



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of March 27, 2008

Mayor Petroff, Chairman, called the meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council to order at 2:08 p.m. in the Regional Council offices at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members Present

Byron Anderson
Ken Bischoff
Bruce Burrows
Carlton Christensen
Peter Corroon
Louenda Downs
Matthew Godfrey
John English
Michael H. Jensen
Kent Money
Dennis Nordfelt
John Petroff, Jr.
JoAnn B. Seghini
Russ Wall

Mayor, Grantsville
Commissioner, Weber County
Mayor, Riverdale
Councilmember, Salt Lake City
Mayor, Salt Lake County
Representative, Utah Association of Counties
Mayor, Ogden
Utah Transit Authority
Councilmember, Salt Lake County
Mayor, South Jordan
Mayor, West Valley City
Mayor, West Point
Mayor, Midvale
Representative, ULCT

Members Not Present

J. Lynn Crane
Craig L. Dearden
Tom Dolan
Robert Grow
Joe L. Johnson
Bret Millburn
John Njord
Ron Russell
Bruce Sanders

Mayor, Herriman
Commissioner, Weber County
Mayor, Sandy
Representative, Envision Utah
Mayor, Bountiful
Commissioner, Davis County
UDOT
Mayor, Centerville
Councilmember, Morgan County

Alternate Members Present

Ralph Becker
Alan Hansen
Jay Jenkins
Neka Roundy

Mayor, Salt Lake City
Commissioner, Davis County
Mayor, Plain City
Mayor, Kaysville

Alternate Members Present (continued)

Darrell H. Smith	Mayor, Draper
Jan Zogmaister	Commissioner, Weber County

Other Elected Officials Present

Gordon Thomas	Cottonwood Heights
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Others Present

Wayne Bennion	WFRC Staff
Kip Billings	WFRC Staff
Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Carlos Braceras	UDOT
Bryan Cawley	FHWA
Chuck Chappell	WFRC Staff
Jon Cox	Senator Bennett's Office
LaNiece Dustman	WFRC Staff
Muhammad Farhan	WFRC Staff
Scott Festin	WFRC Staff
Sharon Gray	WFRC Staff
Val John Halford	WFRC Staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC Staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC Staff
Jeff Hawker	Riverton City
Marc Heileson	Sierra Club
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
Jory Johner	WFRC Staff
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC Staff
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Andy Li	WFRC Staff
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake City
Rich McKeague	Utah Division of Air Quality
Greg Scott	WFRC Staff
Wilf Sommerkorn	Davis County
Suzie Swim	WFRC Staff
Mary Taylor	Senator Hatch's Office
Barbara Thomas	WFRC Staff
Eloise Thomson	WFRC Staff
Gary Whatcott	South Jordan City
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC Staff

Commissioner Dearden and Commissioner Millburn were excused from the meeting.

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda

ACTION – Minutes of the WFRC meeting of January 25, 2008: Councilman Jensen moved to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting of January 25, 2008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bischoff and passed unanimously.

ACTION – Financial Statements and Check Registers for December 2007, January 2008, and February 2008: Councilman Jensen moved to approve the financial statements and check registers for December 2007, January 2008, and February 2008. The motion was seconded by Mayor Burrows and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chairman’s Report

Mayor Petroff noted that the Council’s Executive Committee will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 (noon) – during the months of April, June, September, and November, 2008.

WFRC employee recognition for length of service: WFRC staff members were introduced and recognized for their service to the Council in 5 year increments, as follows:

Years	Name	Date Reached 5 yr. Increment
5 Years	Chuck Chappell	1/08
	LaNiece Dustman	1/08
	Muhammad Farhan	5/07
	Jory Johner	11/04
	Sam Klemm	8/05
10 Years	Loveit Baumgardner	8/05
	Kip Billings	9/05
	Renae Bodily	4/08
	Scott Festin	6/06
	Ned Hacker	7/07
	Val Halford	1/07
	Ben Wuthrich	8/04
15 Years	Wayne Bennion	6/08
	Greg Scott	3/08
	Eloise Thomson	11/07
30 Years	Sharon Gray	8/08
	Doug Hattery	7/07

Other staff members were introduced with less than 5 years of service, as follows: Des Heyliger, Pam Jorgensen, Andy Li, Suzie Swim, and Barbara Thomas.

