



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES
Of
The Regional Growth Committee
October 10, 2019

A meeting was held on Thursday, October 10, 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)	X
Len Arave, Member (Davis County)	X
Jim Talbot, Member (Davis County)	
John Pohlman, Alternate (Davis County)	
Tina Cannon, Member (Morgan County)	X
Jenny Wilson, Member (Salt Lake County)	X
Dawn Ramsey, Member (Salt Lake County)	X
Aimee Winder Newton, Member (Salt Lake County)	
Jim Riding, Member (Salt Lake County)	
Dave McCall, Member (Tooele County)	
Mark Allen, Member (Weber County)	X
Robert Dandoy, Member (Weber County)	X
OTHER APPOINTED MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES	
Meghan Holbrook, Member, Utah Transportation Commission	
Dannie McConkie, Alternate, Utah Transportation Commission	
Beth Holbrook, Member, Utah Transit Authority Board	
Carlton Christensen, Alternate, Utah Transit Authority Board	
Erin Mendenhall, Member, Utah Air Quality Board	
Robert Grow, Member, Envision Utah	
Ari Bruening, Alternate, Envision Utah	X
NON-VOTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES	
Teri Newell, Member, UDOT	X
Andrea Olson, Alternate, UDOT	X
Laura Hanson, UTA	
Levi Roberts, Alternate, UTA	
Bryce Bird, Air Quality Board	
Ivan Marrero, FHWA-Utah Division	
Steve Call, Alternate, FHWA-Utah Division	
Gary Uresk, Utah League of Cities and Townes	X
Jenny Rees, Mayor, Mountainland Association of Governments	X
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:	
Richard Brockmyer, UDOT; Roger Borgenicht, UBET; Linda Johnson; Helen Peters, S.L. County; Eric Biggart, S.L. County; Travis Jensen, WCEC Engineers; Andy Hulka, Cottonwood Heights; Shane Pace, Farmington City; Steve Call, FHWA; Tiffany Pocock, UDOT; Ben Huot, UDOT; Kerry Doane, UTA; Neda Kiani	
WFRC Staff Present: Julie Bjornstad, Scott Festin, Katie Gerard-Nelson, Bert Granberg, Andrew Gruber, Ned Hacker, Scott Hess, Jory Johner, Ted Knowlton, Nikki Navio, Mary Pratt, Nicole Proulx, and Megan Townsend	

1. **Introductions and Consent Agenda.** The meeting was called to order at 9:55 a.m. by Chair Mayor Dawn Ramsey. Guests were welcomed and roundtable introductions were made.
 - a. **ACTION: Minutes of the RGC meeting held August 15, 2019 [Recording 00:00:06].** Chair Ramsey entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tina Cannon, and seconded by Mayor Jenny Wilson, that the Minutes of August 15, 2019 be approved with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Public Comment [Recording 00:03:55].** Time was opened for comment; there were none

3. **Wasatch Choice Vision 2050 Implementation Update [Recording 00:04:22].** With the recent adoption of the Wasatch Choice Vision by RGC, key centers will be developed regionwide. The WC Vision outlines where those centers will be located, based on local input. It also outlines future transportation projects. Ten implementation workshops, which began in September, are currently being conducted by WFRC, partnered with ULCT, UDOT and UTA. Communities are asked to share their challenges and opportunities, and funding and data needs as they implement the Vision. WFRC is comparing how each city varies.

Julie Bjornstad, WFRC, is providing data to local communities as they begin implementation on their general plans, with the creation of the “State of the Centers Report” by means of key indicators. After the workshops are completed, city-specific information with maps and detailed analysis about open space will be posted on www.wfrc.org under “Maps & Data.”

Ted Knowlton, WFRC, mentioned Senate Bill 34. Any community with a population of over 5,000 needs to update their moderate-income housing plan. As information is compiled, they can be compared to other communities. Mayor Ramsey stressed the importance of participation at the workshops and coordination between communities, as the Vision is shared by everyone.

a. and b. Measuring Progress and TLC efforts to provide assistance. Megan Townsend, WFRC, is offering technical assistance and resources through the Transportation and Land Use Connection Program (TLC). This is available to help communities implement plans for the Vision. WFRC is receiving letters of intent for Y2020 and reviewing those letters with its partners. Ms. Townsend provided data analyses and explained how progress is measured. Since its inception six years ago, TLC has funded 79 projects and is moving on to another year.

