

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 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
Chuck Gillette, Ivins 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
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Branden Anderson, UDOT, Region Four
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Tyler Turner, Civil Science
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner Engineering
Jordan Merrill, Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Tim Tabor, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Ahmad Jaber, Stanley Consultants
Mark Freeman, Stanley Consultants
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Lisa Rutherford, Citizen
Susan Crook, Citizens for Dixie's Future (CDF)

ABSENT

Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning (Excused)
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager

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

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from June 3 2015 Meeting:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes from the June 3, 2015 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DARREN COTTAM, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

- B. Traffic Count Collaboration:** Abdul Wakil and Nicholas Virgen, UDOT, joined the meeting via telephone to present information to the committee. Mr. Wakil noted that Nicholas Virgen has oversight with traffic counts administered by the Utah Department of Transportation. UDOT staff would like to explore options that may be available for collaboration with cities within the MPO as well as the Five County Association of Governments. Pertinent information includes where counts are being taken at the city level and how this data might be shared between UDOT and cities. It was noted that UDOT collects traffic counts on all functional classified roads in the state. It would be helpful to know if cities collect their own data, utilize outside information and/or consultants to perform their traffic counts.

Cameron Cutler reported that St. George City utilizes some of UDOT's traffic counts, but also obtains information from their own traffic counters at specific locations throughout the city. He indicated that the city is willing to share information that is collected. UDOT representatives indicated that information for other local roads may be of interest in establishing trends of growth in particular areas. UDOT staff is particularly interested in obtaining current year data from cities. Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City, indicated that traffic counts for Hurricane City may only include one location in a particular year. Historic information over a five year period of time may be more meaningful in that area. Mike Shaw reported that Washington City performs traffic counts annually at major intersections throughout the city. City representatives indicated that some counts are mid-block and at intersections to include turning movements.

Mr. Virgen reviewed several areas where UDOT has permanent traffic counters installed including Mall Drive and Riverside Drive, SR-7 from Interstate 15 to the airport in various locations, SR-18, I-15, Telegraph Street, and on SR-9 toward Hurricane. An additional traffic counter is under consideration closer into Hurricane. UDOT traffic counts are typically conducted as per standards of FHWA for 48 hours on each of the functional classified roads yearly Monday through Friday. However, there are some seven day counts and there have been some 24 hour counts that have been done. UDOT utilizes Time Arc counters. It was noted that St. George City and Washington City also utilize that type of counter. Mike Shaw expressed an interest in UDOT installing a permanent counter on Green Springs Drive at Exit 10. Mike Shaw provided his email address as follows: mshaw@washingtontcity.org. Cameron Cutler requested contact information for UDOT. Mr. Virgen provided his telephone number 801-965-4325 and email contact at nvirgen@utah.gov, but noted that jurisdictions could also contact Abdul Wakil. Myron Lee indicated that he would forward a list of DTAC members to Mr. Virgen to utilize in following up with cities to provide a brief overview regarding information sharing with UDOT. It may be easier for each jurisdiction to communicate directly with UDOT at this point.

2. LONG RANGE PLAN

- A. Consideration of BLM Resource Management Plan Review:** Myron Lee reported that the Dixie MPO recently received online copies of the Bureau of Land

Management St. George Field Office Draft Amendment to the Resource Management Plan. MPO staff has printed out a hard copy and have reviewed the document to some extent. This is a very critical document that governs the BLM RMP as well as the Red Cliffs Habitat Conservation Area where a Northern Corridor road has been planned for decades. The document is available for review online and a printable disk has been made available to print the document. When it comes to the Northern Corridor in the RMP, the document is riddled with miss quotes and false assumptions. This is fairly prominent throughout the document. For example, the plan makes the assumption that the Northern Corridor impacts 6,300 acres of the RMP when in reality it would impact less than 150 acres on the HCAC area and less than 50 acres on the area that the Resource Management Plan governs.

MPO staff feels strongly that the mistakes and errors need to be pointed out in a significant and high impact fashion. In the past the MPO approved a contract with Jacobs Engineering for on-call type services. There is \$10,000 left on this on-call contract and staff is recommending that an additional \$8,000 to provide sufficient funding for a review of the RMP in terms of the Northern Corridor. Jacobs Engineering understands the BLM process and the company have worked with other entities outside of this area in the past. The on-call contract was established a couple of years ago with the intent that eventually additional services would be required when the RMP was released. The scope of work will include review of the 1100 page document which will include a significant amount of technical review. Comments for this type of project become part of the record and they must be defensible in case of law suits. There are several places in the RMP where the BLM has violated their own process and guidance. There is a blatant disregard for the Congressional mandate to include a Northern Corridor transportation route in the document. There may be a need for a review of the Congressional intent of the Omnibus Act. Comments need to be concise and defensible with a focus on the Northern Corridor.

