

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 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
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Jerry Amundsen for Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Branden Anderson, UDOT, Region Four
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Marc Mortensen, City of St. George
Millie Cockerill, City of St. George
Dustyn Shaffer, Sunrise Engineering
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Kai Reed, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
John Reed, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Susan Crook, Citizens for Dixie's Future (CDF)

ABSENT

Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Darren Cottam, Toquerville City
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Excused)
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Excused)
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning

Arthur LeBaron, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. It was noted that a quorum was present for conduct of business.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from October 7, 2015 Meeting:** Arthur LeBaron, Vice-Chair, presented minutes from the October 7, 2015 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DANA MEIER, SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. LONG RANGE PLAN

- A. **BLM Resource Management Plan Comments:** Myron Lee reported that draft comments for the Dixie MPO regarding the Bureau of Land Management St. George Field Office Draft Amendment to the Resource Management Plan have been refined by Jacobs Engineering since the October DTAC meeting. The opening paragraph of the comments has been modified to include the relationship with the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, meetings have been held with the MPO, Washington County and St. George City to review comment consistency between agencies. The comment period has been extended by the BLM to November 16, 2015. MPO comments will be hand delivered prior to the deadline. The signature block is proposed to include the chairman of the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC), chairman of the Dixie Transportation Executive Council (DTEC) and the MPO Director. Arthur LeBaron suggested that each of the participating cities be included on the signature block. Myron Lee indicated that he would contact each entity to discuss adding their signature to the comments. Comments reflect that the MPO Regional Transportation Plan that is in place is a coordinated effort between the state of Utah Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the MPO and its member cities. This is essentially a local land use plan that should be considered in the BLM planning process. Copies of a map and information taken from the Washington County Urbanizing Plan that was developed and produced in 1997 were provided for review and the Northern Corridor has been included in the HCP agreement by reference to the roadway improvements and maintenance. Public access is outlined for State Route 18, Snow Canyon Parkway, Tuachan Drive and Skyline Drive as per the plan. Future realignment is referenced for Skyline Drive in the 1997 plan that shows intent for a road alignment similar to the Northern transportation route.

Myron Lee provided a copy of a letter addressed to Neil Kornze, BLM, which was signed by all of Utah's Senators and Representatives. This correspondence indicates that it is expected that the RMP will include a northern transportation route because it was always the intent for this route to be included as part of the transportation network in the area. Other major roadways, including but not limited to Bluff Street, St. George Boulevard, Red Hills Parkway, Interstate 15, and Diagonal Street, will be severely impacted without this transportation route. Letters have been provided by Ivins City and Toquerville City requesting involvement in this process. Washington County is working directly with the BLM to get the Northern Corridor back into the RMP.

- B. **Freight Planning Process:** Myron Lee indicated the Curt Hutchings was unable to attend today's meeting because he was asked to attend the Iron County RPO meeting. The freight planning process agenda item will be deferred to the December 2, 2015 meeting.

3. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. **Funding Status Report:** Myron Lee provided an updated spreadsheet depicting MPO project funding. He reported that there will be \$2.3 million dollars available for programming in the year 2020 at the December 2, 2015 DTAC meeting.

- B. Distribution of Concept Reports (2017- 2021 TIP Program):** Myron Lee reported that a call for projects was forwarded to committee members via email after the October DTAC meeting. Two cities submitted concept reports as follows: **1) Washington City--** Merrill Road from 20 East to Washington Fields Road in the amount of \$1 million; and **2) St. George City--** River Road and Bridge Widening in the amount of \$5.6 million from River Road to Riverside Drive to 1450 South.

Mike Shaw reported that improving Merrill road is significant because of the connections it provides from the Mall Drive Bridge and Washington Fields Road. He noted that Washington City will be submitting an application to the Washington County COG for right-of-way funds. This is not a very long section of roadway. Myron Lee pointed out that this is a road of regional significance as identified in the Dixie MPO Regional Transportation Plan.

Monty Turber reviewed project information for the River Road and Bridge Widening project. The project includes widening of River Road between Riverside Drive and 1450 South including bridge widening and intersection widening to accommodate dual left turn lanes at the Riverside Drive/1450 South intersection. The intent is to also provide better pedestrian access in this area. A previous signal project in this area widened the road to provide right hand turn lanes. This project would qualify for funding from the Washington County COG for right-of-way, and it is included in the Dixie MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

Myron Lee provided scoring packets to members in attendance and asked that they be completed and returned to MPO staff by November 30th. This will allow staff time to compile scores prior to the December 2, 2015 DTAC meeting.

- C. Consideration of TAP Funds:** Myron Lee reported the MPO has accumulated \$240,000 in TAP funding that can be allocated to projects. The MPO receives an annual allocation of \$70,000 which can be held until a sufficient amount is available to fund a project. Santa Clara City and Ivins City have jointly submitted an application for TAP funds for the Old Highway 91 project. Chuck Gillette explained that a trail extends from 200 East in Ivins to the Swiss Village in Santa Clara. A roadway project will widen lanes as well as add a trail through the project. There was previously a pedestrian fatality in this area and both cities would like to address safety issues. This is currently a very dangerous section with narrow shoulders. There is sufficient funding available for the project to go out to bid in the later part of November, but the project has an approximate \$600,000 shortfall in funding overall. UDOT has programmed \$175,000 of state TAP funds for this project, and it would be helpful to receive the additional \$240,000 in MPO TAP funds. The project is already receiving federal funds and therefore must meet federal requirements. Kirk Thornock explained that even though the TAP funds are allocated to the MPO, UDOT staff is required to score applications for these funds. Recommendations for TAP funding must be forwarded to UDOT for scoring prior to award of funds. Myron Lee indicated that a recommendation would also be forwarded to the Dixie Transportation Executive Council for formal approval. Because this is the only project being recommended for funding, it should not be that difficult to assemble a UDOT team to conduct the scoring. It was noted that the value of the trail and widened shoulders exceeds the amount of UDOT and MPO TAP funds.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ARTHUR LEBARON, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO RECOMMEND AWARDING \$240,000 IN MPO TAP FUNDS TO THE OLD HIGHWAY 91 PROJECT, CONTINGENT UPON FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE UDOT SCORING PROCESS. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

4. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. Way-Finding Signs:** Monty Thurber, St. George City, provided a brief summary of proposed way-finding signs and noted that the city has been working for some time to develop better signs for their trail systems as well as streets. He introduced Millie Cockerill with the St. George Parks and Recreation Department who has worked extensively on this project. Ms. Cockerill reported that St. George City has 29 trails with six trail heads, 44 parks, 9 recreational facilities and 45 miles of shared use trails. There is not a lot of information provided for how to get to the next trail and a real need to have way-finding signs for the trail system. It was also noted that St. George City has 37 miles of designated bike lanes, 12 miles of bike lanes, and 18 miles of bike routes. Monty Thurber reported that St. George City is the only city that has designated bike lanes and bike routes. The intent would be for other cities to designate bike lanes and bike routes. St. George City has been working with the Utah State Health Department to obtain a grant for \$18,000 to develop a way-finding system that shows distance and travel time. The city has also received a Utah State Recreation Trail Grant in the amount of \$4,360 to support this project. The ultimate goal would be to develop a regional way-finding system with specific design guidelines that provide signs that are modular, customized and easy to install and maintain. It is proposed that signs include the number of miles and minutes to the next destination. Examples were reviewed with space for a customized logo, trail name, etc. Examples were also shared of street signs that include bike routes and destinations.

Monty Thurber reported that St. George City staff has met with some other cities to discuss these signs and they would like to begin introducing the idea to other cities. Mark Mortensen suggested that coordination with Kevin Lewis, the new Washington County Outdoor Recreation Director, may also be a viable option in moving forward to introduce this to other jurisdictions. It would be preferable to keep signs standard from one area to another throughout the region and to possibly adopt some type of standard to use moving forward. This project has taken a long time to implement in St. George City but expansion to other cities would provide continuity. Arthur LeBaron mentioned that this would be especially good for way-finding for cyclists using the roadways. It would also be helpful to have a map guide for the entire area. Utilizing the same logo for way-finding signs may be helpful in a regional type approach. It was also suggested that working with UDOT would be helpful. Mr. Mortensen explained that St. George City is open to discussion in terms of branding to identify signs. This would tie in good with Washington County as well. Monty Thurber indicated that the next step for St. George City is to develop design guidelines for signage. Mike Shaw mentioned that the Washington City Leisure Services Department is in charge of signs and would be the appropriate contact. A county designated bike route could possibly be developed from Veyo, Ivins, St. George, Washington City, Washington County and cities on the eastern side of the county. Monty Thurber noted that St. George City will be ordering signs in the near future that will include the St. George City logo for all of the city trails. However,

signs will be designed for ease in swapping out the section that includes the logo. St. George is willing to work with partners to develop a regional logo and trail signage. Copies of the City of St. George Urban Trail System were provided to committee members.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the Purgatory Road EA is now underway and some public meetings have been held.
- B. **Ivins:** Chuck Gillette reported that the Old Highway 91 project will be going out to bid next week. Construction is anticipated to begin in February 2016.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that there are four requests for proposal for the transit system design study that are currently under review. Updates will be provided as this study moves forward. The Dixie Drive 1600 South signal is under design. Patching will be accomplished on Black Ridge Drive next week. The transportation expo is coming up in February 2016. Cameron indicated that information will be forwarded to cities to schedule a meeting next week to discuss assignments.
- F. **Santa Clara:** Jerry Amundsen reported that Santa Clara City is partnering with Ivins City on the Old Highway 91 project that is anticipated to go out to bid within the next few weeks.
- G. **Toquerville:** None.
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the Telegraph safety project has been completed. A storm drainage and reconstruction project is underway on 3650 South, which serves as a east/west connector road.
- I. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards reported that Washington County does not have any projects in the MPO boundaries at this time. It is anticipated that the annual Washington County COG meeting will be scheduled in the January/February time frame. However, meetings can be scheduled at any time throughout the year upon request.
- J. **UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that the Transportation Commission meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2015 in Hurricane beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cities are welcomed and encouraged to attend. UDOT is still optimistic that the Southern Parkway project will be completed by January 2016 weather permitting. Paving may become an issue moving into November/December.

Kirk Thornock reported that the scope of the two SR-18 projects for St. George Boulevard and Bluff will be combined into one project utilizing some design innovations. It is anticipated that approximately \$7 million will be saved on this

project. It is proposed that \$3 million of this savings be put on the I-15 Dixie Drive to Brigham Road to complete both sides. This will also be a scope change for this project. Currently there are three major projects scheduled to be delivered in St. George in the same year. The plan is to cash flow the Mall Drive/I-15 milepost 8 to 10 project next summer. The following summer would be the I-15 job and the SR-18 project would be constructed in 2018. This will avoid having major construction at the same time on three major routes in St. George. This action will push out the climbing lanes on I-15 as well as the thru turn lanes on the north side at Exit 10 another year. As these actions are approved, updated cash flow information will be provided to the MPO for inclusion into the TIP.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

A. Program Development - UDOT: None.

B. Federal Oversight: None.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next DTAC meeting will be held Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at the Five County Association of Governments office. DTAC members are asked to submit scoring sheets to MPO staff by November 30, 2015.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.