



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of August 27, 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

Ralph Becker
Bruce Burrows
Peter Corroon
J. Lynn Crane
Sid Creager
Craig L. Dearden
Matthew Godfrey
Wayne Harper
Scott Jenkins
Michael H. Jensen
Brett Millburn
John Njord
John Petroff, Jr.
Neka Roundy
Ron Russell
JoAnn B. Seghini

Mayor, Salt Lake City
Mayor, Riverdale
Mayor, Salt Lake County
Mayor, Herriman
Councilmember, Morgan County
Commissioner, Weber County
Ogden City
Representative, Utah House of Representatives
Senator, Utah State Senate – Dist. 20
Councilmember, Salt Lake County
Commissioner, Davis County
Executive Director, UDOT
Commissioner, Davis County
Mayor, Kaysville
Mayor, Centerville
Mayor, Midvale

Alternate Members Present

Mike Allegra
William Applegarth
David B. Newton

UTA
Mayor, Riverton
Mayor, West Jordan

Other Officials Present

Gordon Thomas

Councilman, Cottonwood Heights

Others Present

Loveit Baumgardner
Wayne Bennion

WFRC staff
WFRC staff

Others Present (Continued)

Roger Borgenicht	Future Moves
Steven Call	FHWA
Chuck Chappell	WFRC staff
James Christian	FHWA
LaNiece Davenport	WFRC staff
Anders Fillerup	WFRC staff
Sharon Gray	WFRC staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC staff
Jeff Hawker	Riverton City
Cheryl Heying	Utah Division of Air Quality
Doug Hill	Murray City
John Hiskey	Sandy City
Jory Johner	WFRC staff
Sam Klemm	WFRC staff
Bill Lawrence	UDOT
Rick LeBrasseur	Center for Green Space Design
Ben McAdams	Salt Lake City
Sumner Swanner	Center for Green Space Design
Gary Whatcott	South Jordan City
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC staff

Mayor Dolan, Mayor Byron Anderson, Commissioner Downs, Commissioner Bischoff, and Mayor Nordfelt were excused from the meeting.

Councilman Jensen noted that due to the length of the agenda, the following items would be presented at a later time:

- 4b. Action: WFRC Mission Statement
- 5b. Information: Life on State Street: Our Street Our Vision
- 6c. Information: Air quality measurements
- 8d. Information: ARRA projects status

Introductions

Mr. Chappell introduced Representative Wayne Harper, a member representing the Utah House of Representatives.

Council members, Council staff, and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda

ACTION: Minutes of the WFRC meeting of May 28, 2009 and ACTION: Financial Statements and Check Registers for April, May, and June, 2009: Councilman Jensen noted that copies of the May 28, 2009 minutes, as well as copies of the financial statements and

Check Registers for April, May, and June, 2009, were included in Council members' packets.

Commissioner Dearden moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the minutes of the WFRC meeting of May 28, 2009 and the financial statements and check registers for April, May, and June, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mayor Burrows and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chairman's Report

Recognition: Ben Wuthrich, 15 years: Mr. Chuck Chappell introduced Mr. Ben Wuthrich who has been employed by the Council for the past fifteen years. He presented him with a plaque and thanked him for his service on the Council staff.

ACTION: Discuss and act on policy guidance from the June Council retreat: Councilman Jensen reported that the Council held a policy retreat on June 25, 2009 at the WFRC offices. He asked Mr. Chappell to report on the retreat.

Mr. Chappell reported that eighteen local elected officials and leaders from UDOT and UTA attended the two hour retreat. He noted that with the staff members from WFRC and consultants that also attended, the total attending the retreat was twenty nine.

Mr. Chappell reviewed the four policy recommendations from the retreat, which he noted are recommended for discussion and adoption by the Council. Copies of the recommendations were included in Council members' packets.