Mayor Petroff expressed his appreciation to the Council's staff members.

ACTION on amendment to bylaws to extend office terms to 2 years: Mayor Petroff reported that at the January 24, 2008 meeting, the Regional Council voted to extend the term for Chair and Vice Chair from the customary one year to two year terms for WFRC, RGC, and Trans Com. He stated that the Regional Council can approve an amendment to the Bylaws after notifying the five county Councils of Governments (COGs). Copies of **Amendment 2 to the Bylaws of the Wasatch Front Regional Council** were included in Council members' packets.

Mayor Petroff stated that Mr. Chappell and Mr. Hattery presented this proposal to all five COGs during February and March and he noted that all five COGs supported the proposal.

Mayor Burrows moved that the Regional Council approve Amendment 2 [extending the term for Chair and Vice Chair from the customary one year to two year terms for WFRC, RGC, and Trans Com] to the Bylaws of the Wasatch Front Regional Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bischoff and passed unanimously.

City and County Road Funds: Mayor Petroff reported that a group has been formed to study expanding funding options for the roads owned by cities and counties. He stated that while local roads are deteriorating, the highway trust fund is running out of money and federal funds continue to decline. He also noted that cities are hesitant to accept jurisdictional transfers, as funding for maintenance is unavailable.

Mayor Petroff stated that this study group includes members from the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, the Joint Highway Commission, members of various MPOs, and the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the group will be enlisting support from the WFRC as it continues with this study.

Mayor Corroon stated that he felt this was a great idea in a crucial time.

Budget Committee Report

Action to amend FY 08 Budget and Unified Planning Work Program: Councilman Jensen reported that in January 2008 the Council's budget was amended to include funds totaling \$237,000 to be used to hire a consultant for work on the Taylorsville-Murray Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis. He stated that subsequent to that amendment, UTA has opted to manage this project and will be paying the consultant directly. Therefore, the WFRC FY08 budget needs to be reduced by the amount of \$237,000.

Councilman Jensen reported that the US Forest Service has received a grant to hold a weeklong workshop on green infrastructure the week of May 5-9, and requested that the WFRC be a sponsor for it. He noted that the concept of green infrastructure is to develop a framework for linking open spaces across a region. The workshop will be for local, state, and federal planners from community planning, parks, and forestry departments and will provide them with tools and strategies for incorporating green infrastructure in their plans. He noted that the costs of the workshop will be paid for through registration fees and a portion of the grant. The grant needs to be matched 50/50 with local funds. The WFRC staff has been charging their time in

preparing for the workshop to local funding sources in the current budget. We anticipate that no more than \$5,000 will be needed to match the grant and hope that it is much less. Copies of the draft Amended FY08 Budget were included in Council members' packets.

Councilman Jensen moved that the Council amend the budget to delete the \$237,000 that was included to hire a consultant for work on the Taylorsville-Murray Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis and to approve the use of local funds for the green infrastructure workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilman Christensen and passed unanimously.

Draft FY 2009 and 2010 Budget and Unified Planning Work Program: Councilman Jensen reported that the Council's draft budget and Summary of the Unified Planning Work Program are for two years [FY 2009 and FY 2010], copies of which were included in Council members' packets. He stated that the budget includes county contributions at FY 2008 levels for both years. He noted that those contributions are used to provide local match for the Council's federal transportation planning funds and to fund Council expenses not eligible for federal funding. He also stated that the Budget includes funds from city and county sources to fund a Legislative Consultant for the 2009 and 2010 State Legislative Sessions. He noted that this two year budget will help front load expenses and bridge the time between the next federal authorization.

Councilman Jensen stated that the budget includes the reduction of one fulltime FTE, but will add one part time position. He also noted that it includes a 5% total compensation package and gives Mr. Chappell the flexibility for distributing the 5% between COLA and merit raises.

