

**DIXIE MPO TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2026**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Clark Fawcett, Hurricane City Mayor
Adam Snow, Washington County Commissioner
Darren Prince, La Verkin City Council
Jimmie Hughes, St George Mayor
Dan Catlin, Toquerville City Mayor
Kevin Smith, Ivins City Mayor Via Zoom
Wayne Peterson, Leeds City Mayor
Bruce Adams, UDOT Commissioner
Natalie Larsen-St George City Council
Dannielle Larkin-St. George City Council
Jean Krause, Virgin Town Mayor

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT OR EXCUSED

Kurt Ivie, Washington City Council
Jarett Waite, Santa Clara Mayor

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Leach-Rockville Town Mayor
Barbara Bruno-Springdale City Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Clark Fawcett determined a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 12:0 p.m.

BUSINESS

a. Consider Minutes of the February 18, 2026 DTEC Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Approve the Minutes from the February 17, 2026 DTEC Meeting. Motion seconded by Mayor Hughes and carried by a Unanimous vote.

b. Legislative Update

Myron Lee-Dixie MPO Director shared the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Priorities list. The current authorization legislation expires in September 2026. Mr. Lee reviewed the five priorities, #1 Increase Metropolitan Planning Funds (PL), #2 Increase Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), #3 Continue funding for air quality improvement while streamlining program administration, #4 Maintain Funding for Safe

Streets for All (SS4A) and convert SS4A to Formula, #5 Maintain Robust Funding for the transit Capital Invest Grant (CIG) Program. (See Attachment) Mr. Lee informed everyone in attendance that there is some concern in the transportation world that the funding may decrease, which would put a burden on state funding. Mr. Lee asked for the board's support to stay neutral on the act going forward.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Catlin to Approve staying neutral on the Federal Re-authorization Act. Motion seconded by Mayor Peterson and carried by a Unanimous vote

Nate Wiberg-DIXIE MPO shared the following highlights regarding Utah HB 425. Utah House Bill 425 allows cities and counties to create a Transportation Utility Fee (TUF) to fund transportation infrastructure such as roads. This is not a new concept but provides a formal framework for how such fees must be implemented and managed.

Key Points:

- **What it is:**
A TUF is a usage-based fee (not a tax) that funds transportation systems. Unlike taxes (general revenue), fees are tied to how much a user contributes to transportation demand.
- **Who can impose it:**
Cities, towns, and counties can adopt a TUF, but only one can be in effect at a time and it must reasonably relate to usage, benefit, or impact.
- **Required study:**
Before creating or increasing the fee, local governments must conduct a study showing:
 - Transportation needs and costs
 - Existing funding is insufficient
 - Fee structure is fair and justified
- **How fees are calculated:**
Must use objective data (e.g., trip generation, traffic counts), not property value. Calculations must follow standardized transportation metrics.
- **User classifications:**
Different groups (residential, commercial, etc.) must be charged differently based on actual usage or impact—not location, age of development, or tax status.
- **Public process:**
Requires public notice, hearings, and formal adoption by ordinance (separate from the budget vote).
- **Use of funds:**
Revenue must go into a dedicated transportation fund and can only be used for transportation-related costs. It cannot replace existing funding or be mixed with other funds.
- **Appeals:**
Users can challenge their classification if they believe it is inaccurate.

- Ongoing oversight:
Annual review and reporting are required, including submitting a report to the State Auditor.
- Expiration:
Fees automatically expire after 10 years unless reauthorized.
- Public control:
The ordinance can be challenged through a referendum.
- Fiscal impact:
Modest administrative costs for the state; local governments may face setup and ongoing compliance costs.

c. Consider Support of Shivwits Application for BUILD Grant Program Funds

Myron Lee, Dixie MPO Director, asked for a vote to sign a letter of support for the Shivwits Band of Paiutes Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. There was some concern about UDOT Projects that also applied for the grant in the area.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Smith to Approve the Letter of Support be signed with the stipulation this is not competing with other grants that the committee may be going after. Motion seconded by Mayor Catlin and carried by a Unanimous vote

d. Purgatory Road Report

Arthur Lebaron-Hurricane City, shared Hurricane City, Washington County and Washington City have been working for several years to connect SR-9 and SR-7 through Purgatory Flat. The environmental study has been completed, with nothing substantial being reported. A new population of Bear Claw Poppie was discovered on private land that would not be impacted by the road. This roadway will reduce traffic on surrounding residential roads, offering more direct routes for commercial traffic. Hurricane City has applied for several grants to fund additional steps and is currently working on a funding packet to secure the needed rights-of-way.

REGIONAL UPDATES

a. Local Government Updates

- An injunction was granted in the lawsuit regarding the Northern Corridor. Everyone is hopeful the process will progress quickly and smoothly with a favorable decision

b. UDOT Updates

- Bluff Street project bids were received and construction is expected to begin late spring/early summer.
- An item to fund Exit 6-8 is before the Transportation Commission

c. Federal Updates

Gary Webster shared that Senator Lee is fighting for bills that will benefit rural parts of Utah.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DTAC –April 1, 2026

DTEC – April 21, 2026

ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to adjourn. Motion Seconded by Mayor Hughes and carried by a Unanimous vote.

Having no other business, Chairman Fawcett adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jayanne Lewis