Council members held a lengthy discussion on the recommendations and made several changes. They felt policy recommendations should be listed as **Goals, Objectives, and Strategies**, as follows:

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the quality of life in the Wasatch Front region by enhancing the transportation systems.

1. Strategy – after the Council adopts the 2040 VISION, staff should refer to the VISION as the basis for the next regional transportation plan, while also respecting city and county general plans and individual property rights.
2. Strategy – develop plans that make non-motorized modes more practical (walkable and bike-able) for all trip purposes, including recreation in open spaces.
3. Strategy – design the regional transportation plan (RTP) to relieve congestion.
4. Strategy – base transportation planning on the demographic changes occurring now and anticipated.
5. Strategy – balance the modes to provide travel options.

6. Strategy – improve connectivity within and between modes.
7. Strategy – Improve safety.
8. Strategy – look for funding to invest in preserving the existing infrastructure.

Goal 2: *Protect and conserve all natural resources, including energy resources.*

1. Strategy – more clarity is needed with respect to green house gases (GHG) before recommending WFRC action or policy, but staff should prepare to respond to federal legislation.
2. Strategy – continue reducing vehicle emissions, including GHG, and energy use through transportation system actions, travel demand management, technology and other efforts.
3. Strategy – preserve (for all modes of transportation) corridors and share corridors with other utilities.

Goal 3: *Actively plan for economic development.*

1. Strategy – assume optimistic economic growth to drive the 2040 VISION and the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
2. Strategy – keep the transportation planning process current and flexible to adjust to new economic development locations and access needs.
3. Strategy – monitor local government general plan changes to help anticipate needed RTP changes.
4. Strategy – assemble economic development plans and identify transportation access needs.

Goal 4: *Secure additional capital funding sources.*

1. Strategy – economic development can pay a portion of needed transportation systems.
2. Strategy – a majority favored investigating additional funding for local roads including, but not limited to:
 - a. Local option sales tax on fuel
 - b. Increase statewide fuel tax with 30% allocation to B&C
 - c. Local option fuel tax

Mayor Corroon moved to approve the ***Goals, Objectives, and Strategies***, as listed above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Petroff and passed unanimously.

Information: Report on USDOT Certification of the WFRC Transportation Planning Process: Councilman Jensen introduced Mr. James Christian from the Federal Highway Administration, who was in attendance to report on the USDOT Certification recently completed for the Wasatch Front Regional Council.

Mr. Christian reported that he comes with good news. He stated that the federal review team found the review to be very productive and thanked WFRC and all of its partners for their

cooperation. He stated that based on their review and understanding of the transportation planning process in the Salt Lake City/Ogden transportation planning area, they have noted strengths, made several recommendations for improvements, but issued no corrective actions. He stated that the Council will be fully certified for the next four years. He congratulated the Council on being fully certified and noted that the Council had “very good practice” and was “clearly out in front” on the following:

1. JPAC Committee
2. Utah’s Unified Plan
3. State and MPO’s financial plans
4. MOU for travel demand modeling and forecasting (all areas using the same model)
5. Green Infrastructure Plan

Mr. Christian distributed copies (for reference) of FHWA’s report titled ***Federal Highway Administration / Federal Transit Administration 2009 Certification Review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process for the Salt Lake City / Ogden-Layton, Utah Transportation Planning Area – Site Visit: May 26-28, 2009.*** The document included 1) Preface, 2) Executive Summary, 3) Introduction, 4) 2005 Review, 5) 2009 Review (including Public Comment and Process Review Elements (Staff Interviews), 6) Conclusions and Recommendations, and 7) Appendices.

