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Utah Association of Counties

Ari Bruening
Envision Utah

Laura Hanson
State Planning Coordinator

Andrew Gruber
Executive Director

REGIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE AGENDA January 20, 2022

A meeting of the Regional Growth Committee will be held on **Thursday, Jan 20, 2022 at 9:30am via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82177810165?pwd=eEVlak9PUDVKSnwazB2QWFEBXdzQT0T>

Meeting ID: 821 7781 0165 Passcode: 754222

One tap mobile [+16699009128](tel:+16699009128),,82177810165#

The agenda will be as follows:

- 1. Introductions and Consent Agenda**
ACTION: Minutes of the RGC Meeting held October 21, 2021
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Utah Legislative Session overview**
- 4. 2023-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update**
 - Phasing criteria (prioritization of projects)
 - Considering the local context for regional projects
- 5. ACTION: RTP Amendment Process Update**
- 6. Other Business**
Next Meeting: March 17, 2022
- 7. Video: Overview of the Utah Open and Public meeting Act**
- 8. Adjournment**

Upcoming Events:

- 2022 Legislative Session, virtual WFRC update meetings, Thursdays, 8-9am, through March 5
- WFRC Council Meeting, January 27
- WFRC Active Transportation Meeting, February 9
- WFRC Trans Com Meeting, February 17
- Wasatch Front Regional Council New Committee Member Orientation, February 24

Informational materials can be located on WFRC's website at www.wfrc.org.

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Wasatch Front Regional Council is choosing to continue holding all public meetings electronically, without an anchor location, until it is deemed safe enough to hold public meetings in person.

Wasatch Front Regional Council es una organización de Oportunidad Igual. Se solicita la participación del público, sin importar la edad, el sexo, la discapacidad, la raza, color o nacionalidad. Personas que requieren servicios de traducción deben contactar al Administrador de Título VI de WFRC por teléfono a 801-363-4250 (personas con discapacidad auditiva pueden llamar a Spanish Relay Utah - 1-888-346-3162) o por correo electrónico apearson@wfrc.org, por lo menos 72 horas antes de la reunión.

Wasatch Front Regional Council ha elegido seguir manteniendo todas las juntas públicas electrónicamente, sin un lugar de anclaje, hasta que sea considerado lo suficientemente seguro para tener juntas públicas en persona.



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES
Regional Growth Committee
 October 21, 2021

A meeting was held on Thursday, October 21, 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)	no	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	no
Rick Earnshaw, Alternate (Woods Cross)	no	Carlton Christensen, Alternate Utah Transit Authority Board of Trustees	yes
Joy Petro, Member (Layton)	yes	Erin Mendenhall, Member Utah Air Quality Board	no
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)	no	Ben Huot, Member Utah Department of Transportation	yes
Ron Bigelow, Alternate (West Valley City)	yes	Andrea Olson, Alternate Utah Department of Transportation	yes
Dawn Ramsey, Member (South Jordan) Chair	no	GJ LaBonty, Member Utah Transit Authority	no
Richard Snelgrove, Member (Salt Lake County)	no	Kerry Doane, Alternate Utah Transit Authority	no
Troy Walker, Member (Draper)	no	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	yes
Cherie Wood, Alternate (South Salt Lake)	no	Gary Uresk Utah League of Cities and Towns	no
Kurt Bradburn, Alternate (Sandy)	no	Dina Blaes Utah Association of Counties	no
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)	no	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	no

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT, including WFRC Staff:

Ginger Chinn, Brett Millburn, Jennifer Elskin, Kelly Lund, Wendy Thomas, Weston Applonie, Chad Wilkinson, Lon Crowell, Andy Hulka, Helen Peters, Russ Fox, Roger Borgenicht, Alysia Ducvara

WFRC staff: Jory Johner, Mikala Jordan, Rosie Hernandez, Marcia White, Lauren Victor, Megan Townsend, Miranda Jones Cox, Ted Knowlton, Andrew Gruber, Andrea Pearson, Julie Bjornstad, Ned Hacker

1. Introductions and Consent Agenda [00:00:05]

Mayor Bob Dandoy, Vice-Chair, excused Mayor Dawn Ramsey, Chair, and called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. Introductions were made via roll call.

1a. ACTION: Approve Minutes from August 19, 2021 [00:01:44] Mayor Dandoy brought attention to the minutes of the August meeting. With no discussion or changes, the Mayor entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Mayor Mark Allen made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes as written and Mayor Len Arave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment [00:02:40]

Mayor Dandoy opened the meeting for public comments. There were none. Andrew Gruber, WFRC, introduced Russ Fox as the new Director of Planning for UTA.

3. Wasatch Choice draft 2023-2050 transportation scenario [00:05:20]

Mayor Dandoy introduced Jory Johner and Julie Bjornstad, both with WFRC. Mr. Johner and Ms. Bjornstad outlined the draft set of transportation projects for the years 2023 to 2050 that are being considered as part of the four-year update to Wasatch Choice Vision and the Unified Transportation Plan. This update is scheduled for adoption in May, 2023. Group discussion was welcomed and it was noted that a key opportunity to provide feedback on these projects is through the Wasatch Choice Vision workshops. Mr. Johner and Ms. Bjornstad reviewed an outline of these projects and discussed the balance between modes of transportation, approximate costs, and forecasted benefits. This draft scenario of our future transportation system also incorporates a comprehensive refinement to the Wasatch Choice centers.

