

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2014
Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director, Chair
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer, Vice-Chair
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Darren Cottam, Toquerville City
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four Dixie Division
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director, Five County AOG
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Manager, Five County AOG
Levi Roberts, Associate Planner, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG
Branden Anderson, UDOT
David DeMille, The Spectrum
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
David Osborn, Stanley Consultants
Dana Holmes, Stanley Consultants
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Susan Cook, io Landscape Architecture

ABSENT

Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
St. George City, Transportation Services Manager
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT, Planning

Cameron Cutler, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. He noted that a quorum was present for conduct of business.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Approval of February 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes of the February 5, 2014 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for committee consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

2. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. State Rail Plan and State Freight Plan:** Vern Keeslar joined the group via conference call to provide information regarding the State Rail Plan and the State Freight Plan. A handout was provided outlining the purpose of this plan, solicitation of input and the contact person. He reported that the Utah Department of Transportation is responsible for preparation of a State Rail Plan. Contact information for Daniel Kuhn, UDOT Railroad and Freight Planner, is included on the handout. This plan was completed in 1996 and has not been updated since that time. There is obviously a lot that has occurred since that time including a major railroad merger, light and commuter rail in northern Utah, and various other changes in the state of Utah. These plans must be updated every five years, typically in conjunction with the Long Range Transportation Plans. UDOT is in the process of public involvement and outreach for the Plan. There are many requirements of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that the plan will meet. It is anticipated that the plan will contain approximately eight chapters and will be ready for submission to the FRA in June.

The Utah Freight Plan has become a more important topic on the national scene under MAP 21. There is a National Freight Advisory Council and the state of Utah has established a Freight Commission. The Utah Freight Commission includes representation from the four MPOs, Utah Trucking Association, UDOT, the Union Pacific Railroad, as well as other agencies. The state of Utah is not required to prepare a Freight Plan, but there are benefits associated with having this plan in place. This plan will include elements for rail, pipelines, air, inter-modal, and water. InterPlan has been heavily involved in truck parking from the Arizona state line to the Idaho state line and will be working with UDOT in this planning effort. Daniel Kuhn is also the contact person for this project. It is anticipated that the Freight Plan will be completed between November/December 2014 to coincide with the Long Range Plan Update.

Members of the group are invited to provide input, suggestions, and/or express any needs in the area to Daniel Kuhn or Vern Keesler. As part of this process, visits will be made to the Southern Utah Trucking Association as well as the Annual Conference of the Trucking Association that will be held in May. Comments and input are welcome from those in the southern Utah area.

- B. Dixie Drive Interchange Study:** Dana Meier, UDOT, provided information from a follow-up study of the Dixie Drive Interchange outlining user benefits after one year of operation. Realizing that traffic patterns would not change over night, UDOT determined that a study relative to the interchange would be best performed at the time the interchange opened and again after a period of time. The study compared travel times for different origin-destination pairs in the area before and after the opening of the interchange. A map depicting tube counts was reviewed outlining the percentage of change after one year in various locations as follows: **1) Sunset Boulevard--** Traffic was reduced 13.7%; **2) Bluff Street--** A reduction of 1.9%; **3)**

Black Ridge Drive-- Experienced a 40% drop in traffic; **4) Bluff Street Interchange--** This interchange saw a 24% decrease in traffic; and **5) Dixie Drive Interchange--** Traffic increased 75% after one year. The new interchange saved motorists a total of \$6.5 million in travel costs. Dana Meier indicated that he would provide a copy of the study results to committee members.

3. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- A. Transportation Expo Comments Report:** Curt Hutchings provided a copy of the Dixie Transportation Expo Regional Project Survey Report that was commissioned to help quantify results of comments provided at the Expo. Of the more than 500 in attendance, 230 people participated in the survey, and the majority were local residents. The top three projects of interest were as follows: 1) Jug Handle at Bluff and Sunset; 2) Red Hills Parkway Interchange; and 3) Southern Parkway. The majority of respondents indicated that they selected these projects relative to impacts, commute, environmental, neighbor, etc. Of those surveyed, the project with the highest level of concern was the Bluff and Sunset Jug Handle. Comments were provided and included with the survey summary. Feedback received from the Long Range Planning survey indicated that the top priorities are safety, congestion relief and air quality. The majority of respondents fully support various projects/studies including the Washington Parkway (Northern Corridor), Western Corridor, Southern Corridor through Hurricane, and the Mall Drive Bridge. Survey respondents desired more roadway alternatives, transit options, cycling trails, pedestrian/hiking trails, etc. Interestingly, respondents were favorable to higher densities. Comments are broken down for each project beginning on page 10 of the handout. Copies of the survey results will be provided electronically, as well as posted on the transportation website.

4. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- A. Status of Safe Route to Schools Funds:** Kirk Thornock reported that Rett Arnel is over the safe sidewalk program funds which totals approximately \$46,000 and requires a 25% match. This has been a successful program with projects totaling in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range. This way the funds are spread out to various areas. Cities should be receiving information regarding this program in the near future. However, these funds can only be used on a state road where sidewalks do not currently exist. The safe route to schools funds have not been received because of the TAP fund incorporation into MAP 21. However, it is anticipated that some funds will become available for this program. An invitation will be sent to communities and counties once it becomes available.

5. LOCAL PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE

- A. Hurricane City:** Arthur LeBaron reported that Hurricane City is still working on the 600 North project and has started right-of-way acquisition. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.
- B. Ivins:** None.

- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None
- E. **St. George:** Cameron Cutler indicated that an additional member will be designated by the City in the near future to serve on the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee. Staff is working through some scheduling on the Indian Hills Drive project and anticipates advertising the first of June. There are drainage and right-of-way issues associated with this project. A tortoise take area is adjacent to the roadway that created some issues with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Preserve. This was addressed by conducting a survey to identify tortoises in this area. The environmental CAD-X was approved as long as work does not extend above the roadway. Mall Drive Bridge is moving along and it anticipated that the foundation will be completed in the water prior to spring runoff. The contractor feels that the river will only have to be moved at one location to lay the girders. The roadway design is almost complete and it is hoped that this will be advertised next month. The completion date for the bridge and roadway is the end of August or first of September. The bid was awarded to Interstate Rock for the north portion of 3000 East where it connects into Mall Drive. Construction is slated to begin next week. The roundabouts at Tonaquint Drive and 600 West as well as 400 East and Tabernacle will be under construction in the near future. This is a 90 day contract with PCI. Interstate Rock was also awarded the contract for Little Valley Road. The project should be under construction within the next few weeks. Curb, gutter and sidewalk on the east side will be moved closer to the road in order to accommodate an equestrian trail next to the sidewalk. This will eliminate parking along this road. Dave Glenn suggested that a study be conducted on Mall Drive Bridge to quantify benefits after a year, similar to the study for the Dixie Drive Interchange. The River Road Study is approximately three weeks from completion.
- F. **Santa Clara City:** Jack Taylor reported that a RFP will be advertised in the near future for design/engineering of Santa Clara Drive/Old Highway 91.
- G. **Toquerville:** Darren Cottam reported that Toquerville City will be bidding out another water project in the near future. Washington County provided assistance to the City on lining LaVerkin Creek through two subdivisions to address flooding issues in these areas.
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the City is starting on the Washington Fields Road Phase IV to deal with right-of-way. There is also a large micro surface, slurry seal project out to bid.
- I. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards indicated that the County is finishing up the Washington Dam Road and will be paving some and/or all of the road in the county in the near future.
- J. **UDOT:** Kirk Thornock reported that the climbing lane by Leeds is under construction. Construction is slated to begin March 17th on the Red Hills Parkway Interchange. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in October. The Sunset Jug Handle project scoping meetings and design are now underway to define the scope of this project. The Hurricane project from

LaVerkin to the Arch Bridge will not be advertised until fall because of some funding issues on another project. Scenarios for the Boulevard/Bluff Street intersection are still being studied with an anticipated completion in April.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

A. Program Development - UDOT: None.

B. Federal Oversight: None.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at the Five County Association of Governments office.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW AND SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.