

MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of April 27, 2006

Mayor Nordfelt, Chairman, called the meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council to order at 3:05 p.m. in the Regional Council offices at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members Present

Byron Anderson	Mayor, Grantsville
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
J. Lynn Crane	Mayor, Herriman
Tom Dolan	Mayor, Sandy
Matthew Godfrey	Mayor, Ogden
Daniel B. Hancock	Councilman, Morgan County
Michael H. Jensen	Councilman, Salt Lake County
Dannie R. McConkie	Commissioner, Davis County
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City
Fred Panucci	Mayor, Syracuse
John Petroff, Jr.	Mayor, West Point
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale

Members Not Present

Ross C. Anderson	Mayor, Salt Lake City
Ken Bischoff	Commissioner, Weber County
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale
Camille Cain	Commissioner, Weber County, Rep. of UAC
Craig L. Dearden	Commissioner, Weber County
George Garwood, Jr.	Mayor, South Ogden / ULCT
Robert Grow	Representative, Envision Utah
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful
Kent Money	Mayor, South Jordan

Alternate Members Present

Claudia Anderson	Mayor, Bluffdale
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
Neka Roundy	Mayor, Kaysville
Darrell H. Smith	Mayor, Draper
Todd Stevenson	Mayor, Fruit Heights City

Other Elected Officials Present

Gordon Thomas Cottonwood Heights

Others Present

Justin Allen	UDOT
Loveit Baumgardner	WFRC Staff
Carlos Braceras	UDOT
Melanie H. Bowen	Senator Hatch's Office
Joel Burkhart	WFRC Staff
Annette Call	Congressman Chris Cannon's Office
Chuck Chappell	WFRC Staff
Doug Clark	GOED
Sharon Gray	WFRC Staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC Staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC Staff
John Hiskey	Sandy City
Tosh Kano	City of Holladay (Mayor Webb)
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Rick McKeague	Utah Department of Air Quality
George Ramjouw	WFRC Staff
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County
Mary Taylor	Senator Hatch's Office
Rob Wall	South Jordan City
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC Staff

Mayor Ross C. Anderson, Commissioner Ken Bischoff, Mayor Bruce Burrows, Commissioner Craig Dearden, Mayor Kent Money, and Commissioner Camille Cain were excused from the meeting.

Consent Agenda

ACTION on the minutes of the WFRC meeting of March 23, 2006, and ACTION on the financial statement and check register for February and March 2006: Mayor Roundy moved to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting of March 23, 2006, and the financial statements and check registers for February and March 2006. The motion was seconded by Mayor Crane and passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Revised Public Involvement Process: Mr. Sam Klemm reported on the Council's *draft* Revised Public Involvement Process. He stated that the recent transportation re-authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU, contains a requirement that metropolitan planning organizations review their public involvement procedures and circulate them to area stakeholders and interested members of the public for review and comment. He added that after input is received from the public, the Regional Council will then be required to adopt an updated public participation plan. Copies of the *draft* Public Involvement Policy were included in Council members'

packets.

Mayor Petroff moved that the Council approve the *draft* Revised Public Involvement Process for circulation to the public for review and comment. The motion was seconded by Mayor Crane and passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Report

Revised Draft Budget: Mr. Chuck Chappell reported that at the Council's March meeting, the Council authorized funding the lobbyist in FY 2007 by increasing the assessment to local government by \$40,000. He stated that since that time, UTA has agreed to contribute \$15,000 toward the \$40,000 cost, in large measure because our lobbyist made the extra effort to frequently coordinate with them during the 2006 session. Copies of the revised *draft* budget dated April 20, 2006, were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Chappell stated that this change will be included in the Council's *draft* budget, which will be presented to the individual counties for their review and approval. The budget will then be brought before the Council for adoption at the May 2006 Council meeting.

