collins, WFRC, gave an overview of the free Wasatch Choice for 2040 planning and implementation tools soon to be released. These tools represent a significant effort on behalf of many partners including WFRC, Mountainland Association of Governments, Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Transit Authority, University of Utah, Envision Utah, and Salt Lake County. The suite of tools include:

- *Envision Tomorrow Plus (ET+)* – a GIS based scenario planning tool to help communities explore the pros and cons of future growth patterns.
- *Regional Housing Study* – that provides information on locations of low income populations, and access to opportunities and jobs, affordably priced housing, and public transportation.
- The *Utah Form-Based Code Template* – which is an alternative to traditional zoning that focuses on the design and placement of buildings, landscaping and streets to help create valued places. Form based codes are not a more intensive form of regulation but rather they clarify expectations for the developer to create a more predictable approval process.
- The *Implementing Centers* checklist and guidebook – which helps the user systematically assess barriers to community revitalization efforts (such as land assembly, brownfields, infrastructure limitations, or zoning that is not in line with market demands) and identifies salient solutions to address the identified barriers.

Ms. Collins said that the launch of the tools will be on Tuesday, October 29 at the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Consortium meeting being held at the Salt Palace from 2:00-5:00 p.m. This event is for the public and will provide a broad overview of the tools. There are also training opportunities in the weeks after the toolbox launch. These training events will take place in Provo on November 5, Ogden on November 7, West Valley City on December 3, and Farmington on December 4.

Christie Oostema, Envision Utah, made a presentation on the future of the Wasatch Choice for 2040 effort. Her presentation included the following information:

Utah faced serious challenges in the 1990's that included: 1) A million new residents by 2020; 2) Air quality was at risk; 3) Doubling urban land by 2020; 4) New water sources needed by 2010; 5) Crowding and congestion increasing; 6) Business and personal costs rising – how to pay for all the growth; and 7) Infrastructure needs outstripping resources.

The Coalition for Utah's future began a project that became known as Envision Utah. It involved a broad scope of community stakeholders as well as over 20,000 Utah residents. The premise of Envision Utah is that the public has the right to choose its future and that public officials should serve that vision and that the public would make good choices if presented with real options. The public was involved in creating and exploring scenarios and then honing in on the quality growth strategy which had six goals and 42 strategies. The six goals addressed the challenges Utah was facing: 1) Enhance air quality; 2) Increase transportation choices; 3) Preserve Critical Lands; 4) Conserve Water Resources; 5) Provide housing opportunities; and 6) Maximize efficiency in public investment.

#### What's ahead – Quality Growth Strategy—Round 2:

- Summer - Fall 2013
  - Exploration: Stakeholder organization; Task force establishment; Values update; Data collection; Branding, website, and messaging; and fundraising.
- Winter 2013 - Summer 2014
  - Exploring Choices: Public launch event; Committees; Workshops; Task force meetings; and Scenario modeling
- Fall 2014
  - Choosing: Online tool; Media and outreach campaign; Statistical survey
- Fall 2014 – Winter 2015
  - Vision Establishment: Analyzing the public's choices; Vision documentation; Public vision release; and Begin implementation

#### **5. Information – Local Planning Resource Program Update:**

Val John Halford, WFRC, said the Local Planning Resource Program goals are to 1) Serve our members in helping meet local community development goals; 2) Assist in the integration of development with transportation, to improve mobility and accessibility; and 3) Provide assistance in utilizing the WC2040 toolbox. Briefings on the Resource Program were provided to Region planners at both the Ogden-Layton and Salt Lake-West Valley RGC Technical Advisory Committees on September 25. There has been considerable amount of interest expressed in this program and local planners are already anticipating its official release.

Details of the program will be released soon.

#### **6. Information – State Implementation and Air Quality Scorecard:**

Kip Billings, WFRC, stated that the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is a Plan for how we will reach the federal air quality standards by 2019. He said that the Utah Division of Air Quality (UDAQ) and its air quality partners have been working on the Plan for the past two years. Mr. Billings provided and discussed the following PM<sub>2.5</sub> (SIP) Timeline for the Salt Lake non-attainment area:

- September – The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) approved draft PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP with emission budgets for mobile sources being identified in the Salt Lake non-attainment area and a separate plan that addresses emissions in the Utah County area.
- October – The document will be released for Public Comment
- November – The DAQ will respond to all Public Comment
- December 4 – Final approval of the Utah Air Quality Board (UAQB)
- December – Submit the document to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Billings then presented the semi-annual report of observed air quality conditions along the Wasatch Front based on Division of Air Quality (DAQ) air monitor data. He reported that WFRC tracks pollution levels using the Air Quality Scorecard, a shorthand grading system fashioned by WFRC that assigns a grade according to how many of the four monitored pollutants are currently meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The fall season marks the end of summer ozone conditions. He discussed the “scorecard” for each of the Counties: Box Elder, Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake and noted that each are meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide (CO), coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), but each currently fails the standard for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Each of these counties is therefore given a grade of “B”. Tooele County is meeting all federal air quality standards and is given the grade of “A”.

Andrew Gruber, WFRC, said that there are a lot of efforts going on currently around air quality. It is expected that the SIP will be completed and approved and will demonstrate that Utah will be in attainment with the Federal Standards by 2019. He said this reflects progress but doesn't mean we are done with this issue. He said that the WFRC Air Quality Committee as well as our partners at UDOT, UTA, Breathe Utah, and other organizations will continue to work to do what we can to improve air quality. He noted that Ted Wilson has been appointed as the Executive Director of UCAIR (Utah Clean Air) initiative and that Governor Herbert recently announced the creation of a Clean Air Action Team. All of this indicates a huge commitment to try to do even more to have the air be as clean as possible.

**7. Other Business**

- 8. The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.****

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.