

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
June 18, 2014**

PRESENT

James Eardley, County Commission
Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor
Pam Humphries, Hurricane City Council
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor
Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor
Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, UDOT Commission, Region 4
Jake King, Senator Mike Lee's Office
Gary Webster, Cong. Chris Stewart's Office
Bill Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Brandon Anderson, UDOT
Dave Glenn, Ivins City
Steve Call, FHA
Eldon Bingham, UDOT
Dana Meier, UDOT
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Ari Bruening, Envision Utah
Nate Currey, Envision Utah

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2014

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Zeenati to Approve the Minutes from the May 21, 2014, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Hughes and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Adopt SunTran Transit TIP

Myron Lee distributed the Transit TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan). The items in yellow are being added.

b. Set TIP Public Comment Period (June 28-August 2)

Mr. Lee asked the committee for a motion to open the public comment period from June 28 to August 2 to coincide with UDOT's STIP open comment period and coordinates with other MPOs in the State.

Chairman Eardley asked about Purgatory Road, and Mr. Lee said that the DTAC recommended that we spend \$500,000 on the Purgatory Road project for an environmental study that would help to determine potential impacts. That does not leave much for design and construction. The ES would look at route options.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor LeFevre to set the Public Comment Period on the TIP for June 28 to August 2, 2014. Motion seconded by Commissioner Zeenati and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Bluff/Sunset Open House

Dana Meier introduced Brandon Anderson to comment on the Open House tonight concerning public comment on the Bluff/Sunset intersection project. UDOT has been through the environmental process and selected the grade separated interchange as the preferred alternative, which incorporates what has become known as the jug handle. Brandon Anderson, the project manager, put together a project team to look at innovative ideas such as cost reduction, accelerating the schedule, etc. An Open House will be held this afternoon from 4PM to 7PM at the St. George City Council Chambers to introduce the concept to the public.

Mr. Anderson explained what changes have been made for this interchange. He showed traffic modeling software that created the grade separated interchange and different ways in which it interacts with the Red Hills Parkway Interchange currently under construction. There are additional options in the environmental document that would allow for a southbound overpass or to elevate Bluff Street to create a merge and reduce impact on properties to the south. Mr. Meier explained that this interchange maintains a free-flow movement for the traffic that goes northbound Bluff to westbound

Sunset, and eastbound Sunset to southbound Bluff. This would operate just as efficiently as the jug handle has done; however, because one has to go in an out-of-direction travel, the addition of the travel time would be about the same impact as the two-faced signal.

Chairman Eardley asked about public comments on the jug handle design, and Mr. Meier said that most opinions were negative.

In December of this year the project to be constructed will be advertised, and the Red Hills Parkway project will be complete by that time.

b. “Your Utah, Your Future” Presentation

Ari Bruening of Envision Utah said that the company started in the early 90s as a Wasatch Front effort. Since that time, it has spread out to include the Vision Dixie plan, the Cache Valley area, and into Morgan County. As part of this effort, EU is traveling through the State asking people what issues they care about, what items are important to them in terms of population growth. They have created a group of eight different issues, including air quality, disaster preparedness, water availability, and others. Right now they are in the “choosing phase,” and by 2015 those choices will be presented to the public for a statewide referendum.

Nate Curry explained the exercise with the laptops, called an Advance Strategy Laboratory, which employs a device called “Values Laddering.” It is anonymous, and honest answers are encouraged. The first questions concerned how things are today, later moving on to questions about life in 2050 in Washington County.

Participants were instructed to type in as many reasons as possible why Washington County is a special place to live. Responses included scenery, family activities, air quality, spaciousness, and others. From there, a rating score from 1 to 10 (least important to most important) was requested. Other questions concerned what is wrong with Washington County, what needs to be fixed, what is the most important issue facing the County, negative challenges that face us, and how to proceed.

A complete statistical recap of the tabletop exercise is available from Envision Utah.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

- a. UDOT Updates**
- b. FHWA Updates**

Steve Call said that his Division is responsible for the Work Program that was recently

approved. Right now a lot is happening in Washington, trying to determine funding for the next Highway Bill. At this point, there is nothing definitive to report; several proposals are being considered.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ken Sizemore said that he had just come from the Air Quality Task Force meeting. He was asked to convey the message to members of this committee that only two communities from Washington County were represented at that meeting. They would appreciate more interest and participation about air-quality issues in the County and encouraged the attendance of anyone from this committee.

The next Air Quality Summit is being planned for Washington County, and an idea was suggested that the Air Quality meeting be joined to the next Transportation Expo in February 2015.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: August 20, 2014

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Hall