

EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Federal Highway Administration – Utah Division  
2520 West 4700 South, Suite 9A  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

PRESENT: Teri Newell, Utah Department of Transportation  
Wilson Martin, Utah State Historic Preservation Office  
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation  
Butch Waidelich, Federal Highway Administration  
Jason Gipson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Larry Crist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services  
Mike Styler, Department of Natural Resources  
John English, Utah Transit Authority  
Bryan Cawley, Federal Highway Administration  
Greg Punske, Federal Highway Administration  
Linda Anderson, Federal Highway Administration  
Jim McMinimee, Utah Department of Transportation  
Cheryl Heying, Utah Department of Air Quality

Present via Video Conference:

Charmaine Knighton, Federal Transit Administration  
Susan Martin, Federal Transit Administration, Council  
Tiffany Gallegos, Federal Transit Administration

## I. CHAIR AND HOST WELCOME

Called to order: 11:19 a.m. Butch Waidelich, FHWA welcomed everyone to the meeting. Confirmed we are going in the right direction meeting quarterly and group seems to be progressing in the right direction. Butch asked if there were any additional agenda items that would need to be discussed at the meeting and at this time, there were no more additions to agenda.

It was discussed that Lucy Jordan is retiring.

Wilson Martin added he would like to see improvement to the recently signed programmatic agreement, could be used as a model for other types of PA's in the future.

Carlos agreed with the need to develop additional programmatic agreements, leveraging with the work of other organizations. Examples can be found on the AASHTO SCOE library, website: [www.environment.transportation.org](http://www.environment.transportation.org).

John English suggested replacing local presentation agenda item with additional resource topics. The suggestion was made for Carlos to discuss in detail Billion Dollar Bond to get people up to speed.

## II. MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRIDOR UPDATE

TeriAnne Newell gave update on Mountain View Corridor project and had 10-12 page slide presentation to show where we are in the process. She wanted to express her thanks to all the agencies that have worked with her in this project. A draft document is expected in October for review with a public hearing to be held in November. A record of decision is expected one year from now.

Teri discussed the proposed alternatives in Salt Lake and Utah Counties and UDOT's locally preferred alternative in both counties.

### **SALT LAKE COUNTY**

- 1) 7200 West Freeway
- 2) 5800 West Freeway (UDOT locally preferred – final decision by FHWA in 2008)  
Salt Lake County Transit Alternative: 5600 West Dedicated Right-of-Way (center running).

#### Salt Lake County Impacts Summary:

	5800 West	7200 South
Peak Traffic Times	10-15% fewer delays	10 – 15% more delays
Home Relocation	179	224
Business Relocations	20	24
Historic Properties Impacted	11	4
Wetlands Impacted (Acres)		
<i>Playa</i>	14.0	24.2
<i>Total</i>	27.9	29.8

## UTAH COUNTY

- 1) Southern Freeway
- 2) 2100 North Freeway (UDOT locally preferred)
- 3) Arterials

### Utah County Impacts Summary

	Southern Freeway	2100 North Freeway	Arterials
Delay Reduction (3pm – 6pm)*	60%	50%	60%
Home Relocations	127	29	72
Business Relocations	9	3	2
Historic Properties Impacted	3	3	6
Wetlands Impacted (Acres)			
<i>Primary</i>	78.3	14.7	52.9
<i>Peteetmeet</i>	12.4	0	5.5

\*Compared to 2030 No-Action

### III. UTAH EIS/EA MASTER LIST

Welcome ~ Cheryl Heying new to position.

Cheryl discussed air quality, STIP, TIP passes muster and no further effort is needed to meet current standards. Pollution is going down due to movement of traffic and less congestion. Any discussions with public should be centered around it is better for air quality to keep traffic moving vs. having engines idling (diesel) and adding to air quality concerns. Cheryl would like to coordinate and discuss thoughts. She believes current plans are adequate.

There was a lengthy discussion of planning and environmental issues related to sustainability.

