

# MPO Board Meeting

January 8, 2026 | 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



| Board Member Attendees                             | Present | Alternates/ Others in Attendance                 |
|--|---------|--|
| Mayor Carla Merrill, Alpine                        | ✓       | Ezra Nair, Utah County Alternate                 |
| Mayor Brad Frost, American Fork - Vice Chair       | ✓       | Cameron Diehl, ULCT                              |
| Mayor Wyatt Cook, Cedar Fort                       | ✓       | Cache Hancey, Vineyard                           |
| Mayor Denise Andersen, Cedar Hills                 | ✓       | Naseem Ghandour, Vineyard                        |
| Mayor Troy Walker, Draper                          |         | Ben Hunter, American Fork                        |
| Mayor Jared R. Gray, Eagle Mountain                | ✓       | Jeff Lewis, UDOT                                 |
| Mayor Robert Haddock, Elk Ridge                    |         | Andrew Gwynn, UDOT                               |
| Mayor Hollie McKinney, Fairfield                   | ✓       | Brad Kenison, Lehi                               |
| Mayor Neil Brown, Genola                           | ✓       | Mary DeLaMare-Schafer, UTA                       |
| Mayor Steven Staheli, Goshen                       | ✓       | Rob Clyaton, UDOT                                |
| Mayor Brittney P. Bills, Highland                  | ✓       | Boyd Humpherys, UDOT                             |
| Representative David Shallenberger, Legislator     |         | Jackie Larsen, Utah County Farm Bureau           |
| Senator Michael K. McKell, Legislator              |         | Richard Jensen, Provo Resident                   |
| Mayor Paul Binns, Lehi                             | ✓       | Ben Wuthrich, WFRC                               |
| Mayor Carolyn Lundberg, Lindon                     | ✓       | John Barney, UTA                                 |
| Mayor Therin Garrett, Mapleton                     | ✓       | Councilmember Stacy Beck, Spanish Fork           |
| Mayor Karen McCandless, Orem                       | ✓       | Vern Keesler, Provo                              |
| Mayor Bill Wright, Payson - Chair                  | ✓       | John Dorney, Orem                                |
| Mayor Eric Jensen, Pleasant Grove                  | ✓       | Dede Murray, UTA                                 |
| Mayor Marsha Judkins, Provo                        | ✓       | Nick Wilcox, UTA                                 |
| Mayor Cristy Simons, Salem                         | ✓       | Holly Sweeten, Office of Representative Owens    |
| Mayor Daniel Olson, Santaquin                      | ✓       | Mallory Bateman, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute |
| Mayor Chris Carn, Saratoga Springs                 | ✓       | Jenny Reese, Office of Senator Curtis            |
| Mayor Mike Mendenhall, Spanish Fork                | ✓       | Jim Evans, UDOT                                  |
| Mayor Wade Menlove, Spring Lake                    | ✓       | Councilmember Tim DeGraw, Salem                  |
| Mayor Matt Packard, Springville                    | ✓       |  |
| Mayor Zack Stratton, Vineyard                      | ✓       | <b>MAG STAFF</b>                                 |
| Mayor Ben Hillyard, Woodland Hills                 | ✓       | Andrew Wooley, IT Manager                        |
| Commissioner Skyler Beltran, Utah County           | ✓       | Bob Allen, Transportation Program Manager        |
| Commissioner Brandon Gordon, Utah County           |         | Cody Christensen, Transportation Planner II      |
| Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner, Utah County    | ✓       | Dan Wayne, Community Planning Manager            |
| Bryce Bird, Utah Division of Air Quality           | ✓       | Johnathon Knapton, Communications Manager        |
| Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation | ✓       | Kendall Willardson, Transportation Planner II    |
| Trustee Jeff Acerson, Utah Transit Authority       | ✓       | Kevin Feldt, Transportation Planning Manager     |
| Mayor Natalie Hall, Bluffdale*                     | ✓       | Kimberly Breneman, Executive Assistant           |
| BG Shawn M. Fuellenbach, Camp Williams*            |         | LaNiece Davenport, MPO Director                  |
| Ivan Marrero, FHWA*                                |         | Minoo Abrishami, Transportation Planner I        |
| Peter Hadley, FTA*                                 |         | Shauna Mecham, Planner I/ Air Quality Analyst    |
| Jered Johnson, MPO TAC Chair*                      | ✓       | Spencer Foster, Local Administrative Advisor     |
|  |         | Tim Hereth, Analytics Manager                    |

## DISCUSSION & AGENDA ITEMS

### Call to Order (00:00:14)

Chair Mayor Bill Wright opened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

### MPO Board Orientation (00:07:21)

LaNiece Davenport outlined the purpose of the orientation: to help board members understand what the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is, the role and responsibilities of the MPO Board, and the major programs and planning tools they will see on regular agendas. She explained that MAG is one of seven Associations of Governments in Utah, covering Summit, Utah, and Wasatch counties, and that the MPO, as a federally designated body, leads regional, multimodal transportation planning for Utah County—roads, transit, and active transportation—closely coordinating with UDOT, UTA, other state partners, and federal agencies such as FHWA and FTA.

A central focus was the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)—currently being prepared as the 2055 RTP—described as the long-range, living blueprint for how people and goods will move across the region, built on local general plans, land use trends, and extensive modeling. MPO Board members were told that major state and federal transportation funds can only go to projects listed in the RTP, underscoring their responsibility in its adoption.

LaNiece Davenport reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as the five-year, funding and programming arm that turns RTP projects into funded projects, with MAG administering about \$110 million every two years for smaller but important projects, in contrast to the much larger statewide Transportation Investment Fund.

She introduced the corridor preservation program, funded by a \$10 Utah County vehicle registration fee, which allows the region to buy land from willing sellers to protect future transportation corridors. Staff highlighted the importance of data, modeling, and GIS, including a regional land use model and travel demand model that forecast where people will live, work, and travel, and inform project needs.

The group discussed the Wasatch Choice Vision map as the shared vision for future land use and transportation—especially city and town centers and their relationship to transit and major corridors—and how that vision is used both in MAG’s decision-making and as evidence at the Capitol to show that cities are planning proactively, particularly around centers and housing.

LaNiece Davenport briefly covered federally required documents and processes the board must approve: the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (MAG’s annual work statement to the federal government), the Public Engagement Plan, and Air Quality Conformity, which ensures that planned projects stay within the region’s air quality “budget.”

Throughout, she emphasized that board members must “put on a regional hat,” serving as the link between MAG/MPO and their jurisdictions, sharing information with councils and staff, and working through their technical advisory committee (TAC) representatives.

Cameron Diehl from the Utah League of Cities and Towns described the strong partnership between ULCT and MAG, legislative engagement (including the Legislative Policy Committee and Friday Facts updates), and how regional planning work around centers and housing is used to support cities at the Legislature and counter preemption proposals.

In closing discussion, seasoned mayors and county commissioners stressed the value of unified regional priorities, active engagement at meetings, and persistence with the MPO process, especially for smaller communities, while LaNiece Davenport reminded members about jurisdictional assessments that fund MAG/MPO operations, the monthly meeting schedule, and the upcoming MPO Board meeting that would immediately follow the orientation.

**Other Business and Adjournment (00:53:10)**

Chair Bill Wright adjourned the meeting.