Myron Lee pointed out that the MPO submitted two documents to the BLM to help with the RMP process and much of the information taken from these documents has been miss-quoted and false assumptions have been made based on these miss-quotes. This information needs to be corrected in the final RMP document. Committee members asked about Senator Hatch's legislation introduced on July 17, 2015 and where that process stands. Mr. Lee indicated that his understanding is that this legislation has been pulled back and/or rescinded. However, Senator Hatch has written letters of clarification and notes from the hearings in 2006 and 2008 clearly define intent language. Those comments and notes need to be made a part of the RMP document. The contract with Jacobs Engineering will respond to the BLM RMP document, specifically the Northern Corridor route. Cameron Cutler commented that a review of the document needs to be accomplished by someone and this will require dedicating resources toward this effort. The contract would be written not to exceed \$18,000 total cost. The deadline for comments is October 15th and the DTAC and DTEC would need to review comments prior to their submission. The scope of work included in the on-call agreement will be modified to include this work. All comments will be presented to DTAC and DTEC in September, prior to submission to the BLM. MPO staff review comments will be forwarded to Jacobs Engineering for inclusion as well. Committee members asked that MPO staff clarify that there is no conflict of interest with Jacobs Engineering because the BLM has

been their client in the past. It was also noted that it would be difficult to find a contractor that has not had some involvement with the BLM in the past.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY JAY SANDBERG, TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL \$8,000 IN THE ON-CALL CONTRACT WITH JACOBS ENGINEERING FOR EXAMINATION AND RESPONSE TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, PARTICULARLY THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTE, AND TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DTEC) FOR FORMAL ACTION. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

3. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. Recommendation to Adopt 2016 to 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** Myron Lee reported that the comment period for the 2016-2020 TIP has ended and no comments were received by the MPO. UDOT's comment period has also ended with no comments provided as well. Copies of the spreadsheet were provided with all new projects highlighted in yellow. Those projects include the following: **1) Green Springs and Telegraph--** Funding in the amount of \$1.2 million in 2019 for Green Springs has been transferred to the Exit 11 project; **2) Mall Drive Underpass--** Funding in the amount of \$1.1 million is programmed in 2019; and **3) ITS--** There were two pin numbers for ITS improvements in the amount of \$350,000. It was noted that the transit TIP is also included in this approval. UDOT will proceed with thru turn project on the other side on Green Springs and this is a separate project that is not impacted by funds that were shifted to Exit 11. Cameron Cutler explained that the Mall Drive Underpass project will include funding from St. George City as well as UDOT. The amount depicted in the TIP will go toward St. George City's portion. Myron Lee mentioned that a number of other projects will go off the TIP once the projects are completely closed out.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DANA MEIER, SECONDED BY MONTY THURBER, TO ACCEPT AND RECOMMEND THE 2016 TO 2020 TIP, INCLUDING THE TRANSIT TIP, AND NOTING THAT NO PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED, TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DTEC) FOR FORMAL ADOPTION. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Myron Lee reviewed the Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification, Resolution #2015-02, which certifies that the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization is following Map 21 and other guidelines and regulations of FHWA. The resolution outlines all of the pertinent regulations that must be followed. Staff is recommending approval of the resolution to be forwarded to the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) for formal adoption. DTEC will also approve Resolution 2015-01 to adopt the Dixie MPO 2016-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. Once all approvals are secured, documents will be forwarded to UDOT for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DANA MEIER, SECONDED BY JAY SANDBERG, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2015-02 AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN'S

SIGNATURE. THE RESOLUTION TO BE FORWARD TO DTEC FOR FORMAL ADOPTION. Roll Call Vote: Dana Meier, Aye; Arthur LeBaron, Aye; Mike Shaw, Aye; Darren Cottam, Aye; Cameron Cutler, Aye; Monty Thurber, Aye; Todd Edwards, Aye; Chuck Gillette, Aye; Jay Sandberg, Aye. MOTION CARRIED.

- B. TAP Funds (Safe Route to Schools):** Arthur LeBaron reported that meetings have been conducted with various stakeholders including the Washington County School District, St. George City, Southwest District Health Department, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance, Active Transportation Committee, etc. to discuss the potential use of funding from the TAP program. Myron Lee referenced an email from Cherisa Wood, UDOT, outlining expenses that could be covered with these funds. Installation of bicycle signs along routes would be eligible, but this would require following the federal process. A broom truck to sweep paths would not be eligible because funds cannot be utilized for maintenance. Staff to monitor school walking activities is gray because salaries are not allowed with TAP funds. Bike racks and cages would be a capital improvements project that would need to follow federal regulations. Helmet giveaways would be an allowable expense with these funds. Myron Lee indicated that options for spending TAP funds are limited because of adherence to Davis Bacon wages and Buy America regulations that are applicable. Arthur LeBaron reported that the Safe Routes to Schools funds have been used in the past to purchase t-shirts, helmets, bike lights, etc. to encourage bicycle safety. Mr. Lee explained that under Map 21 several different programs were consolidated into the TAP program funding, including the Safe Routes to Schools program and state Departments of Transportation were instructed to distribute a portion of the TAP funds to MPO's for allocation. The Dixie MPO receives approximately \$85,000 annually in TAP funds. Mike Shaw reported that the amount of funding available under TAP does not even cover the cost of the environmental that is required for a project. The only way that a project could be accomplished would be to accumulate several years of funding prior to allocation to a specific project. Arthur LeBaron indicated that purchase of bike helmets would be in the \$10,000 range or less. Committee members noted that some type of system would need to be in place to distribute the items at bike rodeos, road respect events, etc. Committee members also suggested that a cost breaking out the cost of helmets would be helpful as well. It was also mentioned that bike signs would need to be considered throughout the MPO and not in one particular city. Each city would need to be involved in the process of distributing helmets in coordination with schools in the area. Mr. LeBaron responded that a number of cities are already signed up for the Road Respect program and this is a good avenue to distribute bike helmets. Committee members would like to see a more detailed summary including the price of helmet purchase, an outline of who will run the program and who would be in charge. Kirk Thornock noted that these funds would have to be distributed through cities and not the MPO. Myron Lee reported that this program requires a 20% match that would be required of cities that decided to participate.

4. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. Transit Study RFP - St. George to Zion:** Myron Lee reported that the RFP for the St. George to Zion Transit Study has been published to recruit a consultant who can accomplish this study. The scope of work will include an estimate of the route cost,

potential stops, portion of costs broken out to individual cities along the route, etc. The study will include the area between St. George and Zion National Park. Proposals are due August 11th after which time staff will evaluate and interview potential consultants. It is anticipated that the best consultant available will be selected to begin the process in the near future and it is hoped that the study will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

- B. **Active Transportation Subcommittee:** Myron Lee reported that Dana Meier will chair this subcommittee and a meeting should be scheduled within the next few weeks. Arthur LeBaron indicated that this may provide a good forum to work on some type of TAP application.

5. **LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the 600 North project is pretty much complete. He thanked Brandon Anderson, UDOT, and Tyler Turner, Civil Science, for helping with this project. A kickoff meeting is scheduled next Wednesday for the Purgatory Road EA project. Hurricane City is completing a chip-seal project on the Sand Hollow loop, which also includes exploring options to make this route more bike friendly. Western Rock is the apparent low bidder for this project, but the bid has not been awarded.
- B. **Ivins:** Chuck Gillette reported that the design for Old Highway 91 is complete and work is being accomplished on right-of-way. Funding will be available in October and the project should be ready to advertise for bid in that time frame. Construction is slated to begin in the winter. Ivins is also in the process of wrapping up the Master Transportation Plan costs.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that the Indian Hills Drive project is completed. Work is progressing this week on the Brigham Road and River Road signal. The intersection is wide, some of the old islands are being removed, and this is causing a lot of congestion in the area. The Washington Fields drainage and trail project was to begin this week, and this will include the signal. The Brigham Road and St. James signals will be under construction in the near future. Jay Sandberg reported that construction has begun for the realignment of Canyon View Drive, and bids are out for patching Black Ridge Drive. The River Road bridge widening project is moving along pretty well, but some flood plain modeling has put the project on hold. Monty Thurber reported that 13 new cameras have been installed at signals in the ITS system. All signals in St. George now have visual with the Traffic Control Center.
- F. **Santa Clara:** Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, provided the report on Old Highway 91.
- G. **Toquerville:** Darren Cottam reported that Toquerville City recently approved project design for a two block project around the City office. It is anticipated that the project will be bid out in January 2016.

- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the 3650 South reconstruction project has been advertised for bid. This project will include widening, curb and gutter, storm drainage, etc. The 2000 South signal is now operational.
- I. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards reported that Washington County is doing a number of chip-seal projects including locations of Diamond Valley, New Harmony, Leeds and Toquerville. A number of signs have been installed between the county boundary for maintenance and areas annexed by cities.
- J. **UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that truck passing lanes between milepost 22 and 28 are slated for 2016. UDOT has been struggling with cash flow on several big projects including the I-15 widening between Exit 8 and 10, Mall Drive underpass, I-15 widening between milepost 4-5 to widen bridges, Sunset and Bluff project, and thru turns on the north side of Exit 10. The Southern Parkway is moving along, including a recent \$700,000 change order to crush additional materials by the Washington Dam Interchange for use in future sections of the roadway.

Kirk Thornock reported that the SR-9 Arch Project to LaVerkin is almost complete. The 700 West to 300 West project on SR-9 is under design. It is anticipated that it will be advertised in the winter and construction is anticipated to begin next year. Rehabilitation projects for the Quail Creek Reservoir Road and a project on SR-18 near the Ledges are under design.

6. **STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE**

- A. **Program Development - UDOT:** None.
- B. **Federal Oversight:** Steve Call asked to be excused.

7. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) will be held on August 19, 2015. The next DTAC meeting will be held Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at the Five County Association of Governments office.

Myron Lee announced that Chuck Gillette replaced Dave Glenn as the Public Works Director and City Engineer for Ivins City. He will be serving as a member of the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.