



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of May 28, 2009

Councilman Jensen, Chairman, called the meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Regional Council offices at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members Present

Byron Anderson	Mayor, Grantsville
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale
Sid Creager	Councilmember, Morgan County
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
J. Lynn Crane	Mayor, Herriman
Craig L. Dearden	Commissioner, Weber County
Tom Dolan	Mayor, Sandy
Louenda Downs	Representative, Utah Association of Counties
John English	Utah Transit Authority
Scott Jenkins	Senator, Utah State Senate – Dist. 20
Michael H. Jensen	Councilmember, Salt Lake County
John Petroff, Jr.	Commissioner, Davis County
Neka Roundy	Mayor, Kaysville
Ron Russell	Mayor, Centerville
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale

Alternate Members Present

William Applegarth	Mayor, Riverton
Ahmad Jaber	UDOT
David B. Newton	Mayor, West Jordan
Shanna Schaefermeyer	Mayor, North Salt Lake

Other Officials Present

Julie Fisher	Representative, Utah House of Rep. – Dist. 17
Megan Holbrook	Utah Transportation Commission
Gordon Thomas	Councilman, Cottonwood Heights

Others Present

Loveit Baumgardner	WFRC Staff
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Wayne Bennion	WFRC Staff
Kip Billings	WFRC Staff
Chuck Bruder, Ph.D.	Utah Dept. of Human Services
Steven Call	FHWA
Bryan Cawley	FHWA
Chuck Chappell	WFRC Staff
Mick Crandall	UTA
Muhammad Farhan	WFRC Staff
Sharon Gray	WFRC Staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC Staff
Val John Halford	WFRC Staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC Staff
Jeff Hawker	Riverton City
John Hiskey	Sandy City
Jory Johner	WFRC Staff
Kristin Kenyon	Federal Transit Administration
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Lorrie Lau	FHWA - Office of Planning
Andy Li	WFRC Staff
Kelly Lund	FHWA
Angelo Papastamos	UDOT Planning
Wendell Rigby	City of West Jordan
Greg Scott	WFRC Staff
Tim Taylor	Kennecott Land/WCEC Engineers
Barbara Thomas	WFRC Staff
Eloise Thomson	WFRC Staff
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC Staff

Mayor Becker, Mayor Money, Commissioner Bischoff, Commissioner Millburn, and Mayor Nordfelt were excused from the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Councilman Jensen noted that copies of the March 26, 2009 minutes, as well as copies of the financial statements and Check Registers for February and March, 2009, were included in Council members' packets.

Mayor Burrows moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the WFRC meeting of March 26, 2009 and the financial statements and check registers for February and March, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mayor Seghini and passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Councilman Jensen noted that Mr. Steven Call from the Federal Highway Administration was in attendance at the meeting. He stated that Mr. Call, along with his review team, had just

completed a Certification Review for the Council. His review team included Kelly Lund from the Federal Highway Administration, Kristin Kenyan from the Federal Transit Administration, and Lorrie Lau from Federal Highway's Office of Planning. He stated that the plan is to write a report which will be presented at the Council's August 2009 meeting. The report will include any findings, recommendations, accommodations, and any corrective actions. He stated that any recommendations would come about because of new emphasis areas in the new administration.

Mr. Call reviewed the audit and stated that the outcome will include one of the following four Planning Certification Findings:

1. Full Certification
2. Partial Certification
3. Conditional Certification
4. Withholding of Certification

Mr. Call stated that the review included a well attended public meeting where they obtained comments from local leaders and citizens.

Council members praised the work of the Council staff over the past 4.5 years. Mayor Corroon noted that there has been more involvement and collaboration with local planning departments.

Mayor Dolan noted that three major things have changed:

1. The administration has dramatically changed. The agenda has let elected officials deal with political issues.
2. He stated that Trans Com was divided into two committees [Trans Com and the Regional Growth Committee] to allow better consideration of long range growth issues.
3. The State has been visionary, and has stepped up to address the transportation concerns and needs.

Mayor Seghini noted that the new Transportation Plan includes transit as being as important as roads.

Commissioner Dearden stated that the Council has reached out to partners. The Council membership now includes the Utah Transit Authority, the Utah Department of Transportation, and members of the Legislature. He noted how beneficial it was to have them at the table.

