



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council
Meeting of May 24, 2007

Mayor Petroff, 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

Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale
Carlton Christensen	Councilmember, Salt Lake City
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
J. Lynn Crane	Mayor, Herriman
Craig L. Dearden	Commissioner, Weber County
Louenda Downs	Representative, Utah Association of Counties
Matthew Godfrey	Mayor, Ogden
Michael H. Jensen	Councilman, Salt Lake County
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful
Bret Millburn	Commissioner, Davis County
John Petroff, Jr.	Mayor, West Point
Ron Russell	Mayor, Centerville
Bruce Sanders	Councilman, Morgan County
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale

Members Not Present

Byron Anderson	Mayor, Grantsville
Ken Bischoff	Commissioner, Weber County
Tom Dolan	Mayor, Sandy
George Garwood, Jr.	Mayor, South Ogden / ULCT
Robert Grow	Representative, Envision Utah
Kent Money	Mayor, South Jordan
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City

Alternate Members Present

Claudia Anderson	Mayor, Bluffdale
Neka Roundy	Mayor, Kaysville City
Todd Stevenson	Mayor, Fruit Heights

Other Elected Officials Present

Gordon Thomas Cottonwood Heights

Press Present

John Daley KSL
Matthew Stillman KUER
Nicole Warburton Deseret News

Others Present

Stuart Adams	Transportation Commission
Loveit Baumgardner	WFRC Staff
Jerry Benson	Utah Transit Authority
Karen Bergstrom	Utah Moms for Clean Air
Kip Billings	WFRC Staff
Renaë Bodily	WFRC Staff
Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Carlos Braceras	UDOT
Drew Chamberlain	Citizens against LRT
Chuck Chappell	WFRC Staff
Cameron Cova	Utah Moms for Clean Air
Cris Cowley	UPHE
LaNiece Dustman	WFRC Staff
Hans G. Ehrbar	University of Utah
Scott Festin	WFRC Staff
Lynn de Freitas	Friends of Great Salt Lake
Sharon Gray	WFRC Staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC Staff
Val John Halford	WFRC Staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC Staff
Mark Heilesen	Sierra Club
Courtney Henley	Utah Moms / UPHE
Cheryl Heying	Utah State Division of Air Quality
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Jory Johner	WFRC Staff
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Dr. Brian Moench	Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Erin Olson	Utah Moms for Clean Air
Michael T. Packard	GeoSol Consulting
George Ramjouw	WFRC Staff
Greg Scott	WFRC Staff
Deborah Sigman	Utah Moms
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County
Barbara Thomas	WFRC Staff
Eloise Thomson	WFRC Staff

Others Present (Continued)

Cherise Udell	Founder, Utah Moms for Clean Air
Jamie Van Bevfurs	Utah Transit Authority
Butch Waidelich	FHWA
Robert Wall	South Jordan City
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC Staff

Mayor Byron Anderson, Commissioner Ken Bischoff, Mayor Dennis Nordfelt, and Mayor Darrell Smith were excused from the meeting.

Public Comment

Michael Packard commented on the congestion in the region. He stated that this area will have major growth in the future, and will need additional freeways. He distributed a handout to Council members titled ***35-2030 PM Peak Period Travel Time Improvements from Commuter Rail: Transit vs. Highway.***

Consent Agenda

ACTION – Minutes of the WFRC meeting of March 22, 2007: Councilman Jensen moved to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting of March 22, 2007. The motion was seconded by Councilman Christensen and passed unanimously.

ACTION – Financial Statement and Check Register for February and March, 2007: Commissioner Dearden moved to approve the financial statement and check register for February and March, 2007. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

INFORMATION - Council appointments to RGC and Trans Com: Mayor Petroff moved that the Council appoint Mayor Ron Russell as an alternate member of Trans Com. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

Mayor Petroff reported that Justin Allen has been appointed, by the Governor's Quality Growth Commission, as a member of the Regional Growth Committee. He stated that Councilman Christensen was appointed as his alternate on the Regional Growth Committee.

