



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES
Of
The Regional Growth Committee
August 15, 2019

A meeting was held on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at the offices of the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), 41 North Rio Grande Street, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The following were present:

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES	IN ATTENDANCE
Jeff Scott, Member (Box Elder County)	
Kenneth Braegger, Alternate (Box Elder County)	X
Len Arave, Member (Davis County)	
Rick Earnshaw, Alternate (Davis County)	
Jim Talbot, Member (Davis County)	
John Pohlman, Alternate (Davis County)	
Tina Cannon, Member (Morgan County)	X
Robert McConnell, Alternate (Morgan County)	
Jenny Wilson, Member (Salt Lake County)	X
Ron Bigelow, Alternate (Salt Lake County)	
Dawn Ramsey, Member (Salt Lake County)	X
Aimee Winder Newton, Member (Salt Lake County)	X
Jim Riding, Member (Salt Lake County)	X
Jackie Biskupski, Alternate (Salt Lake County)	
Cherie Wood, Alternate (Salt Lake County)	
Troy Walker, Alternate (Salt Lake County)	
Kurt Bradburn, Alternate (Salt Lake County)	
Dave McCall, Member (Tooele County)	X
Kendall Thomas, Alternate (Salt Lake County)	
Mark Allen, Member (Weber County)	
Norm Searle, Alternate (Weber County)	
Robert Dandoy, Member (Weber County)	
Jim Harvey, Alternate (Weber County)	
OTHER APPOINTED MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES	
Meghan Holbrook, Member, Utah Transportation Commission	
Dannie McConkie, Alternate, Utah Transportation Commission	
Beth Holbrook, Member, Utah Transit Authority Board	X
Carlton Christensen, Alternate, Utah Transit Authority Board	
Erin Mendenhall, Member, Utah Air Quality Board	
Robert Grow, Member, Envision Utah	
Ari Bruening, Alternate, Envision Utah	
NON-VOTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES	
Teri Newell, Member, UDOT	
Andrea Olson, Alternate, UDOT	
Laura Hanson, UTA	X
Levi Roberts, Alternate, UTA	
Bryce Bird, Air Quality Board	X
Ivan Marrero, FHWA-Utah Division	
Steve Call, Alternate, FHWA-Utah Division	
Gary Uresk, Utah League of Cities and Townes	X
Wilf Sommerkorn, Utah Assn of Counties	
Jenny Rees, Mayor, Mountainland Association of Governments	
WFRC APPOINTMENTS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	
Brian Wilkinson, Utah Urban Lands Institute	
Evan Curtis, GOMB	X
Abby Osborne, Utah Transportation Coalition	
Reid Ewing, University of Utah	X

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT (in alphabetical order):
Steve Call, Christopher Chesnut, Samantha Deseelhorst, Cameron Diehl, Tami Fillmore, Ann Floor, Mike Gottfredson, Jon Larsen, Brynn Murdock, Matt Taylor, Russell Weeks, and Brian Wilkinson

WFRC Staff Present: Julie Bjornstad, Christy Dahlberg, LaNiece Davenport, Katie Gerard, Andrew Gruber, Scott Hess, Jory Johnner, Ted Knowlton, Mary Pratt, Nicole Proulx, Megan Townsend, Lauren Victor, and Ben Wuthrich

1. Introductions and Consent Agenda. The meeting was called to order at 9:54 a.m. by Chair Mayor Dawn Ramsey. Roundtable introductions were made.

a. **ACTION: Minutes of the RGC meeting held May 16, 2019 [Recording 00:02:52].** Chair Ramsey entertained a motion to accept the minutes with one change. In Item #3, under Public Comment, the minutes reflect a comment that was made by Roger Borgenicht that states: "Funding is less for roadways than for transit dollars, ..." (change the word "less" to mean "more.")