Councilman Jensen echoed the comments made. He noted that the biggest change in planning was to implement the Regional Growth Committee. He stated that the administration and staff have been open and have asked Council members for input. He also noted that the staff has been reporting to the individual COGs, which helps them be more accountable and has brought them into the planning process.

Mr. Steve Call thanked Mr. Chappell for his cooperation in hosting the review. He stated that he will write a report which he will present at the August, 2009 Council meeting

Employee recognition for years of service: Mr. Chuck Chappell introduced Mr. Andy Li who has been employed by the Council for the past five years. He presented him with a plaque for his service on the Council staff. He stated that Mr. Li has been a key player in developing transportation demand models.

ACTION: Approve WFRC switch from Contributory to Non-Contributory Utah Retirement System: Councilman Jensen asked Ms. Loveit Baumgardner to report on the Council's switch from the Contributory to the Non-Contributory Utah Retirement System.

Ms. Baumgardner reported that the 2009 Utah State Legislature passed a bill that opened a window which would allow the WFRC to move from the Utah State Retirement Contributory System to the Non-contributory System. She noted that currently all WFRC employees and any newly hired employees become members of the Contributory System. She stated that if the Council elects to use the window opened by the Legislature, any future newly hired employees would automatically be enrolled in the Non-contributory System. Those who are currently employed by the WFRC will be allowed, individually, to elect either to stay in the Contributory System or change to the Non-contributory System. She noted that the benefits of switching to the non-contributory plan include a reduced cost to fund and an increase in retirement benefits.

Commissioner Dearden moved that the Council should switch from the Contributory to the Non-Contributory Retirement System. The motion was seconded by Mayor Burrows and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Council members sign up for Council retreat on June 25, 2009, 2:00-4:00 pm at WFRC offices – 'Policy, Funding, Projects: a search for solutions': Mr. Chappell briefly discussed the Council retreat and encouraged all Council members and alternates to sign up and plan to attend the retreat on June 25, 2009.

Information – Midterm progress report on two year 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program: Mr. Wayne Bennion discussed the two year work program that was approved by the Council in May of 2008. He briefed Council members of the accomplishments of the past year which included numerous presentations to planning commissions and city councils regarding the regional growth principles; amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan; programming \$37 million of ARRA (stimulus) funds; data collection and analysis in preparation for the 2040 RTP; progress in several transportation studies; CDBG assistance; completion of pre-disaster mitigation plans; and creation of an air quality committee.

Mr. Bennion reported that the work anticipated in the coming year includes demographic projections, needs assessment and alternatives analysis for the 2040 RTP; programming of two years of new STP and CMAQ projects; completion of additional studies, such as State Street Livability and Mobility Management; and continued assistance in various planning efforts.

In answer to a question by Mayor Corroon, Mr. Bennion stated that Mr. Wuthrich will discuss the project changes due to the stimulus funding under the Transportation Improvement Program report.

ACTION: Endorse New Freedom and Job Access/Reverse Commute applications to UDOT: Ms. Barbara Thomas reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council completed its portion of the State Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan this past year. She stated that the statewide Plan identified mobility needs for the transportation disadvantaged within each regional planning area. She noted that those needs are met, in part, by funding from the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) (5316) program and the New Freedom (5317) program. She distributed copies of a list of JARC/New Freedoms projects [as follows] to those in attendance.

OGDEN	Year 2	Year 2		TOTAL
			AVAILABLE	\$709,855
Enable	\$44,160			\$44,160
UTA Business Depot	\$95,202	\$100,913		\$196,115
UTA Travel Training	\$13,000	\$13,913		\$26,913
Route Deviation	\$88,500	\$90,000		\$178,500
Utah Department of Human Services	\$264,167			\$264,167
			Recommended	\$709,855
			AVAILABLE	\$1,474,803
SALT LAKE				
Foundations for Independence	\$104,600	\$17,050		\$121,650
UTA Travel Training	\$31,200	\$33,390		\$64,590
Route Deviation	\$177,000	\$177,000		\$354,000
Utah Dept. of Human Services	\$600,000			\$600,000
			Recommended	\$1,140,240
			Available for 2010	\$334,563

Ms. Thomas explained the JARC program goal, which is to improve access to transportation services to employment and employment related activities for eligible low-income individuals. The New Freedom program goal is to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers for persons with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation into society. Lack of adequate transportation to work is a primary barrier for many individuals with disabilities. This grant program seeks to expand the transportation mobility options available. She noted that funds are available for new services only.

