



MINUTES
Wasatch Front Regional Council
August 26, 2021

A meeting was held on Thursday, August 26, 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	Senator Mitt Romney
Alternate – Tyler Vincent	no	Kelsey Berg, Romney staff
DAVIS COUNTY MEMBERS		
Len Arave	no	Kristie Overson, Taylorsville Mayor
Mark Shepherd	no	Robert Hale, Midvale City Mayor
Randy Lewis	no	Karen Lang, West Valley City Council
Bob Stevenson	yes	John Larsen, Salt Lake City Corp
MORGAN COUNTY		
Member - Mike Newton	no	Kevin Osborn, FHWA
Alternate - Blaine Fackrell	yes	Shule Bishop, UTA
SALT LAKE COUNTY MEMBERS		
Jenny Wilson	no	Russell Weeks, SL City Council staff
Erin Mendenhall	no	Debbie Winn, Tooele City Mayor
Troy Walker	no	Steve Call, FHWA
Aimee Winder Newton	no	Ivan Marrero, FHWA
Jeff Silvestrini	yes	Michelle Larsen, UTA
Robert Dahle	yes	Ryan Leavitt, Barker & Leavitt
Ron Bigelow	yes	Kevin Cromar, NYU Edu
Derk Timothy	yes	Kelly Lund, FHWA
TOOELE COUNTY		
Member - Scott Wardle	yes	Bret Millburn, Draper City
Alternate – Brent Marshall	no	Nick Tarbet
WEBER COUNTY MEMBERS		
Scott Jenkins	yes	Ross Watkins
Jim Harvey	yes	Tessa Stitzer
Mark Allen	yes	WFRC: Andrew Gruber, Ted Knowlton,
Mike Caldwell	no	Megan Townsend, Nicole Mendelsohn,
UDOT & UTA		
Member - Carlos Bracerias, UDOT	yes	Mikala Jordan, Marcia White,
Alternate - Teri Newell, UDOT	yes	Suzie Swim, Rosie Hernandez,
Member - Carlton Christensen, UTA Board of Trustees	yes	Bert Granberg, Bill Hereth, Nikki Navio,
Alternate - Beth Holbrook, UTA Board of Trustees	yes	Wayne Bennion, Ben Wuthrich,
Jeff Acerson, UTA Board of Trustees	yes	Josh Reynolds, Julie Bjornstad,

NON-VOTING MEMBERS		
Lauren Victor, Chad Worthen,		
Lorene Kamalu - Utah Association of Counties	yes	Amber Gonzales, Kurt Mower,
Dawn Ramsey - Utah League of Cities and Towns	yes	Jory Johner, Hugh Van Wagenen,
Ari Bruening - Envision Utah	yes	Ned Hacker, Kip Billings, Andrea Pearson
Wayne Harper - State Senate	yes	Jeannie Lambert, WFRC/Penna Powers
Mike Schultz - State House of Representatives	no	Justin Smart, WFRC/Penna Powers
Laura Hanson – State Planning Coordinator	no	Rob Jolley, WFRC/RRJ Consulting

Welcome [00:00:04]

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

1. Consent Agenda [00:01:53]

1a. ACTION: Minutes and Financial Statements

Commissioner Jeff Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting held May 27, 2021, the Financial Statements for May and June 2021, and the current Budget/Expenditure Report. UTA Trustee Carlton Christensen seconded the motion. The minutes and financial statements were accepted unanimously.

2. Chair Report [00:03:20]

2b. WFRC FY21 Activities and Accomplishments Report

WFRC Executive Director Andrew Gruber presented the FY21 Activities & Accomplishments Report. In August 2020, the Wasatch Front Regional Council adopted goals and priorities for FY21 that provided direction for the agency regarding areas of focus for the upcoming year. The FY21 Activities & Accomplishments Report provides an overview of how WFRC met those goals.

4. Regional Growth Committee (RGC) [00:15:40]

Mayor Dawn Ramsey, RGC Chair, briefly reviewed the outcomes of the Regional Growth Committee (RGC) meeting held on August 19, 2021.

