



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of August 23, 2012

Commissioner Craig Dearden, Chairman, called the meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Regional Council offices at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members Present

Michael Allegra
Len Arave
Ralph Becker
Peter Corroon
Kelvyn Cullimore
Craig Dearden
Tom Dolan
Louenda Downs
Wayne Harper
Richard Harris
Steve Hiatt
Tina Kelley
Bret Millburn
John Njord
John Petroff
Darrell Smith
Mike Winder
Jan Zogmaister

UTA
Mayor, North Salt Lake
Mayor, Salt Lake City
Mayor, Salt Lake County
Mayor, Cottonwood Heights
Commissioner, Weber County
Mayor, Sandy City
Commissioner / Utah Association of Counties
Representative, Utah House of Representatives
Mayor, North Ogden
Mayor, Kaysville City
Councilmember, Morgan County
Commissioner, Davis County
Utah Department of Transportation
Commissioner, Davis County
Mayor, Draper City
Mayor, West Valley City
Commissioner, Weber County

Alternate Members Present

Carlton Christensen
Scott Osborne

Councilman, Salt Lake City
Mayor, South Jordan City

Others Present

Neah Bois
Roger Borgenicht
Steve Call
Linda Johnson
Kane Loader
Chad Mullins
Jon Osier
Steve Pastorik
Larry Shepherd
Gary Whatcott
Rena Widdison
Wayne Bennion
Kip Billings

Salt Lake City
Future Moves
FHWA
League of Women Voters – Salt Lake
Midvale City
SL County BAC
Kennecott
West Valley City
Senator Mike Lee's Office
South Jordan City
UBET
WFRC Staff
WFRC Staff

LaNiece Davenport	WFRC Staff
Andrew Gruber	WFRC Staff
Ned Hacker	WFRC Staff
Val John Halford	WFRC Staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC Staff
Jory Johner	WFRC Staff
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC Staff
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Andy Li	WFRC Staff
Ali Oliver	WFRC Staff
Eloise Thomson	WFRC Staff
Ben Wuthrich	WFRC Staff

Mayor JoAnn Seghini and Mayor Mike Caldwell were excused from the meeting.

Welcome

Commissioner 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 May 24, 2012 and the Financial Statements and Check Registers for May, June and July 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bret Millburn and passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Commissioner Dearden announced that Mayor Jamie Nagle, Syracuse City, has stepped down as a member of the Council. He expressed appreciation for her service. He said that the Davis County Council of Governments appointed Mayor Steve Hiatt, Kaysville City, to serve as a member of the Council. Commissioner Dearden also noted that Mayor Nagle was the Vice-Chair of Trans Com and appointed Mayor Mitch Adams, Clinton City, to serve as Vice Chair of Trans Com.

Service Award: Andrew Gruber recognized Ned Hacker, Transportation Engineer and presented him with a certificate for his 15 years of service.

Economic Development District Report: Councilman Carlton Christensen, Chairman of the newly formed Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD), reported the WFEDD is a body which can facilitate grants and other economic development options through the Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Councilman Christensen reviewed the membership roster that was included in Councilmember packets noting that each of the Council of Governments (COGs) that make up the Wasatch Front Regional Council appointed a member and then that group of the Board appointed additional "At-Large" positions.

The WFEDD Board of Directors and Strategy Committee meet every other month in order to direct the creation and maintenance of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Strategy Committee has helped guide the creation of the CEDS through a preliminary analysis of the region's strengths and weaknesses as well as identifying the economic development needs of the cities and counties that the members represent.

Councilman Christensen said that looking forward the CEDS will be important to coordinate economic development in the region with the State and to utilize resources in a much more effective manner. He also said that as a Board they don't want to recreate EDC Utah, the Chambers of Commerce, or other organizations that are already in place but want to facilitate making federal EDA funds eligible for our member organizations and be a resource to them in accessing those funds. He noted that they hope to complete the CEDS process by the end of this year or early 2013.

Public Comment

Public comment was taken following the Regional Growth Committee RTP Action Item below.

Regional Growth Committee

ACTION—RTP Amendments: Ned Hacker, WFRC, reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is required to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years. The current RTP was adopted by the Council in May 2011. He said there is a process the Regional Council staff uses to prepare the RTP and federal guidelines that must be followed. The RTP is a living document which means that it may be amended if necessary.