A motion was made by Jenny Wilson, and seconded by Tina Cannon, that the minutes of May 16, 2019 be approved with one change as noted. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Chair's Report: Southwest Salt Lake County Vision Study [Recording 00:03:41]. Mayor Ramsey explained that the bulk of undeveloped land left in Salt Lake County is in the southwest area. A multi-city effort involving many entities and stakeholders was kicked off this week (with a packed house) to address the area's key issues, such as: ensuring adequate infrastructure; and maintaining quality of life for residents during its growth. Funding is provided by TLC Partners of WFRC, UDOT, UTA, and Salt Lake County. Each municipality is also helping fund a vision study.

Six mayors, including Mayors Riding and Wilson who were present today, had introduced a consultant at the kickoff to implement a vision study, and have secured funds for \$250,000. They will be recommending a solid regional plan as a guide for each community. Planning well and working together is critical with this region's major growth. There will be three phases, with the first phase completed before the next legislative session.

3. Public Comment [Recording 00:09:09]. There were none.

4. Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision: New Implementation of Ideas and Events [Recording 00:09:34].
Discussion. Chair Ramsey reminded the Committee that the Wasatch Choice Vision is the foundation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which was approved and adopted in May 2019. Room is given for adjustment and growth as time goes on. Of note, the 2019-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was also adopted in May. The next focus will be on local land use.

At today's meeting, WFRC staff unveiled a new map for the Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision. The map is coded to include roads, transit and active transportation (including bike trails). Mr. Andrew Gruber emphasized that this partner plan is in effect to handle growth in Utah and ensure future quality of life. He stated this map projects what it would look like if all work is completed by 2050. WFRC staff is presenting new ideas for implementation and offering available resources.

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, highlighted four strategies: (1) Provide transportation choices; (2) Support housing options; (3) Preserve open space (to protect farmlands, parks and trails); and (4) Link economic development with transportation and housing decisions. He describes it in two words: "Where matters," physically coordinating these all together in growth centers. ("We have a choice #where matters#). The key focus is to make the long-term vision into reality. There was discussion on in-fill and redevelopment, as well as new development. Mr. Knowlton spoke about the concerns made to him by the community on how the city is growing, and the intensity within certain locations. He mentioned there was a city-wide discussion, and there will be a deliberate approach to where intense growth and density in certain locations will be.

Mr. Knowlton demonstrated a new web source with interactive links to individual cities and counties. Each has several tabs that include the various strategies.

Julie Bjornstad explained how data is being used for the state of the centers to review how goals are being met. The data will create a baseline report and be updated every few years. This will determine how well communities are doing with economic development, land use, transportation and walkability.

Ms. Bjornstad announced that at the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference, a one-day event with breakout sessions with two keynote speakers will be held on September 12, called the Wasatch Choice Day. This will focus on the four key strategies. Then, beginning on September 23, 2019, ten Wasatch Choice implementation workshops of the RTP will be conducted with local governments across the region.

5. Policy Updates Relevant to the Wasatch Choice Vision [Recording 00:39:57].

a. Legislative Update. LaNiece Davenport, WFRC, gave an update on Senate Bill 34 (Affordable Housing Modifications); and SB136 (Transportation Governance Amendments) that relate to local planning with infrastructure. SB34 has new regulations that affect all local general plans that are due on December 1, 2019 (such as requirements to prepare, adopt and report every year). WFRC offers a variety of resources, with key changes noted to traffic and transportation. To find the General Plan Data and Map Resources for SB34 on wfrc.org, there is a link called "Maps & Data."

Ms. Davenport explained the impact made by SB136 and SB72 on local governance and funding, and the Wasatch Choice 2050 Vision (such as gas tax revenue). The Wasatch Choice 2050 integrates local visions with regional transportation. She will E-Mail updates on rules by August 16, 2019.

b. Discussion and Comments. There was discussion concerning SB136 and SB72, which are creating a financial benefit (through TTIF) to connect land-use and transportation. Cameron Diehl is a key player, and encourages local governments to review items from the Transportation Commission on UDOT's web site. He also stated that UDOT will be implementing a pilot program for road usage charge that will eventually replace fuel tax. Reid Ewing asked how this will be tracked. Helen Peters indicated a device will be plugged into cars. Mr. Diehl discussed privacy issues, tracking mileage for alternative fuel vehicles, etc.

