

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2009
12:00 NOON
CITY OF ST. GEORGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT

Suzanne Allen, Chair, City Council Member, St. George City
Jerry Amundsen, Vice Chair, City Council Member, Santa Clara City
Jerry Blair, Planning Commissioner, Ivins City
Nathan Lee, Director, UDOT, Region 4
Daniel McArthur, Mayor, St. George City
Bryan Thiriot, Local Liaison, Senator Bennett's Office
Mike Empey, Local Liaison, Representative Matheson's Office
Lowell Elmer, Director, Dixie MPO
Larry Bulloch, Public Works Director, St. George City
Cameron Cutler, Assistant City Engineer, St. George City
Miriam Palma, Administrative Professional, St. George City

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Dixie Transportation Executive Council was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Chairman Allen.

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion: Jerry Blair made a motion to accept the November 19, 2008 Dixie Transportation Executive Council regular meeting minutes as written.
Second: Jerry Amundsen seconded
Vote: All voted "aye" and the motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal 2010-14 Draft TIP - Modification for Stimulus Package

In order to be ready to take advantage of any stimulus money that may be available, the Dixie TIP will need to be modified. To qualify for funds, a project must appear on the STIP and be "shovel ready".

Mike Empey told those present that the House Appropriations Committee is doing their mark up on the bill and if a project is not on the STIP and ready to go, it will not be considered. Mayor McArthur wondered if projects other than roads will be considered. Bryan Thiriot identified several bills which will provide funding and indicated that some of them include projects other than roads. Mayor McArthur hoped that we could use the prevailing local wage structure and not Davis Bacon, in order to make funds go further.

MPO Steering Committee

Lowell reported on a Steering Committee established among the four Utah MPOs . He said they met in Salt Lake on January 20 and drafted the Utah Stakeholders Principles (which he distributed). DTEC Members discussed the themes and issues. Lowell indicated that the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be February 3rd and asked that any comments be e-mailed to him prior to this date.

Roger Bundy said that shortening the environmental process would provide great financial relief on projects.

Development Updates

This is a new agenda item that will be addressed each month. The purpose is to identify development in the communities that may threaten future transportation corridors.

The Group discussed the Western Corridor. Development has not pushed into that area yet, due to the economic downturn. Jerry Amundsen indicated that the suggested corridor is 300 ft wide and a study done by Santa Clara and Ivins cities has established a 100 ft. corridor. He asked Nathan Lee if that would be a problem.

Nathan felt that 100 ft. is a very narrow easement and it should be 110 ft. at a minimum. However, he said, it depends on what is being built. A 100 ft. easement will accommodate a narrow, arterial street. An easement of 110 ft. will allow for turn lanes. The cities will need to decide what speeds, type of road and feel they want in order to determine the easement width.

Nathan asked the Congressional Aides how the new land bill will affect regional corridors. After a short discussion, Mike and Bryan both reassured the group that the Great Northern Corridor is still in the land bill.

Southern Parkway Corridor Preservation Agreement

The Task Force met January 4, with the UDOT Commission regarding the Southern Parkway Corridor Preservation Agreement. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Lewis made a motion to allow deviation of the corridor from the environmental assessment now in place, but stipulated that any further study or modification to the EA would be paid by the entity seeking the corridor change.

Lowell Elmer announced that Hurricane and Washington City Councils have approved the agreement. A discussion ensued about using the available funds to purchase corridor right-of-way. Nathan Lee commented that much of the land has low value at this time, but that will change when the St. George Airport opens.

Dixie Regional Transportation Expo

Lowell distributed the 2009 Dixie Regional Transportation Expo brochure and reminded everyone that it will be held February 3 from 11:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Dixie Center

Model Validation and Calibration Study by Interplan

The DTAC has accepted the model validation and calibration study by Interplan. The model is presently being updated. Lowell said that InterPlan did an excellent job.

Transit Corridor Study

Lowell told the group that the DTAC has approved a transit corridor from Ivins to Hurricane. They feel that the corridor should be identified and protected in order to preserve the possibilities. Larry Bulloch asked that a north-south corridor also be studied. Lowell's staff is putting together a scope of work.

UDOT/FHWA REPORT

Mayor McArthur asked Nathan Lee about fiber optics being installed for UDOT Traffic Cameras and whether or not the City Traffic Control Center would be able to adjust UDOT cameras on St. George roads. Nathan advised that the UDOT TSC would retain control over the signals, but that it is open 24/7 and changes can be made at any time to adjust for seasonal, special events, etc. He invited anyone who could like to visit the TSC to make an appointment and do so at any time.

Nathan also showed pictures of the rock fall in Cedar City last December. No one was hurt, but UDOT will have a lot of cleanup to do in the Spring.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen called for other discussion items. Hearing none she declared the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

February 18, 2009 at noon.