

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 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:

- Lloyd Sutton, St. George City
- Monty Thurber, Chair, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
- Todd Edwards, Washington County
- Blake Foncesbeck, Washington City
- Dustin Mouritsen, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
- Chris Hall, UDOT
- Cameron Cutler, St. George City Public Works Director
- Wayne Peterson, Leeds
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City

- Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
- Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Thomas Nguyen
- Leslie Fonger, Washington County
- Aron Baker, Horrocks
- Trista Nielson, Washington County
- Susan Crook
- Spencer Montgomery, JUB Engineers
- Travis Marden, JUB Engineers
- Nick Gayer, Avenue Consultants
- Vern Maloy, Sunrise Engineers
- Casey Stratton, Santa Clara City

MEMBERS ABSENT or EXCUSED:

- Nick Lehman, Town of Virgin Tom Jorgensen, Ivins City

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. Consider Minutes from February 4, 2026.

Arthur LeBaron made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2026 meeting as presented. Cameron Cutler seconded the motion.

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

2. PLANNING:

a. Report on the 2026 Transportation Expo.

Attendance at the Transportation Expo (735) was a little lower this year due to several outside event conflicts and moving the date to later in February. This year's event did receive more news coverage than in years past and most visitors were able to take a little more time to understand projects and ask questions. Arthur also reported that he was grateful for the opportunity to refer

people with questions outside his expertise to the appropriate booth or station where other experts could answer their questions. Blake also noticed a shift in public opinion at the Expo with regard to irrigation ditches in Washington City.

b. Progress report on Purgatory Road

Arthur LeBaron reported the history and progress of the Purgatory Road Project

- Washington City continues to field complaints about industrial traffic use of the Country Way Bridge on the south end of the project. Residents of that area would like to see Purgatory Road built so that traffic could be re-directed away from Country Way.
- Hurricane City is continuing to see industrial development interests on the north end of the project and would welcome the road's ability to provide a secondary access to their industrial park.
- Three jurisdictions are involved with the project: Hurricane City, Washington City, and Washington County. The roadway will also cross some BLM properties and privately owned land.
- Industrial, residential and fairground event users could all benefit from build-out of the Purgatory Road
- On the south end of the project, the future roadway would travers through the Western Rock's gravel pit.
- Hurricane City and Washington County are currently committed to rebuild and potentially re-design the intersection at the north end of the project.
- The current finding package will be able to fund a 60 percent design plan and provide reliable data for right-of-way acquisitions.

c. Updating the regional transportation needs list (2027-2055)

Myron reviewed the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and noted the need to update the project list for the next plan cycle. The RTP is updated every four years.

A request was made that each city within the MPO planning boundary review the current list and recommend any changes. A reminder email and request will be sent out following this meeting.

d. Utah Trail Network Discussion.

Thomas Nguyen reviewed local projects listed in the Utah Trail Network (UTN) and asked for guidance on resolving any discrepancies between the UTN plan and local government plans. Several examples were shared in the meeting and resolutions agreed upon. Thomas was directed to bring those issues up with each municipality or within the DTAC meeting in the future.

e. Progress report on George Washington Boulevard

Cameron Cutler reported on the progress of the George Washington Boulevard roadway and bridge project. Traffic control cones and striping have been placed along Crosby Way and construction of the bridge has commenced. He also noted

that a temporary re-alignment of the Mayor's Loop trail has been built to avoid conflicts between trail users and construction crews.

The roadway between the bridge and River Road is being designed.

f. Consider a request from St. George City to move MPO programmed funds from SR-7 Exit 5 project to I-15 Widening from Exit 6 to Exit 8

Cameron Cutler proposed moving MPO funds currently programmed to the SR-7 Exit 5 interchange project to the I-15 Widening Project from MP 6-8. This will help St. George City meet its obligation to raise funds to meet a shortfall in funding brought about by the cancellation of the Connecting Communities grant. UDOT is also committed to restore funding for the I-15 project, but St. George City will need to bear a larger burden for the project.

If the MPO agrees to move the funding to I-15, St. George City would then be responsible to build SR-7 Exit 5 with City funds.

Arthur LeBaron made a motion to move \$3,591,000 of STP_SU_DMPO funds from SR-7 Exit 5 to the I-15 widening project from MP 6-8 as presented. Blake Fannesbeck seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with a verbal vote.

3. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. **Hurricane** – Hurricane City is finishing up a feasibility study on a trail near Confluence Park. Hurricane, LaVerkin, and Washington County are all partners in the study and will be applying for grant funds in the near future to move the project forward with an environmental study.
- B. **Ivins** – No updates at this time.
- C. **LaVerkin** – No updates at this time.
- D. **Leeds** – No updates at this time.
- E. **St. George City** – Gap Canyon Parkway – Ground water is being pumped out of the south end of the project. The city hopes to finish the design on the north end of the project within the next 30 days and get that section under construction soon.
- F. **Santa Clara City** – Dustin Mouritsen had no transportation updates, but announced his pending retirement from government service effective Thursday this week. Casey Stratton has accepted the Santa Clara City public works director position and will replace Dustin on the DTAC board.
- G. **Toquerville** – No updates at this time.
- H. **Transit** – Chris Pearson reported that St. George City is on schedule with their building of a new transit maintenance station on Brigham Road.
- I. **UDOT** – Chris Hall reported:
 - a. Bluff Street from Main to St. George Boulevard has been advertised with construction anticipated to begin this summer.
 - b. The I-15 widening from MP 6-8 is continuing to progress. State officials anticipate advertising the project in May.
 - c. The I-15 SB Passing Lane project is anticipated to advertise in late spring 2026 with construction expected this summer.

- J. **Virgin** – no updates.
 - K. **Washington City** – Blake Fannesbeck reported:
 - a. Merrill Road is closed off from Harvest Lane to 240 West for about a week.
 - L. **Washington County** – Washington County has several slurry seal projects out for bid, a bridge maintenance project is happening in New Harmony, and the Sheep Bridge Road is continuing through the Environmental Assessment phase.
4. Upcoming Meetings / Deadlines:
- A. March 17, 2026 – DTEC meeting
 - B. April 1, 2026 – DTAC meeting

ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

DRAFT