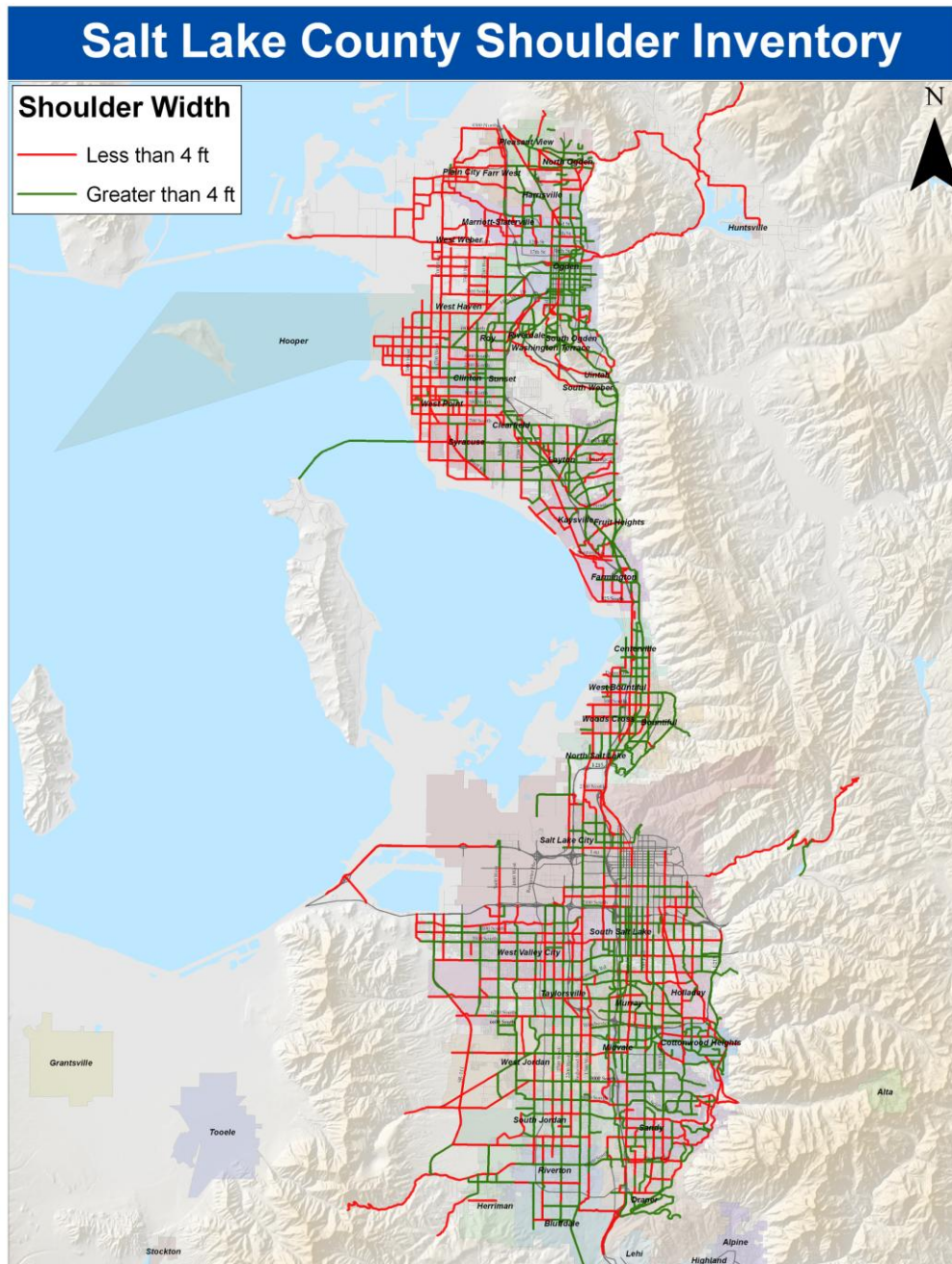
Mr. Christian also distributed copies of a letter addressed to Councilman Michael Jensen from the U.S. Department of Transportation, dated August 27, 2009, that includes USDOT’s finding that certifies the Salt Lake City/Ogden-Layton Transportation Management Area (TMA) Planning Process.

