

Utah Department of Transportation
Utah Transportation Commission
STAFF UPDATE MEETING
Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 12 Noon
Ogden City Council Chambers, 2549 Washington Boulevard, Ogden

Members of the Utah Transportation Commission, Utah Department of Transportation staff, and others, met on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 12 Noon for a Staff Update meeting, in the Ogden City Council Chambers, located at 2549 Washington Boulevard, Ogden.

Those in attendance included:

- Commissioners: Naghi Zeenati, Lew Cramer, Donna Law, Natalie Gochnour, *Kevin Van Tassell, Ronda Menlove
- UDOT Staff: Carlos Braceras, Lisa Wilson, Ben Huot, Andrea Olson, Bob Pelly, Brett Slater, Daryl Ballantyne, Jordan Lee, Josh Van Jura, Keriann Noble, Leif Elder, Mike Romero, Mitch Shaw, Monte Aldridge, Nathan Peterson, Peter Asplund, PJ Roubinet, Rob Clayton, Rob Wight, Robert Stewart, Stephanie Tomlin, Wyatt Woolley
- Others: Brigitte Mandel, David Cox, Ed Woolford, Eric Isom, Ivan Marrero, Jory Johner, Marcia White, Paul Ziman, Tweet Zeenati

**indicates virtual participation*

US-191 PROJECT UPDATE

Carlos Braceras, UDOT Executive Director, gave an update on the US-191 and US-6 intersection near Helper. Though directional ramps were discussed, the Department is moving forward with the proposal to construct a High T intersection at that location. An analysis done concludes that the High T will function and operate well, and be a good safety improvement for the area. The directional ramps would take all or more of the Legislated funds and preclude passing lanes. Commissioner Van Tassell commented that if the High T intersection will work as what was done on US-40, it will be more than sufficient.

LOGAN CANYON TRUCK RUNAWAYS UPDATE

Rob Wight, UDOT Region One Director, gave an update on the Runaway Truck Crashes in Garden City. From 2013 to 2023, there have been 9 runaway truck crashes at or near the intersection of US-89 and SR-30 in Garden City. The crashes have occurred in either the spring, summer or fall; there have been no winter crashes. Some of the crashes have caused significant property damage, and there have been one fatal crash and one serious injury crash of the 9. One of the 9 crashes was marked as a DUI.

Rob talked about the Department's efforts to improve safety, which include the 2019 installation of a small brake check area at the top of Logan Canyon, the 2020 Runaway Truck Escape Ramp, and the current construction of a second, larger brake check area in the canyon. UDOT is also planning to install enhanced signing and widen the shoulder for the truck escape ramp, and is partnering with UHP for increased enforcement. Outreach efforts include an education and public awareness campaign.

Rob talked more about the Runaway Truck Escape Ramp catchnet system. A discussion also took place about adherence to GPS systems causing issues, as well as efforts to address that.

SHEPHERDS LANE DISCUSSION

Lisa Wilson, UDOT Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations, gave an update on the I-15, Shepherds Lane Interchange on I-15. The scope of the project included a pedestrian crossing at Park Lane to connect both side of I-15 to the Station Park area. Lisa said the project only had 1 bidder and the bid came in quite high. The Department is looking into why that was the case, but recognize that UDOT's contractors are all very busy, with a lot of work, and also recognize that there the project did have some risks. Lisa said the Department will come back to the Commission with a scope change at least to split the scope of the interchange and the pedestrian

bridge and trail work into two projects, and will continue to work on readvertising the project early next year. A discussion took place about efforts to pace projects to recognize contractor capacity.

EXPRESS LANE FEE WAIVER FOR RUC PILOT

Daryl Ballantyne, UDOT RUC Program Manager, reviewed the Road Usage Charge (RUC) Local Overlay and Tolling Integration Pilot, and the request for approval at the next day's meeting to waive toll fees for participants during the 6-month pilot. An awarded STSFA grant will reimburse UDOT for the costs of the participants waived fees, an estimated \$6,000.

ADMIN RULE ITEMS REVIEW

Peter Asplund, UDOT Policy and Legislative Services Deputy Director, reviewed changes to R940-3: State Infrastructure Bank Fund, which were needed due to State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) amendments provided in SB 185 (line 1854), which requires UDOT to establish a separate account in the SIB for infrastructure loans for publicly owned infrastructure projects in greenfield areas that are located no less than one mile from an existing municipal or county water supply, water distribution facility or wastewater facility.

Leif Elder, UDOT Policy and Legislative Services Director, reviewed new rule R940-10: Guidelines for Department Participation in Transportation Reinvestment Zones, which establishes a process for Department participation in a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ), created under Section 11-13-227. The objective of Department participation in a TRZ is to enhance the State transportation system by accelerating State highway projects or projects on local highways that are eligible for Federal funds in areas where the projects are likely to stimulate increased local tax revenue that can be used to offset the cost of those projects. Pursuant to Utah Code Section 11-13-227, two or more public entities can enter into an agreement to create a TRZ, including the boundaries of the zone; define the specific transportation improvements that are needed, and establish the terms for sharing increased property tax and sales tax generated within the defined TRZ zone. Revenue generated within a TRZ can be used for a wide variety of transportation improvements, including roads, sidewalks, bike and walking paths and transit. In addition to providing a tool for local entities to work together on infrastructure issues within a TRZ, TRZs are also a potential tool for local entities to formally partner with the State for infrastructure projects. That partnership can be between the State and a single local entity, or multiple local entities.

PRIORITIZATION PROCESS DOCUMENT DISCUSSION

Stephanie Tomlin, UDOT Trails Division Leader, recapped June's meeting, where the updated goals, objectives, process and schedule was discussed and the outreach process and new prioritization models and each measure were reviewed, and the new model documentation was shown. She reviewed the Prioritization Process Document updates, which include clarified wording by changing "prioritized" to "ranked" to be consistent in rules/codes, as well as acronym definitions. A request will be made in the next day's Commission meeting to approve the Transportation Capacity Project Prioritization Process Document with the discussed revisions.

Andrea Olson, UDOT Planning Director, discussed the next steps in the Prioritization Process, which include discussing nominated projects in September, and reviewing ranked project lists in November.

2024 COMMISSION MEETING LOCATIONS PROPOSALS

Region Directors and their respective Commission member proposed locations for 2024, which include Garden City, Tooele, Provo, Monticello and Washington County. 2024 meeting dates were also discussed.

The meeting ended at 1:38 p.m.



Heather Barthold, Commission Assistant