

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of October 15, 2015

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, October 15, 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 9:30 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
Ron Bigelow	Mayor, West Valley City
Wade Bitner	Commissioner, Tooele County
Steve Call	FHWA
Don Carroll	Mayor, Fruit Heights City
Karen Cronin	Mayor, Perry City
James Ebert	Commissioner, Weber County
Ted Eyre	Mayor, Murray City
Robert Grow	Envision Utah
Jeffery Harris	UDOT
Charles Henderson	UTA Board
Brent Marshall	Mayor, Grantsville City
Dan R. McConkie	Commissioner, UDOT Commission
Aimee Winder Newton	Councilmember, Salt Lake County
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Derk Timothy	Mayor, Bluffdale City
Gary Uresk	Woods Cross City

RGC Representatives and Others Present

Phillip Hill	Midvale
Hal Johnson	UTA
Linda Johnson	Breathe Utah
Lee Logston	West Valley City
Dave McNeill	Division of Air Quality
Jim McNulty	UTA
David Petersen	Farmington City
Kris Peterson	UDOT
Jim Smith	Commissioner, Davis County
Andy Thompson	Kaysville City
Kathy VanDame	Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
James "Woody" Woodruff	Layton City
Lisa Zundel	UDOT
Kip Billings	WFRC
Julie Bjornstad	WFRC
Andrew Gruber	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Val John Halford	WFRC
Jory Johner	WFRC
Pam Jorgensen	WFRC
Sam Klemm	WFRC

Ted Knowlton	WFRC
Callie New	WFRC
Greg Scott	WFRC
Suzie Swim	WFRC
Muriel Xochimitl	WFRC

Councilman Logan Wilde, Scott Parson, and Christine Richman were excused from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Brent Marshall moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held August 20, 2015 be approved as written. Mayor Derk Timothy seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments

Information: Regional Transportation Plan 2019-2050 Process Overview

The Regional Transportation Plan is the region's shared blueprint for long range transportation. It addresses roads, transit, and active transportation. The Regional Growth Committee is the steering committee for the Plan.

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, reported that at the August meeting RGC members provided guidance on the general approach for the Plan. The objective of the planning process is to better integrate the 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (2019 RTP) with local needs and Plans. Mr. Knowlton reviewed and discussed the draft high level process or "big picture" for developing the 2019 RTP. His presentation discussed the following key process objectives:

- 1) Heavily involve communities, partner agencies, stakeholders and public in the planning process
- 2) Coordinate regional transportation with local land use decisions
- 3) Improve integration of the Wasatch Choice vision with the RTP
- 4) Utilize a performance-based approach to planning that ties decisions to Council-adopted goals and principles
- 5) Advance planning for active transportation together with road and transit planning
- 6) Improve understanding and planning based on economic development outcomes

Mr. Knowlton also noted that the 2019 RTP (2050) reaches out ten more years than the Plan adopted in May 2015 (2040) and the Your Utah Your Future survey results and the Wasatch Front Central Corridor Study will be really important for staff to consider in the 2019 RTP four-year planning cycle. He said that comments and thoughts are welcome either to him or any member of WFRC staff through email. Updates on the planning process will be provided to the RGC at upcoming meetings.

Information: Wasatch Front Central Corridor update

The Wasatch Front Central Corridor Study will develop a comprehensive multi-modal, long-term transportation strategy for the I-15 FrontRunner Corridor, Utah's busiest travel-way. The results will be a building block for the 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan. The Study is a priority effort of four agencies: Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG), the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT, Utah Transit Authority (UTA), and Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC).

Lisa Zundel, Project Manager for the Wasatch Front Central Corridor Study, discussed the challenges, goals, and timeline for the Study. The I-15 corridor and its connections are key at the local, state and regional level. A lot of goods and services go through this area. The plans that are currently in place for this area are not adequate to address the population growth and the travel demand that is coming. Geographic constraints and growth challenges will require new solutions.