ACTION – Endorse response to letters received on UTA's bus realignment: Mr. Hattery reported that UTA is in the process of redesigning their bus service in Salt Lake County. He stated that in March, UTA held a number of public open houses on the proposed changes and received a significant number of comments on the plan. He stated that Councilwoman Nancy Saxton provided several comments regarding her concerns about the system redesign to UTA and forwarded them on to the Regional Council asking for their support. Copies of the letters to John English at UTA, dated March 30, 2007 and Mayor Dennis Nordfelt at the Wasatch Front Regional Council, dated April 23, 2007, were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Jerry Benson stated that UTA completed a comprehensive re-design to the bus system in Salt Lake County, which has been approved by the UTA Board. He stated that all comments received were digested, prioritized, and accommodated and the design was also based on the best market research available. He stated that with the re-design, UTA anticipates reversing the declining bus ridership and also anticipates a 12% increase over the next three years. He briefed the Council on the changes and stated that UTA should be able to address most of the public's concerns. Mr. Benson stated that UTA's Board had approved a budget amendment to increase bus service and allow them to move ahead with the bus re-design. Changes to route numbers and design should be in place by August 26th. He stated that Councilwoman Saxton presented UTA with a letter of support over their action.

Councilman Christensen thanked UTA for their help and commitment to increase UTA ridership. In answer to a question by Councilman Christensen, Mr. Benson stated that UTA won't know the success of their changes overnight, but that UTA will look at ridership numbers before and after the re-design. He hoped that with a significant public information campaign, ridership would increase. He stated that the public will receive information on the re-design by direct mail and face to face involvement. He noted that the route changes will start in August, and any needed adjustments will be implemented starting in November.

Mayor Petroff asked Council members if they would like to take any action on Councilwoman Saxton's comments.

Commissioner Dearden moved that the Council send a letter to Councilwoman Saxton stating that 1) UTA members attended the Council meeting and explained their re-design process, and 2) that Council members felt UTA has addressed the needs explained in her letter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

ACTION – Council position on HB166, UTA Governance: Mr. Sam Klemm reported that House Bill 166, which would eliminate UTA as a stand alone entity and fold it into UDOT, was defeated in the recent general session of the Legislature. He noted, however, that it was resurrected last week at the Transportation Interim Committee. Copies of a brief summary of and quotation from House Bill 166 were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Klemm reported that he had two concerns relating to the bill. His concerns were 1) that local control over UTA would be eliminated, and 2) that UTA would be folded into a large agency with a different mission.

In answer to a question by Mayor Seghini as to whether or not UDOT was willing to take this on, Mr. Jaber responded that he was not in a position to respond.

Mayor Seghini stated that UTA and UDOT are two different transportation organizations with two different transportation options. She felt it would be a mistake to break either one of them down, as she felt they both worked well individually.

In answer to a question by Councilman Christensen, Mr. Klemm noted that Representative Harper has not included any new arguments.

Councilman Jensen stated that he was against combining UTA with UDOT, as he felt they don't match up. He stated the importance of keeping UTA locally controlled, but felt that more oversight could be provided.

Mayor Seghini moved that the Council continue to oppose House Bill 166 which would eliminate UTA as a stand alone entity and fold it into UDOT. The motion was seconded by Mayor Corroon and passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Report

ACTION – FY 2008 Budget and Unified Planning Work Program: Commissioner Dearden reported that the Budget Committee has met and reviewed the final draft of the FY08 Budget and summary of the Work Program, copies of which were included in Council members' packets. He stated that the budget includes a 5% increase in salary/benefits for COLA, merit and market adjustments and anticipated increases in health insurance costs. He stated that the budget also includes \$40,000 in local contributions for the cost of a legislative consultant to assist WFRC during the 2008 Legislative Session. He stated that there will be no increase in local government's contributions.

Council members briefly discussed the FY08 Budget and Work Program. In answer to a question about a 5% increase, Councilman Jensen reminded Council members that the budget would include a "pay for performance" salary package.

