



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of August 23, 2007

Mayor Petroff, Chairman, called the meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council to order at 3:10 p.m. in the Regional Council offices at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members Present

Ken Bischoff	Commissioner, Weber County
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
Tom Dolan	Mayor, Sandy
Michael H. Jensen	Councilmember, Salt Lake County
Bret Millburn	Commissioner, Davis County
Kent Money	Mayor, South Jordan
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City
John Petroff, Jr.	Mayor, West Point
Ron Russell	Mayor, Centerville
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale
Russ Wall	Representative, ULCT

Members Not Present

Byron Anderson	Mayor, Grantsville
Louenda Downs	Representative, Utah Association of Counties
Matthew Godfrey	Mayor, Ogden
Robert Grow	Representative, Envision Utah
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful
Bruce Sanders	Councilmember, Morgan County

Alternate Members Present

William Applegarth	Mayor, Riverton
David B. Newton	Mayor, West Jordan
Neka Roundy	Mayor, Kaysville City
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

Other Elected Officials Present

Gary Herbert	Lt. Governor, State of Utah
Gordon Thomas	Cottonwood Heights
Jenny Wilson	Councilmember, Salt Lake County

Press Present

Nicole Warburton	Deseret News
Melinda Williams	Davis County Clipper

Others Present

Donald Adams	City of Taylorsville
Mike Allegra	UTA
Loveit Baumgardner	WFRC Staff
Kip Billings	WFRC Staff
Bryce Bird	Division of Air Quality
Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Annette Call	Congressman Chris Cannon
Chuck Chappell	WFRC Staff
Sharon Gray	WFRC Staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC Staff
Eric Hafen	Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Steve Handy	Northern Utah Trans. Alliance
Jeff Hawker	Riverton City
John Hiskey	Sandy City
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Rick McKeague	Utah Department of Air Quality
Glenn J. Mecham	Senator Bob Bennett
John Njord	UDOT
Michael T. Packard	GeoSol Consulting
Andrea Packer	UTA
George Ramjoue'	WFRC Staff
Nicole Ramjoue'	self
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County
Tom Steele	City of West Jordan
Mary Taylor	Senator Orrin Hatch
Lynn Vinzant	Clinton City
Robert Wall	South Jordan City
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC Staff

Mayor Matthew Godfrey, Mayor Joe Johnson, Councilman Bruce Sanders, and Mayor Byron Anderson were excused from the meeting.

Consent Agenda

ACTION – Minutes of the WFRC meeting of May 24, 2007: Councilmember Jensen moved to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting of May 24, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dearden and passed unanimously.

ACTION – Financial Statement and Check Register for April, May, and June, 2007: Mayor Burrows moved to approve the financial statement and check register for April, May, and June, 2007. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

State Report

Lt. Governor Gary Herbert discussed his optimism relating to Utah's growing economy, transportation, and election issues. He stated Utah has experienced a difficult time this past August with fires, the mine disaster, and the Utah National Guard deaths from the helicopter crash. He expressed his appreciation to the men and women that serve our country to keep us free.

Relating to the economy, Lt. Governor Herbert stated the key to success in the state is having a growing economy. He noted that Utah has been rated between first and third [depending on who is rating] in the nation to do business. He added that the state has been able to raise baseline salaries and give bonuses to the teachers.

Lt. Governor Herbert reported that funding for the state highways and roads has increased significantly. He stated that the increase will fund 203 projects throughout the state. Because Utah is behind the curve, he stated that continued funding for transportation projects is needed to avoid stifling economic development. He noted that Utah will have a \$16 billion shortfall over the next 25 years.

Lt. Governor Herbert briefly discussed the upcoming elections and thanked those involved with the "Help America Vote" Act. He stated that the upcoming special election will use the new election equipment, and thanked all involved for their cooperation.

Lt. Governor Herbert answered questions relating to the cost of electronic voting, B & C funding for local roads, and Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition. He noted that he felt right at home with the region's local elected officials and thanked them for their hard work.

