

Joint Policy Advisory Committee

MOUNTAINLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIXIE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL
UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY
CACHE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MEETING MINUTES **DRAFT**

LOCATION: **GOOGLE MEETS**

meet.google.com/fup-urrf-jdz

Friday August 7, 2020

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Present	Teri Newell, JPAC Chair, UDOT	LaNiece Davenport, WFRC
	Andrea Olson, UDOT	Laura Hanson, UTA
	Andrew Gurber, WFRC	Meagan Waters, WFRC
	Ben Huot, UDOT	Michelle Carroll, MAG
	Beth Holdbrook, UTA	Michelle Larsen, UTA
	Brent Marshall, Grantsville	Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
	Bridgette Mandel, FHWA	Natalie Gochnour, UT Transp Comm
	Clint Smith, Herriman	Nathan Ivie, MAG
	Craig Butters	Nathan Lee, UDOT
	Dean Cox, Dixie MPO	Nichol Bourdeaux
	Gage Froerer, Weber County	Patrick Cowley, UDOT
	Jeff Gilbert, Cache MPO	Shawn Seager, MAG
	Jenney Rees, MAG	Steven Call, DOT
	Jim Evens, UT Transp Comm	Ted Knowlton, WFRC
	Jory Johner, WFRC	Tina Cannon, Morgan Co
	Julie Bjornstad, WFRC	Todd Beutler, Cache MPO
	Julie Fulmer, Vineyard City	Troy Walker, Draper
	Kent Millington, UTA	Zach Jacob, West Jordan

Welcome and Introductions [8:14]

Teri Newell, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Deputy Director of Planning and Investment and Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Meeting began at approximately 10:36 am

Approval of May 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes [8:48]

Carlton Christensen, Utah Transit Authority (UTA) Board of Trustees, Board Chair moved to approve the minutes from the JPAC May 19, 2020. Ted Knowlton, Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Deputy Director seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UTA Update [9:50]

Megan Waters Community Engagement Manager, UTA presented on UTA COVID-19 Surveys, General Ridership and Pass Partners. Megan provided a summary of ridership numbers as of June 2020. UTA's data collection method discussed. Data collected was

during the month of May 2020. Summary and detailed survey reports are available on the UTA [Recover Dashboard](#). Ms. Waters completed her presentation and asked for questions or comments. (See Ms. Waters's presentation for more details)

Comment Carlton Christensen: [25:51] On August 23, 2020 (UTA change date), UTA is restoring many of its service routes in anticipation of educational institutions resuming and a return to work for that industry. There should be space on vehicles for riders to board and feel safe. UTA is requiring and providing masks on all vehicles.

Comment Andrew Gruber: [26:39] Mr. Gruber that stated UTA has done a great job of promoting safety in the system and ensuring confidence for their riders and operators. He commented there being a need to continue with the Unified Transportation Plan as written pre-COVID.

Comment Teri Newell: [29:32] Ms. Newell thanked Mr. Gruber for his comment and stated he made a good point. She said that there have been questions regarding the Unified Plan still being valid or needing to be changed. Ms. Newell stated there are questions about what will be done encourage people back to transit. Transit is a solid part of moving people around. This is not a point to veer away from the path and long range plans.

Comment Carlton Christensen: [30:54] Mr. Christensen added that UTA would continue to work on the long-range projects as the opportunities presented themselves. There are no other comments or questions.

Update of Federal Reauthorization WFRC [32:26]

LaNiece Davenport Government Relations Manager WFRC and **Ryan Leavitt** of Barker and Leavitt WFRC Governmental Affairs Representatives.

Ms. Davenport introduced the Federal Affairs (FA) team of Barker and Leavitt. She felt it was essential to invite the FA team to provide an overview of the current Federal legislative activities. Namely reauthorization and appropriations. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (**FAST**) Act of 2015 will expire on September 30, 2020. She commented on why transportation reauthorization is important. She gave examples of how the funds are used. She stated they are a critical funding piece for MPO's.

Ryan Leavitt of Barker and Leavitt [33:45]. Mr. Leavitt introduced himself, gave an outline of his work history, the history of his firm, and introduced his partner **Jim Barker**. He presented an overview of the FAST Act reauthorization, FY 21 appropriations, and COVID-19 relief legislation. He spoke to where the House and Senate were at in reaching a deal for reauthorization of relief legislation. Mr. Leavitt completed his presentation and asked for questions or comments. (See Mr. Leavitt's presentation for details)

Comment LaNiece Davenport: [53:21] Ms. Davenport stated that all of Utah's transportation agencies have come together to sign a Joint Federal Reauthorization document. Ms. Davenport explained key pieces of the document. She emphasized that the document is an example of how Utah communities collaborate. There are no other comments or questions.

UCAIR COVID Workplace Impact Survey Results WFRC [55:25]

Ted Knowlton Deputy Director WFRC presented the Teleworking Pulse Survey 2020. Mr. Knowlton described who was involved with the survey, the purpose of the survey, and what the potential impacts on land use and air quality might be post COVID. Mr.

