

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of March 19, 2015

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner John Petroff, RGC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Petroff welcomed committee members and guests and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

RGC Members and Alternates Present

Mark Allen	Mayor, Washington Terrace City
Len Arave	Mayor, North Salt Lake
Ron Bigelow	Mayor, West Valley City
Wade Bitner	Commissioner, Tooele County
Steve Call	FHWA
Don Carroll	Mayor, Fruit Heights City
James Ebert	Commissioner, Weber County
Reid Ewing	University of Utah
Ted Eyre	Mayor, Murray City
Jeffery L. Harris	UDOT
Brent Marshall	Mayor, Grantsville City
Scott Parson	Staker Parson Companies / SL Chamber
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Christine Richman	Utah Urban Land Institute
Matt Sibul	UTA
Derk Timothy	Mayor, Bluffdale City
Gary Uresk	Woods Cross City
Kathy VanDame	Air Quality Board

RGC Representatives and Others Present

Eric Anderson	Farmington City
Travis Campbell	Representative Rob Bishop's Office
George Chapman	Citizen
Adam Gardiner	SL County Council
Deb Henry	Utah Transit Riders Union
GJ LaBonty	UTA
Justin Morgan	FHWA
Wilf Sommerkorn	SL County Office of Regional Development
Julia Collins	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Jory Johner	WFRC
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC
Sam Klemm	WFRC
Ted Knowlton	WFRC
Greg Scott	WFRC
Suzie Swim	WFRC
Muriel Xochimitl	WFRC

Mayor Karen Cronin, Commissioner Logan Wilde, Councilmember Aimee Newton, Trustee Charles Henderson, Commissioner Dan McConkie, and Cory Pope were excused from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Brent Marshall moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held January 15, 2015 be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Mayor Don Carroll and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Opportunity for Public Comment

George Chapman expressed his interest in increasing mass transit use in Salt Lake County. He expressed concern regarding several items listed on the project list in the draft 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan, including the UTA Bus Garage, the Alta Summit County Connector, the Lehi TRAX extension, Street Cars and the high speed rail station at the Airport. He felt that voters would not vote for a local option sales tax increase if these projects were going to be funded. Mr. Chapman said that voters are most interested in “span of service” and “increasing service” rather than those types of projects mentioned. He encouraged the WFRC staff to communicate to voters that service is going to come first.

Deb Henry, Utah Transit Riders Union, comments also stated that prioritizing bus service and quality of service should be a consistent goal before continuing to expand the system. She said that bus service and extended service hours are the first priorities for the public, and she would like to see that reflected in the Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Henry asked that the Wasatch Front Regional Council actually state that service and quality of service is a first priority in the assumptions made in the RTP. She also expressed concern that current facilities be maintained and transit be considered before additional large highway projects are built.

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, commented that in developing the phasing of transit projects within financial constraints, staff took more money off the top for maintenance and service than in the last Plan.

Jeff Harris, UDOT, commented that they are aware, understand the need and are working toward maintaining what they build. They also understand that when a facility is built there is a future obligation to maintain and preserve it.

Action: 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan

Jory Johner, WFRC, outlined the milestones in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan which include:

- The Regional Council approved the Preferred Scenario on May 22, 2014 and directed staff to phase the unconstrained projects – Phase 1-2015-2040; Phase 2-2025-2034; Phase 3-2035-2040; and unfunded.
- The Regional Council authorized release of the draft phased, financially constrained Plan for public comment on December 18, 2014.
- In January and February 2015, WFRC staff reviewed and responded to comments and input from the local governments, transportation partners, stakeholders and the public.

Mr. Johner said that copies of the updated highway and transit project maps were included in member packets. He then discussed some of the changes to the 2015-2040 draft RTP as a result of the comments received through the small area meetings and the public comment period. It was also noted that as substantial changes were made to the draft RTP, WFRC staff must re-assess the Air Quality Conformity and an additional comment period will be held.

There was a discussion and comments from Committee members on the benefits of the additional meetings with local governments throughout the 2015-2040 RTP planning process. Committee

members stated that the meetings were beneficial and encouraged continued collaboration and opportunities to comment moving forward.

Mr. Johner said the public comment period is scheduled from April 8 through May 7, 2015. He also noted that the interactive maps with the changes discussed are available on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.org and encouraged Committee members, local communities, stakeholders, and other interested persons to review the project lists and maps. The draft 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan will be considered for adoption at the May 28, 2015 Regional Council Meeting.

