

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Washington County Administration Building

Training Room 301

111 E Tabernacle

St. George, UT

Conducting: Monty Thurber, Vice-Chairman – Mr. Thurber determined a quorum was present and called the DTAC meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jay Sandberg, St. George City
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
- Monty Thurber, Vice Chair, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
- Todd Edwards, Washington County
- Cameron Cutler, St. George City Public Works Director
- Chuck Gillette, Ivins City
- Blake Foncesbeck, Washington City
- Chris Hall, UDOT
- Angela Rohr, Leeds
- Chase Stout, Town of Virgin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Kyle Gubler, Chair, LaVerkin City
- Afton Moore, Toquerville City
- Dustin Mouritsen, Santa Clara City Public Works Director

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Nicholas Gayer, Dixie MPO
- Lloyd Sutton, St. George City Active Transportation Coordinator
- Paul Mogle, Washington City
- Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
- Clayton Wilson, Stanley
- Other attendees were present but did not introduce themselves.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- A. Consider Minutes from February 7, 2024.

Vice Chair Thurber noted that the minutes for February 7, 2024, were not available for today's meeting and will be presented at the next month's meeting.

- B. Consider Redirect of CRP funds previously dedicated to Rim Rock Trail – This is a continuation of the discussion from last month’s meeting. Myron Lee reported that instead of the \$250,000 that was discussed in the last meeting, we actually have \$290,000 that needs to be obligated by October 1st, 2024. In order to avoid this situation a year from now, we ought to at least think about programming the \$300,000 that we would anticipate receiving in 2025 funds.

The discussion was centered on using the funds for the Trail Counters. Lloyd Sutton led a discussion on using the funds for the Trail Counters **as well as using a portion to fund consultants doing ADA regulations planning for the MPO.**

Mr. Lee stated that the qualifications for the funding is that we have to have a reasonable measure that it is reducing carbon emissions.

The Trail Counters qualify, more research would need to be done to see if the ADA self-evaluation of transition plans would qualify.

After considerable discussion, **Cameron Cutler made a motion to allocate the CRP funds in the amount of \$150,000 for Trail Counters, and \$140,000 for ADA Transition Plans. Chuck Gillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all Committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.**

- C. Roadway Functional Classifications / New Designations – Myron Lee mentioned that Benjamin Maughn for UDOT will be reaching out to each of the communities about the updates to the Functional Classifications map. Myron presented the map showing current designations and possible updates.

Following the discussion, Myron said that he would contact Ben and ask him to contact each of the Committee members again about any changes. Mr. Lee also stated that these updates are recommendations which Ben has to consider statewide to make sure there is an appropriate mix of those classifications. The important issue with the Functional Classification plan is that the state’s Functional Classification plan dictates where federal funds can go.

- D. Dixie MPO Intern Program update – Nicholas Gayer discussed the MPO intern program. The MPO has hired (2) interns to conduct an active or alternative transportation study within the MPO boundaries. Both interns are remote workers:

- Clayton Gordon
- Andrew Diem

A copy of the study guide and project description was handed out to the Committee members. The interns will be reaching out to all the individual agencies to try and get the most accurate and correct information they can in order to complete their study by August of 2024.

2. PLANNING:

- A. Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Safe Streets and Roads for All program – Nicholas Gayer provided a cutout of the NOFA to all Committee members with just the basic general updates of what's new and what's coming up. Time restraints won't allow us to get an active transportation plan in place by May 16, 2024, which is necessary to apply for implementation funds for this upcoming round of funding, so we will most likely be applying for demonstration activities grant funds.

Basically, the demonstration grant allows you the opportunity to test out certain countermeasures in a limited capacity to see if they will or will not work based on the data that we've collected for a specific location.

- B. Potential amendment to the Dixie MPO Regional Transportation Plan to refine scope expectations at the North Leeds Interchange. Myron Lee reported that at the north end of Leeds, there is a half interchange. It has a southbound off-ramp and a northbound on-ramp. At the south end of Leeds, it has the opposite options. It has a northbound off-ramp and a southbound on-ramp. This situation was created back in the 1960's when old highway 91 through Leeds was replaced by I-15.