4. Wasatch Choice local spotlight - Layton City [00:21:19]

Mayor Dandoy informed the committee that members of Layton City would be presenting. Mayor Joy Petro and Chad Wilkinson highlighted their recent planning, including their general plan, their active transportation planning, and their efforts in working with their neighboring communities to analyze the market surrounding future West Davis Corridor interchanges. Layton's Land Use Map establishes a strategy that incorporates centers throughout the community. The City is working to implement these centers with mixed use zones along transit routes and near Commuter Rail, and infrastructure improvements around the West Davis Business Center.

5. Statewide growth policy conversations [00:43:40]

Mayor Dandoy turned the time to Andrew Gruber, WFRC, who provided an update to continue the ongoing discussion of policy recommendations for consideration by two state commissions - the [Economic Opportunity Commission](#) and the [Commission on Housing Affordability](#). Mr. Gruber stated that 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.

6. Federal Infrastructure Bill update [01:13:16]

Mayor Dandoy introduced Miranda Jones Cox, WFRC, who briefed the committee on the path forward for the final passage of the federal infrastructure bill. With a delayed September vote, the House is now anticipated to take up the legislation by the end of October. If ultimately adopted, this legislation will provide significant and stable infrastructure funding over the next five years, to Utah and the nation.

7. Other Business and Adjournment [01:18:00]

The next meeting is in the process of being scheduled for January 2022 and meeting invitations and more information will be forthcoming. With no further business brought forward, Mayor Dandoy entertained a motion to adjourn. UTA Board Trustee Carlton Christensen made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Kevin Van Tassell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07am.

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

DATE: January 20, 2022
AGENDA ITEM: 3
SUBJECT: Utah Legislative Session Overview
PREPARED BY: Miranda Jones Cox

At the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Regional Growth Committee meeting, the committee will be briefed on what to expect during the 2022 General Legislative Session and on the recently passed Federal Infrastructure Bill including what it means for Utah.

BACKGROUND:

Utah Legislative Session Preview

The 45-day General Legislative Session will begin Tuesday, January 18th and run through Thursday, March 3rd.

WFRC members can keep themselves apprised of notable legislation by subscribing to WFRC's [Government Affairs](#) emails which are frequently distributed during the session. Members may also reference WFRC's [bill tracker](#), found on WFRC's website, and/or provide input on these pieces of legislation by attending our weekly policy meetings on Thursday mornings at 8 AM at the Utah State Capitol building.

WFRC's legislative engagement is coordinated on behalf of our communities by Executive Director Andrew Gruber, Government Affairs Manager Miranda Jones Cox and WFRC's state legislative consultants Rob Jolley, Chris Bleak, and Jod Hart. On legislative issues, WFRC works in close partnership with local governments directly and through the Utah League of Cities and Towns and Utah Association of Counties, as well as our transportation agency partners at the Utah Department of Transportation and Utah Transit Authority.

Federal Infrastructure Bill Update

The federal infrastructure bill, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), was signed into law in November and provides over \$550 billion in new funding above baseline levels over five years for roads, bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, water, broadband, and other infrastructure programs. The IIJA provides stability in core federal infrastructure funding and policy over the next five years, and creates opportunities to compete for discretionary grant programs (some new and some existing).

You can find WFRC's full summary of the IIJA and its transportation-related provisions [HERE](#).

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information only.

CONTACT PERSON:

Miranda Jones Cox, 436-691-3043, miranda@wfr.org

DATE: January 13, 2022
AGENDA ITEM: 4
SUBJECT: 2023-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update
PREPARED BY: Julie Bjornstad and Hugh Van Wagenen

At the January 20th Regional Growth Committee (RGC) meeting, WFRC staff will provide an update on development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) — the transportation element of the [Wasatch Choice Vision](#). RGC will then have a discussion focused on these two questions:

- 1) **Phasing Criteria.** How and what criteria should be used in prioritizing roadway, transit, and active transportation projects within the 2023-2050 Regional Transportation Plan?
- 2) **Considering the local context for regional projects.** How should the local and adjacent context affect the design and function of regional transportation facilities?

BACKGROUND:

The Wasatch Choice Vision is our shared framework to prepare our communities and Region to address the challenges of growth, prepare for uncertainties of the future, and preserve and enhance quality of life for generations to come. Through the Wasatch Choice, WFRC coordinates regional transportation planning with local land use and economic development efforts. The regional transportation element of the Wasatch Choice Vision is the officially adopted RTP. The RTP is adopted every four years – the next RTP will be adopted in May 2023 and will address transportation needs through the year 2050.