Chairman's Report

Report - Appreciation for George Ramjoue's contribution to WFRC: Mr. Chappell reviewed a list of George Ramjoue's accomplishments and thanked him for his 20 years of service with the Wasatch Front Regional Council. He noted that George will be retiring from the Council staff and starting employment with Horrocks Engineers in about two weeks.

Mr. Ramjoue' stated that he has appreciated working with the local elected officials. He added it has been a "great ride" and he is now looking forward to a new chapter in his life.

Report – Meeting dates for the Executive Committee: Mr. Chappell noted that when the Council meeting schedule was reduced to five or six meeting per year, an Executive Committee was established to discuss issues and advise the WFRC staff in the interim months. He stated that before the end of the year the Executive Committee will need to discuss developing a vision and mission for the Council and begin the process to extend membership to legislative representatives and transportation operators. He asked Council members to provide him with ideas and/or opinions, which he will then take to the Executive Committee for discussion. He stated that the Executive Committee should plan to meet at noon on September 11, 2007 and November 13, 2007.

Report – Campaign for ¼ cent sales tax in Davis and Weber Counties: Mr. Steve Handy from the Northern Utah Transportation Alliance reported on the progress of the campaign for the ¼ cent sales tax in Davis, Weber, and Box Elder counties. He stated that this campaign will replicate the campaign from Salt Lake and Utah Counties that was completed last year. He stated that the opinion question will be put on the ballot in Davis and Weber Counties.

Mr. Handy stated that a kickoff to lay the ground work will be held on September 18, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the Farmington Platform. If passed, the ¼ cent sales tax increase should raise \$12 million in Davis County, \$9 million in Weber County, and \$800,000 in Box Elder County. He noted that a list of projects is available for local elected officials to review.

Public Comment

Mr. Michael T. Packard from GeoSol Consulting distributed copies of a handout titled **TrAX Ridership Drop/Miscounts: Total Daily Boardings (Jan 2006 to May 2007)**. He also distributed copies of handouts titled **Bus reporting** and **Mid Jordan riders p 52**. Mr. Packard stated that he felt that UTA has been misleading the public on TRAX and bus ridership.

Budget Committee Report

Report – Potential WFRC Office Relocation: Councilman Jensen reported that the Budget Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss one of the strategic goals identified in the Council leadership retreat which was to look into the possibility of relocating the WFRC offices. He stated that there is currently no consensus and they are just gathering information right now.

Councilman Jensen stated that as Mr. Chappell's contract will be up soon, the Budget Committee will take comments from Council members and review his contract.

Regional Growth Committee

Report - Air quality performance measures: Mr. Billings reported that the WFRC staff is initiating an effort to keep Council members informed of air quality issues on a semi-annual or annual basis. He noted that a report is being prepared that will cover the following four areas of air quality:

1. Conformity status
2. Vehicle emission trends

3. Monitored air quality
4. New air quality standards for PM_{2.5} and Ozone

Mr. Billings gave a PowerPoint presentation titled ***Air Quality Report Card***, on the region's air quality and how it relates to transportation. Copies of the presentation were included in Council members' packets.

He reported that all the Wasatch Front areas currently meet conformity standards for carbon monoxide (CO) and for particulate matter (PM₁₀). Tailpipe emissions have decreased significantly since 1980 and will continue to decrease in the future. Mr. Billings also presented a "report card" on the PM_{2.5}, Ozone, PM₁₀, and CO levels in Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Tooele Counties. All counties received a "B" grade for failing the new PM_{2.5} standard except Tooele which got an "A" for meeting all four pollutant standards.

