

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Five County AOG Conference Room

St. George, UT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jay Sandberg, St. George City
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
- Monty Thurber, Vice Chair, St. George City
- Dustin Mouritsen, Santa Clara City
- Cameron Cutler, St. George City
- Blake Fannesbeck, Washington City
- Chuck Gillette, Ivins City
- Kyle Gubler, Chair, representing LaVerkin City
- Todd Edwards, Washington County
- Cameron Gay, UDOT

MEMBERS ABSENT or EXCUSED:

- Kohl Furley, Leeds
- Nick Lehman, Town of Virgin
- Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Nicholas Gayer, Dixie MPO
- Radhika Bhandari
- Kelly Lund, FHWA
- Trisha Sharma, FHWA
- Kurt Ivie, Washington City
- Susan Savage
- Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineers
- Mike Heaps, Horrocks Engineers
- Lloyd Sutton, St. George City
- Travis Marden, JUB Engineers
- Leslie Fonger, Greater Zion
- Vern Maloy, Sunrise Engineering
- Other attendees were present but did not introduce themselves.

Conducting: Kyle Gubler – Mr. Gubler determined a quorum was present and called the DTAC meeting to order.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. Consider Minutes from April 2, 2025.

Arthur LeBaron made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2025 meeting as presented. Cameron Cutler seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved with a verbal vote on the motion.

2. PLANNING:

A. Review Planning Grant Applications

Dixie MPO received three applications for transportation planning grants: one each from Hurricane, Ivins, and Santa Clara.

Arthur LeBaron presented the Hurricane request. Hurricane is asking for funding to examine the roadway network, update their transportation master plan, and account for construction of interchanges along State Route 7. Project value is \$130,000, the Hurricane ask is for \$30,000.

Chuck Gillette presented the Ivins proposal. Ivins is also seeking funds to update their transportation master plan within the next fiscal year and explore the implementation of a transportation utility fee. Project value is \$100,000. The Ivins request is for up to \$100,000

Dustin Mouritsen presented the Santa Clara proposal. Santa Clara is seeking funds to complete a Western Corridor alignment and delineate the right-of-way for the future roadway. Project value is \$156,000; the request from Santa Clara is for the full \$156,000.

Myron asked if doing an alignment study out in front of an environmental study is prudent, as the preferred alignment could change within the Environmental Study phase of the project. Representatives from UDOT and St. George City assured the group that the survey at this point is appropriate.

Cameron Cutler asked if impact fees or COG funds could be used for any of these studies. Todd Edwards noted that a percentage of the COG funding is available for right-of-way studies and encouraged Dustin to apply for that funding at the next COG meeting on May 20.

The selection of projects and funding levels were postponed until the June 20, 2025.

B. Access to Opportunity Tool Introduction

Bert Granberg, an analytics director with Wasatch Front Regional Council presented an electronic measurement tool (Access to Opportunities) that WFRC is using to measure how well the transportation system and land use are working together.

The ATO tool analyzes the number of jobs available within an acceptable commute time of households within the community. The new tool uses weighted measurements to create a heat-map of job accessibility within a given community which can then be used to guide policy makers in both land-use planning and transportation planning.

The tool measures access to jobs for motorists, transit users and active transportation users.

WFRC has built the tool so it can easily be incorporated into our travel demand model and automatically produce data and maps to sum up job accessibility in our region.

C. Grid Study Update

Michael Heaps with Horrocks Engineers gave a progress report on the Utah Grid Study that was designed to identify feasible roadway improvements to optimize the grid network in each of Utah's four MPOs as directed by the 2023 Utah Legislature.

Optimizing a grid network in the Dixie MPO area is challenged by our unique topography, but the study has identified several potential improvements that could improve safety and mobility within our transportation network.

The study team has gone through brainstorming and refining exercises and is now seeking DTAC member review. Mike provided a web link and encouraged all present to take a look at the results and comment of individual projects.

Next steps in the study will be to create cost estimates for each individual project and report out to the state legislature and to individual cities for inclusion in their transportation master plans and in the MPO Regional Plan.

D. Flow Labs Presentation

Alex Cuddy of Altitude Signal presented his company's tool to analyze corridor health using data from vehicles on the existing road network. The tool gathers data on speeds, volumes, and travel times that can be used to understand signal performance, harsh braking, evasive maneuvers, aggressive acceleration, driver behaviors, etc. and be used to guide enforcement initiatives and to pro-actively prioritize corridors signal timing.

4. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. **FHWA** – Kelly Lund indicated the notice of funding opportunity is out for SS4A implementation projects for any entity that would like to apply for those grant funds
- B. **Hurricane** – Arthur LeBaron reported the City's down-town reconstruction project is underway on 100 North through the heart of its downtown area. The project is a complete rebuild with new pavement, pedestrian facilities, and landscaping expecting to be complete by Thanksgiving. Slurry seal and chip seal projects are also underway this month. A widening project is also underway on 1100 west. Hurricane has also partnered with UDOT to do a solutions development study that now indicates a widening of SR-9 to three lanes in each direction is warranted. The city is now doing a traffic count study to define exactly what types of traffic are really using SR-9. The study will last throughout the summer.
- C. **Ivins** – Highway 91 phase 2 continues with a temporary signal for traffic control. The project will take about four months. The city is working through several pavement management projects.

- D. **LaVerkin** – No updates.
- E. **Leeds** – No update.
- F. **St. George City** – Cameron Cutler noted that several chip seal projects are underway. Seven signal projects are also in design. The city is also meeting with the US Army Corps. regarding a bridge over the virgin river at George Washington Boulevard.
- G. **Santa Clara City** – No update.
- H. **Toquerville** – No update.
- I. **Transit** – St George City is trying to hire a new Transit Manager for SunTran and will likely re-assign the transit program from the public works department to the City Manager. Several applications have been received. Credit card machines are now available on the Zion line. Usage of the line continues to build.
- J. **UDOT** – Cameron Gay reported that UDOT will have a PS&E on the South Bluff project in late August. The I-15 MP 6-8 project just completed a Plan in Hand review and is moving along. The SR-34 project will advertise at the end of this month with construction happening this fall. Construction on SR-318 from SR-9 to Quail creek should be complete with striping in the next couple of weeks. Southbound I-15 widening from MP 16 to 20 is just starting the design phase. SR-9 from LaVerkin to Zion National Park has been awarded and construction will begin this summer. The Virgin River Bridge fencing project will be advertised in late July to early August for construction this fall. The SR-7 passing lane project from MP15.8 to 17.5 will have a plan in hand review at the end of this month and will advertise this winter
- K. **Virgin** – No updates.
- L. **Washington City** – Blake Fannesbeck reported that the city is working on five signals this year. Washington City has also chosen to re-stripe and sign the roundabout at Exit 13 instead of replacing it with signals. The re-striping project was cheaper at about \$35,000 and should breathe new life into the roundabout capacity.
- M. **Washington County** – The county is getting started on a guardrail project on Gunlock Road to improve safety. Sheep Bridge Road is ready to go through a BLM Environmental Assessment.

5. UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES:

- A. May 20, 2025 – DTEC meeting
- B. June 4, 2025 – DTAC meeting

ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED; THE MEETING ADJOURNED.