

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South, Building B
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer, Chair
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Vice Chair
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Tom Jorgensen, Ivins City
Ed Baca, St. George City Council
Kathy Starks, UDOT
Chris Hall, UDOT
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Brett Hadley, Stanley Consultants
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Kade Roberts, Jones & DeMille Engineering
Lisa Rutherford, Self
Diane Lamoreaux, Volunteer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
Mayor Darren LeFevre, Toquerville City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer

Arthur LeBaron, 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 September 7, 2016 Meeting:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron, Chair, presented minutes from the September 7, 2016 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for discussion and consideration. It was noted that several minor corrections to the Hurricane City presentation were provided prior to the meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHUCK GILLETTE, SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 MEETING INCLUDING MINOR CORRECTIONS TO THE HURRICANE CITY GROWTH AND PLANNING REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. Funding Status Report:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron mentioned that the SR-9 connection to I-15 merge situation is in dire need of attention. It is very difficult for vehicles to merge into oncoming traffic and various sensors in newer vehicles indicate that traffic is too close.

Mr. Myron Lee provided a hard copy of the TIP spreadsheet which includes running balances across the top and bottom of the table. Up to \$768,000 could be programmed in 2019 and a total of \$3.6 million is available for programming in 2021. DTAC members have not always programmed the entire amount of funds that are available in each year. Previous TIP actions during the last year include: **1) Merrill Road--** Project funding was moved from 2019 to 2017; **2) Milepost 11--** Funding was moved forward for this project; and **3) River Road--** Shifted some funding from the River Road Fort Pierce to Brigham Road project to the other River Road project and changed the STIP year of funding. Mr. Lee explained the programming of funds and changes in the running balances. Having funds available in 2019 for programming would provide an opportunity to potentially move some projects up on the TIP. DTAC members are tasked with making determinations regarding programming of available funds.

- B. Call for Concept Reports (2018 to 2022 TIP Program):** Mr. Myron Lee reported that a call for project concept reports has been emailed to DTAC members for 2021 projects. Staff is requesting that these reports be submitted by October 19th to the Dixie MPO office to allow for internal staff review. Projects that have been submitted in the past will need to be resubmitted with updated cost estimates. It is very important that jurisdictions provide a comprehensive scope of work in original concept reports submitted for projects. This can become an issue during construction in determining whether a change order can be initiated. Copies of the concept reports and scoring sheets will be distributed to DTAC members during the November meeting and programming of funds will be accomplished during the December meeting.

Mr. Kirk Thornock reported that UDOT is very close to being able to exchange state funds for federal funds for one project in the MPO. This would provide the opportunity to shift federal funds to UDOT and utilize state funding for a local project. The project would have to be preservation or rehabilitation of a roadway in order to make this fund exchange. UDOT staff will continue to examine projects to determine if an exchange would be possible. This is a proactive step that would alleviate some of the federal regulations for a project.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. St. George Growth / Planning Report:** Mr. Cameron Cutler provided a short presentation regarding growth and population trends for St. George City. The

Census Bureau estimates the current population of St. George City at 80,000 with 32,000 households. A chart depicting calendar year population growth between 1990 and 2013 was reviewed, and the growth rate has ranged from 0.45% to 8.23% over this time period. There are 362 roadway miles in St. George City and it is estimated that this will increase five to ten miles each year depending on growth. Building permits in 2015 include the following: **1) Single Family Homes--** 741 permits issued; **2) Town Homes--** 46 permits; **3) Apartments--** Two permits. There have not been many permits for apartments over the past several years; and **4) Commercial/Industrial--** 109 permits were issued. A graph was reviewed depicting residential and commercial building permits issued from 1996 to 2001. A map depicting the development of residential areas and growth concentration was also shown. It was noted that a lot of growth has been occurring in the Little Valley area over the past 3-5 years. There has also been some growth in the Desert Canyon area as well as the Sun River and Hidden Valley areas. Plans for two apartment complexes have been submitted and/or approved by the City Council. It was noted that build out in St. George is difficult to determine because of water issues that growth would bring. Water has the potential to cap what the build out for St. George would be in the future. Other variables that would impact build out are changes in density and/or mixed use development.

