

Minutes
Regional Growth Committee
Meeting of March 16, 2017

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 in the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome and Introductions [Recording 00:00]

Mayor Ben McAdams, Regional Growth Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mayor McAdams welcomed committee members and guests and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

RGC Members and Alternates Present

IN ATTENDANCE	2017 RGC MEMBERS
	BOX ELDER COUNTY
	Member - Karen Cronin (Perry)
	Alternate - Jeff Scott (Box Elder)
	DAVIS COUNTY
X	Member - Randy Lewis (Bountiful)
X	Alternate - Len Arave (North Salt Lake)
X	Member - Don Carroll (Fruit Heights)
	Alternate - Erik Craythorne (West Point)
	MORGAN COUNTY
	Member- John Barber (Morgan County)
X	Alternate - Tina Cannon
	SALT LAKE COUNTY
	Member - Ben McAdams <i>(Chair)</i> (Salt Lake County)
	Alternate - Larry Johnson (Taylorsville)
X	Member - Ron Bigelow (West Valley City)
X	Member - Aimee Winder Newton (Salt Lake County)
	Member - Ted Eyre (Murray)
	Member - Derk Timothy (Bluffdale)
	Alternate - Jackie Biskupski (Salt Lake City)
X (Sharen Hauri attended for Cherie Wood)	Alternate - Cherie Wood (South Salt Lake)
X	Alternate - Troy Walker (Draper)
	Alternate - Jeff Silvestrini (Millcreek)
	TOOELE COUNTY
X (Myron Bateman attended for Wade Bitner)	Member - Wade Bitner (Tooele County)
	Member - Brent Marshall (Tooele County)
	Alternate - Dave McCall (Tooele City)
	WEBER COUNTY
X	Member - Mark Allen (Washington Terrace)
	Alternate - Norm Searle (Riverdale)
X	Member - James Ebert <i>(Vice Chair)</i> (Weber County)
	Alternate - Brent Taylor (North Ogden)
	OTHER APPOINTMENTS:
	Utah Transportation Commission:
	Member - Meghan Holbrook
	Alternate - Dannie McConkie
	UTA Board:
X	Member - Charles Henderson
	Alternate - Keith Bartholomew
	Utah Air Quality Board:
	Member - Stephen Sands
	Alternate - Erin Mendenhall
	Envision Utah:
	Member - Robert Grow
	Alternate - Ari Bruening
	NON-VOTING MEMBERS
	UDOT Representative:
	Member - Nathan Lee
X	Alternate - Jeff Harris
	UTA Representative:
	Member - Matt Sibul
	Alternate - GJ LaBonty
	Air Quality Board, DAQ Staff Representative:
	Bryce Bird
	FHWA - UTAH Division Representative:
	Member - Ivan Marrero
	Alternate - Steve Call
	Utah League of Cities & Towns Rep:
X	Gary Uresk
	Utah Association of Counties Representative:
X	Wilf Sommerkorn
	Mountainland Association of Governments:
	Gary Gygi

	WFRC Appointments from other organizations:
	Christine Richman - Utah Urban Land Institute
	John Bennett - GOMB/Quality Growth Commission
	Abby Albrect - Utah Transportation Coalition
X	Reid Ewing - University of Utah

RGC Representatives and Others Present

Ryan Beck	Envision Utah
Wayne Bennion	WFRC
Julie Bjornstad	WFRC
Roger Borgenicht	Assist Inc.
Carlton Christensen	Salt Lake County
Christy Dahlberg	WFRC
LaNiece Davenport	WFRC
Katie Gerard	WFRC
Andrew Gruber	WFRC
Ned Hacker	WFRC
Val John Halford	WFRC
Scott Hess	WFRC
Jory Johner	WFRC
Linda Johnson	Breathe Utah
Sam Klemm	WFRC
Ted Knowlton	WFRC
Heather McLaughlin-Kolb	WFRC
Callie New	WFRC
Debbie Sigman	Breathe Utah
Jake Warner	South Jordan City
Mike West	Lehi City

Action: Approval of Minutes [Recording 04:30]

Mayor Ben McAdams moved that the minutes of the Regional Growth Committee meeting held January 19, 2017 be approved as written. Mayor Don Carroll made this motion and it was seconded by Mayor Mark Allen. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Opportunity for Public Comment [Recording 04:53]

Debbie Sigman, Breathe Utah, asked to reserve comment time after Item 3 on the agenda was discussed.