Regional Growth Committee (RGC) (Mayor Burrows – 30 minutes)

Information: Bicycle Routes and Trails Inventory: Mayor Burrows reported that in May of 2009, the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) staff hosted a kickoff for the Regional Bicycle / Trails Planning Committee. He stated that this committee will explore ways to identify funding for bicycle routes and trails and will present upcoming planning efforts to the Council.

Mr. Jory Johner reported that the goals of the committee will be to identify and obtain the base bicycle plans for the Wasatch Front region, establish and define criteria to identify a backbone / prioritized bicycle route and trails network, develop the backbone / prioritized network, review of the backbone / prioritized network by the local jurisdictions, identify and resolve bicycle route and trail inconsistencies at county and city borders, and identify potential funding sources for bicycle routes and trails. He stated that future goals may include working on a Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) or Bicycle Compatibility Index (BCI) for the existing road network, and making presentations and requests to cities and counties for Bicycle Master Plan amendments / updates. He distributed copies of 1) a *DRAFT* Salt Lake County 2030 Bike Map, and 2) a *DRAFT* Davis County 2030 Bike Map, dated August 2009. He stated that a map for Weber County will be developed next month and will be included in the next Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Johner reported that Mr. Anders Fillerup and Mr. Spencer Hymas, two interns hired by WFRC, have been working on a highway shoulder inventory. Copies of the following **Shoulder Inventory Map** were included in Council members' packets. He stated that the maps identify shoulders in Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake Counties that are four feet wide or greater. He noted that the interns used the UDOT bicycle priority data base, aerial photographs and Google Street View to help categorize their findings. Copies of an updated Shoulder Inventory map were distributed to those in attendance.



Council members discussed their concerns relating to bicycle routes, which included:

- Generally there's no place to park a bike to go into a store
- Cities and counties need to adopt ordinances for bike parking
- The need to put bike routes into the Plan
- Funding for paint
- Consideration of including Morgan County as a part of this study
- Dual signage needed

Mr. Mike Allegra noted that UTA has added bike locker facilities at all of UTA's rail stations. He also noted that every UTA bus has at least 2 bike racks, and some have 3 racks.

Mayor Becker asked if WFRC considered bicycles as separate issue. He noted that he is a member of a cycling group that does fund raising for bicycles.

Mr. Chappell stated that the WFRC staff will develop proposed wording for a goal to present to the Regional Growth Committee and the WFRC in October.

Air Quality Committee

Information: AQC Purpose Statement: Mayor Becker reported that the new WFRC Air Quality Committee met on August 20, 2009 to address the Purpose Statement for the Committee and to hear reports on the latest developments in air quality regulations. Copies of the *draft "Air Quality Committee – Purpose Statement"* were included in Council members' packets.

The *draft* Purpose Statement dated April 24, 2009 stated that the WFRC Air Quality Committee will:

1. Focus on improving air quality by recommending effective transportation strategies for inclusion in the Plans and Programs adopted by the Council.
2. Keep up to date and inform the Council on emerging air quality issues and ever changing state and federal air quality rules and regulations.
3. Cooperate with Utah Division of Air Quality to develop the State Implementation Plans and any transportation control strategies.
4. Inform and respond to the public on transportation related air quality improvement activities of the Council and other agencies.
5. Keep informed on air quality issues and control strategies that are not directly related to transportation.

Mayor Becker asked Council members to provide any comments to him or any member of the Air Quality Committee.

Information: “Clear the Air Challenge”: Mayor Becker reported on the **Clear the Air Challenge**. He felt that the Challenge’s goal of reducing VMT was most important with education being another important element. He noted that over the past six weeks of the Challenge, VMT was reduced over 1 million miles.

Senator Jenkins noted that as VMT is reduced, revenue is also reduced. He encouraged WFRC members to be careful of what they do and to not look at cars as evil.

Budget Committee Report

ACTION: Unified Planning Work Program amendment - Action to amend FY 10 CPG Budget and Unified Planning Work Program: Mayor Corroon asked Mr. Wayne Bennion to report on the Unified Planning Work Program amendment.