- B. Washington County Resource Management Plan:** Ms. Celeste Maloy, who is working out of the County Attorney's office, reported that she is in the process of writing the Washington County Resource Management Plan. This plan is a long term planning document that deals with county resource management. Transportation planning will also be brought into this plan. The plan will outline long-term transportation concerns, water concerns, where growth is going, land uses, as well as a focus on natural resources. Washington County is requesting input on various sections of the plan. Nine sections have been sent out for review and comment and another 8 sections will be available in the near future. Development of the entire plan is anticipated to be completed in April 2017 for presentation to the County Commission. The plan, in its entirety, will be made available for public review and comment prior to adoption by the commission. It will be very helpful for members to provide input during the process. All information is being disseminated to mayors throughout the county for review and comment. DTAC members asked that sections be forwarded to the MPO for distribution to advisory committee members.

4. LONG RANGE PLANNING

- A. COG Report:** Mr. Todd Edwards reported that the COG meeting was postponed because of the Senior Games. The meeting has been rescheduled to the first Tuesday of November. The priority list is typically addressed in the January to February time frame each year for any potential changes and/or additions. A request for submission of new projects will be emailed out in November that will include a copy of the current priority list. There is a substantial amount of money available for corridor preservation at this time. Funds must be allocated using 60% for long-term preservation and 40% for shorter term projects. It was noted that a big allocation is being requested for Merrill Road in Washington City. If a project is included on the STIP, funds must be provided from the short term project percentage.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. Hurricane:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron reported that the Purgatory Road EA is ongoing. The UDOT downtown area project has been paved with work remaining on the manholes. The 400 South road project is currently under construction with underground work. Hurricane City, in conjunction with Washington County, completed 9 miles of chip seal on the Sand Hollow Loop.
- B. Ivins:** Mr. Chuck Gillette reported that the Old Highway 91 project construction is now complete, with the exception of some landscaping. Project completion is anticipated in 4-5 weeks.
- C. LaVerkin:** None.
- D. Leeds:** None.
- E. St. George:** Mr. Jay Sandberg reported that the city is working on a slurry seal project on Red Hills Parkway. This is essentially a seal coat where equipment combines sand with the seal coat at the same time. Design has started for the Bloomington Drive loop which includes bike lanes. The River Road Bridge is now open, but not all lanes are operational. Workers are trying to get the light timing adjusted for the Senior Games. Work is also progressing on the Commerce Drive project. Several signals are under design for 3050 East and 450 North, 2450 East Riverside Drive and Foremaster Drive.
- F. Santa Clara:** None
- G. Toquerville:** None.
- H. Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that work is progressing on the Telegraph Road slide area. The road is closed due to soil movement in the area. Because of the hillside movement, it was necessary to move all of the materials out of the wash and replace soil into a new alignment of the wash. It is anticipated that milling of the asphalt will begin on Tuesday as well as rebuilding the sub-grade of the roadway. It was noted that the clay layer in this area goes down 85 feet and the slide would have eventually choked off the wash. The Army Corps of Engineers and State & Institutional Trust Lands have been great partners to work with on this project. Washington City and Rocky Mountain Power have had to move power lines in this area as well.
- I. Washington County:** Mr. Todd Edwards reported that an extra lane for pedestrians and bicyclists has been completed near the Shivwitts Indian Reservation. Washington County currently has two projects on Highway 91 that will begin construction in the next few months. The safety project is in conjunction with UDOT and it will be bidding first. However, this project will be delayed until the sub-grade work is complete.
- J. UDOT:** Mr. Kirk Thornock, UDOT, reported that the Mall Drive project is moving along and it is on schedule at this point. The Dixie Drive to Brigham Road widening and structure replacement project will be advertised in November. The St. George