Myron Lee shared a Google Earth view of the area and led a discussion on what actions would need to take place in order to create additional on-off ramps.

With the Toquerville reservoir coming on-line in the near future, the interchange situation is creating a situation where the developers are looking at the area both north of I-15 and south of I-15. The developers have approached the MPO, the County, and the towns of Leeds and Toquerville saying that the fire marshal wants to have (2) exit points to their subdivisions which cannot be done under the current conditions.

Our current long-range plan (2030 – 2040) calls for interchange improvements in phase (2) to handle the development out there.

The proposal today is to change that plan and instead of calling it interchange improvements, we would create a new interchange (or a replacement interchange) at the intersection of I-15 and Babylon Road. By putting it in the plan as a developer-driven infrastructure, it allows us the freedom to move it in our plan from phase (2) to phase (1) or leave it in phase (2) whatever is appropriate.

After considerable discussion, **Arthur LeBaron made a motion to recommend to DTEC the change to the Leeds North Interchange as explained. Todd Edwards seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all Committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.**

3. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

- A. Recap of Dixie Transportation Expo held Feb 13, 2024 - Lloyd Sutton reported that we had 861 attendees at this year's expo (down from last year's 961). The overall feeling was that it was a success. We will be looking forward to next year's expo which will be the 20th anniversary.

4. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. **Hurricane** – Arthur LeBaron reported on a project called the Sand Hollow Gateway PID. The project is rebuilding Sand Hollow Road together with paved paths along with a few other roadways that are being built. The most notable improvement is Jellystone Park going up on Sand Hollow Road. A discussion was held regarding the use of PID's.
- B. **Ivins** – Old 91 Phase II is under design with Mainline Engineering, and they are hoping to do that next phase in the Spring/Summer of 2024. The Gap Fill - trail project has been out to bid, the contractor hopes to start next month.
- C. **LaVerkin** – No report.
- D. **Leeds** – Still working with water conservancy in getting water piping installed on main street.
- E. **St. George City** – Pretty much finished the section on 2000 E up to Seegmiller. Traffic signals have been awarded. We have various roadway projects and patching at the same time. We have another big section of Dixie Drive that is under construction. The George Washington Bridge is under way. They are planning to build the bridge first – then the roadway. On the ITS side, we have upgraded some 10 -15 year-old traffic signal signals (approximately 30) and installed 10 new cameras.
- F. **Santa Clara City** – No report.
- G. **Toquerville** – No report.
- H. **Washington City** – The interchange at George Washington and SR 7 bridge is progressing. They are starting to pour the deck and making good progress. They hope to be completed by the end of May. We have accepted a bid for a traffic signal on 240 E and George Washington Boulevard. The Washington Field Road extension has been delayed while working on an agreement with the contractor. The bid was just let on another signal at 1100 and Telegraph. Also, the grapevine trailhead is going in next to exit 13. They are putting in a trailhead along with a substation, parking, and restrooms.
- I. **Washington County** –The SR18 trail started last week. For information, the old highway 91 between Leeds and Harrisburg will be closed periodically this week while we put in culverts and infrastructure for the water line.
- J. **UDOT** – Moving forward to getting a designer on board for the widening of 6 - 8. The 10 to 13 project is going well and is on schedule. For information, UDOT is applying for a grant through the EPA for carbon reduction funds to build 26 miles of trail along SR7, and also 35 miles of trail along SR9 and US89 for East Zion to Kanab. We will be looking for letters of support for that grant. We have a draft letter of support made up that we will send out to this group.
- K. **Transit** – Cameron Cutler reported that the busses have shown up and are being stored in a secure location until we are able to start the route up. The building's design has been submitted to the city for review and the site plan is really close to being done so it can also be submitted to the city for review. We hope to have the route started in July.

6. Upcoming Meetings / Deadlines:
 - A. March 19, 2024 – DTEC meeting
 - B. April 3, 2024 – DTAC meeting

ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.