Councilman Jensen stated that the draft Budget and Unified Planning Work Program will be distributed to the County Councils of Governments for discussion and comment. A member of the WFRC staff will be available during the next COG meetings to provide explanation and answer questions regarding the Budget and Work Program.

Councilman Jensen moved that the Council approve the draft budget and work program for distribution to the County Councils of Governments for discussion and comment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Christensen and passed unanimously.

Auditing Services: Councilman Jensen noted that Council's staff has received five responses to an RFP for auditing services. He stated that the Budget Committee will review the responses.

Regional Growth Committee (RGC)

ACTION to amend the Regional Transportation Plan: 2007-2030: Mayor Burrows reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council released for public comment the proposed amendments to the Wasatch Front Regional Transportation Plan: 2007-2030 and the accompanying air quality conformity analysis. He noted that the comment period was February 9, 2008 - March 12, 2008 with an open house held on March 6. He stated that the WFRC has reviewed and evaluated the proposed amendments and found them to meet the transportation needs of the region, to be financially feasible and to conform to air quality requirements. Copies of the following were included in Council members' packets: 1) Comment Summary on Proposed Amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan, March 12, 2008, 2) WFRC

Response to Comments Received on the Proposed Amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan, March 17, 2008, and 3) Resolution of the Wasatch Front Regional Council Approving Amendment 1 to the Wasatch Front Regional Transportation Plan, March 27, 2008, w/attachment.

Ms. Thomson demonstrated the Council's Regional Transportation Plan maps on Google Earth with project information for both the highway and transit amendments.

Mayor Burrows noted that the Regional Growth Committee, during its meeting on March 20, recommended that the Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments as described below.

1. 5600 West Transit

The WFRC is proposing to amend the RTP to be consistent with recommendations contained in the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS recommends a fixed-guideway transit line in the center of 5600 West along with a freeway in the MVC study area.

The proposed amendment to the 2030 RTP is as follows:

Phase I - (2007-2015) - Extend the 3500 South BRT system as a Type 3 BRT in a fixed-guideway to the north along 5600 West to 2700 South and to the south along 5600 West to 6200 South.

As part of Phase I and consistent with the 2030 RTP - UTA intends to acquire right-of-way (ROW) for a fixed-guideway transit system along 5600 West from 12600 South (Herriman) to Interstate 80 (I-80) and along I-80 from 5600 West to Salt Lake City International Airport (SLCIA). Much of the ROW along 5600 West and along I-80 is owned by UDOT and will be made available to UTA by UDOT at no cost to UTA. Any additional ROW needed to construct and operate rail transit would be purchased by UTA.

Phase 2 - (2016-2025) - Extend the Type 3 BRT in a fixed-guideway to the south along 5600 West to 11800 South (Daybreak) and to the north along 5600 West to I-80 continuing east along I-80 to SLCIA.

Phase 3 - (2026-2030) - Implement a rail transit system along the entire length of 5600 West extending from SLCIA on the north to Herriman on the South [to 12600 South].

2. Designate the Denver and Rio-Grande Western Corridor (D&RGW) as a Transit and Trails Corridor (from 400 North in West Bountiful, to 3300 South and Midland Dr. in West Haven).

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) requested that the portion of the D&RGW corridor they own be designated as a future transit corridor so the right-of-way can be protected and preserved. The corridor is currently designated in the Rails to Trail program and is in use as a trail.

3. 14600 South Roadway and D&RGW RR Structure Replacement and Re-alignment

The city of Bluffdale and the Utah Department of Transportation have requested this project be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In order for it to go into the TIP it must first be moved from Phase 2 to Phase 1 of the RTP. The Phase change will allow coordinated construction of the project with the construction of Commuter Rail from Salt Lake City to Provo.

4. Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at 6200 South

The city of Taylorsville and the Utah Department of Transportation requested a grade separated interchange at Bangerter Highway and 6200 South, in Phase 1 of the RTP. With preliminary information from the Salt Lake County East-West Corridors Study this interchange would potentially improve east-west travel time on 6200 South (between 3200 West and 6200 West) by nearly one minute in 2007 and over 4 minutes in 2030. The combination of grade separated interchanges at 6200 South and 7800 South would potentially improve travel time on Bangerter Highway (between 5400 South and 9000 South) by 4 minutes in 2007 and 2 minutes in 2030.

5. Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at 7800 South

The city of West Jordan and the Utah Department of Transportation requested a grade separated interchange at Bangerter Highway and 7800 South, in Phase 1 of the RTP. With preliminary information from the Salt Lake County East-West Corridors Study this interchange would potentially improve east-west travel time on 7800 South (between 3200 West and 3800 West) by over 4 minute in 2007 and over 3 minutes in 2030. The combination of grade separated interchanges at 6200 South and 7800 South would potentially improve travel time on Bangerter Highway by 4 minutes in 2007 and 2 minutes in 2030.

6. Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at Redwood Road

The city of Riverton and the Utah Department of Transportation requested this project be moved from Phase 2 to Phase 1 of the RTP. This interchange would potentially improve east-west travel on Bangerter Highway and north-south travel on Redwood Road as an alternative route during reconstruction of I-15 (from 10600 South into Utah County).

7. Bangerter Highway Grade Separated Interchange at 600 West

The Utah Department of Transportation requested a grade separated interchange at Bangerter Highway and 600 West, in Phase 1 of the RTP. This interchange would potentially improve east-west travel on Bangerter Highway and reduce local congestion by providing additional access to the rapidly expanding area west of the current interchange at I-15 and Bangerter.

Mayor Burrows stated that the Regional Growth Committee recommended that the Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan, with two modifications to the originally proposed amendments: that as part of UTA's Phase 1 right-of-way acquisition along 5600 West, corridor preservation should extend to *12600 South (Herriman)* versus 11800 South (Daybreak); and that the D&RGW corridor be preserved as a corridor for future *transit and trail facilities* versus a transportation corridor.

Council members discussed the proposed amendments and suggested the following:

1. As part of UTA's Phase 1 right-of-way acquisition along 5600 West, corridor preservation should extend to *12600 South (Herriman)* versus 11800 South (Daybreak).
2. Postpone the decision that the D&RGW corridor be preserved as a corridor for future *transit and trail facilities* versus a transportation corridor.

Mayor Corroon moved that the Regional Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan with the amendments listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

Hazardous Mitigation Grant: Ms. Dustman briefly reported on the Council's Hazardous Mitigation program. She stated that the staff is updating the area Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure continued eligibility for FEMA funding in the event of a disaster. She stated that the region's cities and counties need to pass a Resolution in their individual councils adopting the Plan by July 2008 in order to be eligible for that funding.

Ms. Dustman noted that a copy of the plan is on the web-site. She also stated that public comment on the Draft Plan is welcome.

Information on air quality in the region: Mr. Billings stated that the WFRC staff is continuing with efforts to keep Council members informed on air quality issues. He discussed several air quality challenges relating to the following areas in a PowerPoint presentation:

- Current Air Quality Conformity (all areas conform)
- Timeline for PM_{2.5} Standard
- Timeline for New Ozone Standard
- Air Quality Report cards – by county

Mr. Billings noted that although it will be possible to meet PM10 challenges, meeting the ozone standard will be more difficult. He stated that the Council has just published a new Air Quality Newsletter.

Commissioner Downs reminded Council members that 2 cycle engines also contribute to air quality problems.

Transportation Committee (Trans Com)

Information on Trans Com modifications to the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Mr. Wuthrich reported that the following board modifications to the 2008-2013 TIP were approved by Trans Com at their meeting on February 14, 1008:

Increase Project Funding – Urban Projects

County	Sponsor	Roadway	PIN	Project Location	Concept/Type of Improvement	Funding Source	Project estimated Cost	Currently Funded Amount	Action	Federal Funding Amount
Weber	Weber State University	Harrison Blvd.	5235	University's Access on Harrison Blvd.	Intersection Improvements	STP (Surface Transportation Program Funds)	\$2,921,720	1,858,925	Increase Funds	\$990,845
Davis	Clearfield	200 South	6074	200 South Railroad Overpass	Overpass Stabilization Project	STP (Surface Transportation Program Funds)	\$1,750,000	\$1,132,900	Increase Funds	\$617,100

