



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES
Regional Growth Committee
 August 19, 2021

A meeting was held on Thursday, August 19, 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:

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT		OTHER APPOINTED MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES	
Tyler Vincent, Member (Brigham City)	yes	Natalie Gochnour, Member Utah Transportation Commission	no
Jeff Scott, Alternate (Box Elder County)	no	Kevin Van Tassell, Alternate Utah Transportation Commission	yes
Len Arave, Member (North Salt Lake)	yes	Beth Holbrook, Member Utah Transit Authority Board of Trustees	yes
Rick Earnshaw, Alternate (Woods Cross)	no	Carlton Christensen, Alternate Utah Transit Authority Board of Trustees	no
Joy Petro, Member (Layton)	yes	Erin Mendenhall, Member Utah Air Quality Board	yes
John Pohlman, Alternate (Fruit Heights)	no	Ari Bruening, Member Envision Utah	yes
Robert McConnell, Member (Morgan County)	yes	Ryan Beck, Alternate Envision Utah	yes
Matt Wilson, Alternate (Morgan County)	no	NON-VOTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT	
Jenny Wilson, Member (Salt Lake County)	yes	Ben Huot, Member Utah Department of Transportation	yes
Ron Bigelow, Alternate (West Valley City)	no	Andrea Olson, Alternate Utah Department of Transportation	no
Dawn Ramsey, Member (South Jordan) Chair	yes	GJ LaBonty, Member Utah Transit Authority	no
Richard Snelgrove, Member (Salt Lake County)	yes	Kerry Doane, Alternate Utah Transit Authority	yes
Troy Walker, Member (Draper)	yes	Bryce Bird, Staff Representative Utah Air Quality Board	no
Steven Shields, Alternate (Herriman)	yes	Ivan Marrero, Member FHWA-Utah Division	no
Dan Peay, Alternate (Magna)	no	Kelly Lund, Alternate FHWA-Utah Division	no
Cherie Wood, Alternate (South Salt Lake)	no	Gary Uresk Utah League of Cities and Towns	yes
Kurt Bradburn, Alternate (Sandy)	no	Dina Blaes Utah Association of Counties	yes
Kendall Thomas, Member (Tooele County)	yes	Julie Fullmer, Vineyard Mayor Mountainland Association of Governments	yes
Ed Hansen, Alternate (Tooele City)	no	WFRC APPOINTMENTS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	
Mark Allen, Member (Washington Terrace)	yes	Ibi Guevara, Utah Urban Lands Institute	no
Norm Searle, Alternate (Riverdale)	yes	Laura Hanson, GOPB	yes
Robert Dandoy, Member (Roy) Vice Chair	yes	Jacey Skinner, Utah Transportation Coalition	no
Jim Harvey, Alternate (Weber County)	no	Reid Ewing, University of Utah	yes

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT, including WFRC Staff:	
Ginger Chinn, Brett Millburn,	<i>WFRC staff continued:</i> Hugh Van Wagenen, Rosie
Jennifer Elskin, Kelly Lund	Hernandez, Bert Granberg, Wayne Bennion, Megan
Wendy Thomas, Karson Eilers	Townsend, Ben Wuthrich, Miranda Jones Cox, Ted
Jon Larsen, Shule Bishop, Rob Jolley	Knowlton, Andrew Gruber, Andrea Pearson, Josh Reynolds,
<i>WFRC Staff:</i> Jory Johner, Mikala Jordan, Christy	Julie Bjornstad, Ned Hacker
Dahlberg, Nikki Navio, Marcia White, Lauren Victor,	

1. **Introductions and Consent Agenda [00:00:20]** Mayor Dawn Ramsey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. Introductions were made via roll call.
2. **Public Comment [00:02:04]** Mayor Ramsey opened the meeting for public comments. There were none. Andrew Gruber, WFRC, introduced Jennifer Elskin as the new region representative for FHWA.
 - 1a. **ACTION: Approve Minutes from May 20, 2021 [00:03:44]** Mayor Ramsey brought attention to the minutes of the May meeting. With no discussion or changes, the Mayor entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Mayor Robert Dandoy made a motion and Mayor Len Arave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Statewide Growth Policy Conversations and Wasatch Choice [00:04:52]**

Ted Knowlton, and Andrew Gruber, both with WFRC, 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. Mr. Knowlton and Mr. Gruber presented results of a survey that identified policy ideas that would have the most beneficial impact on these planning elements.
4. **Discuss the Wasatch Choice fall outreach opportunities [00:54:33]**

Julie Bjornstad, WFRC, 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.
5. **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendments [01:01:40]**
 - a. **ACTION: RTP amendment process update**

Jory Johner, WFRC, 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.

[01:08:00] Mayor Ramsey asked if there were questions or comments regarding the changes to the amendment process. There was one comment and some discussion. The Mayor entertained a motion to recommend that the Wasatch Front Regional Council approve the modified process for amending the Regional Transportation Plan. Commissioner Robert McConnell made the motion and Mayor Joy Petro seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. ACTION: Amendment #3 to the 2019-2050 RTP [01:10:55]

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).

[01:16:50] Mayor Ramsey asked if there were questions or comments regarding amendment #3. There was one comment and some discussion. The Mayor entertained a motion to recommend approval of 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 by the Wasatch Front Regional Council at the August 26, 2021 meeting. Mayor Mark Allen made the motion and Councilmember Kendall Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. WFRC Funding Opportunities for Local Governments [01:24:30]

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, Marcia White, and Christy Dahlberg) 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.

7. Other Business and Adjournment [01:43:00]

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021. Mayor Mark Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Reid Ewing seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37am.

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