Ms. Thomas stated that these Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants are extended through the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to various service providers in the various planning regions. The WFRC has established committees to rank and prioritize the applications for these funds. For the Salt Lake Area this committee is the Salt Lake County Council of Government's Subcommittee for Human Services, with some additional members. In Davis and Weber Counties, a separate committee was established. These committees are made up of members of the Council of Governments, Area Agency on Aging, Department of Workforce Services, and representatives of persons with disabilities as well as providers of transportation services. The recommendations are then forwarded to the Regional Council for approval.

Mr. John English explained that one of the projects will allow UTA to train people to use their regular system, to the extent possible, rather than the handicapped system, which would cost UTA \$3.00 per trip instead of \$35.00 per trip. He noted that route deviation will also help.

Mayor Burrows moved that the applications [listed above] be forwarded to UDOT for the ranking and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Newton and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Regional Growth Committee (RGC)

Information – Summary of ‘A Glimpse of the Future’ presentation to the RGC by Professor Arthur C. Nelson Ph.D.: Mayor Burrows reported that the Regional Growth Committee at their May 21 meeting received a very interesting and important presentation from Dr. Chris Nelson. Copies of the slide presentation given by Dr. Nelson were included in Council members’ packets.

Mayor Burrows briefly reviewed the presentation and noted that the application of his findings will be included in the Council’s 2040 land use forecast. He asked Council members to consider information in this presentation as the Regional Transportation Plan Visioning is presented. Some of the conclusions from the presentation include:

- By providing a variety of housing types, people can remain in the same neighborhood as they go through various life stages from single, married, married with kids, empty nesters, retirement, and old age.
- Densities of 10,000 people per square mile are desirable, not frightening. Look at Daybreak.
- Because 33% of residents along the Wasatch Front want mixed use and a variety of housing types, 60% of the new development must be this type to meet the demand. People appreciate choices rather than the only choice being single unit house on ¼ acre lot.
- Developing Boulevards can tie cities together.
- Home financing will never return to the looser programs of the past. One consequence is that more people will be renters. Also, the market for large houses costing over \$1 million has/will shrink.
- The retirement bulge and health advancement will increase relative population of elderly people.

ACTION: RGC recommendation to proceed with update to the Wasatch Choices 2040 ‘Vision’: Mr. Val Halford reported that the overall development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) starts with a plausible land use Vision Scenario for the region. He noted that the Wasatch Choices 2040 study created that Vision for the 2007 RTP. He stated that our responsibility today is to review, refine and validate that Vision in preparation for the 2011 RTP.

Mr. Halford presented a PowerPoint presentation titled **REFINING THE WASATCH CHOICES 2040 VISION**. He stated that in August 2004, the WFRC and Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) formed a partnership with Envision Utah for region wide visioning process that results in 1) the Growth Principles and Objectives, 2) Implementation Strategies for Local Governments, and 3) a Regional Visioning Map. He noted that in October 2005, the WFRC adopted the Regional Growth Principles, Objectives and Implementation Strategies. He provided additional background information relating to outreach efforts and educational visits to each city and county.

Mr. Halford discussed the Regional Vision Map and stated that the purpose of the vision was an attempt to visually demonstrate how the region might look in 2040 if the Growth Principles were used as a basis for land use and transportation decisions. The Vision Map included the following three major components: 1) Mixed Use Areas, 2) Transit Oriented Developments, and 3) some higher density. He stated that mixing complementary land uses creates the opportunity for walking and increased transit use. Good design enables the mix of different land uses to work together.

Mr. Halford reported that the WFRC staff continues the outreach effort to tell local planners and elected officials about the benefits of Wasatch Choices 2040 Growth Principles and Vision. He stated that the purpose has been to determine the level of interest and support for the Wasatch Choices 2040 Growth Principles and Vision. He stated that the majority of the Region's urban planners have been in favor of the Growth Principles and Vision; Planning Commissions and City Councils likewise.