Mr. Chappell noted that the 5% increase was a maximum control total for the whole budget.

Commissioner Dearden moved that the Council accept the proposed FY 2008 Budget and Work Program. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and passed unanimously.

Regional Growth Committee

INFORMATION – Summary of public comments on the Regional Transportation Plan: Mayor Johnson reported that the federal government requires a thirty day comment period prior to the approval of a regional transportation plan by a metropolitan planning organization. Copies of a general summary of issues addressed during the formal comment period were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Klemm briefly discussed the issues and staff responses. He stated that most of the comments and responses were related to the following:

1. Financial resources should be re-directed from highways to public transit.
2. Air Quality concerns would suggest that most future road building be curtailed and future expansion of transportation facilities be mostly transit.
3. The Draft Plan commits a grossly disproportionate 35% of capital construction funding to transit when it represents only .9% of all passenger miles traveled in the Region.
4. The sequencing of transit on 5600 West after the construction of the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) is contrary to the vision agreement in the MVC EIS.

5. Highways will only induce more demand and sprawl.
6. The model used to predict transit ridership is "notoriously unable to predict transit ridership."
7. The plan did not specify the importance of sidewalks for pedestrian, and bike lanes. The importance of bike lane and sidewalk design, especially around transit stops, is very high.
8. East/west travel capacity is sorely needed in all three urban counties.
9. The Northern portion of the Legacy Highway should be completed prior to the expansion of I-15. This would not only help with north/south traffic, but also with east/west traffic attempting to access the freeway.
10. There were a number of comments supporting the construction of a streetcar from the Ogden Intermodal center to Weber State University ahead of other transit projects in Weber County.

Mr. Klemm distributed copies of the comments received during the formal comment period from April 6, 2007 through May 7, 2007. The handout included the comments, who/when/and where the comments were made, along with the WFRC response to the comments.

Council members had no additional comments on the Regional Transportation Plan.

INFORMATION – Description of the 2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Mr. Val Halford reported that since the end of the public comment period, several minor changes have been made to the 2030 RTP. He reported that the highway project that would have widened 700 West between 9800 South and 11400 South has been deleted from the Plan. He also reported that the transit plan includes the following nine changes:

PROJECT	FROM	TO	CHANGE
400 South TRAX	Main Street	Salt Lake CRT	From Unfunded to Phase 3
Washington Blvd EN /BRT	North Ogden	Newgate Mall	Change entire line to Enhanced Bus
West Davis / Weber	Clearfield City	Ogden City	Shift alignment to Riverdale City
North Davis / Riverdale	Parrish Lane	Ogden City	Change alignment in Riverdale City
North Davis / Riverdale	Centerville City	Farmington	Change from Phase 3 to Phase 2
Mountain View Corridor	Airport TRAX	Bluffdale CRT	Change Phasing from Study Only to Unfunded
3500 South BRT	Extension from 7200 South to U-111 and SR201 as Unfunded		
900 South Corridor Preservation	400 West and 700 South	I-215	Shifted funding - Salt Lake City owned
Washington Blvd Enhanced Bus	North Ogden	Newgate Mall	Shift portion of alignment to Grant Avenue

Mr. Halford distributed copies of the final draft 2030 RTP Highway Phasing map and the final draft 2030 RTP Transit Phasing Map, which included the changes. Copies of a list of highway projects completed, deleted, modified, or under construction from the 2030 LRP

update were also distributed. These changes are not regionally significant and will not require any additional air quality conformity analysis.

