



MINUTES
Wasatch Front Regional Council
 March 25, 2021

A meeting was held on Thursday, March 25, 2021, via Zoom connection, due to the safety restrictions put in place by the Utah Governor’s Office, in response to continuing COVID-19 concerns. The following were present:

WFRC COUNCIL MEMBERS - 2021		
BOX ELDER COUNTY	Yes/No	Alternates / Others in attendance:
Member - Jeff Scott	yes	Governor Spencer Cox,
Alternate – Tyler Vincent	no	Sophia DiCaro, Michael Mower,
DAVIS COUNTY MEMBERS		Kendall Thomas,
Len Arave	yes	Dale Fowers,
Mark Shepherd	yes	Robert Hale, Nate Rockwood,
Randy Lewis	no	Karen Lang,
Bob Stevenson	yes	Kristie Overson,
MORGAN COUNTY		Gage Froerer,
Member - Mike Newton	yes	Joy Petro,
Alternate - Blaine Fackrell	yes	Shule Bishop,
SALT LAKE COUNTY MEMBERS		Nichol Bourdeaux,
Jenny Wilson	yes	Jeff Acerson,
Erin Mendenhall	no	Bret Millburn,
Troy Walker	yes	Shayne Scott,
Michael Jensen	yes	Dirk Burton,
Jeff Silvestrini	yes	Michelle Larsen,
Robert Dahle	yes	Clark Wilkinson,
Ron Bigelow	yes	Bob Dandoy,
Derk Timothy	yes	Nick Tarbet,
TOOELE COUNTY		Helen Peters,
Member - Scott Wardle	yes	Holin Wilbanks,
Alternate – Brent Marshall	no	Dina Blaes, Wayne Bradshaw,
WEBER COUNTY MEMBERS		Clint Smith, Tami Moody, Kris Nicholl,
Scott Jenkins	yes	Manjeet Ranu, Mary DeLoretto, Ben Huot,
Jim Harvey	yes	Jen Bruno, Ryan Beck, Victoria Ashby,
Mark Allen	yes	Jeannie Lambert, Justin Smart, Rob Jolley,
Mike Caldwell	yes	Ryan Leavitt, Steve Van Maren
UDOT & UTA		WFRC:
Member - Carlos Braceras, UDOT	yes	Andrew Gruber,
Alternate - Teri Newell, UDOT	yes	Loveit Baumgardner, Wayne Bennion,
Member - Carlton Christensen, UTA Board of Trustees	yes	Megan Townsend, Ned Hacker,
Alternate - Beth Holbrook, UTA Board of Trustees	yes	Bert Granberg, Ben Wuthrich, Ted Knowlton,

NON-VOTING MEMBERS		Hugh Van Wagenen, Miranda Jones Cox,
Lorene Kamalu - Utah Association of Counties	yes	Nikki Navio, Christy Dahlberg, Jory Johner,
Dawn Ramsey - Utah League of Cities and Towns	yes	Kurt Mower, Matthew Silski, Lauren Victor,
Ari Bruening - Envision Utah	yes	Amber Gonzales, Nicole Mendelsohn,
NON-VOTING MEMBERS, continued		Josh Reynolds, Marcia White, Suzie Swim,
Wayne Harper - State Senate	yes	Andrea Pearson, Rosie Hernandez,
Mike Schultz - State House of Representatives	yes	Julie Bjornstad, Andy Li, Mikala Jordan
Evan Curtis – State Planning Coordinator	yes	

Welcome [00:00:15]

At 2:02pm, Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Chair, welcomed Wasatch Front Regional Council members and guests and introductions were made via roll call.

1. Consent Agenda [00:02:58]

1a. ACTION: Minutes and 1b. ACTION: Financial Statements

Mayor Silvestrini called attention to the items on the Consent Agenda. Mayor Mike Caldwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting held January 28, 2021, and to approve the Financial Statements and Check Registers for December 2020, and January 2021, as well as the current Budget/Expenditure Report. Mayor Mark Shepherd seconded the motion. The minutes and financial statement were approved and accepted unanimously.

