



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of March 22, 2012

Commissioner Craig Dearden, 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

Len Arave
Peter Corroon
Kelvyn Cullimore
Craig Dearden
Louenda Downs
Wayne Harper
Richard Harris
Tina Kelley
Bret Millburn
John Njord
John Petroff
JoAnn Seghini
Darrell Smith
Russ Wall
Jan Zogmaister

Mayor, North Salt Lake
Mayor, Salt Lake County
Mayor, Cottonwood Heights
Commissioner, Weber County
Commissioner / Utah Association of Counties
Representative, Utah House of Representatives
Mayor, North Ogden
Councilmember, Morgan County
Commissioner, Davis County
Utah Department of Transportation
Commissioner, Davis County
Mayor, Midvale City
Mayor, Draper City
Mayor, Taylorsville/ Utah League of Cities & Towns
Commissioner, Weber County

Councilman Michael Jensen participated by phone.

Alternate Members Present

Carlton Christensen
Scott Osborne

Councilman, Salt Lake City
Mayor, South Jordan City

Others Present

Gary Beck
John Hiskey
Brad Humphries
David Kallas
Dave Millheim
Matt Sibul
Leah Sirmin
Gary Whatcott
Loveit Baumgardner
Wayne Bennion
Andrew Gruber
Ned Hacker
Doug Hattery
Jory Johner

Senator Mike Lee's Office
Sandy City
Sanley Consultants Inc.
Utah Transit Authority
Farmington City
Utah Transit Authority
FHWA / WFRC
South Jordan City
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff

Pam Jorgensen
Sam Klemm
Ted Knowlton
Ben Wuthrich

WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff

Michael Allegra, Mayor Ralph Becker, Mayor Mike Caldwell, Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Mayor Brent Marshall, Mayor Jamie Nagle, and Mayor Mike Winder were excused from the meeting.

Welcome

Commissioner Craig Dearden welcomed Council members and visitors and introductions were made.

Consent Agenda

ACTION: Commissioner John Petroff moved to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting held January 26, 2012 and the Financial Statements and Check Registers for December 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bret Millburn and passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Information: Legislative Update: Sam Klemm, WFRC, discussed the following legislative issues from the recent Utah State legislative general session:

- The \$400 million in additional anticipated Utah State revenues was just enough to fund growth in public and higher education student enrollment, Medicare/Medicaid growth, and a few other smaller programs. There was \$191 million in requests for bills with fiscal notes and only \$2.5 million set aside for them.
- HB 2 – Representative Mel Brown – New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act – is one of three general appropriations bills. The requested \$70,000 for WFRC was included in this bill as an ongoing appropriation. *This bill passed.*
- HB 104 – Representative Wayne Harper – Local Highway Authority Regulatory Powers – Restricts, somewhat, the ability of a city or county to enact an anti-idling ordinance for motor vehicles. *Passed*
- HB 173 – Representative Brad Dee – Expands the use of the third quarter cent sales tax fund for transportation in counties of the second class by allowing it to be used for urban collector roads. It is understood this will primarily affect Weber County. The bill also allocates \$150 million to other projects. *Passed*
- SB 195 – Senator Karen Mayne – Transportation Safety Revisions – Specifies restrictions on railroad crossing safety. *Passed*
- SB 225 – Senator Stuart Adams – Combines various UDOT funds that exist within the transportation budget such as the Centennial Highway Fund (CHF), the Critical Highway Needs Fund (CHNF), the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF), and others into one fund which streamlines UDOT accounting. *Passed*
- HB 139 – Representative Wayne – Department of Community and Culture Amendments – Moves the Division of Housing and Community Development that handles CDBG funding to the Department of Workforce Services. *Passed*
- HB 70 – Representative Patrice Arent – This bill would have set up for a legislative task force over the interim period to evaluate “public and private sector efforts to improve air

quality in Utah” and “...suggest changes to the state laws and regulations that could improve air quality in Utah.” This bill was folded into HB 39 by Representative Wilson which sets up a similar task force to study economic development needs, and now, air quality concerns as well. *Passed in the form of HB 39.*

- SB 21 – Senator Margaret Dixon – Re-work of appointments to the Air Quality Board – This bill revamps all the boards serving within the Department of Environmental Quality including the Division of Air Quality. It also shifts some authority to administrative law judges. *Passed*