Mr. Halford reported that the Council staff has visited and presented Growth Principles and Vision to over half of the city and county Planning Commissions in the region and are prepared to move ahead in refining the Vision. He noted that to refine the Wasatch Choices 2040 Regional Vision, the staff is proposing that the Vision be reviewed, analyzed to identify shortfalls/improvements, updated appropriately, and evaluated to quantify the performance/benefits of the Vision compared to current growth pattern. He stated that in keeping with the RTP Planning Process a proposed updated Vision would be presented and reviewed by the RGC Technical Committees, the County Councils of Government and the RGC prior to endorsement by the Regional Council and subsequent use in development of the 2011 RTP.

Mr. Halford encouraged Council members to endorse the RGC's recommendation to review, refine, and validate the Wasatch Choices Vision Map and use as input to the 2011-2040 Regional Transportation Plan.

Mayor Corroon moved that the Regional Council endorse the Regional Growth Committee's proposed process to review, refine and validate the Wasatch Choices 2040 Vision for the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dearden and passed unanimously.

Information - Air Quality Committee report: Mr. Billings reported that the second meeting of the Air Quality Committee has been held. He noted there have been scheduling problems and hoped that participation could be improved in the future.

Mr. Billings reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a new *draft* emissions model. He stated that they hope to make the model official by the end of this year.

Mr. Billings distributed copies of Air Quality Report Cards for Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Tooele Counties. Mr. Chappell noted that Morgan County isn't on the list, as it doesn't have an air quality problem.

Recruit - participation in 'Clear the Air Challenge – drive your miles down': Mr. Billings distributed copies of a handout titled **Let's Make This Perfectly Clear**, which is the name of a Clear the Air Challenge to help drive down mileage. He stated that the challenge is a six-week competition starting June 1st that gives you the chance to reduce your vehicle emissions by choosing alternatives to driving alone.

Mayor Corroon stated that their goal is to have everyone make a small change in their life and try something different. He noted that one small change that everyone can make is to turn off their cars when stopped, and be "idle free".

Mr. Billings explained that you can register for the challenge at www.cleartheairchallenge.org.

Transportation Committee (Trans Com)

ACTION: Endorse the TravelWise program: Mayor Crane reported that as the Wasatch Front Region continues to grow, the value of alternative means of transportation will increase. He stated that to accomplish goals of reducing transportation congestion, improving air quality, and reducing energy consumption, the State of Utah and local officials are asking employers and the general public to participate in **TravelWise**, a set of transportation strategies that encourage travelers to use alternatives to driving alone.

Mayor Crane introduced Angelo Papastamos from UDOT who was in attendance to share information with the Council about **TravelWise**.

Mr. Papastamos stated that in October, 2008 UDOT got serious about managing demand and decided a comprehensive approach was needed. The **TravelWise** program's strategies, goals and objectives are included in the following draft Resolution, copies of which were distributed to Council members for their review.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING TRAVELWISE PROGRAM

This resolution is made on May 28, 2009, and establishes the Wasatch Front Regional Council's support for and encourages its partnership with the Utah Department of Transportation in the strategies, goals, and objectives of its TravelWise program.

WHEREAS TravelWise strategies contribute to reductions in traffic congestion, improved air quality, and reduced energy consumption, and

WHEREAS over half of the afternoon peak period automobile trips are not related to work

and shifting discretionary trips to other less congested driving periods is a TravelWise strategy, and

WHEREAS public transit is a vital strategy to reduce energy consumption, a vital component of the transportation system, and is a TravelWise strategy, and

WHEREAS active transportation such as walking and bicycling can be a vital, healthy, and effective strategy to reduce short distance trips such as school related travel and is a TravelWise strategy, and

WHEREAS using the capacity of our empty automobile seats through carpooling, ridesharing, and vanpooling can improve the efficiency of the existing transportation system and is a TravelWise strategy, and

WHEREAS the use of technology through tele-working, video-conferencing, e-government, Internet shopping, and related techniques are time and cost saving strategies for all of us and are TravelWise strategies, and

WHEREAS recognized benefits can be achieved through promoting, educating and supporting all partners towards transportation and land use changes which foster short term and long term TravelWise strategies and the benefits these strategies bring, and

WHEREAS the Wasatch Front Regional Council's long range Regional Transportation Plan includes these TravelWise strategies, and

WHEREAS the Wasatch Front Regional Council has funded several of these TravelWise strategies through the Transportation Improvement Program, and

WHEREAS by working together, the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Utah Department of Transportation, employers in the area, transit agencies, other metropolitan planning organizations, cities, counties, and other public and private agencies can make a difference towards encouraging TravelWise strategies and contributing to reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, and reduced energy consumption.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasatch Front Regional Council chooses to support, promote, and endorse the Utah Department of Transportation TravelWise Program.

