

**DIXIE MPO TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2023**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor – Chair
Naghi Zeenati, UDOT Commissioner
Adam Snow, Commissioner – Washington County
Patty Wise, LaVerkin City Council
Doug Heideman, Hurricane City Council
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City – Vice Chair
Dannielle Larkin, St. George City
Justin Sip, Toquerville City Mayor
Kress Staheli, Washington City Mayor

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Elsken, (Via Zoon)
Victor Iverson, Commissioner

EXCUSED

Richard Hirschi, LaVerkin City Council
Nanette Billings, Hurricane City Mayor
Rick Rosenberg, Santa Clara Mayor
Bill Hoster, Leeds Mayor
Michelle Randall, St. George City Mayor
Barbra Bruno, Springdale Mayor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Chris Hart determined there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

BUSINESS

a. Consider Minutes of June 20, 2023 DTEC Meeting

**MOTION: Motion by Dannielle Larkin to approve Minutes of June 20, 2023.
Motion Seconded by Naghi Zeenati and carried by a Unanimous vote.**

b. Connecting Communities Grant Support for St. George City

Myron Lee with Five County Association of Governments introduced Lloyd Sutton to present the item.

Lloyd Sutton explained that the application for the federal reconnecting communities grant for projects at the 1-15 underpasses along 400 E Bluff and 900 South was submitted but was unsuccessful. We have coordinated with UDOT, they have agreed to apply for the grant using their resources. We are asking DTEC for a letter of support to be included with the application. UDOT is also seeking a letter of support from the committee, cities, and community members.

Myron Lee explained that the project will be full vehicular access with active transportation included. The areas near Dixie High, Dixie Middle, and Legacy Elementary are especially sensitive areas and need this project. Myron Lee explained with the increased traffic and other considerations he recommends that we approve the letter of support.

Chris Hall explained that documenting community support and more broad support will carry more weight in the application. Disadvantaged areas will also be reached out to for additional support. This project will benefit the entire community and assist in meeting federal requirements of the permit application. The MPO letter of support will be signed by Chairman Hart.

Just Sip requested that a letter of support be sent to communities, cities, and other commercial projects.

Dannielle Larkin stated that St. George City supports this project, it will make a huge impact on the schools in the area.

Chris Hart explained the application process. – ALL Approved Signature of the Letter

c. Purgatory Road Funding

Myron explained that the MPO funding for Purgatory Road is threatened as FHWA requires that funding for construction be identified prior to designing the project. The MPO grant of \$400,000 needs to be obligated by September 6, 2023. Option 1: We could swap the 2023 funding for 2024 funding and move Purgatory Road out to a future year. Option 2: Program construction funding into the project from a future year.

Kress Staheli stated that we like and need this project, but he would like to keep working on the bridge, so the road does not tie into Country Way.

There was continued discussion on the funding options for the project. The EA time frame requirements were discussed. It was agreed that it would be best to switch the funding from a project and the specifics would be determined by those with authority to do so. Commissioner Zeenati asked if the new federal bridge funding would be available to assist with this project. He will look into this option.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Adam Snow to approve the funding swap between PIN #20105 and PIN #20838. Jimmie Hughes seconded the motion.

Discussion: September 6, 2023 is the deadline for the EA and if there are ROW purchases, it keeps the EA active.

d. Review public comments and Consider Adoption of Final 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan

Myron explained that the Transportation Improvement Plan has gone out for public comments with added projects as shown in orange. The public comment period received one comment from the Virgin River program indicating that he would appreciate coordination with any river crossings across the Virgin River. He is satisfied with the response that he will be included in development on the project.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Naghi Zeenati to approve the adoption of the final 2023-2038 Transportation Improvement Plan of June 20, 2023. Motion seconded by Mayor Justin Sip and carried by a Unanimous vote.

REGIONAL UPDATES

a. Local Government Updates

Toquerville – The first stage of the Toquerville Bypass project has begun asphalt and 2nd phase is moving along a lot better.

Chris Hart - HWY 91 is more passable than it has been. Two roundabouts to navigate

Cameron Cutler - St. George City 3000 E is going slower than anticipated they are at 2000 S. and 3000 E. contractor has built a walkable area near the elementary school using the traffic signal. We have been coordinating with South Mountain Church, Schools and community.

Dannielle Larkin – There was a terrible fatality on Sunset Blvd this morning – she loves the zero fatality goal and hope we reach it some day.

Naghi Zeenati - SR-18 UDOT Region 4 is working to make the road safer, beautiful and easier to drive.

b. UDOT Updates

SR-9 Zion Trail is moving along well.
SR-7 is currently in design with construction next summer.
SR-59 Speed study is still collecting data.
Milepost 10 to 13 on schedule Phase 1 end of October.
Northern Corridor moving through legal process, geotechnical, inventory
Toquerville Bypass - Ph 1 complete Ph 2 moving a long nicely.
3650 S - Interstate Rock has a notice to proceed and will begin in September.
Purgatory Road design – appreciative of the move forward.
Sand Hollow to Dixie Drive is being reviewed.
Quail Creek Turn lanes to be advertised next summer.
Foremaster Drive Culvert Replacement moving along well.
Diamond Valley to be completed by October 18th.
SR-18 Bike path to advertising in September.
SR-18 3.6 to 9.3 design and advertising next year.
SR9 Kickoff complete, design and advertising this fall with construction in 2024.

c. Federal Updates

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DTAC – September 6, 2023
DTEC – September 19, 2023
COG – September 19, 2023

ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Adam Snow to adjourn. Motion seconded by Justin Sip and carried by a Unanimous Vote.

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Karen Roundy