Chair Report [Recording 05:12]

A. Wasatch Choice 2050 Update

Mayor McAdams explained that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is in the midst of holding the Wasatch Choice 2050 Scenario Workshops by Region, for the development of the Wasatch Choice 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP.) Val John Halford provided the committee with an update on the status of the Wasatch Choice for 2050 process. He explained that the Scenario Workshop meetings began in February and will be completed by the end of March. There are 6 meetings in the Ogden – Layton urbanized area, and 4 meetings in the Salt Lake City – West Valley urbanized area. WFRC has invited Mayors, Elected Officials, City Managers, Planners, Engineers, Economic Development Directors, City Councils and Planning Commissions, UDOT, UTA and Envision Utah to participate in these meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to review the three scenarios and to provide input on land use and transportation. Mr. Halford noted that if anyone requires further information regarding the three scenarios, there is a visualization tool located at www.wfrc.org for anyone to examine the three scenarios in detail, take a look at how each one will perform, and then you can provide comments or questions concerning these scenarios. Lastly, Mr. Halford emphasized that WFRC staff will meet with individual communities up and down the Wasatch Front Region to look at the scenarios and to evaluate different projects, or to discuss land use concerns.

B. Legislative Update [Recording 08:19]

Mayor McAdams said that with the Legislative session complete, he wanted to discuss some of the bills that were important for transportation and air quality. Andrew Gruber, Wasatch Front Regional Council, discussed the following bills:

- Senate Bill 276: This bill was sponsored by Senator Van Tassell and Representative Mike Schultz. The intent of this bill was to accomplish something that was intended to be

accomplished in the year 2015 when HB362 was passed, which changed the gas tax from a cent per gallon to a percent per gallon. The way that this bill was designed was that as inflation occurred, revenues from the gas tax would grow. As it turned out however, with gas prices being lower than anticipated, we weren't seeing any inflationary revenue growth. Senator Van Tassell adjusted the way that taxes are calculated so that there is an inflationary growth tied to the consumer price index in the gas taxes that are going to be paid, starting in 2019.

- Senate Bill 277: This bill was sponsored by Senator Wayne Harper and Representative Francis Gibson. This bill authorizes one billion dollars in transportation bonding. This bill is for UDOT projects, except that there is an add-on to this. There is one billion dollars for state road projects and a separate authorization of 47 million dollars for UDOT to bond projects in Salt Lake County, specified by the County, and re-paid by the County's local option sales tax. This bill is to issue bonds over the course of roughly 4 years, about \$250 million dollars per year, for state road projects. This bond is designed to do a few things: accelerate projects that are already in the 6 year program, move projects forward that were not currently funded, but prioritized, and to identify another 2 years of programming beyond the bond time in 2023 and 2024.
- Senate Bill 174: This bill was sponsored by Senator Wayne Harper and Representative Mike Schultz. This bill creates the transportation governance and funding task force. This bill will have a 16 member task force representing local government, the metropolitan planning organizations, and other transportation agencies that are going to look at how we advance a multi-modal transportation system in the state of Utah.
- Mr. Gruber informed the committee that WFRC was able to secure the full \$140,000 that we receive from the state as an ongoing appropriation. He expressed that this funding is very meaningful to WFRC and thanked the many people that helped in this process.
- Senate Bill 197: This bill was sponsored by Senator Stuart Adams and Representative Brad Wilson. This bill provides a sales tax incentive to encourage refinery's to move towards the production of Tier III Fuels.

Debbie Sigman, Breathe Utah, discussed the following bill:

- House Bill 392: This bill was sponsored by Representative Timothy Hawkes and Senator Todd Weiler. This bill creates the Air Quality Policy Advisory Board.

There was discussion among the committee regarding these bills.

Information/Discussion: Application of access-to-opportunity in state, regional, and local decision-making [Recording 31:27]

Mayor McAdams emphasized that one of the goals that WFRC adopted last year is access to economic and educational opportunity, or access-to-opportunity (ATO). He reminded the committee that during the last RGC meeting, a discussion was held on ways that ATO can be measured and improved by WFRC over the course of this year.

Ted Knowlton, Wasatch Front Regional Council, provided background on how ATO is being measured, and the efforts that WFRC is taking to ensure transportation planning efforts improve access to opportunity. Mr. Knowlton noted that the power in this is that it is a measure that captures the ability for WFRC to interact. The value of an access to opportunity approach is that it simultaneously is about the specific issue we are addressing. Access to Opportunity helps answer the question "Where." In regards to transportation, "where would another lane help people get to more jobs?" In relation to housing, "which transit oriented developments are the most effective?" and in business recruiting, "Where should we recruit firms in order to improve access to labor?"

