

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2016 - 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  
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director  
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town  
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director  
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four  
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager  
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Director, Five County AOG  
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG  
Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director, Five County AOG  
Branden Anderson, UDOT, Region Four  
Bronson Bundy, Washington City  
Thomas Joegensen, Ivins City  
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering  
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner/Santa Clara City  
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering  
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants  
Kayde Roberts, Jones & Demille Engineering  
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Health Department  
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance  
Diane Lamoreaux, Volunteer

**ABSENT**

Darren Cottam, Toquerville City  
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City  
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 noted that a quorum was present to conduct business.

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE**

- A. Minutes from February 3, 2016 Meeting:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes from the February 3, 2016 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for discussion and consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY ARTHUR LEBARON, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2016 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

- B. Nomination and Election of Chairman, Vice-Chair:** Cameron Cutler indicated that nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair were in order.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK TAYLOR, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO NOMINATE ARTHUR LEBARON TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Arthur LeBaron, Chair, called for nomination of members to serve as Vice-Chair.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY JACK TAYLOR, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW TO NOMINATE CHUCK GILLETTE TO SERVE AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

## **2. LONG RANGE PLAN**

- A. Long Range Plan Amendment: 1-15, Exit 16 Interchange Improvements:** Kirk Thornock, UDOT, reported that in working through the STIP process staff noticed that the I-15, Exit 16 interchange improvements project was inadvertently included in the Phase II project list in the Long Range Plan. This is a priority project for UDOT that needs to be moved onto Phase I projects. The project will include extension of merge lanes from Exit 16 to Exit 13, structure replacement and modification of ramps. Arthur LeBaron spoke to the dangerous situation that traffic faces when trying to merge at this interchange. The total project cost for this project should be listed as \$37 million rather than the current funding amount of \$23.4 million. It was also noted that bids for the Old Highway 91 project came in under the \$4.2 million amount listed for that project and Mall Drive Underpass estimated funding should be \$25 million rather than the current listed amount of \$57 million dollars. Myron Lee explained that federal guidelines allow 10% in excess of costs estimated for projects to be expended. There should be no problem in moving this project onto the Phase I project list. The I-15, Exit 16 project was included in the Phase I list in the I-15 Environmental Assessment, but was inadvertently left in the Phase II Long Range Plan project list. Kirk Thornock explained that the cost for extending the merge lanes would be \$5 million and another \$31 million for modifications to the interchange. Region Four is hopeful that some efficiency funding that comes from other state projects can be captured to fund this project.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER, SECONDED BY JACK TAYLOR, TO RECOMMEND TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC) MOVING THE SR-9/I-15, EXIT 16 PROJECT FROM PHASE II TO PHASE I IN THE LONG RANGE PLAN PHASED PROJECT LIST. STAFF WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO CHANGE VALUES OF OTHER PROJECT ESTIMATES TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATE FUNDING AMOUNTS. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

### 3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. **COG Report:** Todd Edwards reported that the Washington County Council of Governments held a meeting last night to revise the corridor preservation project list. There are currently 24 corridors included on the project list. The Old Highway 91 from Ivins to the Arizona State Line, Gunlock Road, Old Highway 91 through Ivins, Kwavasa Drive (600 West) - Ivins, and Snow Canyon Parkway/Ivins Center Street were added to the project list. No projects were taken off the list, but left over funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the Apple Valley project was added back into the funding pool. A \$10.00 vehicle registration fee had been collected beginning in 2009 to provide funds for corridor preservation. A total of \$8 million dollars has been collected, of which \$2 million has been spent. There is currently \$6 million dollars available for allocation. St. George City has a commitment of \$1.5 million for the Bluff Street corridor that must be expended and/or re-authorized before the end of 2017. In order to use corridor preservation funds, purchases require willing sellers who agree to sell at the appraised property value. It was also noted that the cost of the appraisal can be included in the allocation amount for projects. Allocation of 60% of the funds must be for long range corridor preservation for projects out 20 years on the horizon. The remaining 40% of corridor preservation funds can be allocated as grants or loans for projects that are short range in nature. Todd Edwards suggested that those interested in making application for funds should contact Trevor Coombs, Washington County, for assistance with the process. The COG will meet on an as-needed basis to consider applications.