John English and Butch discussed how to coordinate with MPO's and how they are organized and active. Identify issues in long-range plans, and bring into development of sustainable plan.

Mike Styler suggested an opportunity for Utah Geological Survey to work with cities/counties on slide zones and flood plains in response to Governor Huntsman putting together committees to study these issues. Maybe we could participate in the discussion about not building on landslides, wetlands or other areas such as these, which could result in the need for building future transportation.

Wilson discussed the potential for education material as the first step.

Mike Styler recommended higher level of coordination to bring issues together.

John, Wilson, and Butch discussed health issues and that possibly inviting doctors to

ETEC meetings to see what clinical points are being made.

Jason wanted to know if the public is aware of why are we protecting wetlands? We need to get the message out on what they provide, quality of life and clean vs. dirty water. Embrace the opportunity to get message out to public why they are so important.

Teri discussed that agencies and cities need to work together and come up with ideas to plan and see what and where value is added in each area. Possibly take the opportunity to let them brainstorm issues and solutions (ex: Utah Lake issues) and see what ideas they come up with together.

Jim discussed the master list for EIS/EA, which contains 25 projects currently in the works. The list is in two formats both graphical and spreadsheet formats. Jim discussed that the projects are just UDOT related and does not include UTA. *He is hoping to get information from each agency on which projects they would like to be more involved in the process.*

**ACTION ITEM:** Jim requested that those agencies wanting to become more involved in a particular project contact Shane.

Jason suggested developing visual map showing project locations.

Environmental Studies (ES) are state funded projects that don't require FHWA actions. ES's typically go through all the same studies and processes as an environmental assessment.

John discussed light rail in the same situation and doesn't require federal signatures.

*Action items:*

*Shane: develop a list of staff level contact points.*

Lori: Send website information to Charmaine with ETEC link information.  
[www.utahetec.org](http://www.utahetec.org)

Butch discussed having adequate resources to do these reviews. Do we have enough? Discussion evolved into two things: 1) staffing at the resource agencies and 2) what are the needs? Carlos would like to know what is hitting and when.

Wilson and Carlos discussed awards won for work with contractors. Carlos talked about partnering with design bid, low bidder wins, and DOT finds themselves with adversarial positions at time with contractors. We are only successful if contractor is successful and there is a need for an attitude change.

Jim stated there is a claims review officer for UDOT and that in the last year and half, there has only been one claim. There is a website for every project.

*Jim: will send website on inner web to Wilson*

#### IV. NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Carlos presented National Partnership Awards on behalf of John Njord who was absent from meeting.

National Partnership for Highway Quality is a groundbreaking National partnership of public agencies, industry organizations, and private firms. NPHQ is the only national program that brings public highway agencies and private industry together to combine their expertise and to cooperatively lead the advancement in highway quality, safety, and service to the highway users.

There were 29 nominations received for the 2006 Making A Difference Awards. All of the nominations featured new strategies that delivered a higher level of highway quality and/or service to the Highway Users.

ETEC is receiving the award for creating a partnership that built trust and collaborative solutions for a wide-range of transportation and environmental issues. Results ranged from coordination on active environmental studies to process improvements for environmental streamlining

Presentation of awards to each participating agency in ETEC.

#### V. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Billion-dollar bond: Over \$90M is allocated to transportation yearly allowing the Department to bond up to a billion dollars. Five different criteria had to be met to apply funds and UDOT was required to make recommendations to the commission for approval by the legislature.

Carlos reviewed allocations for Billion Dollar Bond recommendations.

#### VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

- Get ideas that we can work towards finding practical solutions (Carlos volunteered)
- How departments can work best together
- Green Highways
- Air Quality
- Sustainability

Those in attendance in the meeting agreed that the next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 18 at 11:00 a.m. Meeting will be held at the Army Corps of Engineers offices located at 2600 South 300 West in Bountiful.

ADJORN: Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:44 p.m.