Mr. Hacker reviewed the following proposed projects to be amended into Phase 1 of the Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 (a more detailed description of each project was included in member packets):

- Weber County – 1-15 widening-2700 North Weber County to Brigham City.
- Davis County – 500 South and I-15 Interchange Operation Improvements; 2600 South and I-15 Interchange Operational Improvements (Diverging Diamond Interchanges—DDIs).
- Salt Lake County – Cottonwood Street, (one-way couplet on Hanauer St. and Box Elder St.) Vine Street to 4500 South Murray; Monroe Street, 10000 South to 10200 South, Sandy

Mr. Hacker said that over the past several months the proposed amendments have been presented to and reviewed by the Regional Growth Committee (RGC), Councils of Governments (COGs), Ogden-Layton and Salt Lake-West Valley RGC Technical Advisory Committees. He also noted that the proposed projects were released for public comment from June 30 through August 4, 2012. A copy of the comments and the WFRC response to each was distributed. Mr. Hacker reviewed and discussed several of the comments in the handout (a copy was included in member packets).

The following public comments were heard:

Chad Mullins, Chair of the Salt Lake County Bicycle Advisory Committee, commented on his concerns on the proposed DDIs. He said that the proposed diverging diamond interchanges (DDI) at 500 South and 2600 South in Bountiful with their complexity and non-intuitive traffic patterns are inherently pedestrian and bicycling unfriendly. He suggested that a task force be formed to study the challenges of these non-traditional interchanges and to make recommendations that would improve conditions for non-motorized users.

Roger Borgenicht, Future Moves Coalition, also commented on concerns of the proposed DDIs in Davis County as well as other areas in the State. He said the safety and convenience of wheelchair users, pedestrians and bicyclists is greatly diminished in DDIs. He also commented

that it is possible the DDIs would have minimal impact or perhaps even increase VMT.

Linda Johnson, Salt Lake County resident, expressed concern that adding more lanes to I-15 will only add to VMT and air pollution. She suggested using the money to fix and / or repair sidewalks and bike paths throughout the area.

The Council discussed these comments and how pedestrians and bicyclists could be better served at DDIs and other new types of intersections. Following this discussion Mayor Tom Dolan moved to adopt 2011-2040 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment One with the caveat that the WFRC encourage UDOT to do all that they can to accommodate pedestrian and bike modes in the diverging diamond interchange projects. Commissioner John Petroff seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Information—Wasatch Choice for 2040 Update: Commissioner Zogmaister reported that the semi-annual fall Consortium meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2012 from 8:30 -11:00 a.m. with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. The Consortium meeting will feature a presentation on the existing and emerging market for development centers and will feature breakout sessions that explore tools and case studies in a variety of topic areas.

The Consortium meeting is the first of the key public engagement activities that will take place in the coming year.

Transportation Committee (Trans Com)

ACTION—Board Modifications 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program: Ben Wuthrich, WFRC, reported that WFRC had received requests to modify the current 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The modification requires action from the Regional Council and the Transportation Commission but does not require a new conformity analysis or 30-day public comment period. Mr. Wuthrich reviewed the modifications and noted that a copy of the revised 2012-2017 TIP Amendment Six 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 Commissioner Bret Millburn and passed unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is available in the Council offices.

ACTION—Approve 2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Mr. Wuthrich reported that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is responsible for developing a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He said the TIP is a six-year program of highway and transit projects funded by federal, state, and local funds. Mr. Wuthrich said that an annual update is performed because it facilitates program vitality by keeping projects moving toward completion and adjusting the program to adapt for project changes. Also an annual update helps maintain coordination between the various transportation agencies and local governments and their identified needs.

Mr. Wuthrich said the draft 2013-2018 TIP was reviewed by Trans Com in June and made available for public review. The public comment period extended from June 30 through August 4, 2012. He noted that a list of the projects in the draft TIP, copies of the public comments pertaining to the TIP or to the conformity finding, and a copy of the Resolution approving the 2013-2018 TIP were included in member packets.

Commissioner Craig Dearden moved to adopt the Resolution approving the Transportation Improvement Program and the conformity determination for the 2013-2018 TIP. Mayor Mike

Winder seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION—Approve Self Certification of the Transportation Planning Process: Mr. Ben Wuthrich reported that each year the Regional Council and the Department of Transportation certify to FHWA and FTA that the transportation planning process is addressing the major transportation planning issues facing the metropolitan area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Mr. Wuthrich noted that FHWA and FTA do a Certification Review every four years and in the interim WFRC does a self-certification annually to review and verify that the process is functioning properly.