Regional Growth Committee

Corridor Preservation: Mayor Corroon reported on the following corridor preservation activities:

- **The Status of Ordinances Enacted** - Mayor Corroon reported that Salt Lake County adopted an ordinance prior to the April 1, 2006 deadline that increases the vehicle registration fee by \$10. He added that Utah, Summit and Wasatch Counties have also adopted the increased fee, and funds will start being collected effective July 1, 2006. He stated that the fee will raise \$6.8 million the first year, and average \$7.8 million over a 25 year period for corridor preservation in Salt Lake County.
- **WFRC Staff Working on a Process for the Local Corridor Preservation Fund Program-** Mayor Corroon reported that the WFRC staff is currently working with the Salt Lake COG to assist them in establishing an administrative process for the Local Corridor Preservation Fund program. He added that a *draft* application and prioritization criteria have been developed and will be presented to the Public Works Committee and the full membership of the COG. Copies of the *draft* Local Corridor Preservation Fund Application and the *draft* Council of Governments Prioritization Criteria were included in Council members' packets.
- **\$10 million Match Funds** - Mayor Corroon reported that the legislature appropriated \$10 million for the Local Corridor Preservation Fund program. He stated that these funds will be used to match the funds raised by the increased vehicle registration fee in the counties that adopted the fee.
- **Salt Lake County Considering Formally Adopting Regional Growth Principles** - Mayor Corroon reported that the Salt Lake County Council is considering a resolution that would formally adopt the Regional Growth Principles. The Resolution supports the

use of the Growth Principles in developing a land use vision that will positively affect the region's transportation network. It also recommends that the growth principles be considered in adopting policies for the General Plan, and as a guide in making development decisions.

Mayor Nordfelt noted that West Valley City has developed a checklist form that can be used to evaluate project applications. Council members felt it would be helpful for the form to be distributed to the individual cities/counties for their consideration for use in their communities. Council members can contact Mr. Ramjoue' of the Council's staff for more information. Mr. Ramjoue' agreed to distribute the form by e-mail to Council members.

- **Homeland Security** - Mayor Corroon reported that Mr. Chappell met with Mr. Verdi White of the State Office of Homeland Security. He stated that Mr. White has requested that two new members (both non-voting) be added to the Regional Growth Committee. The first non-voting member would be from the Utah State Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. The second non-voting member would be come from the Utah Local Government Association of Emergency Services/Security. Mayor Corroon noted that the WFRC staff has also been invited to participate in the State's emergency plan update process.

Mr. Chappell stated that current federal law requires the Wasatch Front Regional Council to participate more in security planning.

Councilman Jensen stated that there is currently a problem getting information back and forth between emergency preparedness organizations and local governmental entities. He stated that he was in favor of extending non-voting membership to the suggested agencies and felt that their membership on the RGC would be good for information exchange and that it would also be a good policy decision.

Councilman Jensen moved that the Wasatch Front Regional Council extend two non-voting memberships on the Regional Growth Committee (RGC) to the Utah State Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, and the Utah Local Government Association of Emergency Services/Security. The motion was seconded by Mayor Petroff and passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee Report

Review of 2005 obligation of federal highway and transit funds: Mr. Ben Wuthrich reported that SAFETEA-LU requires each metropolitan planning organization (MPO), State, and public transportation operator(s) to cooperate in preparing a list of projects for which Federal funds were obligated for spending during the preceding year. He stated that the WFRC staff, with the help of UDOT and UTA, has prepared a list of all the projects that received federal funding during FY 2005. Copies of a List of Obligations during fiscal year 2005 were included in Council member's packets. Mr. Wuthrich briefly reviewed the projects that had obligated funding during FY 2005.

Report on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) / Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Modifications: Mr. Wuthrich reported that as a result of the TIP Amendment/ Modification Process that was approved by the Council at their meeting in February 2006, certain modifications can be made with only staff approval. He stated that the WFRC staff will make regular reports to Trans Com and the Regional Council on any modifications to the TIP and the STIP. Copies of a modification list (including staff modifications as well as changes resulting from WFRC and Transportation Commission action) for the TIP/ STIP since February 10, 2006, were included in Council members' packets.

ACTION on draft 2007-2012 Surface Transportation Program: Mr. Wuthrich reported on the Technical Committee's recommendations for the Salt Lake and Ogden-Layton Areas' Surface Transportation Programs for the next six years. He stated that Trans Com recommended approval of these programs at its meeting on April 13. Copies of a table of the *draft proposed* Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) were included in Council member's packets.

Mr. Wuthrich distributed copies of a table listing the current status of STP projects and CMAQ projects dated April 13, 2006. He pointed out that as a result of SAFETEA-LU, the region is now receiving less STP funds than anticipated last year. He said the WFRC staff is working with UDOT to ensure that projects on the program can be built when they are ready. He explained that as projects are prepared and moved forward, advanced construction can occur using state or local funds. He added that these funds will be replaced with federal funds as they become available.