Mr. Bennion reported that in order to secure funding for the update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by May 2011, additional work and resources have been identified in a proposed amendment to the FY 2009 and FY 2010 Budget and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He stated that the amendment extends the Budget and UPWP into FY 2011 and focuses on the primary work necessary to update the RTP. Direct work on the RTP includes project selection and phasing, document preparation, public involvement, environmental evaluation and performance measures analysis. He stated that the supporting work includes travel forecasting and implementation strategies for the growth principles. An additional \$754,558 of Federal Planning funds is proposed to be added to the budget for this work. Matching funds in the amount of \$54,793 will be provided from future local contributions. Copies of the *draft* Amended FY10 Budget were included in Council members’ packets.

Commissioner Dearden moved that the Council amend the budget and work program to include this additional work and funding. The motion was seconded by Mayor Roundy and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Unified Planning Work Program amendment - Action to amend FY 10 Budget for Green Infrastructure: Mayor Corroon asked Ms. LaNiece Davenport to report on the budget amendment for Green Infrastructure.

Ms. Davenport reported that in May 2008, the WFRC hosted a Green Infrastructure Workshop facilitated by the Conservation Fund, a national non-profit conservation organization. She stated that the workshop participants learned the basics of green infrastructure and the need for communities to consider these principles when planning their future. As a result, the participants asked the Wasatch Front Regional Council to initiate a Green Infrastructure Plan for our Region.

Ms. Davenport explained that Green infrastructure is an interconnected network of open space and natural areas such as greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preserves, farmland, watershed, ecological areas, recreational and scenic areas. She stated that the Green Infrastructure Plan will connect communities to their landscape and enable them to identify which lands to develop, protect, preserve or conserve. The Plan will identify specific economic advantages for communities and have a strong emphasis on implementation strategies. She distributed copies

of a handout on Green Infrastructure that explained the plan, its goals, and how communities can benefit.

She also explained that the staff would work with the Center for Green Space Design on this project. She stated that the Center for Green Space Design is a local non-profit organization whose vision is to work with communities to help them plan a future that preserves valuable cultural, ecological, agricultural and recreational assets. The Center for Green Space Design has agreed to work with the Wasatch Front Regional Council to develop the Plan and secure additional financing through foundation grants and other sources.

She explained the funding level for the first 2 phases of the Plan, which will amount to \$80,000.00. The WFRC has about \$26,000 in its existing budget committed to the project. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands is providing \$30,000, while the Utah Quality Growth Commission is providing \$5,000. The Center for Green Space Design will commit \$19,000 from grants it receives to the study.

Commissioner Dearden moved that the Council amend the budget to include additional funding in the amounts of \$30,000 from Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands and \$5,000 from Utah Quality Growth Commission and authorize the WFRC staff to contract with the Center for Green Space Design to begin work on the first two phases of the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millburn and passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee (Trans Com)

ACTION: Self Certification of the Transportation Planning Process: Commissioner Millburn asked Mr. Wayne Bennion to report on the Self Certification of the Transportation Planning Process.

Mr. Bennion reported that each year when Trans Com and the Regional Council approve the Transportation Improvement Program, they with UDOT also need to certify that the transportation planning process meets all federal planning requirements. He stated that the WFRC and UDOT staffs have worked together to evaluate how well the federal requirements are being met. He noted that based on this effort, a resolution has been prepared certifying the planning process for the region, copies of which were included in Council members' packets. Copies of the Certification Determination – Salt Lake and Ogden/Layton Urban Transportation Planning Process – August 2009, were also included in Council members' packets.

Commissioner Petroff moved that the Regional Council approve the **Resolution – Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification – 2009**. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jensen and passed unanimously.

