

Morgan County-Ogden Valley Rural Planning Organization

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 1, 2021
TIME: 4:00 pm
LOCATION: Online meeting via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

- **Mayor Ray Little** Morgan City
- **Lance Prescott** Morgan City
- **Commissioner Blaine Fackrell** Morgan County
- **James Ebert** Morgan County
- **Lance Evans** Morgan County
- **Commissioner Gage Froerer** Weber County
- **Brooke Stewart** Weber County
- **Holin Wilbanks** Weber County
- **Christopher Chesnut** UDOT
- **Miranda Jones Cox** WFRC
- **Hugh Van Wagenen** WFRC

MINUTES:

1 Introductions [00:00:00]

Chair Mayor Little welcomed Morgan County-Ogden Valley Rural Planning Organization (RPO) members and technical committee members.

2 Opportunity for Public Comment [00:04:10]

Vice Chair Mayor Little opened the meeting up for public comment. There were no public comments.

3 Legislative Update [00:04:27]

Miranda Jones Cox from the Wasatch Front Regional Council gave an update on the 2021 Legislative Session. Miranda presented an overview of HB433 (Amendments Related to Infrastructure Funding). WFRC, UDOT, UTA, and the State's metropolitan planning organizations presented a statement of joint principles for state infrastructure investment to the Legislature. The principles were: 1) Invest in infrastructure; 2) Support multi-modal transportation choices; 3) Utilize the professional planning and prioritization process; and 4) Be fiscally prudent - balance current infrastructure investment needs with long-term fiscal stability. HB433 meets these principles by authorizing investment of \$1.1 billion in Utah's infrastructure, allocating unprecedented amounts of

funding towards transit and active transportation, using Utah's Unified Transportation Plan to prioritize projects, and using a mix of one-time cash and bonding to pay for investments.

Miranda reviewed the funding allocations of the bill, including \$733 million towards roads; \$333 million towards transit, the majority of which would fund double tracking strategic sections of FrontRunner; the creation of the Cottonwood Canyons Transportation Investment Fund, and \$35 million for active transportation. This bill also included an extended programming horizon to 2029 for the Transportation Investment Fund.

Miranda also presented a summary of HB342 (Economic Development Amendments). This bill renamed the Governor's Office of Economic Development to the Office of Economic Opportunity. One of the key duties and missions is the new Office is to stimulate economic growth in rural communities through household-level efforts.

A few noteworthy appropriations were \$10 million in one-time funding to rural broadband, \$4.5 million for a rural county economic grant program, and \$67 million for state park infrastructure (including the new Lost Creek State Park).

The Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) program, although not part of the legislative session, was also reviewed. The TLC program provides planning grants for local communities. In 2021, TLC awarded grants to Morgan County for plans and a market study in Mountain Green and Petersen. These studies will help determine short- and long-range impacts of development, identify opportunities to capture potential economic impact associated with leisure travel, and assist the County in buildout for target markets.

Mayor Little requested the slides be sent to the RPO; the slides were sent after the meeting.

4 Action: Approval of the October 2020 meeting minutes [00:19:17]

Chair Mayor Little called for the approval of the October meeting minutes. Commissioner Froerer made the motion to approve and Commissioner Fackrell seconded. All votes were in favor to approve.

5 Morgan County Active Transportation Discussion [00:20:50]

Commissioner Fackrell began a discussion about a Morgan-County-wide trail system along all highways, with the potential to connect the trail system to Weber County. Commissioner Fackrell would like to have the state highways widened enough to have more than a foot-wide shoulder so that pedestrians and bicyclists can be accommodated. Morgan County submitted for Transportation Investment Fund Active Transportation funding for a trails plan. Hugh Van Wagenen mentioned that WFRC has been in contact with past elected officials on something similar, but those efforts did not advance. The discussion during the meeting included ways to continue to move forward. The TLC program and UDOT Planning have programming money for planning studies, but the next round of technical funds will be opened in Spring 2022. Commission Froerer asked about Old Trappers Loop Road, which connects Weber County to Morgan County. In Weber County, this road remains in the public domain. Commissioner Froerer asked if Morgan County had taken any steps to reclaim this road because he thinks it would be easier to connect this road than

to put active transportation facilities along Trappers Loop. Commission Fackrell would be interested in this connection but was unaware of ownership or past efforts. Commissioner Froerer says Holin has a good connection to Snow Basin and she can help to arrange a conversation. There may be some expense in terms of fences and gates, but this would be far cheaper than building along the highway, even though he supports this as well. Lance Evans reminds everyone that they are in the middle of a General Plan update that will consider trails and transportation and are working to develop a vision and cohesive plan. Commission Fackrell asked Christopher Chesnut from UDOT why UDOT did not put a shoulder on the state highways. Christopher replied he will explore the issue and get back to Commissioner Fackwell. Commissioner Froerer previously chaired the Infrastructure and General Government Committee when these roads were funded and said that it was a substantial amount of money to put the shoulder in. Now, there is an effort to look at a more broad use of Trappers and he would lend support from Weber County to put shoulders in along Trappers. UDOT is happy to help explore active transportation ideas within the County as well. James Ebert mentioned there was a lot of planning to do and connecting active transportation groups from Weber and Morgan Counties would be useful especially when doing the market study and small area plans.

6 RPO Next Steps Discussion [00:32:09]

At the October meeting of the RPO, it was decided to return to the conversation about the next steps for the RPO at this April meeting. Conversations have occurred that indicate members would like to dissolve the Morgan County-Ogden Valley RPO and reform as the Morgan County RPO. There have been general discussions on how Morgan can be more focused on their transportation needs. James has spoken with Commissioner Froerer that there would still need to be conversations between the Counties, but this could happen offline or at invitation to the new RPO. Commissioner Fackwell likes the idea of having a Morgan-focused RPO, but enjoys learning from Weber County. Commission Froerer said there are some common interests such as Snow Basin, active transportation, and Trappers Loop but does not think there needs to be an RPO for this. However, he encourages the groups to continue to have conversations. Mayor Little thinks that the Weber County perspective has been helpful, and is interested in Morgan County and City to create an RPO. It was decided that one of the partners would, in writing, say that they would like the interlocal agreement to be dissolved and another interlocal would be created. James will lead this effort.

James asked if the old Trappers Loop Road is on the RPO plan. Julie responded it was not because the Morgan County portion is privately owned and previous leadership was not interested in exploring.

7 Meeting Adjournment [00:45:15]

The meeting was adjourned.