In answer to a question about projects that are over budget, Mr. Wuthrich stated that there is a built in cushion that will allow the program to continue to move forward. He stated that all changes and requests for approval of additional funds will be brought before the Council.

Mr. Wuthrich reported that due to the federal requirements that the TIP remain financially constrained, some projects will need to be delayed. He stated that at its February meeting, Trans Com concurred with the recommendations from the Salt Lake and Ogden/ Layton Technical Committees to not place new projects on the program and use the additional year of programming to realign the existing program's projects. He also stated that Trans Com has recommended that the Council approve the proposed 2007-2012 Urban Surface Transportation Programs (STP) for the Salt Lake and Ogden/ Layton Areas. He noted that these programs and the other federal highway and transit programs will need to be compiled into a Transportation Improvement Program in May and then made available for public review in June and July.

Mr. Wuthrich reminded Council members that the draft TIP is on the Council's web-site at www.wfrc.org.

Commissioner McConkie moved that the Council approve the proposed 2007-2012 Urban Surface Transportation Programs (STP) for the Salt Lake and Ogden/ Layton Areas, as reviewed, and make them available for public review. The motion was seconded by Mayor Panucci and passed unanimously.

ACTION on draft 2007-2012 Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program: Mr. Wuthrich reported on the Technical Committee's recommendations for the Salt Lake and Ogden-Layton Area's Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Programs for the next six years. He stated

that the CMAQ funds must be used for projects which will improve air quality by reducing pollutant emissions from transportation sources. He noted that the priorities for projects can be re-distributed, if needed. Copies of a table of the draft 2007-2012 CMAQ program were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich reminded Council members that due to the federal requirements that the TIP remain financially constrained, some projects will need to be delayed. He stated that at its February meeting, Trans Com concurred with the recommendations from the Salt Lake and Ogden/ Layton Technical Committees to not place new projects on the program and use the additional year of programming to realign the existing program's projects.

Mr. Wuthrich stated that Trans Com reviewed the draft Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality Program (CMAQ) at its meeting on April 13th and recommended that the draft CMAQ program be adopted by the Regional Council. He stated that these programs and the other federal highway and transit programs will need to be compiled into a Transportation Improvement Program in May and then made available for public review in June and July.

Commissioner McConkie moved that the Council approve the proposed 2007-2012 Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Program (CMAQ) for the Salt Lake and Ogden/ Layton Areas, as reviewed, and make them available for public review. The motion was seconded by Mayor Seghini and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment: Mr. Wuthrich reported that the WFRC has received four requests from UDOT to amend the 2006-2010 TIP. Copies of the letter from UDOT requesting the TIP Amendment, along with copies of a Resolution to amend the 2006-2010 TIP, were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich distributed copies of a handout titled **2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Three**. He noted that the projects listed in the dark shaded box are currently in lawsuit and are being withdrawn from the amendment.

Mr. Wuthrich stated that the proposed Transportation Improvement Program amendment does not need to be reviewed for conformity and consistency with the State Implementation Program, because the amended projects are already included in the TIP or are exempt from air quality conformity requirements according to 40 CFR Part 93.126 Table 2 Exempt projects. He added that the amendment was not made available for public review and comment by the Utah Department of Transportation nor by the Wasatch Front Regional Council, as it will be accommodated in the Regional Council meeting with public review and comment as part of the agenda. He stated that Trans Com reviewed the proposed amendment at its meeting on April 13th and recommended its approval.

Commissioner McConkie moved that the Council approve the Resolution to amend the 2006-2010 TIP as requested by UDOT and to authorize the Chairman and Executive Director to sign the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Panucci and passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

WFRC Orientation Book: Mr. Chappell reported that in order to better inform local elected officials about the activities and background of the Regional Council, an Orientation Book has been prepared for all Council members and alternates. He stated that any Council members and alternates that have not received their orientation book could pick them up after the Council meeting. If preferred, Council members can make individual appointments for a brief orientation.

Coordination of Planning: Mr. Chappell introduced Mr. Doug Clark from the Governor's Office. He stated that Mr. Clark is working to make connections between economic development and transportation. Mr. Chappell asked Council members to contact him or Mr. Clark if they would be willing to volunteer to be on a focus group.