Council members reviewed the strategies, goals, and objectives listed in the draft Resolution. Council members expressed concerns relating to congestion pricing.

Councilman Jensen stated that Council members were not being asked to endorse "specifics", but were being asked to endorse the principals found in the TravelWise program in "general terms".

After a brief discussion on the wording in the draft Resolution, the final sentence was changed to read: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasatch Front Regional Council encourages principals found in the TravelWise Program.

Councilman Jensen moved that the Council approve the Resolution, with the amended wording, endorsing the TravelWise program. The motion was seconded by Mayor Burrows and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Amend existing 2009-2014 TIP: Mr. Ben Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council has received a request to modify the current 2009-2014 TIP. He stated that this modification requires action from the Regional Council and the Transportation Commission but does not require a new conformity analysis or a 30-day public comment period. Copies of the requested modification [Amendment 8] along with copies of a Resolution approving the amendments were included in Council members' packets.

1. Adjust funding for the road reconstruction and widening in Davis County on 500 South (SR-68) Redwood Road/Legacy Parkway to I-15.
2. Mr. Wuthrich noted that by combining the following two projects, \$5.2 million can be saved with this amendment. Asphalt pavement rehabilitation on US-89; 200 North (Kaysville) to Sunset Drive and Sunset Drive to Deer Run Drive.
3. Remove the UTA Facility Improvements to reduce Energy Costs project and add a LRT Capacitors/Energy Savings Project for UTA.

Commissioner Dearden moved to approve the Resolution modifying the 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Amendment 8). The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

Information – Draft 2010-2015 Surface Transportation Program (STP): Mr. Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is responsible for programming Surface Transportation Program funds for the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton Areas. He stated that these funds can be used to construct new streets and highways, to widen or reconstruct existing streets, to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental studies, to purchase right-of-way, and to support transportation planning activities. He stated that they can also be used for transit capital projects, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and other projects.

Mr. Wuthrich explained that as a result of the funding made available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), funding for projects in the urban STP program was freed up, enabling project construction dates to move up in the program.

Copies of a spreadsheet showing draft STP programs for the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton areas were included in Council members' packets. Mr. Wuthrich explained that the tables show the projects currently programmed.

Information – Draft 2010-2015 Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ): Mr. Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is responsible for programming

Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton Areas. He stated that these funds must be used for projects that will improve air quality by reducing pollutant emissions from transportation sources.

Mr. Wuthrich stated that, as with the STP program, the CMAQ program was supplemented with funding made available from ARRA, enabling projects to advance in the program.

Copies of a spreadsheet showing draft CMAQ programs for the Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton areas were included in Council members' packets. Mr. Wuthrich explained that the tables show the projects currently programmed.

Executive Director's Report

Life on State: Mr. Chappell reported that the WFRC, UTA, UDOT, the Downtown Alliance, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Salt Lake County, Sandy, Draper, Midvale, Murray, Salt Lake City, and South Salt Lake are partnering to create a new blueprint for the future of State Street and adjacent blocks. He stated that an Open House for Life on State will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m. Copies of a handout titled ***Life on State, Our Street, Our Vision*** were distributed to those in attendance.

Mr. Chappell expressed his appreciation to Senator Scott Jenkins for his attendance at the Council meeting as a Council member from the Utah State Senate. He stated that Mr. Jenkins will help the Council coordinate better with the Legislature.

Mr. Chappell thanked Mr. Steve Call along with his review team for their certification review.

Other Business

Future Meetings:

WFRC Retreat – June 25, 2:00 p.m., WFRC office

Trans Com – June 18, 2:00 p.m. and August 20, 2:00 p.m., WFRC offices

RGC – August 20, 9:30 a.m., WFRC offices

The next meeting of the **Regional Council** will be held on August 27, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

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