Mr. Halford stated that the RTP has been completely re-written. He distributed copies of and reviewed a list of accomplishments that have been completed which include the following:

1. Coordinated RTP process and documentation
2. Direct response to SAFETEA-LU planning principles or factors
3. Incorporate the results of Regional Visioning process
4. Objective means of selecting and phasing of regional significant projects
5. Development and evaluation of viable alternatives or future scenarios
6. Modeling of both land use and transportation future possibilities
7. Integration of NEPA principles in planning process
8. Incorporation of adopted Regional Growth Principles
9. Connectivity of recommended transportation modes and facilities
10. Region-wide financial assumptions
11. Coordinated and comprehensive public involvement process
12. Timing of RTP approval and adoption process
13. Comprehensive treatment of regional freight movement issues and concerns
14. Increased safety and homeland security
15. Maintenance, operation, and preservation of existing transportation systems
16. Utilization of Context Sensitive Solutions
17. Identification of regional transportation corridors
18. Renewed planning effort for non-motorized transportation modes
19. Specific recommendations for TSM, TDM, and ITS
20. Determination of goals and objectives for Phase 1 transportation corridors
21. Consideration of regional economic development and competitiveness
22. Incorporation of "active living" principles

Mr. Halford noted that on March 17, the Regional Growth Committee voted unanimously to forward the draft 2030 RTP onto the Wasatch Front Regional Council for adoption.

Council members briefly discussed the Sheep Road project in Davis County. Mr. Chappell noted that the study will be to consider the preservation of a corridor and not an inventory of property. He added that the study hopes to preserve the area, not interfere with wetlands.

Council members discussed a BRT project on 5600 West. Mr. Halford noted that BRT on 5600 West in Salt Lake County is currently an unfunded project. Mr. Chappell added that some analysis shows that an Express Bus could perform well in that area.

INFORMATION – Air Quality conditions of the RTP: Mr. Kip Billings reported that the Clean Air Act requires that the Wasatch Front Regional Council demonstrate that projected emissions related to the traffic conditions defined in the proposed 2030 RTP conform to the goals and objectives defined in the State Implementation Plan. He stated that the WFRC staff has drafted

Air Quality Memorandum 21 to make this conformity determination. Copies of excerpts from Section D of the Air Quality Memorandum 21 were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Billings presented a PowerPoint presentation titled ***Air Quality Conformity Report, WFRC 2030 Regional Transportation Plan***, copies of which were distributed to those in attendance. The presentation provided an overview of: 1) response to public comment, 2) conformity demonstration, and 3) the new federal standards for PM_{2.5} and ozone.

Added opportunity for public comment: Mayor Petroff opened the Council meeting for public comment on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the amendment to the 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The following individuals presented comments.

Dr. Brian Moench, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Cameron Cova, Utah Moms for Clean Air
Karen Bergstrom, Utah Moms for Clean Air
Cherise Udell, Utah Moms for Clean Air
Mark Heilesen, Sierra Club
Roger Borgenicht, Future Moves
Dr. Chris Cowley, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Michael Packard, GeoSol Consulting
Lynn de Freitas, Friends of Great Salt Lake

The Utah Moms for Clean Air distributed copies of a flyer titled ***Utah Moms for Clean Air - Breathe * Grow * Flourish*** to those in attendance.

For a summary of their comments, as well as the WFRC response to their comments, please see the ***Adopted 2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Appendix A - Public Involvement, on pages 14, 15, and 16.*** Note: The Adopted 2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) can be found on the Council's web-site at www.wfrc.org.

Mayor Seghini noted that the "little people" in attendance had been phenomenal and wonderful!

Mayor Petroff thanked those who participated for their comments.

ACTION – 2007-2030 RTP and Air Quality Conformity: Mayor Johnson reported that action is needed to either approve and adopt the draft 2007-2030 RTP and Air Quality Conformity, or not. Copies of a ***Resolution of the Wasatch Front Regional Council approving the Wasatch Front Regional Transportation Plan: 2007-2030*** were distributed to Council members for their consideration. He noted that this Plan has not been rushed into and while those in attendance may not all agree, a balanced effort can be attained if everyone works together.

After a brief discussion on the Council's bike plan, Mayor Godfrey asked for a copy of the map that included bike lanes.

Council members discussed difficulty of identifying resources that are optimistically reasonable. Mr. Chappell stated that he hopes the Legislature will approve the ability to raise funds in the

future. He noted that the Council has had to assume an increase in sales tax to address some of the transit projects.