Transportation Funding Options: Mr. Chappell reported that this fall, the Council will finalize the best and final estimate of the highway and transit funds that will be available over the next 25 years to support the new 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. He stated that last year the transportation agencies estimated a statewide funding gap of \$16.5 billion by 2030 for highways and \$4.5 gap for transit. He noted that the staff will develop options for the Council to consider to reduce the gap, including reducing the number and scope of projects and proposing new funding sources. He stated that the staff is working closely with UTA, UDOT and MAG to develop funding options. Mr. Chappell reviewed the following options:

- UDOT (and WFRC) are sponsoring a consultant study of tolling as an extension of the EIS for Mountain View Corridor.
- The SL Chamber's transportation initiative will eventually address transit and highway funding gaps.
- The GO bond property tax initiative to advance TRAX extensions in Salt Lake County was supported in concept by the Council in October, 2004. The Council's current 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan would complete the four TRAX extensions by 2015. We will keep you informed of progress by the Chamber and UTA. This effort will focus on the Salt Lake COG because the projects and funding are within the one county.
- We are testing another funding proposal based on local option revenue enhancements. Other urban areas around the country have addressed part of their funding gap by voter passed local sales tax or gas tax. The projected decline in federal funds and the Legislature's intent to concentrate on state highway facilities make it imperative that other sources be considered. Although the Legislature would need to authorize the local option votes, residents would vote to tax or not tax themselves. Such local option would allow areas with greater needs to tax themselves for the needed improvements. Again, the Council supported the concept in the October, 2004 resolution. However, much more work is needed.

Weber COG Concerns: Mr. Chappell reported that he and Mayor Nordfelt have been invited to the May 1 Weber COG meeting to discuss how Weber county benefits from their membership in WFRC. He stated that he felt the Council's record of performance with Weber area transportation issues is very convincing, including: many more staff hours on transportation planning than an independent MPO could afford; I-15 NOW funding that was achieved with full regional political pressure and lobbying; a favorable history of per capita transportation

expenditures in the County; and, the 2006/07 major study of the North Legacy Highway corridor and connection to I-15. Copies of the funding history were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Chappell discussed the logistical issues of Weber County being the most remote County from WFRC offices. He stated that the staff would be looking into options such as teleconferencing, locating a staff person in offices closer to Weber County, and monthly attendance and briefings at the Weber Area COG meetings.

Council members discussed some of their concerns including representation, gas prices, focusing on issues, organization, coordination, and ways to be more effective. They expressed the desire to look at better ways to accomplish their goals.

Mayor Nordfelt felt that Council members ought to occasionally step back to see if they're just doing something because that's the way it's always been done.

Mayor Seghini felt that transportation issues could be reported and discussed at the various counties Conference of Mayors meetings.

Councilman Jensen suggested looking at splitting Trans Com into two urban areas, with both areas reporting back to the Regional Council.

Air Quality comments to EPA: Mr. Chappell reported that EPA has proposed revisions to the PM_{2.5} standard. He noted that Ms. Cheryl Heying of the Utah Division of Air Quality reported on the impacts to Utah of this proposal at the last Council meeting. He stated that the WFRC indicated at that time that we would submit comments to EPA regarding the proposal to revise the PM_{2.5} standard. Copies of the letter to EPA dated April 14, 2006, along with copies of the comments on the EPA Proposal to revise the PM_{2.5} standard were included in Council members' packets. He noted that the public comment period for the EPA proposal ended April 15, 2006.

Public Comment

Mr. Michael Packard commented on the July 2005 GAO report, the cost/benefit report relating to the mid-Jordan TRAX, and the new start report. He stated that TRAX reduced car travel by a small amount. He stated that an extra \$9 million in roadways would provide more benefit. He felt that a performance audit should be performed with independent reviews, as the last performance audit was 25 years ago. He stated that there are only five people, per average, on busses, and felt that routes should be changed. He also felt that smaller buses should be used on some routes and could be determined by cost/benefit comparisons.

Other Business

Ms. Melanie H. Bowen, State Director for Senator Orrin Hatch, distributed copies of a news release from Senator Hatch which provided background on the fight to stop high-level nuclear waste coming to Utah. She asked Council members to share the information with the citizens in their cities/counties and to provide any comments to Ms. Pam Scheuler at the Bureau of Land Management by May 8, 2006.

Councilman Hancock distributed copies of a Memorandum to Water Supply Steering Committee members and local elected and appointed officials within the Wasatch Front Region dated April 28, 2006, requesting their attendance at the WFRC Water Supply Steering Committee meeting being held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2006, in the offices of the WFRC. He encouraged all Council members to attend.

Next meeting - May 25, 2006

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.