1) Phasing criteria

A central part of the development of the RTP is prioritizing roadway, transit, and active transportation projects by *need* and then financially constraining projects by *anticipated available revenue*. A performance-based planning framework rooted in the [ten Wasatch Choice Vision goals](#) forms the basis of the RTP prioritization process.

Through the development of proposed phasing criteria, to be provided at RGC, WFRC staff have been coordinating with our transportation partners and have worked to align state transportation funding evaluation criteria and WFRC federal transportation funding evaluation criteria to our long-range transportation planning efforts. Proposed phasing criteria will be introduced in January. It will then also be discussed at the February meeting of the RGC Technical Advisory Committee (composed mainly of staff planners from local governments in our Region), and finally brought back to RGC at the March meeting. Phasing criteria will be shared at the RGC meeting and will be modified based on feedback for use starting in March 2022.

2) Considering the local context for regional projects

As part of the RTP process, WFRC and its partners have been exploring policy approaches that might complement traditional transportation projects. One key policy approach being explored with local and regional partners is if and how roadway design might consider variation in local land use and economic development context. For example, should a major arterial change in design when it enters a Wasatch Choice center, like a municipality's downtown? At the RGC meeting we will introduce this topic to seek initial guidance.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion only

CONTACT PERSON:

Julie Bjornstad, 801-363-4250 ext. 1105, julieb@wfr.org
Hugh Van Wagenen, 801-363-4250, ext. 1124, hugh@wfr.org

DATE: January 12, 2022
AGENDA ITEM: 5
SUBJECT: **ACTION: RTP Amendment Process Update**
PREPARED BY: Jory Johner

At the January 20th Regional Growth Committee (RGC) meeting, the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) staff will outline proposed, recommended, modest technical modifications to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendment process. Last year RGC considered broader structural changes to the RTP amendment process. Changes outlined this month represent a refinement to that structure based on additional feedback from transportation partners.

BACKGROUND:

Every four years WFRC prepares and adopts the RTP as the core transportation plan within the overall Wasatch Choice Vision. While the RTP receives considerable review before being formally adopted, changes are sometimes needed to accommodate new funding sources or conditions.

WFRC has a written RTP amendment process that was last updated by the Regional Council in August 2021.

The particular process used to make an amendment to the RTP varies depending on the size and impact of a potential project. There are three different levels or types of amendments:

- *Level 3 - Full Amendment* addresses changes to regionally significant projects, such as principal arterials, freeways, or fixed guideway transit. This category requires a 30-day public comment process and an air-quality conformity analysis.
- *Level 2 - Board Modification* addresses non-exempt, non-regionally significant projects. The Level 2 category requires a new air quality conformity determination, allows for the public comment period during the RGC meeting, and allows the RGC to approve the amendment during the meeting. RGC does have the opportunity to elevate a Level 2 project to Level 3, requiring the standard 30-day public comment period.
- *Level 1 - Staff Modification* addresses exempt projects, which are exempt from air quality conformity requirements. Level 1 amendments require consultation with the RGC Chair and Vice-chair, with final approval by the WFRC Executive Director. The RGC Chair and Vice-chair do have the opportunity to elevate a Level 1 project to Level 2.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS:

Proposed process modification 1: Consultation with the Interagency Consultation Team (ICT)

When there is a need to amend the RTP, WFRC staff makes an initial determination of which level of amendment is required, depending on the nature of the project. WFRC consults with the ICT in making that determination, and also asks for other input or feedback from the ICT. The ICT is composed of Utah's four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), the Utah Transit Agency (UTA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Utah Division of Air Quality (Utah DAQ). FHWA would then provide a letter to document what air quality conformity requirements are needed.

The proposed modification to the RTP amendment process would formalize that this consultation with the ICT is part of the process.

This proposed modification has been discussed with and requested by FHWA. WFRC staff supports and is comfortable with this process modification.

Proposed process modification 2: Align project types within each amendment level to the air quality conformity determination project lists

WFRC staff recommends the following project type and level recategorizations:

- Functional classification changes - Collector and minor arterial projects would now fall under the Level 2 Board Modification, and principal arterial and freeway projects would be placed in the Level 3 Full Amendment category;
- All corridor preservation for roadway and transit projects are placed in the Level 2 Board Modification category;
- Operational projects that do not include modifications to intersections are placed in the Level 1 Staff Modification and operational projects that include modifications to intersections are placed in the Level 2 Board Modification;
- New construction and widening of collector and minor arterial projects are Level 2 Board Modifications while principal arterials and freeways remain in the Level 3 Full Amendment category;
- New construction of non-fixed guideway transit are Level 2 Board Modifications while fixed guideway and stations are Level 3 Full Amendments; and
- All active transportation projects fall within the Level 1 Staff Modification category.

RECOMMENDATION:

The WFRC staff requests that the Regional Growth Committee make a motion to *“recommend that the Wasatch Front Regional Council approve the modifications to the process for amending the Regional Transportation Plan.”*

CONTACT PERSON:

Jory Johner, 801-458-3090, jjohner@wfr.org

EXHIBIT:

RTP Amendment Process Update - Process Changes Highlighted

[Open and Public Meetings Act](#)