2. Chairman's Report [00:03:38]

2a. Discussion with Utah Governor Spencer Cox

Mayor Silvestrini noted the presence of Governor Cox, Sophia DiCaro, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), and Mike Mower, the Governor's Senior Advisor. [00:05:00] Mayor Silvestrini turned the time to Mayor Dawn Ramsey, WFRC Regional Growth Committee Chair, and a member of Governor Cox' transition team for transportation, who introduced the Governor. [00:07:18] Governor Cox discussed the name change of his team, from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. The Governor remarked on the shared vision for our region's growth and the great quality of life in Utah. [00:16:35] Sophia DiCaro shared her thoughts on the importance of planning collaboration with all governmental and transportation agencies statewide in order to continue our progress. [00:19:00] Governor Cox also remarked briefly on the American Rescue Plan funding that will be provided to Utah. The Governor stressed the need to "think big and think long-term" as we look toward the future of the state.

2b. Legislative outcomes with Representative Mike Shultz and Senator Wayne Harper [00:25:15]

Representative Shultz summarized HB433 and how it advances shared transportation principles.

- Investment in infrastructure: \$1.1 billion in Utah's infrastructure, coupled with the significant ongoing investment of State funds in Utah's transportation system.
- Support of multi-modal transportation choices: state roads, unprecedented investment of state funding in transit and active transportation.
- Utilizing the professional planning and prioritization process: projects and funding are from Utah's Unified Transportation Plan and the State Transportation Commission prioritization process.
- Remaining fiscally prudent - balancing current infrastructure investment needs with long-term fiscal stability: mix of one-time cash (general fund appropriations) and bonding against future transportation revenues.

[00:35:15] Senator Harper summarized SB217 and how it impacts Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zones (HTRZ).

- HTRZ and Wasatch Choice work together: emphasizing mixed-use and multifamily development around FrontRunner stations and capitalizing on FrontRunner enhancements.

3. Public Comment [00:47:18]

Mayor Silvestrini opened the meeting for public comment. There were no comments.

4. Regional Growth Committee (RGC) [00:47:39]

Mayor Dawn Ramsey, RGC Chair, briefly reviewed the outcomes of the RGC meeting held on March 18, 2021.

4a. Wasatch Choice community progress update [00:49:39]

Megan Townsend, WFRC, announced the Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) program 2021 awards. This year, the program, which provides technical assistance to local communities to help them achieve their goals and plan for growth, will fund 16 new projects for a total amount of \$1,639,000. This includes four communities that have not participated in the TLC program before now. The TLC goals consist of the following:

- Maximize the value of investment in public infrastructure.
- Enhance access to opportunities.
- Increase travel options to optimize mobility.
- Create communities with opportunities to live, work, and play.

[00:52:19] Mayor Bob Dandoy, Roy City, shared his thoughts regarding the success of the implementation of Roy's General Plan, and how the progress (over the past three years) has improved and revitalized the area. **[00:58:11]** Ted Knowlton, WFRC, provided information on the recent progress and path forward for the Wasatch Front region. Mr. Knowlton shared the compiled results of a survey that was distributed to cities in the region, regarding how they are being proactive to coordinate planning and meeting the demands of their growing populations.

5. Transportation Coordinating Committee (Trans Com) [01:02:00]

Mayor Mark Shepherd, Trans Com Chair, informed the Council of the items that were discussed in the Trans Com meeting held on February 18, 2021.

5a. Report on Board Modifications to the 2021-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ben Wuthrich, WFRC, presented information regarding requests to modify the current 2021-2026 TIP. The modification required action from Trans Com (since WFRC was not meeting) and the UDOT Transportation Commission but did not require a new air quality conformity analysis or a 30-day public comment period. The modification and approved resolution have been included in the meeting materials.

5b. ACTION: Board Modifications to 2021-2026 TIP [01:05:15]

Mr. Wuthrich reported that WFRC has received several requests to modify the current 2021-2026 TIP with the list of projects included in the meeting materials. Mr. Wuthrich briefly discussed each project. **[01:15:38]** Mayor Mark Shepherd made a motion to approve the resolution to modify the 2021-2026 TIP as requested. Commissioner Scott Jenkins seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5c. Obligations of Federal Transportation Funds during FY20 [00:37:20]

Andrew Gruber, WFRC, discussed the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which requires each metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the State Department of Transportation, and public transportation operator(s) to cooperate in preparing a report of federal funds obligated during the immediately preceding year. WFRC staff with the help of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) have prepared a report of obligated federal funding during fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019, through

September 30, 2020). For the State of Utah, these federal funds currently represent about twenty percent of the total highway and transit revenues. Mr. Gruber also informed the Council of the opportunity

for upcoming reauthorization legislation and earmark funding for future projects. More information will be forthcoming via email regarding the earmark funding.