Leah Sirmin, Federal Highway Administration, gave a Federal Reauthorization Update. Her report included the following:

- The current transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, originally to expire in 2009. Over the last two and one-half years, federal transportation programs have been operating off a series of extensions – the eighth extension will expire on March 31, 2012. Likely there will be a ninth extension for an unknown duration.
- The Senate passed a bill in mid-March, S-1813—MAP-21, which stands for “Moving Ahead in the 21st Century”. MAP-21 is a two-year bill and covers Federal FY2012-FY2013. This bill keeps funding levels consistent with SAFETEA-LU and the extensions at \$109 billion. Some of the notable changes in MAP-21 are: 1) the elimination of earmarks, 2) accelerating project delivery through expedited project reviews, innovative technology and other similar approaches, 3) consolidation of programs from over 100 in SAFETEA-LU to about 30 in MAP-21, and 4) emphasis on performance measurement – some of the National goal areas identified include safety, reliability, environmental sustainability, freight movement, and infrastructure condition.
- The House is also working on a bill – HR 7. This bill also eliminates earmarks, consolidates programs, addresses project acceleration, and performance measurement. Whatever bill comes out of the House will then have to be reconciled with the MAP-21 Senate Bill in Congress Committee before there will be any final legislation.

Public Comment

There were no public comments

Budget Committee Report

ACTION: Review Draft Unified Planning Work Program and Budgets for FY2013-FY2014: Commissioner Bret Millburn reported that a copy of the Draft FY2013 and FY2014 Budgets and Unified Planning Work Program Summary were included in Council member packets. He said that the UPWP outlines the work tasks that the Wasatch Front Regional Council will be pursuing over the next couple of years in partnership with local agencies, UDOT, UTA and other partners. He said that the UPWP includes the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), assisting in the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, preparing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region, initiating the process of updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for adoption in 2015, conducting a household travel survey and using the results to update the travel models for the region, assisting in the development of air quality plans and promoting transportation strategies to improve air quality, outreach to the public and local, state, and federal officials, and providing technical and planning support to local communities.

Commissioner Millburn reported that the budgets for FY2013 and FY2014 will see an overall decrease in expenditures from previous years of approximately 23% in 2013 and 24% in 2014. This is a result of the completion of several major studies requiring consultant assistance. He noted that the contributions from the state and the counties are budgeted to remain flat over the same time period.

The major expenditures in the budgets are for staff salary and benefits. The budgets include funding to maintain the current full-time staff including the recently created Director of Sustainable Programs. In addition, the budgets include funding for two new full-time positions – one for a planner to support the mobility management planning efforts and one for administrative support for the office. The need for both positions is still being evaluated. Also budgeted is a total of 12 months (or 2080 hours) for interns in each year. The budgets include annual increases of four percent for salaries and benefits and to provide for COLA and/or merit increases, and to cover anticipated increases in health insurance. Later this spring, a survey of the cities and counties in the region will be conducted to determine what they are proposing for salary adjustments and then a decision on actual increases will be made. Any final decision would be reviewed by the Budget Committee in advance of the final adoption of the budget by the Regional Council in May.

Main funding sources for WFRC include: the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning funds (PL) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 planning funds. It is assumed that these will continue at near current levels. Another source of funding for WFRC's activities is the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP). The Council has historically budgeted \$300,000 from these funds for WFRC planning efforts. Beginning in 2014, the proposed budget would increase to \$400,000. This is being done to help maintain long-term financial stability for WFRC in an environment of flat and somewhat uncertain funding.

Mayor JoAnn Seghini moved that the draft United Planning Work Program and Budgets for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 be made available to the five County Councils of Government for their review and comment. Mayor Darrell Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Regional Growth Committee

Information: Wasatch Choice for 2040 Update: Ned Hacker, WFRC, reported that for the past year, WFRC has been working collaboratively across the region to develop relationships and create tools necessary to implement the Wasatch Choice for 2040, the land use and transportation "Vision" for Davis, Salt Lake, Weber and Utah Counties. He said that there is momentum and progress being made as cities, counties and other diverse groups have engaged across the region to support this effort.

Mr. Hacker said that there have been extensive outreach efforts over the last year and a half. First, during the original visioning for the region the outreach was unprecedented with 13 workshops and thousands of residents participating and the process being very well accepted. In the past year, six demonstration sites have been identified and the outreach has been with the stakeholders at those particular sites. This outreach effort included the landowners, the business owners, city staffs, elected officials, and the residents within the stakeholder groups to look at different scenarios that would best fit the land in those particular areas.