Andrew Gruber said that there is a lot of opportunity to take the access to opportunity goal or metric, and weave it into the transportation investment decision making. He asked the committee to discuss how each entity could use the access to opportunity way of thinking in their decision making.

Carlton Christensen, Salt Lake County, noted that last year, as a county, they went through a committee process made up of stakeholders, including Andrew Gruber and Derek Miller. This was called the Partnership for the Greater Salt Lake. Something that came out of this was to include transportation, housing, and economic development. They found through this process that you can't have one of those conversations without the other. In the last two years there are more households getting created than housing units being built. Mr. Christensen said he feels confident that the market will figure this out, and that the statistic is pretty close to accurate. In the same comment of how do we get the right workforce to the right employer, through the right means, is a universal conversation, and he thinks increasingly, there's not a lot of new land being created in Salt Lake County, and how do you balance that out so that they invest in the most thoughtful, practical way possible, is a very pressing thing. He believes that if this conversation is not held now, what now he currently considers a crisis will be an even bigger crisis as soon as five to ten years from now.

Information/Discussion: Utah Street Connectivity Guidebook [Recording 01:07:38]

Julie Bjornstad presented information to the committee on the Utah Street Connectivity Guidebook. Street connectivity is the degree to which streets in a community are connected to one another. Higher street connectivity yields numerous mobility, livability, economic, and environmental benefits for communities including improved access to opportunities. Ms. Bjornstad showed two different maps, one, the conventional suburban hierarchical network, and the second, the traditional urban connected network. They both showed the same travel distance, and she demonstrated how much more area people in a well-connected network can get to. She said that Envision Utah conducted a survey a couple of years ago asking what the most important things people wanted to improve about their communities. The top three results of that survey included:

- 23% - Improving how convenient it is to get around without a car
- 22% - Limiting traffic congestion
- 18% - Making sure daily services and amenities are close to where people live

She explained that we also saw similar results in the Utah Statewide Travel Survey that MAG, WFRC, UTA and UDOT conducted in 2014. The majority of people, whether they were living in the Salt Lake or Ogden urbanized areas, agree that connectivity is an important transportation topic.

The Utah Street Connectivity Guide is broken down into three parts: The Case for Connectivity, Tools for Connectivity, and Design Guide and Case Studies. This Guide will be posted to the WFRC website.

Mike West, Lehi City, reported on the connectivity in Lehi. He explained that it took Lehi a year and a half to adopt the connectivity standards. The City Council adopted these standards in April of 2016. Mr. West discussed the concerns, solutions, metrics used, the Lehi Connectivity Standards, and gave examples of new development.

Information: Information/Discussion: Active Transportation Goals for 2017 [Recording 01:30:17]

Mayor Carroll, Fruit Heights City, introduced the 2017 Active Transportation Goals:

1. Update shared Regional Priority Bicycle Routes Plan/Map
2. Cities and counties adopt Local Active Transportation Plans (that align with Regional Priority Plan/Map)
3. Fund and construct priority projects
4. Build support for AT through effective engagement and outreach

Mayor Carroll noted that the Active Transportation Chairman, Mayor Applegarth, has made this a high priority, and is using these goals as the agenda and the format for each ATC meeting. He said that these goals will be addressed at every meeting, and underneath each goal, the subtopics will be discussed. This is a very detailed approach and is working very well.

Scott Hess, WFRC, stated that the Active Transportation Committee reports to TransCom and Regional Growth Committee, and ultimately, to the Council. He said that these goals are being brought before the RGC committee to show what the ATC is doing, and also to get input and feedback on whether or not these are the correct goals, and if there should be amendments to these goals.

Aimee Winder-Newton, Salt Lake County Councilmember asked how the cities and counties are going to do their local plans, because as a county, she felt that we should be cognizant to not step on any toes of those cities, and yet want to have a coordinated effort. Mr. Hess answered her question by saying that he felt that Salt Lake County was a shining example with the Active Transportation Implementation Plan. He said that this was a plan done at the County level with stakeholders from different communities, as well as UDOT, UTA, and WFRC. He said that hopefully that reflects the local plans in some way, and then the region will take that plan, and hopefully adopt that into the Regional Transportation Plans.

Other Business [Recording 01:35:21]

There was none.

Overview of Utah Open and Public Meetings Act [Recording 01:36:06]

The next meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**

A recording of this meeting may be found on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.org, under Committees, Regional Growth Committee, 2017 meetings.