Mr. Billings reported that in addition to the new PM_{2.5} standard, EPA will soon lower the standard for ozone. When that occurs, Salt Lake, Davis and Weber Counties will likely be in violation of the standard. He said the schedule for implementing the new air quality standards for PM_{2.5} and Ozone will be:

	PM_{2.5}	Ozone
Promulgation of Standard	September 2006	March 2008
EPA Final Designations	April 2010	August 2010
Conformity Test Required	April 2011	August 2011
State Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP) Due	April 2013	August 2013

Mr. Billings said it will be a challenge to meet these new standards in our urban areas. While PM_{2.5} concentrations have been declining in recent years and are expected to go down further with future emissions reductions, ozone levels have remained rather flat even with reduced vehicle emissions of pollutants causing ozone.

Mr. Billings answered questions relating to federal compliance, and stated that the two federal standards are aimed primarily at protecting human health and protecting plants/buildings.

In answer to a question, Mr. Billings stated that the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) will be sharing information relating to the progress made annually in the region. Mayor Dolan suggested that the Council be proactive and provide a report to the public on an annual basis. Mr. Chappell stated that the staff will provide a report to the public in a newsletter this fall and annually thereafter.

Mayor Petroff noted that cars are being made cleaner every year. He felt that the region needs to be held to a reasonable standard, as air quality in the region was much worse in the early 1900's.

Report - Potential amendments to the 2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan: Mr. Chappell reported that there are currently three proposed amendments to change the recently adopted RTP:

1. adding transit construction on 5600 West
2. adding the Legacy Connector for corridor preservation
3. adding whatever recommendations come out of the East-West studies funded by the Legislature.

Mr. Chappell stated that a 30 day public comment period will need to be provided for any amendments and that the Council may be asked to vote to approve or not approve an amendment at the January 2008 Council meeting.

Transportation Committee Report

Commissioner Bischoff reported that Trans Com met on August 9, 2007 and recommended approval of three items to the Council. He asked Mr. Wuthrich to report on the recommendations.

ACTION on Board Modification to 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program: Mr. Wuthrich reported that the WFRC has received requests for several Board Modifications to the current 2007-2012 TIP. Copies of a Resolution to modify the 2007-2012 TIP, copies of the 2007-2012 TIP Modification Seven table, and copies of a letter from Clinton and Clearfield Counties were included in Council members' packets. He stated that these modifications require Regional Council and Transportation Commission action but do not require a new conformity analysis or a 30-day public comment period. Public comments, if any, will be received at today's WFRC meeting. The requested modifications were listed in the Resolution.

Mayor Nordfelt moved that the Regional Council approve the proposed Board Modifications to the 2007-2012 TIP, as listed in the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dolan and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program: Mr. Wuthrich reported that the draft 2008-2013 TIP was reviewed by Trans Com in June (as delegated by the Regional Council) and made available for public review from June 27 through July 31, 2007. He stated that an analysis of the TIP completed by the WFRC staff shows that the 2008-2013 TIP conforms to the state air quality plans. He also stated that two public comments pertaining to the approval of the new TIP were received - one requesting CMAQ funds for two specific bike/pedestrian facilities and the other suggesting that more funding should be spent on highway projects and less on transit related projects. Copies of a Resolution approving the 2008-2013 TIP, a Table Summary of the Draft 2008-2013 TIP, and public comments received during the public review and comment period were included in Council members' packets.

In answer to a question by Mayor Seghini relating to the State Street project from 7200 South to 9000 South, Mr. Wuthrich stated that the project is still in concept development, as Region 2 still needs to identify the funds.

Councilman Jensen moved that the Regional Council approve the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and adopt the Resolution approving the 2008-2013 TIP and the conformity finding for the 2008-2013 TIP. The motion was seconded by Mayor Nordfelt and

passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of Resolution Certifying WFRC's Transportation Planning Process: Mr. Hattery reported that the WFRC staff has worked with UDOT to prepare a self-certification resolution, copies of which were included in Council members' packets. He noted that a self-certification resolution needs to be approved whenever a new Transportation Improvement Program is adopted by both the Regional Council and UDOT.

Mr. Hattery reported that Trans Com and the Regional Growth Committee both recommended approval of the resolution at their meetings this month.