Knowlton concluded his presentation and asked if the information presented rang true for the community transportation representatives. (See Mr. Knowlton's presentation for details)

Question/Comment Teri Newell: [1:03.57] Ms. Newell asked if any of the local communities wanted to respond to the question. There were no responses. Ms. Newell added that there have been telework discussions at UDOT and the agency is working on a teleworking policy that is sustainable beyond the pandemic.

Comment Ted Knowlton: [1:04] Mr. Knowlton stated there are different kinds of teleworkers. Some teleworkers might rethink where they live. The choice of where to live (pre COVID) was dictated by proximity to work or transportation. If communities do not have the amenities the teleworker is looking for (transportation/active transportation), they could respond by moving to the least expensive (X urban or rural) communities. This could result in greater commute lengths, traffic congestion, reduced transit ridership, and more air pollution.

Comment Myron Lee Transportation Planning Director Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (Dixie MPO) [1:06.50] Mr. Lee stated that in his area they have seen an influx of people from three states. Which is the point Mr. Knowlton was making.

Comment Julie Fullmer Mayor Vineyard [1:08.06] Ms. Fullmer stated Vineyard has been using design to human scale to create quality of life within and easy access out of the area. She is open to sharing their concepts and city plans that worked on a regional scale.

There are no other comments.

Active Transportation (AT) in the Unified Plan (UP) [1:08.39]

Comment Teri Newell: Ms. Newell gave a brief explanation of why AT was on the JPAC agenda. She discussed how now might be a good time to revisit the AT piece of the UP due to increased use of AT during the pandemic. She noted the funding sources available for AT. She invited the participants to comment.

Comment Ben Hout UDOT [11:11] Mr. Hout reiterated Ms. Newell's comments. He added there is the possibility for backbone networks and larger projects. He said it seems to be a good time to evaluate AT.

Comment Andrew Gruber: [1:12:32] Mr. Gruber stated he endorsed the direction Ms. Newell has proposed. The WFRC thinks it makes sense for the UP to think multi modally and intentionally about driving, transit, and AT. He briefly explained the UP's phasing and prioritization process for funding. He explained that this process has worked well. It is a step in the right direction to consider AT investment more fully.

Comment Shawn Seager: [1:14:56] Mr. Seager named large transportation projects that have happened in the last several years. He added that there have not been large AT projects. There have been smaller AT projects that were not packages but funded by leftover funds. He stated he would like to see a larger more aspirational AT project in an area with a population density to justify the investment. He mentioned TIF AT fund-matching requirements and suggested speaking with legislators to see if they would lower the matching fund rate for AT projects to get local buy in.

Comment Myron Lee [1:16:29] Mr. Lee stated that Dixie MPO will be more prepared for the new initiative when it comes to AT projects. The MPO will welcome the change.

Comment Julie Fullmer: [1:18:25] Ms. Fullmer agreed with Mr. Gruber's comments stating it would create a cohesion between entities, cities, etc. to complete first and last

mile to meet this AT goal. She agreed with Mr. Seager's comments on lowering local match funds as an incentive. If AT is seen as verified and supported mode, the matches would make sense to expand the areas eventually.

Comment Andrew Gruber: [1:18:37] Mr. Gruber said AT has a challenge. It is not viewed as a project or set of projects; instead, AT is viewed as a program. Facilities that rise to project level receive the most excitement from the public. Surveys indicate the public wants more bicycling facilities. He explains how public use of facilities helps make the program (AT) work across other facilities.

Comment Teri Newell [1:20:44] Ms. Newell commented to there being enthusiasm in the group for AT plan(s) with a vision, the prioritization process of AT projects, making good use of funds, and the start of dialog about stand-alone AT projects.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Performance Measures & Targets [1:23]

Patrick Cowley Director of Transportation Performance Management UDOT

Mr. Cowley reviewed the FHWA performance process, targets, important dates, and target adjustments. The MPO's will need to take action before the October 2020 to take advantage of the option to change their 4-year target. He reminded the group that the new cycle will begin in 2022. Mr. Cowley asked for questions or comments. (See Mr. Cowley's presentation for details)

Comment Teri Newell: [1:37:27] Ms. Newell commented that the next steps for MPOs are to get in touch with Mr. Cowley if they support these measures.

Comment Patrick Cowley: [1:37:36] Mr. Cowley stated yes. UDOT will be reaching out individually. UDOT will be meeting with some of the MPO boards. UDOT can meet with members of the MPOs or agencies who would like to review their data (within the next month).

Comment Ted Knowlton [1:38:02] Mr. Knowlton added that Mr. Cowley and UDOT do an exceptional job at collaborating with the MPOs.

Comment Teri Newell [1:38:20] Ms. Newell commented that the meeting has run long. She proposed the postponing of the **Access to Opportunities Status Report**

Comment Bert Granberg Analytics Director WFRC [1:39]: Mr. Grandberg agreed to postpone to a future JPAC meeting.

Adjourn-Next Meeting November 24, 2020