Mayor Seghini reminded Council members that five years ago she made a motion to increase transit projects in the Plan. She stated that since that time, the Council has actively worked to significantly increase transit projects. She stated that the Council deserves credit for quadrupling transit projects.

Mayor Seghini moved to approve the 2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the Air Quality Conformity, and to authorize the Chairman to sign the ***Resolution of the Wasatch Front Regional Council approving the Wasatch Front Regional Transportation Plan: 2007-2030***. Mayor Crane seconded the motion and stated that he appreciates the balance that the Plan has with highway and transit projects. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Corroon noted that he felt the Council was moving in the right direction.

Mayor Petroff thanked the Utah Moms for Clean Air for attending the meeting. He stated that Council members had listened to their comments and that their comments were not in vain.

Transportation Committee (Trans Com)

ACTION – TIP Amendment: Mr. Ben Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) received a request from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to amend the 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with the projects identified at the Transportation Commission Meeting held on April 20, 2007. He stated that these projects would be funded using state funds. Copies of a letter from UDOT dated April 26, 2007 to Mr. Chuck Chappell listing the projects, along with copies of a Resolution of the WFRC amending the 2007-2012 TIP, and a table titled 2007-2012 TIP Modification Five were included in Council members' packets.

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 included in the first phase of the conforming Long Range Plan, they are already included in the TIP, or the projects are exempt from air quality conformity requirements according to 40 CFR Part 93.126 Table 2 Exempt projects.

The opportunity for public comment was provided under agenda items 1 and 5d of the agenda of the May 24, 2007 Council meeting.

Mayor Crane moved that the Council amend the 2007-2012 TIP as requested by UDOT and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution of the WFRC amending the 2007-2012 TIP. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

Report on TIP Modifications to the 2007-2012 TIP: Mr. Wuthrich reported that since the WFRC Council delegated to Trans Corn the responsibility of approving additional funding for existing projects when the WFRC Council is not scheduled to meet, there have been only a couple of modifications to the 2007-2012 TIP. He stated that these modifications were

approved at the Trans Com meeting on April 17, 2007. Copies of the Modification List for the TIP/ STIP were also included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich noted that the following projects were modified:

1. Sandy City project: State Street & 11400 South Intersection - The improvements included signal upgrade, right-of-way, realignment and widening for all approaches.
2. Farmington City project: Shepard Lane & 1075 West - The improvements would include left-turn lanes, installation of signals, and access management strategies.
3. UDOT project: SR-266; 4500 South, I-15 to State Street - Project will add an additional lane in each direction. The intersection of 4500 South & State will have dual lefts installed for the EB to NB movement. Installation of new off-route pedestrian sidewalks & ADA ramps.

Report on the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality (CMAQ) Program: This agenda item was postponed and will be discussed at the August 23, 2007 Council meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Council Retreat: Mr. Chappell reminded Council members that the annual Council retreat is scheduled for June 28, 2007, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. He stated that this is the same date as regular Council meetings, but the hours will be shifted slightly. He encouraged all members to attend and stated that during the retreat, the Council members will discuss issues and provide strategic direction for the coming year.

Mr. Chappell distributed copies of a letter and survey dated May 25, 2007, requesting Council members and alternates input which he stated is essential to help the staff prepare for the retreat. He noted that Council members can e-mail the survey to the staff.

Six Major Transportation Corridors along the Wasatch Front: Mr. Chappell reported that the new Transportation Commissioners from the WFRC area have asked for a description of the six major corridors in our area. He stated that by using information included in the draft 2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan, the staff developed a description of the major traffic flows in the region, identified the most congested corridors, researched potential transit contributions, and finally listed highway projects needed in each of the six corridors.

Mr. Chappell distributed copies of the **Six Most Critical 2030 Corridors in WFRC Region, dated May 21, 2007**, to those in attendance.

Other Business

Next Meeting: Mr. Chappell noted that the next WFRC meeting will be held on August 23, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.