

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South, Building B
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director, Chair
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer, Vice-Chair
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Darren Cottam, Toquerville City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Levi Roberts, Associate Planner, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Branden Anderson, UDOT
Kathy Starks, UDOT
Tom Dansie, Springdale Town
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance

ABSENT

Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning

Cameron Cutler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. It was acknowledged that a quorum was present for conduct of business.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from December 3, 2014 Meeting:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes from the December 3, 2014 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for consideration. Dave Glenn asked that the last sentence from Agenda Item #4A be struck from the minutes.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DANA MEIER, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2014 MEETING WITH THE ONE NOTED CORRECTION. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. LONG RANGE PLANNING

A. Report on DTEC Funding Assumptions/Long Range Plan (LRP) Update:

Myron Lee reported that MPO staff met with the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) to discuss the Long Range Plan (LRP) and the need for funding assumptions to complete the plan update. Population growth for the area through 2040 was also a topic of discussion. According to estimates provided by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB), it is anticipated that by 2040 the population for Washington County will increase by 230,000 individuals. This is more than double the current population of Washington County. Because the GOMB no longer provides sub-county population numbers, the population estimate utilized in the Long Range Plan is for all of Washington County. A dot density map was projected where each dot represents 10 households. This map projects where growth is planned. DTEC members also discussed the travel demand model and inputs utilized in the model including land use, zoning, trip generation and distribution, mode of travel, etc. Information was presented in terms of daily vehicle hours of delay in future years. Information outlines a no-build scenario as well. Mr. Lee reported that there are currently 123 projects of regional significance included in the Long Range Plan as local and state projects. It is projected that \$1.7 billion dollars would be required to accomplish all of these projects. However, there is a \$150 million dollar gap in state project funding and a \$320 million dollar gap in local project funding. To bridge these funding gaps, DTEC was asked to approve funding assumptions for inclusion in the Long Range Plan. Those assumptions include the following: 1) A 1/4 cent local option sales tax by 2016; 2) A 5 cent per gallon local option fuel tax by 2016; 3) Increase of the local option fuel tax amounting to 5 cents every seven (7) years; 4) A \$5.00 registration fee to be effective by 2018; and 5) A .25 percent sales tax for transit by 2020. Utilization of these assumptions will fill the gap in funding for projects. A bar chart displayed depicts the existing revenue and additional revenue to be provided through the funding assumptions.

Myron Lee reported that DTEC members approved the local funding assumptions but did not want to obligate future elected officials to place additional taxes on their constituents. A commitment was expressed by City officials to utilize general fund revenue from their budgets if necessary to equivalently address the funding gap. Approval of the funding assumptions allows staff to proceed with planning of projects in the LRP. He pointed out that the LRP must be fiscally constrained.

B. Regional Bike/Ped Plan Update: Levi Roberts reported that a draft copy of the Bike/Ped Plan is anticipated by next week. The Steering Committee guiding this plan process met earlier today to discuss how the plan should be rolled out to the public. It was determined that each city should review the plan and provide feedback prior to presenting the plan to DTAC and DTEC for formal approval. It is anticipated that an outcome from this plan will result in each respective city incorporating the bike/ped information into their Master Transportation Plans. The plan includes a list of projects with associated costs. This is a comprehensive bike/ped plan for the entire region that includes prioritization criteria that will be recommended to each city for use in prioritizing projects. A number of the plan components are complete, but the entire document is not completed.

- C. **St. George to Zion Canyon Transit Study:** Levi Roberts provided a proposed scope of work for a St. George to Hurricane/Zion Canyon Transit Feasibility Study. A previous Bus Rapid Transit Study between St. George/Hurricane and the St. George Airport was completed. A transit study was also completed between Hurricane and Zion National Park. The later study would only work if there was a link to St. George. Both studies showed transit demand along those corridors, but the studies were deficient in putting together solid numbers in terms of associated costs. Various stakeholder meetings were conducted and a lot of interest was expressed for a route between Hurricane and Springdale. A short range study is needed to analyze fees and short term demand and feasibility of transit between St. George and Springdale/Zion National Park.

MPO staff is proposing the use of MPO planning funds in the amount of \$46,000 to submit an application for UDOT funding in the amount of \$34,000 for the rural portion of the study. Myron Lee indicated that the MPO has \$150,000 available annually for planning studies. Approximately \$100,000 of these funds has been committed in FY 2015, leaving a balance of about \$50,000 that must be spent by July 1, 2015. The MPO has provided funding to St. George, Santa Clara, Ivins, and Washington City previously to update their Master Transportation Plans. Staff is requesting DTAC approval of the scope of work to use planning funds for this study. A Request for Proposals will be utilized to select a consultant to undertake this feasibility study. Funding being applied for from UDOT comes from the Federal Transit Administration for rural areas. The application will require a 20% match on the \$34,000 rural portion. A presentation will be made to the Washington County Mayor's Association to see if this portion could be obtained from the Washington County Council of Governments (COG).

Levi Roberts explained that this would be an extensive study that would provide direction regarding what would be feasible to implement through this corridor. It was noted that the Bus Rapid Transit Study indicated that this would be viable in 2016 if population thresholds reached certain numbers. The study also indicated that this system would need to be built on an existing route. It is anticipated that the study would map out existing routes that could be built upon from St. George to Springdale/Zion National Park. It is anticipated that the system would provide service to communities along the corridor. This may be a commuter bus route to Hurricane at first and expand from there. The study would examine the entire corridor. It is proposed that the scope of work include the following elements: 1) Assessment of Existing Conditions; 2) Market Analysis - Identification of Transit Needs and Resources; 3) Estimation of Travel Demand; 4) Analysis of Alternatives; 5) Selection of Preferred Alternative; and 5) Provide a "Blueprint" to Implement the Preferred Alternative.