### 4. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Process:** Kirk Thornock, UDOT, provided a brief explanation of the STIP development process and milestones. This process is ongoing and generally kicks off in August for the new funding cycle. Each UDOT Region coordinates this process with the appropriate MPO beginning in August through February. The MPO allocates funding and forwards TIP recommendations to the Dixie Transportation Executive Council (DTEC) for final approval. Region work meetings are scheduled November through January to report on needs and wants throughout the region. The next STIP cycle will be for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Some plans are for five years and others include three years. Capacity projects fall under a five year plan. This year will be handled a little different with one session in April for the Transportation Commission Workshop. The region workshop in March will concentrate on overall programming and the April workshop will concentrate on projects. Kirk reported that Region Four does pretty well overall in terms of obtaining funds from the Joint Highway Commission for small rural projects. The Draft STIP is prepared during April, May, and June with advertisement and public comment solicited during the month of July. The Transportation Commission then addresses any comments received and approves the STIP for submission to FHWA and FTA. At this point, the STIP planning cycle begins for the new year. There is a lot of work scheduled for Central and Southern Utah roads in terms of upcoming preservation projects.

Kirk Thornock reported that the FAST Act will provide increased federal funding to address roads. There are also 5% annual funding increased included in the Act. This will also provide some additional funding for planning that will come into the Dixie MPO. In addition, the increase of \$.05 in the gas tax will provide additional

funding for transportation. These increases in funding will allow UDOT to address some of the low volume roads that were not able to be addressed with past funding amounts. Region Four staff will continue to fight for funding for capacity projects in this area. Kirk Thornock also mentioned that freight planning dollars are also attached to the FAST Act. These funds will be allocated to projects that are associated with freight such as parking stalls, truck climbing lanes, etc. Approximately \$25 to \$30 million dollars will be available for these types of projects. Updated information will be provided regarding freight funding as project determinations are made. He indicated that the FAST Act will also make it easier for UDOT to allocate TAP funds.

- B. Vote Share:** Myron Lee provided a handout to members outlining the vote share for FY 2017 which will remain the same as last year's amount. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that the vote share has been held at this amount. Billings will be sent out to jurisdictions from the MPO to request these funds.
- C. Request to Reprogram Funds (St. George City):** Myron Lee provided a spreadsheet outlining 2016 Draft Dixie MPO TIP programmed funding. St. George City has three projects highlighted including the following: **1) River Road, Ft. Pierce to Brigham Road--** \$2.2 million federal funding; **2) Mall Drive Underpass--** \$1.1 million in federal funding; and **3) River Road, Riverside Drive to 1450 South--** \$1.4 million in federal funding. Cameron Cutler explained that the City of St. George would like to shift funding from the first two projects into the River Road, Riverside Drive to 1450 South project. This would federalize only one project rather than three. It is not the city's or state's desire to federalize the Mall Drive Underpass because it would then be tied to other improvements such as auxiliary lanes.

Myron Lee explained that FAST Act funding increases will provide \$2.3 million in 2017 and \$2.4 million in 2018, up to \$2.6 million in 2020. The MPO has typically been conservative with programming of funds to keep some in reserve. The table depicts a fund shortage in 2017, but this can be covered from funds held in reserve. There will be \$1.4 million that can be programmed into projects in the 2018, 2019, or 2020 time frame. Myron Lee explained that other requests of this nature have been approved in the past with Green Springs Drive, Dixie Drive, Indian Hills Drive, etc. Kirk Thornock suggested that some of the funding be shifted to 2019 in order to complete the environmental and design work. Other funding for this project is included in 2020. Cameron Cutler indicated that funds could be shifted from 2019 to 2020 as the project details are refined.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY KIRK THORNOCK, TO RECOMMEND TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC) SHIFTING \$3.3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE RIVER ROAD, FT. PIERCE DRIVE TO BRIGHAM ROAD AND MALL DRIVE UNDERPASS PROJECTS TO THE RIVER ROAD, RIVERSIDE DRIVE TO 1450 SOUTH PROJECT IN THE 2019 FUNDING YEAR. LOCAL MATCH WOULD BE \$239,633. THE OTHER TWO PROJECTS WILL BE FULLY FUNDED BY ST. GEORGE CITY. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