Increase / Change of Project Funding - State Projects

County	Sponsor	Roadway	PIN	Project Location	Concept/Type of Improvement	Funding Source	Project estimated Cost	Currently Funded Amount	Action	Federal Funding Amount
Salt Lake	UDOT	3300 South	6416	3300 South; I-215 East Bridge	Bridge Replacement Project	ST_GF_Bridge (State General Fund – Bridge Funds)	\$8,500,000	\$7,000,000	Increase Funds	\$600,000
						ST_GF_Bridge (State General Fund – Bridge Funds)				
						SB State Bridge Funds				

Copies of a Resolution amending the 2008-2013 TIP and a handout listing the three modifications were included in Council members' packets.

ACTION on Council modifications to the 2008-2013 TIP: Mr. Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) has received additional requests to modify the current 2008-2013 TIP. He stated that these modifications require action from the Regional Council and the Transportation Commission but do not require a new conformity analysis or a 30-day public comment period. Copies of a Resolution to amend the 2008-2013 TIP, a letter from Utah Transit Authority, and a list of Enhancement Projects were included in Council members' packets. Mr. Wuthrich distributed copies of an updated Resolution to amend the 2008-2013 TIP, along with a list of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Wuthrich stated that the list included with the resolution includes both staff modifications and board modifications. The staff modifications include the enhancement projects reviewed and selected last year for funding through UDOT's process. He noted that board modifications, which require Council approval, include the following three projects:

Project Funding Adjustment – Urban Projects

County	Funding Type	Sponsor	Project Number	Action	Location/Limits	Concept/Type of Improvement	Original Funds Programmed	Funding Change
Salt Lake	CMAQ	UTA	CM-9999	Reduce Funding	ITS/Apts Deployment in Salt Lake	To Implement Transit Intelligent Transportation System applications	\$510,000	\$475,000
Salt Lake	CMAQ	UTA	CM-9999	Add Funding	Rideshare – Car Sharing (Pilot Program)	Will provide vehicles in transit-friendly locations for transit riders to reverse and use, paying only for the hours the vehicle is used.	\$0	\$35,000

New Project / Funding - State Projects

County	Sponsor	Roadway	Project Location	Type of Work	Funding Source	Project Estimated Cost	Currently Funded Amount	Action	Additional Funding
Davis	UDOT	200/700 South	Corridor along 100/700 South in Davis County (Clearfield)	Environmental Study	State Funds	\$1,000,000	\$0	New Project	\$1,000,000

Councilman Jensen moved that the Council approve the Resolution to modify the 2008-2013 TIP. The motion was seconded by Councilman Christensen and passed unanimously.

Information on project evaluation criteria for the 2009-2014 TIP: Mr. Wuthrich reported that each year the WFRC staff begins the process of identifying new projects for the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that in an effort to update and improve the project evaluation process, the WFRC staff has reduced the amount of objectives and modified the criteria to focus on specific concerns and needs throughout the region. He noted that the WFRC staff will continually make adjustments to improve the project selection criteria for projects requesting funding with Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds or Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds. Copies of the list of evaluation criteria were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich reported that the WFRC staff presented the criteria to Trans Com at their meeting on February 14, 2008, and wants to give the Regional Council an opportunity to provide additional input to the proposed criteria and process as they prepare the STP and CMAQ programs for the next TIP.

Information on the projects submitted for the 2009-2014 TIP: Mr. Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is responsible for programming the Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for the Salt Lake and Ogden/ Layton Urbanized Areas. He stated that in the fall of 2007, the WFRC staff requested that potential project sponsors submit letters of interest applying for the available STP and CMAQ funds. He stated that sponsors were then asked to prepare a project concept report providing further detail on their projects. Copies of the list of concept reports received for the 2009-2014 TIP process were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich asked Council members to let him know if there are any projects not included on the list.

Executive Director's Report

Information on 2008 Legislature: Mr. Klemm reported on the following bills and appropriation initiatives that were discussed during the recent legislative session which will affect transportation. Copies of a **Legislative Summary dated March 6, 2008** were included in Council members' packets.

