

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2014 - 1:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director, Chair
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer, Vice-Chair
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Darren Cottam, Toquerville City
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Justin Morgan, FHWA
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Manager, Five County AOG
Levi Roberts, Associate Planner, Five County AOG
Dave Demas, Transportation Planner, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG
Branden Anderson, UDOT
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Brad Humphreys, Stanley Consultants
Jim Snyder, Creamer & Noble/Jviation
Dusstyn Shaffer, Sunrise Engineering
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Di Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Public Health Department

ABSENT

Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town (Excused)
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning

Cameron Cutler, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Those asking to be excused include Angela Rohr. It was acknowledged that a quorum was present for conduct of business.

1. LUNCH

Lunch was served to those in attendance at 12:30 p.m.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- A. **Minutes from November 5, 2014 Meeting:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes from the November 5, 2014 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

- A. **Regional Bike/Ped Plan Update:** Levi Roberts provided a brief update on the Bike/Ped planning process and indicated that a draft of the plan is expected shortly from Alta Planning and Design. The draft document will be presented to the Steering Committee for review and feedback around December 16th. The plan will then be presented to DTAC and ultimately DTEC for approval. Information regarding upcoming meetings will be provided via e-mail.

4. **SERVICES**

- A. **Ivins City Master Transportation Plan**

Dave Glenn reported that Ivins City was previously awarded \$20,000 in planning funds from the MPO to complete an update to their City Master Transportation Plan. Bids have come in higher than that amount and the City is requesting consideration for an additional \$10,000 of planning funds to complete the plan. Myron Lee reported that the MPO has gone through the selection process and tried to negotiate the price, but there is still a \$10,000 shortfall in funding. There will still be \$80,000 available for planning projects if this funding amount is approved today. The total amount needed for the update to the plan is \$30,000. The MPO is administering this project because the City is not able to contribute match to the project.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DARREN COTTAM TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000 IN PLANNING FUNDS FOR THE IVINS CITY MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE FOR A TOTAL PROJECT COST OF \$30,000. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DANA MEIER AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

5. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

- A. **Funding Status Report:** Myron Lee reviewed the TIP spreadsheet and projects that were programmed to receive funding. The monies to be programmed will be for 2019. Committee members have the ability to program \$2.6 million in 2019. There is also the option to program approximately \$700,000 to projects earlier in years prior to 2019. These funds can be programmed to existing projects or to new projects as determined by members. He explained that each year funding in the amount of \$150,000 is programmed for ITS projects. UDOT staff is working to setup a new PIN for ITS funding to separate it out from state funded ITS. He reported that

continued federal funding is anticipated but Map 21 funding expired on September 30, 2014. Federal funding is currently being provided through Continuing Resolutions and it is hoped that a new highway bill will be passed through Congress at some point. Kirk Thornock indicated that a couple of projects on the spreadsheet reflect inaccuracies in terms of state funded projects. He explained that he would need to clarify with state staff funding for the following projects, Pin #10788 and Pin #12844. Funding for these two projects may need to be adjusted and he will work with Myron to accomplish any needed corrections. Myron Lee indicated that these projects would have no impact on programming of MPO funding. A chart was projected outlining rating and ranking of projects by committee members. The DTAC is composed of 12 voting members and scoring for projects was provided by 11 of those members.

Projects were rated and ranked as follows: #1. Red Cliffs Drive/Red Hills Parkway, I-15 Underpass; #2. 3050 East 850 North Connection and Bypass; #3. New I-15 Interchange at Milepost 11; #4. 400 South Ped/Bike Underpass at I-15; and #5. Merrill Road Extension. The scoring of projects was fairly close.

B. 2016-2020 TIP PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION

Cameron Cutler, Chair, lead the discussion to determine where to program funds into projects. He indicated that the group has the option to program all \$2.6 million into 2019 or to program \$700,000 into prior years and the balance of funds into 2019.

Mike Shaw suggested that the entire amount be split 50/50 between St. George and Washington cities. He noted that the preference for Washington City would be for funding to be programmed to the new I-15 Interchange at milepost 11. At this point, this is the most important project for Washington City. Jack Taylor indicated that Santa Clara/Ivins is in need of additional funds for the Old Highway 91 project that is scheduled for construction in October 2015. MPO funding is programmed into this project in 2014, 2015, and 2016. There is currently \$2.9 million programmed to Old Highway 91 and a shortfall of approximately \$2 million. Cameron Cutler indicated that he was not opposed to programming additional funds to the Old Highway 91 project. It was noted that an application for funding has been submitted by Civil Science to UDOT to request approximately \$1 million in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds because there have been fatalities on this road. Funding would be for a trail/bike path and widening of shoulders.

Jay Sandberg mentioned that St. George City is very close with funding on the Indian Hills Project as well and may need some additional funding. A large portion of local match is programmed into this project. Funding will be very tight due to drainage issues that have had to be addressed. The project is already federalized with MPO funding. Todd Edwards expressed a desire to put some funding into these two projects and then program the remaining funds to new projects. Mike Shaw expressed concern with utilizing 100% of MPO funds for projects. It has never been the intent for the MPO to provide full funding to projects. Cities also need to budget funds to afford projects. If the committee is going to fully fund projects, it would be nice to have additional MPO funds for the Washington Fields Road project. Arthur LeBaron mentioned that Hurricane City is currently

