

Salt Lake County Council of Governments
Quarterly Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 15th, 2025.

Time: 11:30 – 12:30 pm meeting

Place: Emergency Operations Center 3380 S. 900 W. South Salt Lake, UT. 84119.

COG Membership:

- ✓ Mayors from each jurisdiction, including the Salt Lake County Mayor
- ✓ City Council representative from each city of the First Class (population of 100,000 or more) (Salt Lake City, Sandy, West Valley City, West Jordan) – Salt Lake City Councilmember Dan Dugan; Sandy Councilmember Brooke D’Souza; West Jordan Councilmember Chris McConnehey; West Valley Councilmember William Whetstone
- ✓ Four County Council members –Councilmember Laurie Stringham, Councilmember Ross Romero, Councilmember Aimee Winder-Newton (Alternate), Councilmember Natalie Pinkney (Alternate)

COG County Liaison: Lauren Littlefield | 385-468-4859 or llittlefield@saltlakecounty.gov ;
for meeting logistics for dietary requirements contact Derick Davis 385-468-4900 or dbdavis@saltlakecounty.gov

COG Membership Attendees: Alta – Mayor Roger Bourke; Bluffdale – Mayor Natalie Hall; Brighton – Mayor Dan Knopp; Cottonwood Heights – Mayor Mike Weichers; Draper – Mayor Troy Walker; Herriman – Mayor Lorin Palmer; Holladay – Mayor Robert Dahle; Midvale – Mayor Dustin Gettel; Millcreek – Mayor Jeff Silvestrini; Riverton – Mayor Trent Staggs; Salt Lake City – Dan Dugan; Salt Lake County – Councilmember Ross Romero; Councilmember Natalie Pinkney; Sandy – Mayor Monica Zoltanski; South Jordan – Mayor Dawn Ramsey; Taylorsville – Mayor Kristie Overson; West Jordan – Mayor Dirk Burton; West Valley City – Mayor Karen Lang; Salt Lake County – Mayor Jenny Wilson

Other: Katherine Fife, John Hiskey, Molly Wheeler, Laurie Hopkins, Lisa Hartman, Catherine Kanter, Kim Bell, William Whetstone, Jamie Dansie, Katherine Fife, Brooke D’Souza, Alison Stroud, Matthew Castillo, Andrew Johnston, Jana Ostler, Miranda Jones-Cox, Laurie Stringham, Suzanne Harrison, Ashley Perry, Brooke Lockyer, Janice Kimball, Doug Hill, David Spatafore, Robin Chalhoub, Andrea Wild, Justin Stewart, Kersten Swinyard, Celeste Eggert, Aimee Winder-Newton, Alison Stroud, Dina Blaes, (virtual) Ryan Anderson, Kevin Hicks, Kara Trevino Joe Smolka.

Staff: Lauren Littlefield, Tiffany Marquez, Derick Davis

MINUTES

1. **11:30 am – 12:00 Noon (30 minutes) Lunch and networking.**
2. **12:00 noon (2 Minutes) Welcome and Approval of Minutes** – Bluffdale Mayor Natalie Hall welcomed everyone at 12:01. Mayor Hall asked for a motion to approve the January 16th, 2025, minutes. Mayor Dustin Gettell motioned to approve the January 16th minutes. Council Member Dan Dugan seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
3. **12:02 (5 Minutes) Update on TRCC Committee** – Robin Chalhoub, Director, Salt Lake County Community Services. Robin reminded and encouraged everyone to apply for the TRCC grant that is now open. She stated that the TRCC has recently helped Murray with their museum, West Jordan with their Cultural Arts and Events Center, and Millcreek has just kicked off their phase 2. These projects improve the quality of life for residents of SLCo. The purpose of the grant is to assist with projects that have tourism, cultural, recreational, or convention purposes. The application can be for design, capital projects, or tourism promotion. The project must be publicly owned and operated and have a programming component that serves the public. Maintenance is not eligible. The project must be in SLCo and can be a 501c3, educational institution, or local government. The application needs to have the entire budget listed, and they are looking for shovel ready projects. The grant will close in mid-June, and then will be reviewed Aug - Sep, and should be ready for November council consideration. The website has applications and the process for reimbursement.

- www.saltlakecounty.gov/community-services/trcc-support-program

Robin also mentioned from the Parks and Recreation Department, the “my county rec pass.” Additionally, Parks and Rec are finishing up their master plan and making it public later this summer. At that point, they will be working with the mayor and the council on next steps. Which would include establishing the ZAP recreation board, defining facility priorities for the council and the mayor, and criteria for evaluating those priorities and just an overall process for next steps. Robin said there is a lot more to come and wanted to thank the members of COG for their help with parks and rec.

4. **12:07 (20 Minutes) Report on Economic Competitiveness in Salt Lake County** – Kersten Swinyard, Director of Economic Development. Kersten spoke on the Economic Competitiveness of Salt Lake County. Starting with a Three-Phase Analysis.
 - Phase 1 Jan-Mar 2023
 - Identify current value propositions, target industries, and peer regions.
 - Phase 2 Apr-Jul 2023
 - Use peer comparison to identify potential investments.
 - Phase 3 Aug-Oct 2023

- Share lessons learned to build consensus around strategies.
- This research features five specific industries within the identified clusters that highlight our regional competitiveness according to site selector methodology. The industries were Financial Services, Software Services, Therapeutics and Diagnostics R&D, Medical Device Manufacturing, and Advanced Materials and Aerospace Parts. The research found that the Salt Lake, Ogden, and Provo regions' total quality score placed first or second in the estimated operating costs compared to their peer communities. The scoring was based on the categories of Real Estate, Average Initial Employment, Average Initial Investment, and Utility Demands. Additionally, it looked at recommendations, opportunities, and threats. Examples include, but are not limited to, supporting diversity, office and lab space, housing availability, entry-level positions, wage increases, skilled talent, and development training. Also, some decision drivers were, but not limited to, access to amenities, access to skilled labor, building space, minimal utilities, favorable quality of life, greenfield sites, or existing buildings, and proximity to institutions, suppliers, and an air hub.
- Conclusion and Next Steps
 - The Salt Lake Region's economy is dynamic and growing, but it can do better. Regional stakeholders can make investments to continue this success.
 - Site preparation and preservation can make the best of what the region has.
 - Targeted workforce development programs can strengthen the labor market by increasing enrollment, completion, employment, and job/employee retention. This is more than program/curriculum development. It also involves supporting student/employee success and awareness programs.
 - The region needs very thoughtful urban planning to create a diversity of neighborhood types. This can build a positive consensus supporting dense mixed-use and transit-oriented communities and thereby increase housing availability and affordability. It can also make the region more competitive by increasing the inventory of market-rate Class A office and lab spaces.
 - This requires a Team Utah approach with diverse stakeholders at different geographical levels of the private and public sectors.
 - It would be valuable to find more opportunities for quantitative comparison to peer metros. The region can keep learning and keep doing better.
 - Have feedback or want to get involved? Contact Kersten Swinyard at kswinyard@saltlakecounty.gov to participate in future economic competitiveness efforts or for more information about this research.

5. **12:27 (3 Minutes) Other Business and Adjourn** – Mayor Natalie Hall adjourned the meeting at 12:33. The next COG meeting will be July 17. Details TBA.

****Adjourning early to accommodate Winter Task Force Business.**