ACTION: 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program: Commissioner Millburn asked Mr. Ben Wuthrich to report on the 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Wuthrich reported that the 2010-2015 TIP is a six year program. He noted that the *draft* 2010-2015 TIP was reviewed by Trans Com in June (as delegated by the Regional Council) and

made available for public review. (The public comment period extended from July 4 through August 15, 2009.) He noted that only two comments were received. He stated that the Weber and Davis County Councils of Government (COG) reviewed the draft TIP during their meetings in July and the Salt Lake County COG reviewed the draft TIP in their August meeting.

Mr. Wuthrich reported that an analysis of the TIP completed by the WFRC staff shows that the 2010-2015 TIP conforms to the state air quality plans. Copies of 1) Resolution approving the 2010-2015 TIP, 2) Table Summary of the Draft 2010-2015 TIP, 3) Draft 2010-2015 TIP Conformity Finding, and 4) Draft 2010-2015 TIP Public Comments received as of August 12, 2009 were included in Council members' packets.

Councilman Jensen moved that the Regional Council adopt the resolution approving the 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the conformity finding for the 2010-2015 TIP. The motion was seconded by Mayor Crane and passed unanimously.

Public Comment for 2010-2015 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ)

Commissioner Dearden moved that a public comment period be opened to discuss the 2010-2015 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millburn and passed unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Dearden moved that a public comment period be closed relating to the 2010-2015 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millburn and passed unanimously.

ACTION: Add 2010-2015 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Program (CMAQ) to the TIP (Board Amendment): Commissioner Millburn asked Mr. Ben Wuthrich to discuss the Board Modifications to the 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Wuthrich reported that the WFRC 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. Copies of 1) a list of STP projects submitted for consideration, 2) a list of CMAQ projects submitted for consideration, and 3) a Resolution to amend the 2010-2015 TIP were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Wuthrich reviewed the projects listed in the handouts in Council members' packets. He also distributed copies of 1) a map of the Weber and Davis TIP Projects for 2009, and 2) a map of the Salt Lake County TIP projects for 2009. He explained that two additional requests for board modifications have been received with funds identified for a National Highway System (NHS) project and a UTA project.

Commissioner Millburn moved to approve the resolution to modify the 2010-2015 TIP to include the recommended STP and the CMAQ projects as well as the NHS project and the UTA project. The motion was seconded by Mayor Burrows and passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Authorization of federal surface transportation: Mr. Chappell encouraged Council members to let their Senators and Congressmen know that we need a reauthorization of federal transportation programs or at least an 18 month extension. He encouraged Council members to ask them to support both.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants: Mr. Chappell reported that the Utah Department of Natural Resources is promoting Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The grants can be used for 1) energy efficiency retrofits for government-owned buildings, 2) renewable energy systems for on-site buildings, or 3) street and traffic light retrofits. He noted that award amounts would be between \$25,000 and \$250,000 with a few larger awards available.

Mr. Chappell stated that the Council will sponsor a workshop for those interested in applying for the grants. Copies of a list of the county and cities eligible to apply for the block grants were distributed to those in attendance.

Mr. Chappell stated that for additional information, Council members can contact: Jerriann Ernstsen Ph.D., Utah State Energy Program, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Manager, 1594 West North Temple, Ste.3110, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6100, 801-537-3384 (phone), 801-538-4795 (fax). She can also be contacted by e-mail at jerriannernstsen@utah.gov or on the web at <http://geology.utah.gov/sep/>.

5600 West Transit WFRC Meeting: Mr. Chappell reported that a meeting to discuss and develop land use plans for the 5600 West Transit Corridor will be held on September 2, 2009 at the WFRC offices from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. He stated that Council members can reaffirm and discuss their choices for the corridor.

Other Business

Future Meetings: **RGC** – October 15, 2009 @ 9:30 am, WFRC offices
WFRC – October 22, 2009 @ 2:00 pm, WFRC offices
Trans Com – November 19, 2009 @ 2:00 pm, WFRC offices

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.