1. House Bill 62 – Representative Todd Kiser – Clean Fuel Special License

This bill changes the eligibility requirements for a clean fuel special group license plate from requiring a vehicle to maintain a clean special fuel tax certificate to requiring that the vehicle meet standards established by the Department of Transportation in administrative rules which are in accordance with federal regulations.

Status—Passed

2. House Bill 104 – Representative Kory Holdaway – Urban Trails Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Natural Resources on an one time basis for urban trails planning and development. Half of the money is to go to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. The other half is available for a grant to a local government for urban trails development.

Status—Passed

3. House Bill 105 – Representative Julie Fisher – Transportation Loan Fund Amendments

This bill will allow cities and counties to tap into the Infrastructure Loan Fund currently administered by UDOT. Presently, the Fund is available only for state projects.

Status—Passed

4. House Bill 115 – Representative Kenneth Sumsion – Appropriation For Utah Lake Study

This bill would have appropriated \$3 million for a study of a causeway running east/west across Utah Lake.

Status—Did not even receive a hearing. Funding, however, for this study was included in the 2009 appropriations bill.

5. House Bill 183 – Representative Wayne Harper – Sales and Use Tax Amendments

This was a very comprehensive bill designed to establish a uniform statewide sales tax rate. Unfortunately, it would have removed the voter approved ¼ cent local sales tax which is currently dedicated for commuter rail and TRAX and replaced it with a state sales tax. The tax would be dedicated to transit, only to a lesser degree.

Status—The bill died in the Senate

6. House Bill 188 – Representative Wayne Harper – Transit Revisions

The bill would have established complex guidelines for UTA Board appointments including representatives from the Legislature and an appointment from the Governor. Executive staff could not have salaries beyond national averages and the overall budget would be subject to review and approval by the Utah State Transportation Commission.

Status—Defeated on the floor of the House.

7. House Bill 221 – Representative John Mathis – Agricultural and Industrial Protection Amendments

The bill originally required local governments to establish agricultural protection zones in which no transportation corridor could be designated unless there is no other “reasonable alternative.” It was amended to state that transportation planning agencies must “consider” agricultural protection zones in their planning process.

Status – Passed

8. House Bill 242 – Representative Wayne Harper – Local Option Transportation Corridor Preservation Fee Amendments

This bill would have re-directed the remaining corridor preservation money in Salt Lake County to the Mountain View Corridor. There were serious reservations about this bill inasmuch as there continue to be other pressing corridor preservation needs across the County. The Mountain View Corridor is already receiving 70% of the vehicle registration fee money and all of 1/16 cent sales tax approved by the voters in November 2006.

Representative Harper radically changed the bill into a list of grants to several Salt Lake County cities and the unincorporated county with \$38 million in transportation projects spread around the county.

Status—Passed

9. House Bill 251 – Representative John Dougall – Sales and Use Tax Revisions (as applied to public transit)

This bill is clean up language that would affect only Utah County. It is meant to ensure that the State Tax Commission can continue to collect the second quarter cent sales tax that was recently approved by the voters.

Status—Passed

10. House Bill 298 – Representative Wayne Harper – Transit Fare Reduction

This bill would have reduced transit fares by half on yellow air quality alert days and completely on red air quality alert days.

Status—The Bill was substituted into a study only recommendation and was still defeated in the House.

11. House Bill 313 – Representative Wayne Harper – Motor Fuel and Special Fuel Tax – Indexing for Inflation

This bill would have raised the Utah State motor fuel tax by the consumer price index increase every two years.

Status—Defeated in the House.

12. House Bill 359 – Representative John Dougall – Tax Changes

This is a very comprehensive bill that makes a number of changes to the Utah State Tax Code, primarily in the area of income tax. The bill also increases state sales tax by .05% and dedicates half of the proceeds to the Transportation Investment Fund and half to the general Transportation Fund for choke point projects.