Commissioner Bischoff moved that the Regional Council approve the Joint Resolution certifying the transportation planning process. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hattery reported that after the Resolution is signed, it will be forwarded to Mr. John Njord at UDOT for his signature.

ADOPTION of WFRC's Strategic Goals for 2008

Mr. Hattery stated that the WFRC staff has identified seven Strategic Goals from their retreat held on June 28, 2007, for the Council's consideration. Copies of a handout titled **Wasatch Front Regional Council 2008 Strategic Goals** were distributed to Council members. This handout listed several objectives, strategies, and actions to help meet the goals. He then reviewed the following seven Strategic Goals for 2008:

1. Enhance the Council's relationship with the Legislature, so that local transportation issues are known and considered as decisions are made for transportation funding.
2. Coordinate economic development, other transportation modes, and land use planning with transportation plans, so that all regional and local plans become mutually supportive.
3. Reduce vehicle emissions through the transportation planning process, so that the air quality is improved.
4. Increase transportation funding and wisely invest those funds, so that UDOT, UTA, and local agencies are able to maintain, manage, and expand the transportation system to enhance regional mobility.
5. Make safety one of the criteria in the planning and programming process and coordinate with others on safety, so that crashes, fatalities, and injuries are reduced.
6. Educate Council members and the public about WFRC processes, so that they are knowledgeable and able to participate in the transportation planning process; make good, informed local decisions; and are supportive of regional decisions.
7. Improve Council operations, so that the Council's mission is clear and that the goals are met.

Council members briefly discussed moving the WFRC office closer to downtown and relocating the Council's meetings around the region. They felt that the study would be a good idea, but noted that time and cost effectiveness need to be a factor in the decision. Council staff was

asked to include these objectives in their action plan, but to report back on progress.

Commissioner Millburn moved that the Council endorse the seven strategic goals for 2008. The motion was seconded by Mayor Corroon and passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Report – ¼ cent Project Prioritization Process: Mr. Chappell reported that previously the Salt Lake COG asked WFRC staff to develop a process to prioritize candidate projects for the local option ¼ cent sales tax. He stated that the process was developed and presented to the COG and the Salt Lake County Council for their consideration when selecting the projects after the voter approved the sales tax. In Salt Lake County, three projects were funded: Commuter Rail South, Mid Jordan and West Valley City TRAX lines (combined), and I-80 reconstruction.

Mr. Chappell reported that long after the Salt Lake COG project selection and when WFRC staff was reviewing the prioritization process for application in Davis County, an error was discovered in the calculations for Salt Lake County. He stated that the error has been corrected for all subsequent applications in all counties. He also noted that the Legislature is aware of the error.

Report - Funding gap for local regionally significant routes: Mr. Chappell reported that there is evidence of a growing crisis and a funding gap on regionally significant projects funded by local funds. He stated that as the Legislature is pressing to fund the badly needed new and expanded freeway routes along the Wasatch Front, they have dedicated locally generated funds to these critical projects. He stated that if this trend continues, there is concern about funding the regionally significant routes (principal and minor arterials, and some collectors) that are not under state jurisdiction. He stated that the staff will watch the Federal STP and CMAQ programs closely and report back, as the next Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization may cut or eliminate those programs leaving only the B&C funds for these regional routes.

Report – Wasatch Choices 2040 Workshop, October 16: Mr. Chappell reported that the WFRC will co-sponsor a workshop promoting growth principles and strategies in the Wasatch Choices 2040 report. He stated that the name of the workshop is **Do Nothing or Do Something – A practical land use and transportation workshop shaping the future of the Wasatch Front**. He stated that the program will be held on October 16th 2007 at 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM at the South Towne Expo Center.

Mr. Chappell encouraged Council members to attend the workshop to promote the Growth Principles which are critical to the success of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Other Business

Next Meeting: Mr. Chappell noted that the next WFRC meeting will be held on October 25, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.