Mr. Hacker provided information and distributed a handout for the next outreach effort – The Spring 2012 Wasatch Choice for 2040 Consortium Meeting. This meeting is for anyone interested in the implementation of the "Wasatch Choice 2040 Vision". Those attending the

meeting will leave with a greater understanding of the Vision, the implementation plan and how you can be part of the effort. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. with networking from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Room 250. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This second Consortium meeting will give an update on the progress made over the last six months in the implementation of the Vision.

Commissioner Zogmaister also mentioned that she and others have been having discussions about Active Transportation and Complete Streets and wanted to let the Council know she would be coming back to them with some recommendation regarding this in the future.

Air Quality Committee Report

Information: Transportation Related Air Quality Strategies: Councilman Carlton Christensen reported that the Air Quality Committee with the assistance of technical staff put together seven proactive transportation related air quality strategies. He discussed the following three items that the Committee has made significant progress:

- The UDOT Signal Coordination – instead of upgrading only 150 signals, UDOT has undertaken a regional project to establish a “World Class Traffic Signal Maintenance and Operations”. UDOT has already hired two additional FTEs and is seeking additional funds to implement this effort.
- TravelWise – the goal is to increase public education on air quality and transportation issues. Some of the programs include ride sharing, telecommuting, reduced idling, etc. TravelWise has established partnerships with 20 businesses with an additional ten or more in process. They are working closely with the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce.
- The improved pedestrian and bicycle access for the 2700 West Station on the Mid Jordan LRT line is under construction and should be completed in May. UTA will monitor the impacts of these improvements and when and if they could be applied to other communities.

Some of the other strategies being investigated by the Committee may not yield the desired results. The Committee will be meeting to determine if other strategies should be identified for implementation in place of the less effective strategies currently on the action list.

Transportation Committee (Trans Com)

Information: Report on Board Modifications to the 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program: Mr. Ben Wuthrich reported that since the last meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, requests had been received to modify the current 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The modifications required action from Trans Com (since WFRC was not meeting) and the Transportation Commission, but did not require a new conformity analysis or a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Wuthrich reviewed the modifications that were included in member packets. Trans Com approved the modifications at their February 16, 2012 meeting. A copy of the TIP Amendment Two Resolution is available in the Council offices.

ACTION: Board Modifications to the 2012-2017 TIP: Mr. Ben Wuthrich reported requests had been received from the Utah Transit Authority and Tooele County to modify the current 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The 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. Mr. Wuthrich reviewed the modifications and noted that a copy of the revised 2012-2017 Amendment Three was included in member packets.

Mayor Peter Corroon moved to approve the Resolution to modify the 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program as requested. The motion was seconded by Mayor Richard Harris and passed unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is available in the Council offices.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Andrew Gruber reported the following:

- Unified Plan – Mr. Gruber distributed printed copies of *Utah's Unified Plan Transportation Plan – 2011-2040*. He said that this Plan reflects the incredible collaborative work of all of the agencies (MPOs, UDOT and UTA). The Unified Plan comprehensively pulls together all of the transportation plans for the State for the next 30 years. It doesn't just look at new transportation capacity but also looks at maintenance, preservation and operation of our existing system. This plan also looks comprehensively not just State highways or transit facilities but also at local transportation facilities-local roads, city and county-owned facilities. In order to keep costs down a copy of the Plan is also available on each of the agency websites.
- Regional Transportation Plan – Andrew reported that the RTP looks out 30 years. The Wasatch Front Regional Council adopts a plan every four years. The next Plan will need to be adopted in 2015. The WFRC staff has already started the work to getting that Plan developed. This is done in cooperation with our partners and one of the things we are emphasizing as we look ahead to the next Plan is to do an even better job incorporating the broader policy direction that we have received from the Council in the Regional Growth Principles and the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Vision in the RTP.
- Andrew introduced to the Council, Ted Knowlton, as the new Director of Sustainable Programs. This is a new position created to help WFRC do their transportation planning work better in the context of the Wasatch Choice for 2040 regional vision, which includes issues such as economic development and housing.

Other Business

The next Council meeting will be held on **May 24, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.