Jack Taylor mentioned that other cities may have studies that they would like to have considered as well. Cameron Cutler noted that Fred Davies has indicated that SunTran has never had expert consultation in planning their bus routes and this may be something that could be considered utilizing planning funds. As additional routes are considered outside of St. George, it would be beneficial to utilize a consultant to determine the best possible routes. SunTran utilizes a loop system for most of their routes. Bus stops may be close to residents, but it is a long trip back to their homes because of the loop routing. Mike Shaw mentioned that a master plan for

signals should also be considered in the future utilizing the planning funds. It is important to look at signal optimization throughout the region. This is something that should be considered as future planning funds become available.

Jack Taylor commented that even if the study shows feasibility for a route throughout the corridor, it may be difficult for jurisdictions to provide the required match funding to institute a transit system. This is something that Santa Clara has struggled to accomplish to participate with the SunTran transit system. Levi Roberts responded that dollar estimates were provided by Fred Davies for a commuter route in the corridor and MPO staff has met with City Councils to discuss the amount of funding that may be required. He also noted that some of the operational costs could be recovered through fares charged to customers. In addition, Zion National Park has expressed interest in a partnership to accomplish transit to the park. There has also been a lot of interest expressed by cities along the corridor. Mike Shaw commented that a cost benefit analysis should be included in any feasibility study that is conducted. This is not included in the current scope of work. He also noted that Washington City is ready to pay the extra cost to extend the SunTran bus system into Washington. The communities along this corridor that are outside of the MPO boundaries would be benefitting from MPO funding. Cameron Cutler indicated that fares cannot be utilized to cover match funding that is required of communities. There is a 20 percent match requirement that would fall to cities. Levi Roberts indicated that at this point the study would determine the feasibility of routes through the corridor. The actual cost and demand is unknown at this time. The scope of work was vetted through UDOT staff.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY DAVE GLENN, TO APPROVE UTILIZATION OF \$46,000 IN MPO PLANNING FUNDS FOR A ST. GEORGE TO HURRICANE/ZION CANYON TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY AS OUTLINED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, WITH THE ADDITION OF A COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS TO THE SCOPE. Roll Call Vote: Mike Shaw, Aye; Dave Glenn, Aye; Darren Cottam, Aye; Monty Thurber, Aye; Dana Meier, Aye; Cameron Cutler, Aye; Arthur LeBaron, Aye; Jay Sandberg, Aye; Jack Taylor, Nay, Angela Rohr, Nay. MOTION CARRIED.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. COG Bylaws / Call for Projects:** Myron Lee reported that the Washington County Council of Governments (COG) typically updates their corridor preservation list on an annual basis. There may be additional projects that cities would like to have included on the list. One particular project that comes to mind is the Washington City Milepost 11 Interchange. Committee members requested an e-mail from Myron that would include a current COG list of projects and a request form for submitting a new project. New project forms need to be provided to Myron Lee no later than Friday, February 13, 2015.

4. TIP

Myron Lee indicated that this agenda item was inadvertently carried over from the previous meeting agenda and would not require discussion.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the 600 North project is under construction with a lot of underground work. He also noted that they are on the cusp of advertising the Purgatory Road environmental assessment project within the next few weeks.
- B. **Ivins:** Dave Glenn reported that work is progressing on the Ivins Master Transportation Plan.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that the Indian Hills Drive project has been awarded to JP Excavating. The city is working on three signal projects at Mall Drive/Merrill Road, River Road/Brigham Road, and River Road/St. James. In addition, the River Road/Fort Pierce Wash Bridge is under design.
- F. **Santa Clara:** Jack Taylor indicated that the Santa Clara Master Transportation Plan has been completed and adopted by the City Council. He also noted that they are working on the design for the Old Highway 91 project.
- G. **Toquerville:** Darren Cottam reported that Toquerville City is working on a Capital Facilities Plan.
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw indicated that Washington City has a signal project at Washington Fields Road and 2000 South.
- I. **Washington County:** None.
- J. **UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that UDOT has been conducting meetings with various stakeholders to discuss proposed improvements at the Sunset Boulevard/Bluff Street intersection. Because of various issues and controversy with stakeholders, UDOT is trying to make sure that public funds are being utilized in the best interest of the public. UDOT has held innovative workshops and received very productive discussion from consultants, citizens, businesses, etc. In the end, the level of service must be maintained at a level B throughout this corridor. One business, with a vested interest in the project, has examined the Travel Demand Model extensively. However, numbers from the travel demand model will be utilized because additional analyses and traffic counts have validated the numbers that were used in the Environmental Assessment as well as those in the Travel Demand Model.

The Southern Parkway project is moving along with a lot of dirt being disturbed. Because of some recent complaints in regard to dust, watering will be increased to control dust problems.

Kirk Thornock asked that an announcement be made regarding the 300 West to 700 West project on SR-9. The Transportation Commission approved \$2.2 million

dollars in January to address this segment of road. This is a reconstruction project that should be under design within the next couple of weeks. Construction is anticipated in by the winter of 2015 or spring 2016.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

B. Federal Oversight: None.

A. Program Development - UDOT: None.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at the Five County Association of Governments office.

A. Transportation Expo: Myron Lee announced that the Transportation Expo is scheduled for February 10th at the Dixie Center. The MPO will be conducting a survey similar to the one utilized last year. Members should contact Miriam Palma to obtain booth applications. Dave Glenn reported that the time has been extended at the request of Mayor Pike. The Expo will run from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK TAYLOR, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO ADJOURN.
MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.