4a. Statewide Policy Conversations and Wasatch Choice

Mayor Ramsey discussed the policy concepts being considered by two state commissions - the Economic Opportunity Commission and the Commission on Housing Affordability. While the two commissions are working on different core issues, they both are exploring how improvements can be made via coordination with other planning elements such as infrastructure, housing, economic development, and open space. The alignment between these issues has been at the heart of the work of WFRC and is embodied in the Wasatch Choice Regional Vision. **[00:21:11]** Commissioner Gage Froerer provided some further information on the Economic Opportunity Commission. **[00:23:27]** Ted Knowlton, WFRC, presented results of a survey that identified policy ideas that would have the most beneficial impact on these planning elements.

2a. Federal infrastructure legislation: Senator Mitt Romney [00:32:05]

Mayor Silvestrini welcomed US Senator Mitt Romney to the Council meeting. Senator Romney provided an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the path forward for the final passage of the bill, and what the IIJA would mean for transportation funding in Utah. HR 3684, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), formerly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF), originated out of month-long negotiations between the White House and a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senator Romney. It passed out of the Senate last week with a vote of 69-30 and now awaits action from the US House of Representatives. The \$1.2 trillion bill provides over \$550 billion in new spending for core infrastructure programs and is anchored with the five-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs as it includes the transportation reauthorization bills that were

previously developed and adopted by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and Commerce Committee, along with the Energy Infrastructure Act and the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Acts. If ultimately adopted, this legislation will provide significant and stable infrastructure funding over the next five years, to Utah and the nation.

3. Public Comment [00:49:27]

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

4. Regional Growth Committee (RGC)

4b. Wasatch Choice fall outreach [00:49:50]

Given that Mayor Ramsey was unable to remain for the rest of this meeting, Mayor Silvestrini introduced Julie Bjornstad, WFRC, who outlined this fall's planned Wasatch Choice workshops. These workshops are the next step in development of the Regional Transportation Plan. The key objective for these events is developing the "preferred scenario" of transportation projects in the 2023-2050 Regional Transportation Plan. WFRC, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) are hosting the workshops to update the Wasatch Choice Regional Vision, a collaborative effort of communities and many other partners over the past few years. These workshops are specifically designed for local government leaders - mayors/commissioners, council members, planning commissions, and key staff and all feedback is welcome.

Key workshop discussions are anticipated to include:

- Feedback and input on road, transit, and active transportation projects needed now or in the coming decades;
- Changes to communities and transportation behavior that may arise from new technologies, the legacy of the pandemic, and other disruptive forces; and
- How transportation projects, land uses, and economic development can be more responsive to these disruptive forces.

4c. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendments [00:55:14]

i. ACTION: RTP amendment process update

Mayor Silvestrini turned the time to Jory Johner, WFRC, who reviewed two proposed modifications to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendment process. In summary, two changes are proposed:

1. When WFRC amends the RTP, WFRC staff consults with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) about the amendment. However, the written RTP Amendment Process does not reflect that consultation. The proposed modification to the process would codify that the consultation is required to occur.
2. Changes to Wasatch Choice "Centers" are currently listed as "Level 2" amendments, requiring action by RGC. The proposed modification to the process would provide more flexibility by making changes to these centers "Level 1" amendments, made by staff in consultation with the affected communities.

[01:00:14] Mayor Silvestrini asked if there were questions or comments regarding the changes to the amendment process. There were none. The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the modified process for amending the Regional Transportation Plan. Commissioner Jim Harvey made the motion and Commissioner Bob Stevenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. ACTION: Amendment #3 to the 2019-2050 RTP [01:00:52]

Mr. Johner then presented the proposed Amendment Number 3 to the 2019-2050 RTP. These proposed amendments were presented to and approved by the Regional Growth Committee in May, and subsequently released for public comment and review. They are now back before

RGC for final approval. No changes have been made to the proposed amendments from what RGC reviewed in May (with the exception of a modification to one “Level 1” amendment that does not require RGC action, as explained below). The projects within this amendment have received the following review:

- Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) on April 28, 2021,
- RGC meeting on May 20, 2021,
- Box Elder, Weber, Davis and Salt Lake County Councils of Governments (COGs) in May and June 2021, and
- A formal 30-day public review and comment period was held from June 26 through July 31, 2021 with two public open houses.

The only modification from what RGC reviewed in May was changing the extent (length) of the “3 Gate Rail Trail” near Hill AFB. The action requested today is to make a recommendation to the Regional Council to adopt the “Level 3 - Full Amendment” projects into the 2019-2050 RTP.