constructing a \$4 million dollar project and the city had to save up for several years to fully fund this project. Perhaps a standard should be set to outline how much cities have to fund and how much would be available from the MPO. It was noted that each entity is required to provide 6.77% match for the MPO funds. Mike Shaw explained that funds programmed into projects provides seed monies for cities to seek additional funding sources. Setting a determined amount for city match would be very difficult, especially with a large project. Jack Taylor responded that Santa Clara and Ivins will not undertake a lot of projects with MPO funds and this is a very important roadway, especially when I-15 is closed and traffic has to be diverted through Santa Clara/Ivins. The Old Highway 91 project does not include a lot of landscape, the project includes two lanes, widened shoulders, and turn lanes. The majority of the project will be two lanes. The project is 1.3 miles, with 1/3 of the road in Ivins and the remaining 2/3 in Santa Clara. Chuck Gillette indicated that Ivins City is trying to establish wider shoulders throughout the Old Highway 91 corridor to accommodate bicyclists. This is a very popular bike route. Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County will be receiving \$2 million dollars in Small Urban funding that will be utilized outside of the MPO boundaries to improve culverts and to widen shoulders. He noted that this route has a lot of regional traffic.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW TO PROGRAM \$400,000 OF MPO FUNDS INTO THE OLD HIGHWAY 91 PROJECT IN 2016, BRINGING THE TOTAL MPO FUNDING TO \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JACK TAYLOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion continued regarding the remaining \$2.27 million and it was suggested that the amount be split 50/50 between St. George and Washington cities. Mike Shaw indicated that Washington City would direct all of these funds to the new I-15 Interchange at milepost 11. Cameron Cutler indicated that St. George would like their portion to be directed to the Red Cliffs Drive/Red Hills Parkway I-15 Underpass project. Mike Shaw indicated that Washington City's goal is to fund the environmental for their project with city funds.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ARTHUR LEBARON, SECONDED BY JACK TAYLOR, TO SPLIT THE REMAINING \$2.27 MILLION 50/50 BETWEEN ST. GEORGE AND WASHINGTON CITIES FOR THE PROJECTS OUTLINED ABOVE. MOTION CARRIED.

Cameron Cutler suggested that MPO funding could be moved out of the River Road project into the Indian Hills Drive and other projects. This would eliminate federalizing this particular project and would free up St. George city funds for use on the River Road project. After considerable discussion, it was determined through consultation with state UDOT staff that this was not an option at this point. The Indian Hills Drive project funding would not be able to be adjusted because of expenditures that have been committed, even if a new federal aid agreement was initiated. There was also some discussion about programming funds into the River Road/Red Hills Parkway I-15 Underpass project. UDOT representatives indicated that they would like to address this project when the I-15 widening takes place, and it would likely be accomplished with state monies. If the project is federalized, it may limit funding options that would be available from the state of Utah. The committee reached consensus that programming funds into this project would

initiate a new PIN as a place holder for the funds. Funds could be backed out of this project later in the event that state monies are a better option.

Myron Lee reported that the Dixie MPO TIP will need to be approved through DTAC and DTEC by April in order to accommodate the 30-day comment period that typically occurs during the month of July.

6. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the 600 North project is now under construction.
- B. **Ivins:** None.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that the Indian Hills Drive project has been advertised, and it is anticipated that construction will begin in January. The city is working on several small projects that address drainage, small roadway connections and realignments. Work is also moving forward in conjunction with the MPO on the Transportation Master Plan for St. George City. Traffic counts are being collected for the intersections around the Mall Drive Bridge to address the need for new traffic signals in this area. The River Road Study is completed, but it is too large of a file to share with an e-mail. Staff will work to post this study on the St. George City and Dixie MPO websites.
- F. **Santa Clara:** None.
- G. **Toquerville:** None.
- H. **Washington City:** None.
- I. **Washington County:** None.
- J. **UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that the Southern Parkway project was awarded and construction started last Monday. The contractor for this project is Wadsworth/Quality. This is good time for earthwork because of the rainy weather. UDOT is still working to determine alignment of the Red Cliffs Drive/Red Hills Parkway I-15 Underpass. An alignment decision is anticipated to be in place on January 5, 2015.

Branden Anderson reported that the northbound and southbound thru lanes on Bluff and Red Hills Parkway are scheduled to open tomorrow morning. However, work will continue on a few trail connections in the area. Design is moving ahead for the Bluff Street/Sunset Boulevard intersection. At this point there is concrete schedule for advertisement of this project. UDOT is working on the design for Bluff Street widening project from 100 South to 700 North, and right-of-way acquisition will begin in the near future.

Kirk Thornock mentioned that the bid for the SR-9 Arch Bridge project was within 1% of the estimate and construction will begin in the spring. The bid was awarded to Interstate Rock. UDOT is also undertaking a number of contingency projects in Region 4 to help smaller communities. Funds are allocated in the region to assist with these small type projects. Projects in the area include: **1) SR-228, Leeds Main Street--** Curb and gutter; **2) SR-17--** Drainage and Curb and gutter, **3) SR-18/Bluff Street--** Drainage study. UDOT is always looking for partnership projects that can be accomplished in the region. Cities are encouraged to get with Dana Meier to discuss any type of partnership projects. These projects benefit both UDOT and the communities. Local communities take the lead to get the project going and UDOT reimburses funds up to a certain amount. Community investment in these projects is encouraged. Projects are typically in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

5. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

B. Federal Oversight: Steve Call, FHWA, explained that the MAP 21 Highway bill was to end September 30, 2014, but it was extended through May 21, 2015. However, funding tied to the highway bill will lapse on December 11th unless another Continuing Resolution is passed by Congress. This funding will hopefully extend into the spring through March/May 2015.

A. Program Development - UDOT: None.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2014 at the Five County Association of Governments office. It was announced that the Transportation Expo is scheduled for February 10th at the Dixie Center. The MPO will be conducting a survey similar to the one utilized last year. Committee members are encouraged to contact Myron to provide suggestions and/or specific questions to be included in the survey. Members should contact Miriam Palma to provide booth applications.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.