## 5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- a. **2016 Expo Report:** Myron Lee reported that the Dixie MPO conducted a survey again this year in conjunction with the Transportation Expo. Attendance at the Expo was down 8% this year from 688 to 618. Fewer participants responded to the survey this year as well. Staff is exploring different options for conducting the survey next year, including the use of Survey Monkey. Of those responding to the survey, there were 71% who were residents, 1.2% elected officials, 7% business owners, and 8% were with groups and/or organizations. The top three projects selected by respondents were: 1) Bluff Street, 2) I-15 Mall Drive Underpass, and 3) New Interchange at Milepost 11. Respondents were supportive of these three projects with a lower percentage of concern overall. The biggest concerns of survey respondents were safety and congestion and items of least concern were economic development and wildlife. Questions asked regarding the bus system indicated that stops closer to their homes and more frequent service may encourage more ridership. Respondents felt that it would be good to provide increased transit services and 60% supported increased transportation service to Springdale. Most respondents prefer median lot (urban style) development and the least attractive option was higher density for multi-family development. It was also noted that the majority of those attending the Expo were over 55 years of age. Discussion included potential ways to encourage participation of the younger generation. Members felt that the younger generation would respond better to online information options. The consultant is in the process of inputting comments that were provided as part of the survey and a final report will be provided in the near future.

## 6. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the Purgatory Road Environmental Assessment is ongoing and a local project on 400 South in Hurricane is also under design.
- B. **Ivins:** Chuck Gillette reported that construction on the Old Highway 91 project is moving along. Some difficulties were experienced the first of the week when traffic was diverted to Old Highway 91 because of a fire incident on I-15 by Littlefield, AZ.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that the River Road Bridge project and signal at 1600 South Dixie Drive will be awarded tomorrow at City Council. The Mall Drive Underpass culvert detention project will be advertised this week. Work on the transit planning and design study also moving along. Monty Thurber demonstrated a survey tool that St. George City is utilizing for their Active Transportation Plan process as well as the SunTran transit study. Mapping and data can be imported into the survey. This is a very good tool for gathering data and will provide the first public outreach for this particular project. This type of planning tool could be utilized for the Transportation Expo as well.

- F. **Santa Clara:** Jack Taylor reported that they have experienced some problems with utility work on the Old Highway 91 project. He noted that the contractor will be looking at work alternatives on March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup> because concrete is scheduled to be poured on bridges in the Virgin River Gorge on those days. It is anticipated that this may increase traffic on Old Highway 91.
- G. **Toquerville:** None
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the bid has been awarded for the Phase 4 on the Washington Fields Road. It is anticipated that construction will begin within the next three weeks.
- I. **Washington County:** None.
- J. **UDOT:** Kirk Thornock reported that a project on SR-9 between 300 to 700 West will advertise sometime in March. Design and right-of-way on SR-18 corridor will continue over the next couple of years. A mill and fill project on SR-18 by the Ledges will be under construction this summer. A guardrail project on I-15 between milepost 22 and 28 will begin in the near future. The SR-9 project between Rockville and Springdale will be under construction soon. I-15, Brigham Road to Dixie Drive, project will include new bridges in both directions. Bridge work will accommodate four lanes in each direction to fit into future expansion of I-15 between milepost 6-8. A consultant is on board for the SR-34, St. George Boulevard 9-10th East project. This will provide additional lanes to project more vehicle storage at the interchange.

7. **STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE**

- A. **Program Development - UDOT:** None.
- B. **Federal Oversight:** None.

8. **UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES**

Myron Lee introduced Jay Aguilar who replaced Levi Roberts as the Mobility Manager for the Dixie MPO. This position provides assistance with coordination of transportation services for seniors, disabled and disadvantaged clients. Jay Aguilar reported that he previously work for the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization as well as the Bear River Association of Governments as the Director of Community and Economic Development.

The next DTEC meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2016 and the next DTAC meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.