

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday, July 10, 2006

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services  
2369 West Orton Circle (2390 South)  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**PRESENT:** Jim McMinimee, Utah Department of Transportation  
Brent Jensen, Utah Department of Transportation  
Henry Maddux, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services  
Larry Crist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services  
Jason Gipson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Butch Waidelich, Federal Highway Administration  
Wilson Martin, Utah State Historic Preservation Office  
Dianne Nielson, Department of Environmental Quality  
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation  
Mike Styler, Department of Natural Resources  
John English, Utah Transit Authority  
Diane Josie, Utah Department of Transportation

**GUESTS:** Chuck Chappell, Wasatch Front Regional Council  
Matt Seddon, Utah State Historic Preservation Office  
Cory Jensen, Utah State Historic Preservation Office  
Linda Anderson, Federal Highway Administration  
Andrew Jackson, Mountainland Association of Governments  
Daryl Cook, Mountainland Association of Governments  
Ahmad Jaber, Utah Department of Transportation  
George Ramjoue, Wasatch Front Regional Council  
Teri Newell, Utah Department of Transportation  
Reed Soper, Utah Department of Transportation  
Lucy Jordan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

**I. CHAIR AND HOST WELCOME**

The meeting began at 11:05 a.m. Butch Waidelich welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if there were any items to add to the agenda.

Henry Maddux also welcomed everyone to the meeting. Henry announced that he is leaving Utah to work in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Regional Office in Denver in a few weeks. Larry Crist will be acting field supervisor after Henry leaves.

## **II. HOST PRESENTATION: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES**

Henry introduced Lucy Jordan, a Fish and Wildlife Biologist who coordinates federal projects for the USFWS. Lucy conducted a presentation illustrating the work done by the Utah Field Office of the USFWS. She explained that their mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. She discussed some of their program areas and authorities including fisheries and habitat conservation, international affairs, endangered species act, clean water act, and national environmental policy act. Lucy also discussed transportation planning and SAFETEA-LU. She said that USFWS is the Department of Interiors' expert agency regarding wildlife and waterfowl 4(f) issues.

Lucy explained that some of USFWS ongoing efforts are a Legacy Preserve science team and noise study, Utah County mitigation prioritization study, USFWS sponsored agency coordination meetings, rapid wetland assessment method development and wildlife crossing study.

Henry mentioned that communication with transportation and others has been very effective and USFWS is very appreciative of these efforts.

## **III. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGE: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION (RTP) UPDATES**

Butch mentioned that one of the provisions of SAFETEA-LU addresses planning and places an emphasis on coordination between state and federal agencies. Chuck Chappell, Executive Director of the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), and Daryl Cook, Executive Director of the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG), were invited to attend today's meeting to discuss transportation planning.

Chuck Chappell gave a short introduction of MPOs and briefly discussed the background of the four MPOs in Utah, their responsibilities, and the products they provide. He distributed a handout that listed WFRC's objectives for attending the ETEC meeting. Chuck explained the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He explained that in order to get federal funding, projects would need to be included on the TIP and RTP.

Chuck discussed the link between transportation planning, environmental planning and the NEPA process. He said that the coordination between these areas is a continual process and that WFRC's objective is to design corridor-planning studies that would feed into NEPA documents. He mentioned that Ahmad Jaber, UDOT's Systems Planning and Programming Director, wants to develop the state's transportation plan in coordination with the MPOs and to launch the NEPA process. Chuck also discussed mitigation areas and said WFRC is charged with identifying and planning for potential mitigation areas. He will be asking for help from state and federal agencies in with this process.

Henry mentioned that WFRC's RTP timeline seems aggressive. Brent Jensen said that it's important for the information that is readily available to be emphasized on the short time frame. He said the information they're looking for is more global and doesn't necessarily contain a lot of detail since it's potential mitigation activities/areas rather than project specific.

Chuck also distributed a copy of a letter that WFRC hopes to have signed by UDOT, FHWA, MAG, Dixie MPO, UTA, WFRC and Cache MPO. The intent of the letter is to involve these agencies in the planning process resulting in projects that have a more direct impact on the properties the agencies are interested in and are resources responsible for.

Wilson Martin asked about meetings held by WFRC that give agencies opportunities to interface with MPOs. Chuck said there are and will add Wilson to WFRC's e-mail notification list. Matt Seddon said it would be good to have an opportunity to meet and explain the differences in their resources from other state agencies. George Ramjoue will coordinate with State History to set up a meeting.

A discussion was held regarding involvement in the planning process. Carlos mentioned that he would like to see more involvement at a program level rather than a project level because it's a more efficient use of time and money. Chuck said that WFRC hired Envision Utah to help get input from the public.

Henry asked if the MPOs use the predictions on growth from the Governor's Office. Chuck said the numbers provided by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget are based on local land-use development planning.

**ACTION ITEM:** Carlos asked the group if a presentation regarding travel demand would be useful to them. The group agreed it would be useful. Chuck Chappell to set up a meeting to conduct the presentation.

#### **IV. MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRIDOR**

Teri Newell, UDOT Project Manager for the Mountain View Corridor (MVC), introduced herself. She provided an executive overview of the MVC project. Her presentation included maps of the study area which are on UDOT's website.

She mentioned that the area involving MVC has been identified as an area needing a transportation solution because of the increase in the population. Some areas are expected to more than double in population by 2030.

Teri briefly discussed the timelines for the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). UDOT is about 3 ½ years into the five-year process for this project and so there is about 1 ½ years left on the EIS schedule. She briefly discussed the coordination meetings that have taken place. These meetings began in 2003 and will continue into 2007.

Teri outlined some of the issues involved in the MVC project including historic properties, wetlands, traffic performance, relocations and cost. She discussed the two alternative routes identified for Salt Lake County and the four alternative routes identified in Utah County. Some of the cost factors between the alignments were briefly discussed.

Teri mentioned that tolling for MVC would be studied in the EIS. Carlos mentioned that Teri is in the middle of the process of trying to help people understand transportation funding. He said that no decisions have been made on tolling for this corridor.

Following Teri's presentation, several issues were discussed including interchanges at major and minor facilities, right of way and corridor acquisition.

## **V. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

Butch mentioned that FHWA is sponsoring a Gallup poll and he was asked to identify agencies that work with the Utah Division of FHWA. He said ETEC members might be contacted. The poll would ask questions about how FHWA works with the state agencies to accomplish the task of satisfying the needs of the agencies.

Mike Styler said that the Department of Natural Resources has been talking with the mayors of cities surrounding Utah Lake and developing an inter-local cooperative group for managing and planning in and around Utah Lake. He said that mayors, county commissioners, state agencies and legislators are working to put a plan together. He thinks this will affect transportation around the lake. If anyone is interested in a copy of the draft inter-local agreement, contact Mike.

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

A suggestion was made that teleconferencing or videoconferencing be used to allow those members outside of Utah to attend the meetings.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be hosted by John English at UTA. The UTA offices are located at 3900 South 700 West.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

ETEC website: <http://www.utahetec.org/>.