

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
August 20, 2014**

PRESENT

James Eardley, County Commission
Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor
Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, UDOT Commission, Region 4
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Gary Webster, Cong. Chris Stewart's Office
Bill Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council
Bette Arial, Senator Mike Lee's Office
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Monty Thurber
Dave Glenn, Ivins City
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
Bryan Thiriot, Five County
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Five County
Colleen Rue, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Creamer & Noble representatives
Stanley Consultants representatives
Paul Van Dam
Lisa Rutherford
Jamie Stewart

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 June 18, 2014

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Zeenati to Approve the Minutes from the June 18, 2014, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Consideration of 2015-2019 TIP

Myron Lee distributed two handouts: the 2015-2019 Dixie MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)" and Resolution No. 2014-02, "Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification."

The TIP was put out for public comment; that period ended August 2, 2014 with no comments having been received. The changes from the 2014 plan are highlighted in yellow.

Commissioner Eardley said that there are two suggested routes: one through the Landfill and the other south of that along the Hogback. He questioned the efficacy of doing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the route through the Landfill. Mr. Lee said that the route has not yet been designated, but Commissioner Eardley said that there is only one feasible route. The route that goes through the Shooting Sports Park and the County Landfill seems illogical.

Mr. Lee said that the intent is to connect the bridge that Washington City recently acquired from a private developer over the Virgin River with State Route 9 along the route that is the least environmentally impactful. Mr. Hutchings added that if the EA is not done, the impression may be that the Dixie MPO is trying to circumvent the process.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pike to Adopt the 2015-2019 TIP as presented. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.

b. Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification

The Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification is something that the MPO goes through every year to ensure that all federal regulations are being followed. Staff review has determined that all regulations are being met.

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Sizemore to Adopt Resolution No. 2014-02, Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification, as presented. Motion seconded by Mayor Hart and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Long-Range Plan update

Curt Hutchings distributed the “Achieve Transportation System Planning Excellence” handout, the Vision and Mission chapter. This incorporates the principles of the Vision Dixie process of 2007, which are outlined on the attachment. The mission statement is:

Foster coordination of community leaders, the public, and other stakeholders to reach goals centered around safety, congestion management, transit, corridor preservation, environmental constraints, bicycle-pedestrian facilities, air quality, and freight movement.

b. Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan update

Monty Thurber said that part of the planning process as a whole is to develop a bicycle-pedestrian master plan. His office put out a RFP for a consulting firm to assist in formulating that plan. The DTEC enlisted the aid of members of Washington County, the school district, Dixie State University, and others to choose a consultant. Alta Planning & Consulting of Salt Lake City is a renowned national firm. Beginning next week, Mr. Thurber’s team will meet with some of the stakeholders (school district, municipalities) to inventory existing roadways. Commissioner Eardley said that the main thrust of this process is to figure out how to integrate motorized traffic with bicycle traffic.

Ms. Stewart, a concerned citizen, asked whether it is the intention to have on the planning committee a disability representative, and Mr. Thurber said that Levi Roberts of St. George City will act in that capacity. Mr. Lee said that a meeting with that particular stakeholder group is already scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 2 at the Red Rock Center for Independence.

Mayor Hart brought up the fact that UDOT does not have any designated, approved signage for bicycle/vehicle shared road safety. His city is reluctant to create its own because of the liability issue. He asked that UDOT come up with signage concerning designated lanes, passing distance, etc. It is important that signs be consistent and standardized from one community to another.

c. Planning Performance Measures

Mr. Lee said that, in preparation for the 2015-2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan, his office has met with the other three MPOs in Utah and with UDOT at the planning level to discuss what performance measures should be used to measure the transportation system. They have narrowed 30 potential goals down to 6. They are:

- Fatalities and serious injuries
- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita
- Commute mode split percentages (vehicles vs transit, bicycles, etc.), determined by surveys
- Accessibility to work and customers
- Loss prevention (takes into consideration road maintenance, etc.)
- Key seasonal emissions

Data is also received from the Department of Workforce Services in order to analyze transportation statistics to and from certain employers. The performance standards will continually be updated, and the final Long-Range Transportation Plan will be brought before this committee when completed.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

a. UDOT Update

Rick Torgerson with UDOT said that a lot of work is happening along the I-15 Corridor. The Red Hills Interchange Project is about 50% complete and is scheduled to end around November. Meetings are being scheduled to solidify the MPO's and UDOT's long range plans.

b. FHWA Update

The Map-21 bill has been extended to May of 2015.

Mayor Pike said that he has received many complaints about dips and bumps on I-15 going northbound, nearing the new Dixie Drive interchange and asked if a solution was being considered to take care of that. Mr. Torgerson said that various methods are being weighed to smooth that out.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bette Arial distributed a handout outlining Senator Mike Lee's amendment to the Transportation Empowerment Act (Lee Amdt. #3584), which would have empowered states to make their own transportation decisions with minimal federal interference by phasing out Federal Highways. The goal was to stabilize the funding so that states are not so dependent on PILT monies. Nearly 9% is taken out by the federal government for NEPA and 10% for the Davis-Bacon Act. No amendments are being accepted, and the bill did not pass. The Transportation Act did, and it will be funded through May 31st.

Ken Sizemore asked representatives from St. George City whether firm dates have been set for the Transportation Expo. Myron said that February 10, 2015, has been chosen. Mr. Sizemore reiterated that the Air Quality Task Force would still like to piggy-back onto the Transportation Expo, having the Air Quality Summit from 8-11 AM and segueing into the Expo at 11 AM.

Ms. Stewart questioned the process of getting an idea through the various stages of planning and implementation. Cameron Cutler of St. George City will meet privately with Ms. Stewart to explain how to move forward with her concerns.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: September 17, 2014

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Hall