There was a suggestion to create a future agenda item: UDOT's Pilot Program. Chair Ramsey is requesting a more detailed discussion of road fees.

6. WFRC Funding Opportunities for Local Governments [Recording 00:59:35:].

There are six programs for local government funding and resources by WFRC. Scott Hess indicated that applicants are competitive, and encourages everyone to reach out to WFRC staff to see which program works best. (1) Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD). Federal Economic Development Administration funding programs include public works and economic adjustment assistance; regional innovation strategies; and local technical assistance for planning. Mr. Hess described ways that dollars come in with equal jobs out. (2) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Program. Christy Dahlberg outlined how to build better neighborhoods for viable urban communities. The CDBG Program assists with low to moderate-income housing and community development to create suitable living environments including ADA accessibility. This starts again in October. (3) Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC). Megan Townsend described this six-year partnership program. Its goals are to maximize the value of investment in infrastructure; enhance access to opportunities; increase travel options; and create communities with opportunities to live, work, and play.

Ben Wuthrich described the next three programs with funds available for urbanized areas. He stated that letters of intent are due mid-September and concept reports are due early December for evaluation. (4) Surface Transportation Program (STP). Projects include federal-aid eligible facilities such as collectors. STP projects will reconstruct or widen existing streets and facilities; new construction; replace bridges and improve intersections; and work to reduce traffic. This program includes the active transportation component such as the addition of bike lanes. (5) Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ). Eligible projects need to demonstrate a benefit for air quality. This will construct or purchase public transportation facilities and equipment, and construct facilities for bikes and pedestrians. The Intelligent Transportation Systems will help reduce traffic and improve intersections; and (6) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Improvements include sidewalks, bicycle infrastructures, traffic calming, lighting and safe infrastructures, and safe routes to school.

Discussion: Professor Reid Ewing said that TLC-type surveys were sent out on a national level to 400 MPOs, with 100 MPOs responding.

There was a suggestion to create a future agenda item: MPO TLC-type programs–Survey Findings by the University of Utah. Findings of results to be presented at a future RGC meeting by Reid Ewing.

7. **UTA Service Choices [Recording 00:12:50]**. Trustee Holbrook, UTA Advisory Board, explained how the Utah Transit Association (UTA) is gathering feedback to develop future bus networks with guidelines for service performance. UTA is partnering with WFRC, Mountainland Association of Governments, and the Utah Department of Transportation to work on a process called Service Choices.

UTA is engaging the public and community stakeholders through open houses, community events, presentations and workshops, along with a survey to help UTA decide which direction it should go. There are two focuses that vary by the present needs of each city: (1) ridership, even if not all areas are served; and (2) coverage made available in many places, even if not many people ride. The survey helps determine how the bus system is performing. The Board will make a decision in September for future development that includes bus service.

Mayor Wilson stated that this is timely, and is asking UTA for further conversation with council members.

8. **Other Business [Recording 01:31:52]**. The next RGC meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2019. Upcoming Dates and Events:

- *WFRC Council Meeting – August 22, 2019*
- *Making Strides: Creating Walkable Communities – August 28, 2019*
- *Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) – August 29, 2019*
- *Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) Annual Conference–September 11-13, 2019 (Wasatch Choice Day September 12)*
- *Move Utah Summit - September 26, 2019*
- *Wasatch Choice Implementation Workshops – end of September through end of October 2019*
- *Utah American Planning Association (APA) Fall Conference – October 3-4, 2019*
- *Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Annual Conference – November 5-7, 2019*
- *Utah Association of Counties (UAC) Annual Conference – November 14-15, 2019*

9. **ACTION: Adjournment [Recording 01:32:55]**. Chair Ramsey entertained a motion for adjournment.

A motion was made by Aimee Winder-Newton, and seconded by Tina Cannon that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM.

mep

A recording of this meeting, agenda, and presentations may be found at www.wfrc.org. under Committees, Regional Growth Committee, 2019 meetings.