Amendment 3 includes a total of 22 projects:

- 13 Level 3 (full amendment of regionally significant projects) requests, 11 from UDOT and two from UTA;
- Eight Level 2 (board modifications of non-regionally significant projects) requests, one each from Brigham City, Draper, Sandy, and Murray, and two each from South Weber and West Jordan; and
- One Level 1 (staff modification) request from the Military Installation Development Authority (MIDA).

[01:06:33] Mayor Silvestrini asked if there were questions or comments regarding amendment #3. There was one comment and some discussion. The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the Level 3 - Full Amendment projects and the air quality conformity determination as found in Draft Air Quality Memorandum 40 for Amendment Number 3 to the 2019-2050 RTP. Commissioner Bob Stevenson made the motion and Commissioner Lorene Kamalu seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Transportation Coordinating Committee (Trans Com) [01:12:50]

Commissioner Jim Harvey, Trans Com Vice-chair, informed the Council of the items that were discussed in the Trans Com meeting held on June 17, 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 [01:16:55]

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. **[01:17:48]** Commissioner Jim Harvey made a motion to approve the resolution to modify the 2021-2026 TIP as requested. Councilmember Clint Smith seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5c. ACTION: Approve 2022-2027 TIP [01:18:30]

Mr. Wuthrich presented information regarding the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for approval. A draft 2022-2027 TIP was reviewed by Trans Com in June (as delegated by the Regional Council) and made available for public review. An analysis of the TIP completed by WFRC staff shows that the 2022-2027 TIP conforms to the state air quality plans.

The public comment period extended from June 26 through July 31, 2021. A list of all the comments and respective responses has been compiled, and a summary of the comments and responses is included in the meeting materials. [01:22:22] Commissioner Jim Harvey moved to approve the 2022-2027 TIP as requested. Commissioner Bob Stevenson seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5d. ACTION: Self-Certification of Planning Process [01:26:46]

Commissioner Harvey introduced Wayne Bennion, WFRC. Mr. Bennion directed attention to the draft Resolution for the Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification exhibit information, and stated that each year when the Regional Council approves the Transportation Improvement Program, WFRC and UDOT also need to certify that the transportation planning process meets all federal planning requirements. The staff at WFRC, UDOT, and UTA have worked together to confirm that the federal requirements are being met.

Mr. Bennion also mentioned that this year a federal team also conducted a review of WFRC's joint planning process. Such a review occurs at four-year intervals for each metropolitan planning organization across the country. The final report for this review will be provided to the Council in October. [01:02:57] Commissioner Jim Harvey made a motion that the resolution be approved as presented. Councilmember Clint Smith seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. Reports [01:38:17]

6a. WFRC Funding Opportunities for Local Governments

The Wasatch Front Regional Council administers six programs that provide resources for local governments, totaling approximately \$40 million annually. These programs include:

- Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC)
- Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

WFRC staff (Wayne Bennion, Ben Wuthrich, Megan Townsend, and Marcia White) briefly described these programs, to increase awareness of funding and resource opportunities, as well as to encourage efficiency and coordination among the programs for applicants.

6d. Executive Director's Report [01:52:20]

Andrew Gruber, WFRC, discussed the WFRC Statement of Principles on Equity and Access to Opportunities. A little over a year ago WFRC made a "statement on racial justice, equity, and access to opportunities." In May, the WFRC Council adopted a goal to "promote inclusive engagement in transportation planning processes and equitable access to affordable and reliable transportation options." In furtherance of WFRC's ongoing commitment to that goal, we have prepared this draft statement. WFRC would appreciate your review and any feedback. There were no questions or comments. [01:56:15] Mr. Gruber also recognized Matthew Silski, GIS Analyst, for 5 years of service at WFRC.

6b. Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD) update [01:58:34]

Mayor Silvestrini stated that since Commissioner Gage Froerer, WFEDD Chair, provided his report earlier in the meeting, as part of the Regional Growth Committee report, this Item number was addressed earlier.

6c. Active Transportation Committee (ATC) update [01:58:00]

Mayor Silvestrini turned the time to Mayor Jo Sjoblom for an update on Active Transportation. Mayor Sjoblom provided a video of her report. It was informative and amusing.

7. Other Business [02:04:00]

Mayor Silvestrini reminded the group that the next Council meeting will be on October 28, 2021 and asked if there were any other items to discuss. There were no other items brought forward.

8. Adjournment [02:04:15]

Mayor Silvestrini made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting and UTA Trustee Carlton Christensen seconded the motion. The affirmative vote was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

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