Boulevard 9th to 10th East project will be advertised in January and construction for this project and the I-15 project will be completed at the same time. UDOT is working through right-of-way on the Bluff Street, Sunset Boulevard to St. George Boulevard, project. UDOT is also working on a Bluff Street study, Main Street to St. George Boulevard, to refine project drainage and right-of-way. The concept of a northbound flyover from Red Hills Parkway to I-15 is moving forward as a possible solution to relieve congestion in this area. This particular area has a huge issue with traffic backup. A micro surface project from milepost 0-19 has been advertised, with the exception of the current construction area on I-15. It was noted that UDOT has had good success with micro surface projects in the past with a 8-10 year project life. UDOT is conducting a study on Exit 10 and Exit 8 to potentially install slip ramps. A study for SR-59 to enhance this corridor is ongoing. In addition, UDOT is trying to develop a better list of choke point projects such as passing opportunities, intersection improvements, etc.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** Mr. Kirk Thornock reported that as UDOT goes into the STIP process there is a lot of unknown with high capacity projects. These types of projects are not being added to the TIP at this time. Rumor is out there that UDOT is considering bonding for the Technology Drive section on I-15 between Lehi and Point of the Mountain. If this happened, it would open up approximately \$450 million of program funds that would be available for programming to other projects. Region Four has provided a list of potential projects including completion of Southern Parkway in order to see the potential of this road and SR-9 improvements at I-15. UDOT is ready to push for projects in this area and hopes that some good projects will be possible. Everything at this point is tentative and any bonding would have to go through the Utah State Legislature. It is possible that this decision could occur in 2017. Funding for that particular project goes out through 2023 on the STIP.
- B. Federal Oversight:** Mr. Steve Call, FHWA, provided a brief summary on five issues as follows: **1) Fiscal Year--** The new federal fiscal year began this week operating under a Continuing Resolution where only a portion of funding is available through December 7th. This makes it much more constrained for UDOT to obligate funds. It is anticipated that another CR will be approved to get through the elections; **2) Fund Swapping--** Federal fund swapping is utilized nationally with about 12 states that can make this work. States must have money available for project match requirements. There are currently no regulations in place to govern this, but there will be a national review this year where some guidelines may be developed. This is being done in Region 3 on a project by project basis; **3) STIP--** The 2017 to 2020 STIP was approved by Federal Highways on Monday. The STIP in Utah is fiscally constrained, and UDOT has a very good program in place that many other states have copied; **4) Pedestrian Summit--** Utah will be hosting the 1st Pedestrian Summit on October 17, 2016 at the Eccles Conference Center in Ogden. There will be national speakers coming in to address pedestrian issues such as safety, health, mobility etc. Utah is one of three states that will receive additional funds to address pedestrian issues. This will be an annual event in the October time frame and the event is free of charge; **5) Peer Exchange--** The following week there will be a peer exchange in Salt Lake City under the umbrella of regional models of cooperation program with Federal Highways. The purpose is to encourage inter-

model and interagency cooperation. Utah was selected as the site for this peer exchange. A consultant has been hired to take notes and publish a report on this event. This will focus on how Utah is able to work collaboratively and cooperatively between modes and jurisdictions. Mr. Call mentioned that Utah was chosen for the Pedestrian Summit and the Peer Exchange because they do such a good job with these items.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES

The next DTEC meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2016 and the next DTAC meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2016.

Mr. Cameron Cutler reported that he and Mayor Pike provided an informational presentation to the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce regarding the local sales tax option that will be on the November ballot. Mr. Mike Shaw noted that he will be providing a presentation to the Washington City Chamber of Commerce tomorrow.

It was noted that a special Dixie Transportation Executive Committee meeting was held to discuss the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan which was recently released in a final draft. Mr. Brian Tritle, BLM Area Office Manager, provided a presentation outlining the Resource Management Plan purposes. The MPO protest was explained in terms of an avoidance area versus an exclusion area. This creates more stringent regulations that will be placed on the possibility of constructing a Northern Corridor through the Preserve. The protest period has closed and the Governor's Consistency Review is open until October 23rd. The Governor's Office has received a lot of information that will go back to the Bureau of Land Management in their final protest. A final plan is anticipated to be released in the spring of next year. The MPO, Washington County, Ivins City, Santa Clara City, St. George City and Washington City have all submitted protests to the plan. Discussion centered on the possibility of utilizing COG corridor preservation funds to purchase private land within the preserve. It was noted that the BLM is currently in the process of completing a land exchange for some of this private land. Once this private land is acquired by the BLM, the agency will be able to choose whether the area is an avoidance or exclusionary area. Most of the private land is within the boundaries of St. George and Washington cities and those entities would be eligible to use COG funds.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY KIRK THORNOCK, TO
ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.