

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2010

Five County AOG

PRESENT

Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Chair
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Traffic Engineer
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director
Ross Romero, Washington City
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City Engineer
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
Lowell Elmer, Director, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, MPO, Transportation Manager, FCAOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Doni Pack, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Bruce Fishburn, Stanley Consultants
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Ronielle Howard, PB Americas
Zac Koceja, St. George City
Laura Taylor, St. George City

ABSENT

Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Dave Demas, St. George City, City Engineer (Excused)
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Vice-Chair (Excused)
Rick Torgerson, UDOT Region Four, Program Manager (Excused)
Ryan Marshall, General Manager, SunTran
Lynne Scott, BLM/Dixie Regional Bike and Pedestrian Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Dave Glenn, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. He noted that a quorum was not present and tabled action on minutes until a quorum arrived.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Update on COG Process: Lowell Elmer reported that the Washington County COG met yesterday and the main item of business was to adopt criteria for prioritizing corridor preservation projects. Projects were submitted by the Dixie MPO, the RPO, UDOT and cities and a prioritized list was developed by Washington county staff. After discussion about some of the projects, members of the COG also approved the prioritization 20 projects on the list. It was noted that projects do not necessarily have to be top priorities to receive funding. All projects will be considered once an application is submitted to the COG. The main concern is to make sure that all projects are included on the prioritized list.

MINUTES

Dave Glenn noted that a quorum was present and presented minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting for discussion and consideration. It was noted that the spelling of Dave Glenn's name needed to be corrected on page two.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2010 MEETINGS AS CORRECTED. MOTION CARRIED.

SHORT RANGE PLANNING

Current ARRA Funding-- Black Ridge/Hilton Drive; Virgin River Bridge (Washington City): Lowell Elmer reported that the most recent information provided on Black Ridge/Hilton Drive indicates that between \$100,000 to \$150,000 will be available for transfer to the Virgin River Bridge/Washington Fields Road project. Cameron Cutler explained that final outstanding costs from could range between \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the storm drain betterment agreement, but UDOT has not provided a final billing at this point. Lowell reminded members that DTAC and DTEC previously approved transfer of any excess funds from Black Ridge/Hilton Drive to the Virgin River Bridge/Washington City project. These funds are federal stimulus from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and had to be committed to a project under a specified time frame. Mike Shaw explained that ARRA funds will be used first on the Virgin River Bridge. This will allow earmark funds to be shifted to the Washington Fields Road for construction from the bridge to the new airport.

Lowell indicated that Larry Bulloch called about a week ago with questions about the Black Ridge/Hilton Drive project to see if funds could be shifted to another project. A deficit has occurred in the Bloomington Roundabout project and there is not sufficient funding available to bring the landscaping back to the original state prior to construction. Members questioned whether this project would even be eligible for ARRA funds at this point because the funds had to be committed to projects under a restricted time line. In addition, this is a state funded project and ARRA funds would turn the entire project into a federally funded project unless that landscaping was not included in the original project scope. Lowell indicated that it is still MPO staff recommendation for excess funds from the Black Ridge/Hilton Drive to transfer to the Virgin River Bridge project. Dave Glenn noted the consensus of DTAC members that the decision was already made on ARRA funding and there is no need for action today.

Mike Shaw reported that some problems with poor soil (saturated) have recently surfaced with the Virgin River Bridge and it will require additional money for rock to fix those problems. In addition, the engineer missed some right-of-way and slope which needs to be addressed. The contractor is working on the piers in the river bed but they cannot actually be in the river.

Update on 2nd ARRA Program: Lowell Elmer reported that recent jobs legislation provided funding for economic and financial things but not for roads. Build America Bonds were extended as a part of this legislation, but the Senate eliminated various other items. At this point no additional ARRA funds are anticipated.

UDOT Functional Classification (Updating Opportunity): Todd Edwards reported that Washington County is still waiting to hear about a functional classification change for Old Highway 91. It is anticipated that it will be another 2-3 weeks before a decision is reached, but things look positive. He noted that functional classification updates or change requests can be submitted anytime. Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, asked Todd to forward UDOT contact information to their

attention because Ivins City has a road that they would like to submit for consideration. Other cities indicated that they would review roads to see if new classifications are required.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Lowell Elmer indicated that Curt Hutchings e-mailed the RTP project list to committee members for review and input. It is important that completed projects be removed from the list to make room for additional project prior to becoming non-attainment for air quality. Jurisdictions also need to look at projects which may need to be shifted from one phase to another.

