

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
March 19, 2014**

PRESENT

James Eardley, County Commission
Alan Gardner, County Commission
Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, UDOT Commission, Region 4
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane
Mike Shaw, Washington City
William Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch
Gary Webster, Cong. Chris Stewart
Bette Arial, Senator Mike Lee
Bryan Thiriot, Five County AOG
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Dean Cox, Washington County
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Five County AOG

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley welcomed all members, and it was established that a quorum exists for action items.

MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2014

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Hart to Approve the Minutes from the February 19, 2014, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Zeenati and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Local Cost Share for FY 2015

Myron Lee distributed two handouts: Summary of FY 2014 Funding Sources, and the same for FY 2015. He pointed out that the highlighted numbers in yellow have changed

from 2014 to 2015 and those in green are the cost share per community. He reiterated that St. George City has three votes, the other communities have one vote, and the smaller communities of Toquerville, Leeds and LaVerkin each pay for one-third of a vote share. The planning dollars for the MPO have increased from \$187,338 in FY 2014 to \$207,716 in FY 2015 (anticipated). This increase is due largely to our population growth in relation to that of the other MPOs in the State. The FTA dollars are also expected to increase from \$66,993 to \$68,732, with the total budget increasing from \$435,000 to \$453,000. The vote share will go from \$44,000 to \$40,000, because the MPO was channeling some monies into the reserve, and the AOG reserve is now at a sufficient level to continue operations. Some of the reserve will be spent down over the next few years, resulting in a decrease in that contingency fund from \$15,607 to \$10,010.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Zeenati to Approve the Budgeting Change(s) for FY 2015 as Delineated Above and as Indicated on “Summary of FY 2014 and 2015 Funding Sources” documents. Motion seconded by Councilman Sizemore and carried by unanimous vote.

B. Mobility Management Program

Curt Hutchings distributed two documents: “Mobility Management Budget Increase Discussion” and “State of Mobility Management for Five County AOG/ October 2013.” He said that the Mobility Management Program is a joint effort by the MPO and the AOG, with most of the work being completed where staffing is greater (MPO). Items being worked on include bus service expansion, rapid transit, travel training, route planning, etc. The request for an increase in funding arises out of the need to accomplish even more goals in transportation, such as future commuter routes, interagency cooperation, transit shelters, para-transit programs, and education and online resources.

Mayor Hart asked for an estimate on the level of success of programs and services that already exist. He mentioned that broadening the SunTran service into Ivins was a matter of inter-city planning between Ivins and St. George. Mr. Hutchings said that there have been successes in areas like insurance and ride-sharing among agencies. Also, the coordination of education and public awareness to different communities was accomplished. He said that the broadening of service was the result of efforts by the Mobility Management Program.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Hart to Approve the Increase in Funding for the Mobility Management Program as Described in the “Mobility Management Budget Increase Discussion” document. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Utah Legislature Update

Transportation bills that were considered during the recent legislative session, in brief, are as follows:

- HB388, transit funding for clean air, did not pass
- SB60, gas tax reform bill, did not pass
- SB249, eminent domain clarification, did not pass
- HB430, swap gas tax funding, did not pass
- HB17, public agencies complying with certain laws, did pass
- HB135, sales tax supplement, did not pass
- Local option tax proposed at the interim level as a ten-cent-per-gallon increase; representatives from the County and the MPO travelled to city councils around the County to gauge support for this tax and received essentially a positive response except for Hurricane

B. Transportation Expo Survey Reports

Curt Hutchings passed out a Draft 2014 Long-Range Planning Survey Report on the 2014 Dixie Transportation Expo. He pointed out that most people who participated in the survey said they had read something about the projects that were discussed. In particular the Northern Corridor/Washington Parkway generated a great deal of interest and excitement.

Mayor Hart said that he questions the statistical relevance of a survey that only involved 62 people. Mr. Lee said that the Regional Project Survey had 230 respondents, and the Long-range Survey had 62. Chairman Eardley said that Vision Dixie of 2004/2005 had approximately 3,200 participants, and the percentages were similar to these figures. Mr. Lee said that this is an initiative to quantify the responses of people who have an inherent interest in transportation issues. Mayor Hart suggested another general survey be sent out in an attempt to gather a more representative sampling of opinions. Mr. Whitehead suggested discussing the issue in council meetings. Mayor Bramall said that most of the time, those who participate in a discussion of this type are the extremists at both ends of the spectrum. Councilman Sizemore also voiced support for the idea of sending out another Dan Jones-type survey. The official Vision Dixie survey cost nearly \$160,000, but the Dan Jones survey was significantly cheaper.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Mr. Torgerson reported that the Red Hills Parkway / Bluff Street interchange will be under construction within a few weeks, if not days.

He invited anyone to attend the Transportation Commission tour and meeting taking place this Friday at the Santa Clara Town Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Sizemore asked for the status on the Rockville Bridge. Mr. Torgerson said that there are two opinions: keep the old historic structure intact and build a new bridge alongside it, or rehab the old bridge. Additional structural analysis is required to determine the feasibility of either option. In any case, it is desirable to preserve the integrity of the old bridge. The COG was approached for funding to purchase property alongside the old bridge on which to build a new structure, and now that is being re-considered. It would be difficult to bring a 100-year-old bridge up to current standards. Councilman Sizemore asked what would happen to the COG money if it turns out that there is no purchase of corridor preservation land. Chairman Eardley said the COG money would be refunded.

Councilman Sizemore wanted to make the members aware that the Welcome Center concept is returning. State Office of Tourism representatives are going to be at the Five County Steering Committee to discuss the location and funding of the Welcome Center. The dilemma is that all parties to the idea will now have to contribute financially, whereas previously the entire thing would be built with federal transportation money. The location has been selected by UDOT: off of Exit 2. The land, valued at approximately \$1.3 million, is being transferred to UDOT from SITLA.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: April 16, 2014

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.