

**Minutes**  
Regional Growth Committee  
Meeting of October 20, 2016

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Welcome and Introductions [Recording 00:00]**

**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**

John Bennett	GOMB
Ron Bigelow	Mayor, West Valley City
Ari Bruening	Envision Utah
Don Carroll	Mayor, Fruit Heights
Karen Cronin	Mayor, Perry City
Nic Dunn (Representing Councilmember Aimee Newton)	SLCO
Reid Ewing	University of Utah
Ted Eyre	Mayor, Murray City
Jeff Harris	UDOT
Charles Henderson	UTA Board Trustee
G.J. LaBonty	UTA
Ivan Marrero	FHWA
Brent Marshall	Mayor, Grantsville City
Dan McConkie	Commissioner, UDOT
John Petroff	Commissioner, Davis County
Christine Richman	ULI Utah
Norm Searle	Mayor, Riverdale City
Derk Timothy	Mayor, Bluffdale City
Gary Uresk	ULCT – Woods Cross City

**RGC Representatives and Others Present**

Eldon Bingham	UDOT
Julie Bjornstad	WFRC
Katie Gerard	WFRC
Andrew Gruber	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Jory Johner	WFRC
Linda Johnson	Breathe Utah
Laynee Jones	Mountain Accord
Sam Klemm	WFRC
Ted Knowlton	WFRC
Charles Mason Hill	UDOT
Heather McLaughlin-Kolb	WFRC
Callie New	WFRC
Jenna Simkins	University of Utah Student
Muriel Xochimitl	WFRC
Lisa Zundell	UDOT

**Approval of Minutes [Recording 02:15]**

Mayor Ted Eyre moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held August 18, 2016 be approved as written. Mayor Karen Cronin seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Opportunity for Public Comment [Recording 04:40]**

Linda Johnson, Breath Utah commented that the Wasatch Front Regional Council really “runs a good ship” and wanted to pass that on to the Regional Growth Committee.

**Action: Wasatch Choice 2050 Regional Goals [Recording 05:35]**

Commissioner Petroff stated that the RGC is going to make a recommendation to the full council on the regional goals that will be used as a guideline for the Wasatch Front. These goals have been discussed for the past few months, and Commissioner Petroff wanted an update given on how the goals are moving forward.

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, stated that the adoption of goals, tentatively at the council meeting the following week, is a significant milestone for WFRC. This is the opportunity for the Council, to provide direction to WFRC, on the things that we should work to achieve through the activities that we engage in. The proposed goals are intended to be useful for any community or organization that wants to be a partner in the Wasatch Choice for 2050 Vision. These goals are potentially not just for WFRC, and are written accordingly; they are broader than previous transportation plan goals, in that they address issues that relate to all aspects of community development such as open space.

His presentation discussed the following Wasatch Choice 2050 Goals:

- Wasatch Choice 2050 is the shared vision for the Wasatch Front. Built upon community values, and with extensive partner, stakeholder, and public input, it is a blueprint for growth that supports regional mobility, a healthy environment, a thriving economy, and overall quality of life.
- The following goals for Wasatch Choice 2050 can inform decisions made by Wasatch Choice 2050 partners, including transportation agencies, local governments and other public entities, and private sector and community-based organizations. Partners can work to achieve these goals within their individual community or area of influence, while also considering the health of the region.
- “The Wasatch Front Regional Council will utilize these goals to inform organizational activities, including the development of transportation, land use and economic development plans and projects. WFRC will measure the performance and impact of various plans and projects on several scales: on the region as a whole; on various sub regions; and on vulnerable communities within the region.”

Mr. Knowlton explained each of the WC2050 Goals:

- Livable and health communities
- Access to economic and educational opportunities
- Manageable and reliable traffic conditions
- Quality transportation choices
- Clean air
- Safe, user-friendly streets
- Housing choices and affordable living expenses
- Fiscally-efficient communities and infrastructure
- Ample parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities
- A sustainable environment including water, agricultural, and other natural resources

There was discussion among the committee concerning the goals and the language.

Mayor Karen Cronin moved that a motion be made that the RGC committee recommend these goals to the council at the Council Meeting to be held on October 27, 2016. Charles Henderson seconded this motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Information: Wasatch Choice 2050 Scenario Discussion [Recording 50:46]**

Julie Bjornstad, Wasatch Front Regional Council, shared an update on the Wasatch Choice for 2050 Vision and Regional Transportation Plan. This is the region's shared vision for coordinated growth, infrastructure, and open space. The process to develop WC2050 spans four years and is a collaborative effort of communities, stakeholders, and transportation agencies (among others) that is convened and technically supported by WFRC. The process for moving from the WC2040 vision to the WC2050 vision includes three rounds of scenario development, review and refinement:

- Round 1 (2016/2017)
  - Gather ideas from cities, townships, counties, small area meetings, meetings with our transportation partners, as well as other stakeholders. From this, three scenarios are developed:
    - Scenario 1: General plans, extrapolated trends, 2015-2040 RTP projects, priority bicycle routes
    - Scenario 2: Regional centers; capital-intensive transit projects; roadway connectivity and management; centers-based, local bicycle connectivity
    - Scenario 3: Dispersed village/town centers, service-intensive transit projects, capacity-focused roadway investments, separated regional bicycle facilities
- Round 2 (2017)
  - Scenario Choosing
- Round 3 (2018)
  - Refine Preferred Scenario

The 2017 WC2050 Scenario Workshops will be held in January and February 2017. These workshops will review and discuss land use and transportation scenarios with goals-based performance measures and detailed commenting from stakeholders through visualization tools. WFRC will be requesting participation from a variety of key staff members.

### **Information: Large Planning Projects [Recording 01:11:51]**

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, stated that there are many large transportation projects that we work with our transportation partners and the RGC committee to address. It's a coincidence that these two projects are both in Salt Lake County. WFRC intends to highlight major projects from each part of the region over time, but today, these two projects are the focus.

#### **a. Wasatch Front Central Corridor [Recording 01:29:18]**

Lisa Zundell, Project Manager for the Wasatch Front Central Corridor Study, reported that Utah's population is expected to nearly double by 2050, significantly increasing travel across all modes of transportation.

As we look to the future, research shows that Utahns want a wider variety of choices for getting around, for example, biking, walking, and transit. They want to spend less time in their cars and improve their quality of life. Utah's four largest transportation agencies (MAG, UDOT, UTA, and WFRC) are working together on the Wasatch Front Central Corridor Study to develop a flexible range of integrated solutions along the I-15/FrontRunner corridor, to serve Utahns through 2050. This study marks the first time four major transportation agencies have worked together, with equal ownership, to study solutions that connect all modes of transportation in the best way possible, consider all developing trends, and reflect Utahns' values.

The goal of this study is to offer solutions that will connect people to jobs, education and other interests, balance a variety of transportation choices, manage congestion and preserve quality of life in a rapidly changing travel environment. The study will include the most traveled area in the state which is along I-15 from Southern Davis County to Northern Utah County and is

considering three scenarios that integrate I-15, surface streets, transit and active transportation. Elements from the scenarios will be integrated into various phases of the WFRC and MAG 2019-2050 RTPs.

**a. Central Wasatch Commission (Mountain Accord) [Recording 01:12:27]**

Ned Hacker, Wasatch Front Regional Council, reported that the Mountain Accord Project has been underway for the past three years. Its focus is to identify solutions to issues regarding the future of our central Wasatch Mountains in four specific areas: environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. Wasatch Front Regional Council has taken action on three separate occasions over the past year regarding Mountain Accord, with the most recent one in August, giving approval to transfer Mountain Accord contracts to the CWC. In October 2015, at the request of the Mountain Accord Executive Board, the Regional Council took action to authorize WFRC to be a Party to the Mountain Accord Phase II Interlocal Agreement and the contracting agent for the Mountain Accord Phase II Program Director. Action was again taken in May 2016 when the Council approved WFRC to be the contracting agent for the Mountain Accord Phase II Transportation Study for the Cottonwood Canyons.

Layne Jones, Program Director for Mountain Accord, said that the Mountain Accord started three years ago in order to take a comprehensive look at the growth and the challenges that we see for an area outside of the Salt Lake valley, the Central Wasatch Mountains and canyons. This area provides drinking water for over half a million people, so it's really important that we take care of it. In 2014 there were 5.7 million annual visitors to the canyons, compared to in 2016 when we saw 7.2 million annual visitors. The Mountain Accord document (The Accord) outlines very basic principles which include: preserving open space and ridgelines, focusing on any development in the urban areas or base of the ski resorts that may occur, and encourage transit, walking, and biking.

The interlocal agreements that will establish the CWC are making their way through the local governments right now. The proposal is that the Central Wasatch Commission will be an interlocal agency, and political subdivision of the state. Its purpose is to implement the Accord, specifically taking care of the canyons and finding funding sources to do everything that is outlined in the Accord. This entity will formalize collaboration and streamline decision-making among the multiple jurisdictions with authorities in the Central Wasatch Mountains. The area of focus is between I-80 and the Salt Lake County-Utah County line, south of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Central Wasatch Commissions will include: Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, Sandy City, Cottonwood Heights, UDOT, and Wasatch Back (Park City). The Stakeholders Council will include 28-35 representatives from USFS, local governments, UTA, UDOT, environmental interests, ski resorts, recreation interests, residents, and landowners.

**Other Business**

- **Council Meeting – Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

*A recording of this meeting may be found on the WFRC website at [www.wfrc.org](http://www.wfrc.org), under Committees, Regional Growth Committee, 2016 meetings.*