

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Five County AOG Conference Room

St. George, UT

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jay Sandberg, St. George City
- Monty Thurber, Chair, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
- Todd Edwards, Washington County
- Tom Jorgensen, Ivins City
- Blake Fannesbeck, Washington City
- Dustin Mouritsen, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
- Cameron Gay, UDOT
- Cameron Cutler, St. George City Public Works Director
- Wayne Peterson, Leeds
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
- Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Thomas Nguyen
- Leslie Fonger, Washington County
- Paul Mogle, Washington City
- Lloyd Sutton, St. George City Active Transportation Coordinator
- Aron Baker, Horrocks
- Trista Nielson, Washington County
- Susan Savage, citizen from Leeds
- Spencer Montgomery, JUB Engineers
- Travis Marden, JUB Engineers
- Nick Gayer, Avenue Consultants
- Vern Maloy, Sunrise Engineers

MEMBERS ABSENT or EXCUSED:

- Nick Lehman, Town of Virgin
- Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. Consider Minutes from January 7, 2026.

Arthur LeBaron made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting as presented. Cameron Cutler seconded the motion.

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

2. PLANNING:

- a. Consider a TIP amendment to re-program MPO funds to swap the timing of two projects (PIN #'s 22214 and 20938): Western Corridor (Old Highway 91 to Gap Canyon Parkway) and Hamblin Parkway (Snow Canyon Parkway to Old Highway 91).

Dustin Mouritsen presented that Santa Clara City had planned to start the environmental study for Western Corridor from Old 91 to Gap Canyon Parkway this fiscal year. However, the City and UDOT determined that the study will cost more than the MPO programmed dollars.

Dustin suggested that the TIP Year 2026 project funding for Western Corridor be flipped with TIP Year 2029 funds on the Hamblin Parkway project to give the partners sufficient time to fully fund the Western Corridor environmental study while allowing them to move ahead with the Hamblin project.

Cameron Cutler made a motion to move the funding packages as presented. The motion was seconded by Kyle Gubler.

The motion was approved with a verbal vote.

b. Discuss Prioritization Criteria and Process for the Active Transportation Plan

Thomas Nguyen re-introduced himself and reported on his work on the Regional Active Transportation Plan. His current goal is to create a data-driven prioritization method to select and prioritize AT projects.

Other areas have used a variety of methods to prioritize projects including:

- Weighted scoring models
- Metrics developed to reflect the long-term goals of the region
- Gathering stakeholder feedback
- Using quantitative data for a framework
- Aligning a framework with national goals

Regional goals could include 'good health', 'better mobility', 'strong economy', and/or 'connected and 'livable communities.'

c. Discuss the formation of an Active Transportation Subcommittee

Thomas Nguyen proposed the formation of an Active Transportation Subcommittee to support regional coordination and collaboration on active transportation projects. The Subcommittee would meet quarterly to discuss active transportation projects, issues, priorities, etc.

Potential stakeholders on the subcommittee could include cities, the county health department, traffic safety, transit, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance, UDOT, Utah Tech, school district, and Washington County.

Jay Sandberg recommended that the subcommittee be labeled a "working group" to avoid public notice and participation issues.

d. Discuss the value of direct MPO coordination with area land-use planners.

Nate Wiberg talked briefly about the value of involving the MPO staff in land-use planning discussions prior to developments going in.

Arthur LeBaron noted that more interaction and open communication would be welcome would add value and understanding to our planning efforts.

Cameron Cutler noted that his department at St. George is coordinating weekly with the development community and asked if the MPO wants to join those meetings. Nate affirmed that the purpose of this initiative is to enhance communication between MPO staff and the cities.

e. Consider the River Road widening project

The River Road Widening project has been assigned two different PIN numbers and funded in two different years. The question is if DTAC intended to add funding to the previous project or to build two separate projects. Cameron Cutler noted that his intent was to apply for additional funding for the project. Voting members present concurred with that approach.

Jay Sandberg made a motion to move both funding packages under PIN # 22216 and proceed to build the full project with MPO funds. The motion was seconded by Blake Fannesbeck.

The motion was approved with a verbal vote.

3. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. **Hurricane** – Several Road projects in design right now, including the Exit 19 interchange on SR-7. The Transportation Master Plan project is out for bid.
- B. **Ivins** – Roundabout is under construction at the intersection of Snow Canyon Parkway and Hamblin Parkway with expected completion in 60 days. Also working on the gap-fill trail project along Center Street.
- C. **LaVerkin** – Kyle Gubler noted that La Verkin has finished a crack seal project and that Phase 1 of the regional trail from La Verkin to Springdale is nearly complete.
- D. **Leeds** – No updates at this time.
- E. **St. George City** –
 - a. George Washington Boulevard bridge and roadway starting construction on March 1 (JP Excavating \$23 million) – will keep the mayor’s loop trail open.
 - b. Jay Sandberg is retiring.
 - c. City has moved their focus on Gap Canyon Parkway to building the north section (from Sunbrook Dr. to Canyon View Dr.) and will work on the south section (Canyon View Dr. to Dixie Dr.) once the water issues are resolved.
 - d. The city is contemplating the move of federal grant funds from the SR-7 Exit 5 project.
 - e. St. George City has used the MPO ITS funds to help move the traffic operations center to their new City Hall.
 - f. Commerce Drive traffic signal will go live tomorrow.
- F. **Santa Clara City** – The city is gearing up to do a slurry seal project this spring.

- G. **Toquerville** – No updates at this time.
 - H. **Transit** –
 - a. Chris Pearson reported that St. George City is working on the scope for a master transit plan.
 - b. A new park-and-ride in Virgin will be opening up at the Zion White Lion with a new bus stop on the Zion route.
 - I. **UDOT** – Cameron Gay reported:
 - a. Bluff Street from Main to St. George Boulevard is in the early stages of advertisement with construction anticipated to begin this summer.
 - b. The I-15 widening from MP 6-8 is continuing to progress. State officials are looking for funding sources to replace the loss of an \$87 million federal grant and remain hopeful a solution will be found so the project can be advertised in the April to May timeframe.
 - c. Crews are installing pedestrian buttons on the St. George Boulevard project.
 - d. The I-15 SB Passing Lane project is scheduled for a 90 percent design review in April, anticipated to advertise in late spring 2026, and construction expected next summer.
 - e. The Virgin River Bridge fencing contract has been awarded.
 - f. Utah Trail Network has funded a continuation of the bike trail adjacent to SR-7. A design contract will soon be advertised.
 - g. The SR-7 passing lane project is expecting a spring/summer construction.
 - J. **Virgin** – no updates.
 - K. **Washington City** – Blake Fannesbeck reported:
 - a. The City has accepted bids for a new signal project at the intersection of Merrill Road and Washington Fields Road.
 - b. The Main Street widening to 5-lanes project from Buena Vista to Washington Parkway is complete.
 - c. Washington Fields Road paving project is underway to eventually connect to airport parkway.
 - L. **Washington County** – No updates within the MPO boundary.
4. Upcoming Meetings / Deadlines:
- A. February 17, 2026 – Transportation Expo
 - B. February 18, 2026 – DTEC meeting
 - C. March 3, 2026 – DTAC meeting

ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.