

# DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025 – 1:00 PM

Five County AOG Conference Room 1070 W 1600 S Bldg. B St. George, UT 84770

Meeting was also available to members virtually via Google Meet.

### Members Present:

- Kyle Gubler, Chair, LaVerkin City
- Monty Thurber, Vice Chair, St. George City
- Dustin Mouritsen, Santa Clara City
- Blake Foncesbeck, Washington City
- Jay Sandberg, St. George City
- Cameron Cutler, St. George City
- Todd Edwards, Washington County
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
- Cameron Gay, UDOT
- Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville

### Members Absent or Excused:

- Leeds Representative
- Virgin Representative
- Ivins Representative

- Tim Baird, Fehr & Peers (via Google Meet)
- Chris Pearson, Suntran
- Chris Hall, UDOT
- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Radhika Bhandari, Dixie MPO
- Nate Wiberg, Dixie MPO
- Scott Buys, Dixie MPO
- Darin Bushman, Five County AOG
- JayCee Finicum, Five County AOG
- Nicholas Gayer, Avenue Consultants
- Susan Savage
- Rochelle Gardner
- Aron Baker, Horrocks
- Travis Marden, JUB Engineers
- Brandon Weight, Civil Science
- John Ford
- Other attendees were present but did not introduce themselves.

### Other Attendees:

## 1. Administrative

**Chair:** Kyle Gubler (LaVerkin City) called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum.

- **Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Arthur LeBaron, seconded by Dustin Mouritsen, to approve the May 7, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.

## 2. Planning

### A. Agenda Adjustment

- Item **2A (Introduction of new SunTran director)** was moved **after 2D** due to availability.

### B. Review of Public Comment Period – 2025–2029 TIP

- Public comment closed with **one written comment received**, which was a request for clarification. MPO staff responded, and the commenter acknowledged the response. No substantive changes required.

### **C. Consider recommending the 2025-2029 TIP for adoption by the Dixie MPO Transportation Executive Council**

- Following review, DTAC recommended adoption of the 2025–2029 TIP by the Dixie MPO Transportation Executive Council (DTEC).
- A motion was made by Arthur LeBaron and seconded by Dustin Mouritsen. Motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Consider Resolution FY2026-01 Urban Transportation Planning Process Certification**

- The committee considered **Resolution FY2026-01**, which certifies that the Dixie MPO's urban transportation planning process complies with federal requirements.
- Staff explained that this certification is a routine but essential action, ensuring continued eligibility for federal transportation funding.
- A motion was made by Jay Sandberg and seconded by Arthur LeBaron to recommend approval of the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

### **A. Introduction of New SunTran Transit Director, Chris Pearson**

- Chris Pearson was welcomed by the committee. His 10 years' experience at Utah Transit Authority [UTA] was noted.

### **E. North Leeds Interchange Study: Myron Lee (Dixie MPO)**

- Traffic modeling indicates future growth will increase demand in the Leeds and Toquerville areas, making improved access a priority.
- Developers expressed interest in funding the interchange in order to have it built prior to the previously planned 2033-2042 time period.
- It was determined that realigning Babylon Road slightly to the North and creating an interchange on the North end would be the most advantageous to the region.

### **F. Grid Study Update: Tim Baird (Fehr & Peers)**

- The Statewide Grid Study Update underscored the need for stronger roadway connectivity to support growth and reduce congestion. Identified network gaps will guide future planning, with an emphasis on corridor preservation and SB195 compliance.

## **3. Local Project Status Updates**

### **A. FHWA – No update.**

### **B. Hurricane City –**

- **Downtown Project (100 North):** Ongoing reconstruction continues from prior updates; anticipated completion by **Thanksgiving 2025**.
- **Upcoming Road Projects:** Consultant selection is underway for additional roadway improvements.
- **Southern Parkway / Sand Hollow State Park Access:** Hurricane City is leading a multi-agency project with UDOT, Utah State Parks, and the Conservation District to

build a **second entrance and new station** at the south end of Sand Hollow Reservoir, including interchange improvements.

**C. Ivins City** – No update.

**D. LaVerkin** – No update.

**E. Leeds** – No update.

**F. St. George City**

- **Gap Canyon Project:** Construction anticipated to begin within 2–3 months, pending dewatering progress. It is funded and approved, with road connections planned between Divario and Alienta–Canyon View neighborhoods.
- **Road Maintenance & Chip Seal:** Recent chip seal project completed, with additional rounds underway through the fall. Work includes Pioneer Parkway improvements (turn lanes, DSL lanes) to ease access for businesses and residents.
- **Western Corridor Study:** RFP issued for an alignment study; council discussion scheduled for August 27, 2025.
- **Ribbon Project / Parkway Construction:** Roadway construction nearing completion, with anticipated opening mid-September. Traffic signals relocated to the north side to improve flow.
- **Transit (Zion Route):** Ridership numbers remain low, despite seasonal peaks. Outreach campaigns are in the works (including RV traveler engagement) to boost use.
- **SR-18 South Bluff Project:** Advancing toward PS&E phase by November 2025. Funding uncertainty noted: original NAE grant rescinded; alternative funding avenues being pursued.
- **St. George Boulevard Project:** Construction underway with phased ramp and resurfacing work to avoid full closures.
- Pavement concerns near 400 East raised; Staff to follow up with project engineer.

**G. Santa Clara** – No update.

**H. Toquerville** – No Update.

**I. Transit (SunTran)-** New Director, Chris Pearson, introduced earlier in meeting.

**J. UDOT**

- **Arizona Stateline to Cottonwood Creek widening:** Construction completed.
- **Quail Creek Turn Lane Seal project:** nearing completion.
- **Southbound passing lanes (MP 16–20):** scoping meeting scheduled for August 2025.
- **SR-9 National Park Seal Project:** Design work close to completion.
- **Virgin River Bridge Fencing:** Anticipated advertisement in August/September 2025 with construction expected fall/winter 2025.
- **SR-7 Passing Lane Project:** Advertisement anticipated late fall/early winter 2025. Project will extend from the Virgin River bottoms to near the golf course (approx. MP 15.8–17.5).
- **St. George Boulevard Head Poles:** Agreement in process regarding powder coating and related design details.
- **Virgin River Bridge fencing project** – to be advertised late August/September, with fall/winter construction.
- **SR-7 passing lanes (through “the gap”)** – near advertisement, with winter construction anticipated.

**K. Virgin – No update.**

**L. Washington City**

- **Telegraph & 500 West traffic signal** – construction to begin September 15, 2025, completion targeted before Thanksgiving.
- **Washington Fields Road extension & intersection signal** – in design; extension will reconnect to Airport Parkway this fall.

**M. Washington County**

- **Kolob Terrace Road project** underway (cold-in-place recycling with stabilization). Work between Kolob Reservoir and park boundary (~5 miles). Expected minor travel delays during construction.

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**4. Upcoming Meetings / Deadlines**

- **August 19, 2025** – DTEC Meeting
- **September 3, 2025** – Next DTAC Meeting

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**5. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at **2:00 PM (approx.)**
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