In measuring the progress of TLC, 30 small area plans were funded through the program, with 93% located in a Wasatch Choice 2050 Center. Ms. Townsend explained the impact of increasing plans for active transportation and measuring the implementation: 42 of the 62 communities in the Wasatch Front area have been completed or are in the process of completing an active transportation plan; 26 of those community projects were directly funded by TLC. That computes to 68% of the region. She also outlined tracking of all eight small area projects: (1) Transportation Choice. All have a major transit investment corridor within its boundaries of regional access points; (2) Land Efficiency. From 2012 to 2018, the eight small areas absorbed over 5,200,000 square feet of development, an increase of 36 percent; (3) Market Growth. During that time, they increased in market value by 64 percent. Ms. Townsend is inviting any feedback to ensure that the metrics reflect city plans. Ted Knowlton, WFRC, reiterated that this is all generated and driven by local government.

c. MPO Transportation Funding for Livable Communities: A Review of National MPO Programs [Recording 00:23:05]. Dr. Reid Ewing, University of Utah, conducted a nationwide survey of TLC programs with his students, and presented their findings. Dr. Ewing introduced his doctoral student, Neda Kiani, who gave an overview of similar programs like TLC from around the country. In 2018, students had contacted all metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and reported how funds are spent at various levels of service. Of the 402 MPOs contacted, 27 responded and indicated they have a TLC program; 65 said they did not. A second survey was created to include those MPOs who do not have TLC programs. Most surveyed don't use formal metrics to measure their success after receiving a grant, but most use project selection criteria. Results from those two surveys show 60 percent were not familiar with TLC at all. Ms. Kiani pointed out there is a lack of coordination between MPOs and local governments, and indicated that TLC from WFRC fills in gaps. Specifically, MPO

funds and oversees regional transportation planning; and local governments fund land use planning. Nationally, there is a growing trend for promoting livable communities; and each program has its own goals, most commonly to increase travel options. Recommendations include considering why and how to track impact; and measure what matters.

Professor Ewing recommends that capital funding follow planning and technical assistance; so that precedes infrastructure and investment. Andrew Gruber, WFRC, remarked that TLC which emerged from this committee has expanded into state-funded programs like TLC, including monies appropriated to UDOT. He stated that capital investment serves the broader goals that tie in to other programs.

Dr. Ewing is offering to share with the committee ten fairly detailed case studies that include WFRC and the University of Utah. He will also share a final report on their national survey as presented today that will include charts and more narrative.

4. New State Transportation Funding Prioritization Criteria (Capacity Fund Decision Making) [Recording 00:39:29]. Chair Ramsey reminded the Committee that it guides the long-range planning process. After the Unified Transportation Plan is developed, UDOT prioritizes which projects get funded first during Phase 1. The state funding level is close to \$700 million annually, which will be affected by recent legislative changes.

Richard Brockmyer, UDOT, gave an overview of a newly adopted set of criteria that will affect the prioritization of state transportation funding. A prioritization process was written by the Utah Transportation Commission with input from UDOT, WFRC and other state Metropolitan Planning Organizations. This will guide the decision-making for two capacity programs: Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) and Transit Transportation Investment Fund (TTIF). Senate Bills 34, 72 and 136 may affect funding and recommendations, and requires a written update since 2005 that UDOT will revise annually.

UDOT is working under U-Vision, developed collaboratively with focus on improving and maintaining quality of life for a multimodal framework. Mr. Brockmyer discussed the framework across four models that need to be evaluated and reviewed annually. It is anticipated that this will be changed over time and ultimately is up to the Transportation Commission which uses this as a tool and resource.

With the need for further discussion, Ted Knowlton invited committee members to stay after the meeting to talk about concerns and next steps. Information can be found at <http://udot.utah.gov/go/projectprioritizationprocess>.

5. Exploring Road Usage Charges in Utah (RUC) [Recording 01:08:40]. This is a continued conversation from the last RGC meeting. Tiffany Pocock, UDOT, presented today. Teri Newell, Deputy Director from UDOT was also present. In response to legislative recommendations, UDOT will launch a pilot program for road usage charges of electric and hybrid vehicle owners (2 percent of fleet in Utah). Currently owners pay a flat fee during their annual registration, which is used to compensate for not paying as much fuel tax as drivers of conventional vehicles. These annual fees help pay for operations and maintenance of Utah's roads. With the pilot program that will become effective on January 1, 2020, drivers of electric, plug-in and hybrids will have the option to pay road usage charges in lieu of flat fees with enrollments online. Ms. Pocock indicated that unique to Utah is the direct access to the DMV database to determine eligibility and capture odometer measures with capped miles. UDOT is also working with a commercial account manager to ensure privacy issues.

Projection charts show a rapid growth of fuel-alternative cars each year. In future years, the RUC program may become a potential replacement to the fuel tax for all vehicles in Utah. Implementing tolling fees in the future was also discussed.

RGC discussed the broader implications of moving to a user-fee based model of paying for maintenance. Mayor Wilson suggested that this presents the idea of our roads as a marketplace, and could be a barrier to put/keep people in electric cars. However, it is a voluntary program.

6. Other Business [Recording 01:01:27]. The next RGC meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2020. As RGC Goals are being set for the new year with a regular theme to help guide cities as the steering committee for the Wasatch Choice Plan. Chair Ramsey said topics to address will be ideas relative to the new plan.

Nikki Navio (present), and Lauren Victor (not present) were introduced and announced as new transportation planners for WFRC by Andrew Gruber.

Mr. Knowlton reminded participants that presentations can be found online and will also be published.

Upcoming Events:

- Wasatch Choice Implementation Workshops – through end of October 2019
- UDOT Annual Conference – November 5-7, 2019
- UAC Annual Conference – November 14-15, 2019

7. ACTION: Adjournment [Recording 01:01:34]. Chair Ramsey entertained a motion to close the meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Jenny Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Tina Cannon that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

mep

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