Status—Passed

13. House Joint Resolution 8 – Representative Julie Fisher -- Joint Resolution Urging Congress to Eliminate Transportation Earmarking That Overrides State Transportation Priorities

The Resolution requested the Utah Congressional Delegation to avoid earmarking federal transportation funds.

Status – Defeated in the Senate.

14. Senate Bill 245 – Senator Kurt Bramble – Funding Related to Airports, Highways and Public Transit

Senate Bill 245, Fifth Substitution amends the Motor Vehicle Code, the Sales and Use Tax Act, and the Transportation Code relating to the local option highway construction and transportation corridor preservation fee, a local sales and use tax to fund tourism, recreation, cultural, convention, and airport facilities, a local sales and use tax to fund certain airport, highway, or public transit projects or services, a state sales and use tax, and financing of certain fixed guideways with certain airport revenue.

Essentially, the bill provides funding for Salt Lake City's commitment to the light rail line to the Salt Lake City Airport. Additionally, the bill cleans up the language that makes UTA whole after the removal of taxes on food in the 2007 General Session. The language assisted the Counties of Weber and Davis, along with UTA to resolve funding issues.

Status—Passed

15. Senate Bill 208 – Senator Sheldon Killpack – Transportation Corridor Preservation Amendments

The bill requires local governments to notify UDOT in the case zoning changes are requested in declared transportation corridors.

Status – Passed

16. Senate Bill 231 – Senator Sheldon Killpack – Transportation Governance

The bill places four new voting board members on the UTA Board appointed by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Governor and a member of the Utah State Transportation Commission. It also

creates an internal auditor position.

Status – Passed

17. Senate Bill 283 – Senator Sheldon Killpack -- Transportation Funding Amendments

The bill lifts the cap on last years \$1 billion dollar bond for transportation to \$1.2 billion.

Status—Passed

18. Senate Bill 286 – Senator Sheldon Killpack – Transportation and Transit Amendments

The bill exempts UTA from municipal zoning restrictions in counties of the first class.

Status—Passed

19. Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 – Senator John Valentine – Concurrent Resolution on the Re-Construction of I-15

The bill expresses a commitment by the Legislature to fund a \$2.6 billion reconstruction of I-15 in Utah County.

Status—Passed

20. The Governor’s budget recommendation included \$70,000 each for WFRC and MAG.

Diligent efforts were required to ensure that the money stayed in the appropriation bill.

Status – Passed

Free fares on red air alert days: Mr. Inglish further discussed the Legislative proposal to provide free-fare service on air quality alert days. He stated that the Division of Air Quality can’t give a timely notice of red alert days, which adds to other complications of providing “free fares” on those days. He stated that there is not a simple solution to the problem. He discussed other complications which would include the need for additional service for the increased loads, overtime for operators, and the fact that during rush hour their equipment is already full. He stated that the cost for free fares on transit on red air alert days would be between \$6 and \$10 million per year.

Mr. Inglish stated that UTA is looking into hybrid-electric buses, which he felt could have a significant impact on air quality. He also stated that UTA is planning to add value to the transit system by adding Wi-Fi on busses and trains with the hope of getting more people to use the system.

Council members discussed looking at innovative ways to help air quality in the region. They felt that future presentations on this issue would be helpful. Mr. Chappell stated that the staff would look into this further.

Federal Surface Transportation Authorization: Mr. Chappell reported that there hasn't been much progress to date on the Federal Surface Transportation authorization.

Video from Association of MPOs (AMPO) – Keep America Moving: Mr. Chappell reported that Council members could view the video **Keep America Moving** at www.ampo.org, by clicking on the video on their home page. He stated that AMPO and NADO released the awareness video for MPO Board members, transportation officials and the public.

Other Business

Mayor Godfrey stated that he thought it would be a good idea to hold a future Wasatch Front Regional Council meeting at the Salt Lake Intermodal Center, since the FrontRunner will be opening on April 26, 2008.

Due to several conflicts, the next meeting of the Council was changed from May 22, 2008 to May 29, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the UTA Board Room at the Salt Lake Intermodal Center located at 200 South 669 West in Salt Lake City, Utah, which will enable Council members from north of Salt Lake City to ride FrontRunner to the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.