Dave Glenn indicated that the Western Corridor (MP 2 to Highway 91) project is listed in both Phase 2 and 3 with the same description. If the project is split into phases, the description may need to be adjusted in one of the phases. The project is listed as new construction in both phases. Lowell mentioned that this is a project similar to the Southern Parkway and may be ½ build, provide grade work through the entire corridor, or 1 barrel initially with additional capacity as funding allows. This will be a four lane facility with a median. It will not necessarily be an expressway like the Southern Parkway. The Highway 91 project in Phase 3 to widen Santa Clara Drive from the Swiss Village to Ivins Boundary needs to be combined with the Ivins Highway 91 project to read from Swiss Village to 200 East in Ivins. In addition, the estimate listed in the phases needs to be adjusted to \$4 million. Project numbers included on the list are for internal use only and not part of UDOT's numbering system. Lowell encouraged cities to review this list and provide feedback over the next several months.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Update on COG Process: Curt Hutchings indicated that county staff did an excellent job of laying things out and explaining the process. Todd Edwards explained that some of the criteria utilized to prioritize projects is actually contained in legislation and other criteria were developed by the COG. There is approximately \$900,000 collected on an annual basis for use in purchasing right-of-way for corridor preservation. He also noted that one-half of the projects submitted actually had concept reports that provided cost estimates. Those project estimates totaled approximately \$13 million dollars. Bluff Street was the #1 priority but that does not preclude applications for the Washington Dam Road or Dixie Drive extension which may be moving more quickly. However, the COG is still encouraging entities to include right-of-way through the planning process for projects. A good example is the planned connection road from Toquerville to Leeds which has a large amount of right-of-way. Toquerville has already been in contact with property owners and only a few pieces of land will have to be purchased. Some of the land is in BLM ownership and other land will be deeded over willing by land owners. Municipalities were encouraged to work with their respective mayors to submit corridor preservation applications to the COG. Todd Edwards explained that current legislation prohibits this fund from being established as a revolving fund.

SHORT RANGE PLANNING

Update on BRT Study: Curt Hutchings reported that a stakeholders meeting and a public workshop were held in Springdale to discuss the rural portion of this study. A request has been made for Diego Carrol, AECOM, to provide an update on the MPO portion from Bluff Street to Hurricane Main Street. Lowell Elmer indicated that it is his understanding that the consultant will provide their final report on the MPO piece of this study during the May DTAC meeting.

DIXIE TIP

Draft 2011-15 TIP: Diane Lamoreaux provided copies of the proposed project list for the Dixie MPO printed from the Electronic Program Management (ePM) system. It was noted that the TIP programming table has been e-mailed to Bob Pelly to bring the funding amounts into the 2011-15 TIP but this has not occurred to date. In checking with Ryan Marshall, Director of SunTran, the Transit Tip has been revised to include prior obligated funding and 2011 funding for federal stimulus dollars. However, Ryan has indicated that the bus maintenance facility must be completed by October, 2010. Funding listed for 2011 will be used to procure a new bus. A copy of Dixie TIP funds programmed table was provided for information purposes. Dave Glenn noted a correction for the Old Highway 91 project which combined Santa Clara and Ivins to read "Swiss Village to 200 East". Mike Shaw noted a correction for the Washington City project to read "2000 South (Wash. Fields Rd. to Mall Drive Bridge)". Cameron Cutler pointed out a problem in the system for the Riverside Drive project total for 2013. The total project cost is correct but the total for this column is in error. This problem will be discussed with Bob Pelly, STIP Coordinator. Larry Bulloch asked if the prior funding for the East Dixie Drive Widening could be used in 2010. Ms. Lamoreaux indicated that state staff would be instructed to amend the Dixie 2010 TIP to include this 300,000 plus match for the East Dixie Drive project. This is also the case with the \$50,000 programmed for conversion to the CUBE model. Information will be forwarded to Bob Pelly for Transportation Commission action in this regard.

STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS

Program Development - UDOT: Rick Torgerson and Dana Meier asked to be excused from today's meeting due to other meeting commitments in Salt Lake. It was also noted that no other UDOT staff were available to attend.

Laura Taylor indicated that Rick Torgerson had directed St. George City staff to approach the DTAC group in regard to landscaping issues at the Bloomington roundabout. Lowell explained that the committee had already discussed this issue and determined that the earlier recommendation for ARRA funds should remain in place to keep both the Black Ridge/Hilton Drive (BR/HD) and Virgin River Bridge/Washington Fields Road (VRB/WFR) projects whole. Any excess funds will be transferred from BR/HD to VRB/WFR as per previous approval of DTAC and DTEC. ARRA funds will be expended on the Virgin River Bridge and earmark funds will be utilized on the Washington Fields Road to extend this project as far as possible towards the new airport.

Larry Bulloch explained that UDOT allowed the landscaping at the Bloomington Roundabout to be torn up, and UDOT does not have funds to replace the area to its original state. The estimated cost to bring the landscaping to its original state is approximately \$110,000. City staff are very concerned about this because many organizations and citizens have a particular interest in the roundabouts. Dixie REA has shown a special interest in the area and provides decorations during the holiday season. Zac Kocejo reported that the bid included hydro seeding with no irrigation for this area. However, if hydro seeding is the only landscaping in this area it will present a problem to the community. A change order during the project did provide an irrigation system for the area. Funding for the original landscaping was contributed by WalMart as part of their project approval process. St. George City staff will address UDOT with this issue to reach some type of resolution.

Arthur LeBaron reported that Highway 9 is under construction with utility work proceeding on the first one-half of the project prior to road reconstruction. The project is on schedule and a block captains program, similar to that used on St. George Boulevard, seems to be working well. There are some delays in traffic but overall it is moving through the project area. There have been some material acceptance issues with 600 North and portions that need to be torn out and re-done. The

1400 West road is on the STIP to receive small urban monies in 2014 and is also on the COG corridor preservation list. Hurricane City is going to make application to UDOT to transfer funding from 1400 West to 600 North in order to complete the eastern segment of this road.

Mike Shaw reported that Telegraph Street was slated to be advertised in September but the City will hold off until January which will allow time to complete the Virgin River Bridge/Washington Fields Road project.

Lowell Elmer provided a copy of correspondence to DTAC voting members depicting the vote share for FY 2011. This is based on FHWA estimates, including rescissions as of April 1, 2010, allocated to the planning program for the Dixie MPO. The table provides a comparison with FY 2010 funding. The proposed vote share for FY 2011 is \$9,000. Larry Bulloch mentioned that with the declining revenues, St. George City would not be able to meet this amount per vote share. All departments are being asked to cut back and this will also include fund share amounts for the MPO. Because the MPO does have some reserve funds, cutting back the amount should not result in a decrease to services. He encouraged Lowell to readdress the vote amount and make adjustments closer to the \$7,000 range. Lowell indicated that he would look at numbers which will be coming from FHWA in the near future and bring information back to DTAC for consideration. Any reductions in funding could be taken from the local only funds without impacting programming. It was the consensus of Committee members that the vote share amount needs to be revisited and reduced according to today's discussion.

Lowell Elmer reported that interviews have been conducted for his replacement and the interview panel selected Myron Lee to fill his position. Mr. Lee worked for UDOT, prior to that Tooele County, and most recently has served as the Monticello City Manager. He will assume duties at the MPO beginning April 19th, but will work four 10-hour days. This will allow him to commute back to Monticello to assist the City during budget development for the next fiscal year. It will also provide training time prior to Lowell's departure at the end of June. Mr. Lee will be attending the next DTAC meeting and will also be introduced at the next DTEC meeting. Other candidates have been advised of this decision and announcements can be made. Lowell indicated that Mr. Lee will be an asset to the MPO and has demonstrated communication capabilities with communities and citizens. Chuck Gillette suggested that MPO staff provide training to the DTAC in conjunction with orientation for the new MPO Director. It is easy to get lost with the different acronyms and the difference between the STIP and TIP. This could include a slide presentation and handouts outlining the responsibilities of the MPO.

Federal Oversight: None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the Five County Association of Governments Office, Conference Room beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO ADJOURN.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.