Commissioner John Petroff made a motion that the Regional Growth Committee recommend to the Wasatch Front Regional Council that the draft phased and financially constrained 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan be released for public comment. Mayor Don Carroll seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Information: Local Planning Resource Program 2015 awardees

The Local Planning Resource Program is a partnership between the Wasatch Front Regional Council and Salt Lake County. The objectives of the Program are to: 1) Help communities; 2) Provide technical assistance for challenging planning; 3) Mitigate growth in travel demand; and 4) Help communities use the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Tools. 2015 is the second round of the grant program. Overall, for the 2015 Local Planning Resource Program, staff received: 35 letters of intent from 21 municipalities or townships, representing approximately \$1.3 million in requests for assistance. Project ideas range from general plan update, zoning support, active transportation master plans, transit oriented development and town center specific area planning support, and etc.

The selection process involved a committee of practitioners from across the region. A copy of the Program recipients was included in the Committee member packets and Julia Reynolds, WFRC, discussed each of the recipient details. The list may also be viewed on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.org under the Programs tab and then "Local Planning Resource Program".

Information: Discuss RGC 2015 focus areas

The Regional Growth Committee (RGC) serves as the policy advisory body to the Regional Council on long range transportation planning, land use and other growth related issues. The RGC is responsible for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), corridor preservations and to provide overall direction, guidance, and oversight to the Regional Council staff and subcommittees in carrying out the programs and activities associated with the Regional Transportation Plan and process, and facilitating the coordination of planning in the Region.

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, said that staff would like to discuss and receive direction on key topics and areas of interest that the RGC would like to explore in 2015. He said that through May a key topic for the Regional Growth Committee will be the Regional Transportation Plan scheduled for adoption in May. However, there is an ongoing opportunity for the RGC to consider other topics and issues to guide staff and advise the Council.

Mr. Knowlton presented three key questions for discussion:

1. Ideas for how WFRC interacts with communities – for the next regional transportation plan and for the next regional vision.
2. How can WFRC best support members in local planning and economic development efforts?
3. What metropolitan issues should we gather, research or disseminate?

Mr. Knowlton then noted the following with regard to the discussion questions:

- The 2015-2040 RTP will be considered for adoption in May – completing a four year process.
- WFRC and partners recently completed the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Toolbox – a three-four year cycle. The Your Utah Your Future statewide effort is going to be completed in 2015 – what happens moving forward.
- WFRC staff assists communities with their community and economic development efforts. The Local Planning Resource Program launched in 2015 – how do we proceed.
- Research – all the transportation agencies in the State worked together to produce the Utah Household Travel Survey with recently added capacity where a lot of interesting things can be researched.

During the discussion some of the Committee members comments included:

- The scenario planning process – consider using a bottom up approach rather than a top down approach.
- Assistance to smaller communities who don't have many resources. Perhaps putting them together with a larger community to assist them in adopting a region-wide plan.
- Bring together planning and zoning officials to explain to them the Wasatch Choice for 2040 Toolbox.
- A number of comments encouraging continuation of the Local Planning Resource Program.
- Educate citizens on transportation issues and how their choices affect air quality, water issues, etc. and using technology to assist in the education process.
- Importance of maintaining and using the existing system that maximizes its utility.

Mr. Knowlton said that the RGC 2015 focus areas discussion would be continued at the May meeting.

Information: Legislative Session Recap

Muriel Xochimitl, WFRC, reported that the Legislature passed the most significant transportation funding legislation in nearly 20 years. She noted that it is the first transportation funding legislation passed in State history that comprehensively funds all modes. She said that the Utah's Unified Transportation Plan provided the framework along with the collaborative and collective efforts of many over the past year to educate key legislators and policymakers about the need. The conversations this session were not about what was needed but about how to get there.

Ms. Xochimitl discussed HB362—Transportation Infrastructure Funding. The Bill provides real reform to the gas tax and gives locals the tools to address their needs. HB362 has two main provisions: 1) Gas tax change and increase; and 2) .25% local option general sales tax.

A handout, by the Utah Transportation Coalition, was provided at the meeting that details HB362 and notes benefits of the Bill. The one-page document may also be viewed on their website at www.utahtransportationcoalition.org

Other Business

There was no other business discussed

The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

A recoding of this meeting may be found on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.org, under Committees, Regional Growth Committee, 2015 meetings.