

SALT LAKE CITY

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the January 5, 2009 Meeting

Present from the Transportation Advisory Board were Joel Ban, Milton Braselton, Randy Dixon, Brian Doughty, Tim Harpst, Jim Jenkin, Keith Jensen, Sherry Repscher, Jonathan Springmeyer, and Xuesong Zhou.

Also present were Kevin Young and David Strayer.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairman Keith Jensen. Keith asked for approval of the minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting.

Motion: Jim Jenkin moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting. Sherry Repscher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim Harpst explained the purpose of the Board to David Strayer, who was at the meeting to present his research regarding cell phone use and driving. David said his initial work was in aviation, working with pilots and the effects of multi-tasking while flying, but has expanded his research into other areas. The question David's research looked to answer is whether cell phone use interferes with driving. David said the three top reasons for accidents while driving are fatigue, dialing/texting on a cell phone, and talking on a cell phone. While some states have implemented laws against using hands-on cell phones but not hands-free cell phones while driving, David said there are no safety advantages to using a hands-free cell phone verses a hands-on cell phone. The problem is not in holding the cell phone, but that the drivers mind is focusing on the phone conversation, not on driving. The term used for this is called Inattentional Blindness, which occurs when the driver's attention is withdrawn from driving. David said his and others' research shows that a person using a cell phone while driving is four times more likely to be in an accident and that a person texting while driving is eight times more likely to be in an accident. David said the use of a cell phone while driving carries about the same risk for an accident as for a person driving while intoxicated. Randy Dixon asked if states were moving to increase legislation to restrict cell phone use while driving. David said he thought in the next two years most states will look to outlaw texting while driving. David asked the Board what they could do with the information he presented. Keith Jensen asked for volunteers from the Board to draft a letter regarding cell phone use and driving to Mayor Becker. Jim Jenkin, Joel Ban, and Xuesong Zhou volunteered to draft a letter and bring it back to the full Board for review and approval at the February meeting. The board will also work to have David's presentation given to the City Council. Tim said he would check with the Mayor's Office to see if the issue of cell phone use while driving is being brought up at the Legislature this session.

Keith Jensen started the discussion about future meeting agenda items. Tim Harpst asked if there were any items missing or any items that should be removed from the list. Some additions and modifications were made to the list.

The next meeting of the board was set for Monday, February 2, 2009. Tentative agenda topics include Free Transit Service on Bad Air Quality Days, follow up on the letter regarding cell phone use and driving, and an economic stimulus package update.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.