Ms. Zundel said the study team have developed goals and objectives and will be looking for solutions that will help reach the goals. Goals for the study include:

- Improve safety
- Increase person throughput in the corridor
- Improve travel time reliability for trips using the corridor
- Increase regional accessibility to jobs and education, particularly for economically disadvantaged populations
- Improve air quality
- Improve economic outcomes while considering both benefits and costs
- Reduce direct household transportation costs
- Increase mode balance

Ms. Zundel reported that stakeholder engagement is very important to the study. She said that throughout the study process the team will continue to reach out to the mayors, and officials of the local communities as well as technical experts such as planners, city engineers, etc. to get input and comments. The goal is to not only inform but also consult with and involve key stakeholders along the corridor for their feedback. Stakeholder engagement will include email updates and surveys, workshops and small group meetings, and updates at existing meetings.

Some of the comments following Ms. Zundel's update include:

- Commissioner Bitner, Tooele County, suggested that perhaps the Study should consider the east-west corridor (I-80) as well. Tooele County is in a unique position of having more ground available than other areas in the study corridor. Tooele County will see a population influx in a shorter period than 2050 and may be a critical part of the whole puzzle.
- Commissioner Ebert, Weber County, asked what the parameters of the study were and suggested that while we plan for the future we should build toward it. In this case if we build toward our planned future it may help to alleviate some of the identified pressures.
- Mayor Marshall, Grantsville City, commented that this is a Study that is going north and south, nobody is debating that needs to be done. However, another study needs to be created that strictly deals with the east – west transportation issues going through Weber, Tooele, and Salt Lake Counties and into the Park City area. The I-80 corridor has a lot of problem areas. Tooele County has one artery in and one artery out. Mayor Marshall suggested that these issues be addressed and the scope be expanded.

Information: Your Utah Your Future results and next steps

Robert Grow, Envision Utah, discussed the Your Utah Your Future public process results. The Your Utah Your Future survey asked Utahns to indicate their choices for Utah's future on 11 specific issues: 1) Housing and Cost of Living; 2) Education; 3) Agriculture; 4) Air Quality; 5) Transportation and Communities; 6) Economic Development; 7) Disaster Resilience; 8) Recreation; 9) Water; 10) Public Lands; and 11) Energy. Almost 53,000 Utahans shared thoughts on how they would like the state to grow.

Mr. Grow's presentation focused on the results of Transportation and Communities, Housing and Cost of Living, Air Quality, Agriculture, and Water issues of the survey. Survey participants were given an opportunity to select the scenario they felt would provide the best future. He said that 82% of Utahns selected a scenario in which communities are designed around walking, transit, short drives, and diverse housing.

The complete Your Utah Your Future survey results may be viewed on the Envision Utah website <http://www.envisionutah.org/projects/your-utah-your-future>. The Your Utah Your Future Vision for 2050 will be released October 26. Please visit the website to see the vision and learn how to make it a reality at <http://yourthatyourfuture.org/>.

ACTION: Regional Transportation Plan 2015-2040 Amendments: Release for Public Comment

The Wasatch Front Regional Council adopted the current 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan May 28, 2015. While the RTP receives considerable review before being formally adopted, the identification of new funding sources, the determination of an environmental impact statements, or the rapid development of certain projects, may warrant a change to the RTP. A process has been formally adopted by the WFRC to consider periodic revisions.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council recently received requests from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), and Layton City to amend the 2015-2040 RTP (the specific details of each were included in RGC member packets):

UDOT Proposed Modifications:

- New Construction of US-89 Interchange at Antelope Drive – project will be moved from Phase 2 to Phase 1.
- New Construction of US-89 Interchange at Gordon Avenue – project will be moved from Phase 2 to Phase 1.
- New Construction of US-89 Interchange at Oak Hills Drive – project will be moved from Phase 2 to Phase 1.
- Widening of US-89 from Antelope Drive to I-15 (Farmington) – project will be moved from Phase 3 to Phase 1.
- New Construction of US-89 Frontage from Eagle Way to Oak Hills Drive – project is currently in Phase 1. The frontage road project limits will be extended to Eagle Way in the south.
- New Construction of Crestwood Road Overpass at US-89 – project provides connectivity for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicular traffic across US-89 and is requested to be included in Phase 1.