6. Budget Committee [01:24:43]

Mayor Mike Caldwell, WFRC Budget Committee Chair, discussed with the Council the items that were reviewed in the Budget Committee meeting held on March 11, 2021.

6a. ACTION: Release for public comment – WFRC draft FY22 Goals, draft Budget and draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

WFRC staff, in coordination with the WFRC Budget Committee, has prepared a draft document with potential agency goals, a draft budget and a draft of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which outlines the activities that WFRC plans to undertake in fiscal year 2022.

[01:26:00] Andrew Gruber, WFRC, presented the draft 2022 WFRC Goals document.

The proposed WFRC FY22 goals are as follows:

1. Collaboratively advance the Wasatch Choice Regional Vision as a framework for integrating transportation, land use, and economic development, to best address growth-related opportunities and challenges
2. Effectively administer ongoing plans and programs
3. Provide subject-matter expertise to federal, state, and local officials and policymakers
4. Strive for organizational excellence

[01:30:53] Mr. Gruber continued by presenting the budget for FY22, which shows an increase of 19% over estimated FY21 expenditures, as several categories of expenditures from FY21 were less than anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Uncertainty surrounding the fiscal impact of the pandemic led WFRC to institute several cost-saving measures, including delaying or deferring: 1) wage adjustments for staff, 2) hiring of the replacement for the outgoing CFO and a new TLC program planner, 3) filling vacancies that occurred during the year, and 4) entering into new consulting contracts. Other expenses such as travel and training were delayed or eliminated, making those significantly less than what had been planned before the pandemic. The FY22 budget also includes expenses for the Household Travel Survey and the Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) Program that were budgeted in FY21 but were delayed due to the pandemic or were initiated in FY21 but are anticipated to carry into FY22 as multi-year efforts. The FY22 budget generally assumes that expenditures will return to a pre-pandemic norm. As we move towards and into FY22, WFRC will continue to assess the economy and market and has the ability to make budget adjustments as may be warranted.

[01:36:08] Mayor Caldwell made a motion to recommend that the Council release for review and public comment the draft Goals, budget and UPWP for fiscal year 2022. Mayor Mark Shepherd seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

7. Reports

7b. [01:36:45] Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD) update: important points of HB348 provided by WFEDD Chair, Commissioner Gage Froerer.

7a. [01:41:54] Active Transportation Committee (ATC) update: Mayor Troy Walker, ATC Vice-chair, reported on a \$35 million funding appropriation for active transportation projects in Utah. Mayor Walker also mentioned HB142, and promoted the Bike Summit, being held virtually in April.

7c. [01:44:28] Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards announcement: Christy Dahlberg, WFRC, presented the awards, just over \$1million, for this funding program.

7d. [00:45:49] Andrew Gruber, WFRC, introduced Miranda Jones Cox, who was recently hired to join the Wasatch Front Regional Council as the Government Affairs Manager. **[01:45:40]** Mr.

Gruber then recognized Amber Gonzales for five years at WFRC and thanked her for her dedication in her position as Human Resources and Accounting Support. **[01:47:33]** Mr. Gruber continued by announcing that Kurt Mower has been hired, starting April 1, 2021, as WFRC's new Comptroller, to take the position that Loveit Baumgardner will be leaving later this year.

8. Other Business [01:51:30]

Mayor Silvestrini reminded the group that the next Council meeting will be on May 20, 2021 and asked if there were any other items to discuss. There were no other items brought forward.

9. Adjournment [02:05:15]

Mayor Mike Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting and Carlton Christensen, UTA Trustee, seconded. The affirmative vote was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 3:54pm.

A recording of this meeting, as well as meeting packet materials, may be found on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.org