Mr. Wuthrich stated that WFRC and UDOT staffs with personnel from UTA have worked together to evaluate how well the federal requirements are being met. Based on this review, the WFRC staff prepared a Resolution certifying the planning process for the region. A description of the technical process, coordination and other elements of the planning process were included in Council member packets.

Commissioner Jan Zogmaister moved to approve the Resolution certifying the transportation planning process. The motion was seconded by Mayor Richard Harris and passed unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is available at the Council offices.

Air Quality Committee Report

Mayor Becker briefly reported that at the last meeting of the Air Quality Committee considerable time was spent reviewing with the Division of Air Quality information about the State Implementation Plan for PM_{2.5}. He also said that the Committee has continued to work on the proactive strategies that were identified over the last couple of years and some of the successes of those strategies. He then turned the time to Kip Billings to update on the following two agenda items.

Information—State Implementation Plan: Kip Billings, WFRC, briefly reviewed the timeline for the State's Implementation Plan for controlling PM_{2.5} emissions. He noted that during July the State collected from WFRC an updated inventory of mobile source emissions based on some new information received about fuel supply from the refineries. They were also looking at reasonably available control technologies for point sources or industry and some of those proposals were incorporated into the latest model evaluation.

Mr. Billings said in the month of July the Division of Air Quality also held a number of public meetings addressing controls for volatile organic compound. He said that the DAQ will present a draft SIP to the Utah Air Quality Board on September 5, 2012 and request the Board approve the draft SIP for public comment. The draft SIP will identify required emission reductions by source category. Mobile source emissions from 2008 to 2019 are estimated to be reduced by 45-50%. The final SIP is due to EPA for approval in December 2012.

Information—PM_{2.5} Proactive Transportation Related Air Quality Strategies Progress Report: Mr. Billings provided an update on the Proactive Transportation Related Air Quality Strategies included in Council member packets. He highlighted the following:

- Signal Coordination—UDOT –The original project to increase signal timing improvements to 150 additional locations has expanded to a larger vision for a “World Class Traffic Signal System”.

- Travelwise—UDOT – Increase public education on air quality and transportation issues by continuing UDOT’s TravelWise efforts in education, partnering, and coordination. WFRC has committed CMAQ funds to help with this effort.
- Mid-Jordan TRAX Access—West Jordan – Provide bike and pedestrian access to the 2700 West station as a model for accessibility improvements. West Jordan finished construction in May on this project that improved pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Sandy TOD—UTA – Develop retail, office and residential units with an integrated transit plaza for buses, TRAX, park and ride, and trail connections as a model for transit oriented development. Latest reports from UTA that these efforts are still underway – no construction date as yet has been set.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Andrew Gruber, WFRC, gave a report on the recently passed federal transportation bill – MAP-21, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century. MAP-21 authorizes surface transportation programs for two years – fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and begins October 1, 2012. Mr. Gruber said that MAP-21 funds federal transportation at basically current levels plus inflation. MAP-21 funding is \$50.8 billion nationwide. He said that Utah will receive \$400 million for highway and transit programs for the next two years, the same amount as received previously under SAFETEA-LU. The Bill maintains approximate 80/20 highway/transit split.

Mr. Gruber discussed the following three points regarding funding: 1) Stability for two years – however, normally federal transportation bills are multi-year, five or six years, which is really important in the transportation infrastructure planning context; 2) Does not address long-term funding challenges for transportation; and 3) Converted most programs to formulas instead of earmarks and discretionary programs – which is a fundamental shift in the way transportation is funded.

Mr. Gruber briefly discussed the following program changes:

- Highway Programs
 - Consolidated from over 100 into 30 core programs
 - A new National Highway Performance Program
 - Surface Transportation Program
 - Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Transit
 - Formula grants
 - State of good repair
 - New Starts Program
- Other
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ): Focus on PM_{2.5}
 - Transportation Alternatives: New program that the MPOs including WFRC will have partial responsibility for administering. It combines the Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trail programs into one, cuts the funding by about 30% and then sub-allocates 50% to MPOs.

Mr. Gruber said that the planning requirements are generally similar to current law. The MPOs and States develop long range plans, TIPs and STIPs. He said the proposal to eliminate smaller MPOs was not included in the final bill. He noted that in rural areas there’s a new emphasis on rural transportation planning organizations working collaboratively with State DOTs to do planning.

Mr. Gruber said that the MPOs, UTA, UDOT, FTA, and FHWA are working together to figure out the best way to understand and then implement the new requirements. He said they are trying to find a way to have stability for projects that are underway as we move to implement the bill.

Other Business

The next Council meeting will be held on **October 25, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.