UTA Proposed Modifications:

- Ogden-Weber State University Corridor Transit Project – request is to include 25th Street as the approved alignment in Ogden City with project mode as a modern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in mixed flow traffic and with exclusive lanes. Project is in Phase 1 and the environmental assessment is expected to be complete in 2016/2017.

Layton City Proposed Modifications:

- Gordon Avenue from 1600 East to US-89 – Layton City is coordinating with UDOT on the US-89 improvements from Antelope Drive to I-15 in Farmington. This project is a new facility and will connect US-89 with the existing Gordon Avenue at 1600 East in Layton. Project is currently in Phase 2 and Layton City is requesting it be moved to Phase 1 due to the change in the US-89 project.

Proposed additions to the 2015-2040 RTP:

- I-15 Improvements – entire project includes: 1) construction of southbound auxiliary lanes from SR-201 to SR-71 (12300 South); 2) construction of an additional southbound general purpose lane from SR-201 to 12300 South (SR-71); 3) upgrade of the I-215/I-15 Interchange; and 4) construction of Managed Motorways along the corridor. Project benefits include congestion/delay reduction, safety improvements, the elimination of physical choke points, and improved main-line capacity to handle traffic inflow from adjacent facilities.
- I-15 Operation Projects in Weber County – Operational improvements can include a variety of different project types including axillary lanes, ramp extensions, and technology enhancements.

- I-15 Operation Projects in Davis County – Operational improvements can include a variety of different project types including axillary lanes, ramp extensions, and technology enhancements.

Project benefits for the Weber and Davis County projects (listed above) include improved facility capacity, travel reliability and safety performance during heavy traffic demand periods by effectively preventing congestion.

WFRC staff has analyzed the potential financial implications of including these projects in Phase 1 and determined that there are adequate resources available and potential cost savings from reprioritization of projects. The Plan is able to maintain its fiscal constraint while accommodating construction of these projects in Phase 1. WFRC staff has reviewed air quality impacts and all projects meet air quality conformity requirements.

Commissioner John Petroff made a motion that the Regional Growth Committee recommend to the Wasatch Front Regional Council that the amendments, as presented, be released for public comment. Mayor Don Carroll seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Information: Air Quality Report Card

Kip Billings, WFRC, discussed the following air quality information:

- New Ozone Standard – October 1, 2015 the Environmental Protection Agency changed the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone from 75 ppb to 70 ppb. Currently the five counties served by the Wasatch Front are at or above the 70 ppb standard.
- Tier3 Fuel in Utah – Tier3 fuel is gasoline with a sulfur content reduced from 30 ppm to 10 ppm. This low sulfur fuel enables the Tier2 vehicle emission controls (and Tier3 vehicles beginning in 2017) to operate at optimum effectiveness. The State of Utah is negotiating with local refineries to provide the low sulfur fuel to Utah markets.
- Cold Starts are responsible for over 50% of winter time vehicle emissions. Reducing vehicle trips (the number of cold starts) is more effective in reducing emissions than a decrease in vehicle miles traveled.

Mr. Billings then discussed the Air Quality Report Card for the five counties served by the Wasatch Front Regional Council. He reported that Weber and Tooele Counties are currently meeting all air quality standards. Salt Lake, Davis, and Box Elder Counties are meeting three of the pollution standards but are not meeting the PM2.5 standard. He said that all five counties are currently in violation of the new ozone standard scheduled to be implemented in 2017.

Other Business

The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 21, 2016 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.