

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2008
12:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Suzanne Allen, Chair, St. George City Council
Jerry Amundsen, Vice Chair, Santa Clara City Council
Jerry Blair, Planning Commission, Ivins City
Jerry Lewis, Commission, UDOT
Jim Eardley, Washington County Commission
Kim Manwill, UDOT, Region 4
Lowell Elmer, Director, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutching, Planning Manager, Five Co. AOG
Larry Bulloch, Public Works Director, St. George City
Dave Demas, City Engineer, St. George City
Cameron Cutler, Assistant City Engineer, St. George City
Miriam Palma, Administrative Professional, St. George City
Bob Hermanson, Bush and Gudgeon

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Dixie Transportation Executive Council was called to order at 12:10 a.m. by Suzanne Allen, Chair.

Minutes

Minutes of the September 17, 2008 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion: Jerry Blair made a motion to accept the September 17, 2008 minutes as written.

Second: Jerry Amundsen seconded.

Vote: All voted "Aye" and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Dixie Transportation Improvement Plan (DTIP) Administrative Adjustment - Lowell Elmer explained that this is not a change in the TIP, but an administrative adjustment moving funding from one PIN number to another in order to complete the Southern Parkway.

The group discussed the item and Chairman Allen called for a motion.

Motion: Jim Eardley made a motion to approve the administrative adjustment made by UDOT to the DTIP in consolidating funds in various PIN accounts for the Southern Parkway.

Second: Jerry Amundsen seconded

Vote: All voted "Aye" and the motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

Letter to John Njord, UDOT

Lowell Elmer explained that in the September 17, 2008 meeting, a motion was made to send a letter to John Njord, Executive Director, UDOT, regarding the I-15 Corridor Study and asking that the Pedestrian Safety Study be added to the study as a 10th project. He distributed a letter he had drafted for Chairman Allen's signature to that effect and asked for Council approval to

send the letter. All present favored the letter and Mr. Elmer said he will finalize it, obtain Chairman Allen's signature and mail it to Mr. Njord. No motion was required as it had been approved in the September 17 meeting.

Possible Budget Cuts

Lowell Elmer discussed the possibility of deep cuts to both the UDOT and FHWA budgets in the coming fiscal year.

He explained that the State is looking at cuts in construction projects. He also explained that planning money, which traditionally has been assigned off the top and, therefore, has been insulated from budget cuts, is now being included with construction funding. It is proposed that planning funds to MPOs be cut by \$60,000 in FY10. This type of shortfall could be absorbed by the larger MPOs who have 40-60 employees, but for the small MPOs the cuts would be devastating. The Dixie MPO employs only two equivalent FTEs and if staff were reduced, the MPO's ability to plan and complete for state funding would be greatly reduced, plus federal mandates could not be met.

Mr. Elmer presented a draft letter to John Njord explaining the situation and asking that he take the above information into consideration during budget preparation.

Chairman Allen called for a motion on the subject at hand.

Motion: Jim Eardley made a motion to approve the draft letter to John Njord requesting consideration in budget matters for the Dixie MPO and approved Chairman Allen to sign such letter.

Second: Jerry Blair seconded the motion.

Vote: All voted "Aye" and the motion passed unanimously.

Council Members asked Jerry Lewis if sending additional letters from each city would be of benefit. He indicated that all input is appreciated by the Commission especially when hard decisions need to be made. Jerry Blair requested that this letter be sent to the cities to give them a basis on which to write their letter. Lowell Elmer indicated he would call Roger Bundy at Washington City, and inform him of the Council's decision.

UDOT/FHWA Business

Kim Manwill gave a report of progress on the current UDOT construction projects. He noted that the Bluff Street freeway ramps are open and traffic is flowing well. Chairman Allen complimented UDOT on the project, she said the new ramps have been a great service to St. George City. All agreed that the public information campaign paid off in reducing citizen complaints.

The I-15 Truck Lane project from MP10 to MP19 has been designed, however, budget constraints and the escalating price of asphalt are forcing staff to scrutinize the project more closely to find less costly alternatives. The project will be advertised when costs can be reduced to an acceptable level, while maintaining standards.

Earthwork has begun on the Southern Parkway, phase II. Telegraph Road and Redhills Parkway are also going forward. The budgetary challenges will be from FY09 forward.

Mr. Manwill also touched on the reduction of UDOT funding for operations as well as construction. He said UDOT officials are meeting this week to look at funding priorities, but no further information was available at this time.

Commission Members asked Commissioner Lewis if the presence of MPO members at the next Commission meeting would have any effect on the outcome of the budget session. He indicated it would not hurt, but that the Commission will be striving to fairly meet the needs of the entire state as much as possible.

Continuing his project update, Mr. Manwill told the group that, with regards to the Dixie Drive Environmental Assessment, staff met with FEMA to discuss the floodplain. The meeting was cordial and they felt that useful information had been obtained.

Bluff Interchange Bridge - The beams will be delivered in December and the project finished in June.

Other Business

Lowell Elmer announced that the next DTAC meeting would be held November 12 instead of November 5. The DTAC will review the final report on the calibration and validation of the MPO's traffic model as well as look at new project proposals for the FY 2010-2014 TIP.

Commissioner Eardley told the group that, for the first time, Washington County has received a full PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes).

Larry Bulloch reminded the group of the Replacement Airport Groundbreaking ceremony to be held October 17 at 11:30 a.m. He said the contractor has already moved 200,000 cu. yds. of earth on the airport site. Kim Manwill said that Nathan Lee will be in attendance at the groundbreaking, but John Njord and Carlos Braceras will not.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 a.m. by Chairman Allen. The next regular meeting of the DTEC will be held November 19, 2008 at 12:00 noon at the Five County AOG office; 1070 West 1600 South; St. George.