



IRON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

Rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC)

May 06, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

(Note: Prior to the ICCOG Meeting)

Iron County Council Chambers

68 South 100 East

Parowan, UT 84761

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mollie Halterman

Mayor Jim Rushton

Mayor Tyler Allred

Mayor Steven Nelson

Mayor Clayton Calloway

REPRESENTING

Parowan

Enoch City

Kanarraville

Cedar City

Brian Head

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Commissioner Ken Robinson

Mayor Dakota Veater

REPRESENTING

Iron County

Paragonah

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nathan Wiberg

Dan Jessen

George Colson

Brett Hamilton

Chris Hall

Ryan Robinson

Kent Fugal

Cassie Meredith

Spencer Rollo

REPRESENTING

FCAOG

Parowan

Iron County Emergency Management

Iron County

UDOT

Enoch

Cedar City

ICEM Wildland Fire/Co. PID

Iron County Fire Warden



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1. **Welcome/Quorum Declaration**

Mayor Mollie Halterman called the meeting to order at 1:27 PM. A quorum was present. Members and guests were welcomed.

2. **Approve Minutes for March 4, 2026**

Mayor Mollie Halterman entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 04, 2026.

Motion: Mayor Tyler Allred motioned to approve the minutes from March 4, 2026.

Second by: Mayor Clayton Calloway

Vote: Unanimous Approved

3. **RPO Funding Renewal for FY 2027**

- Request to renew **\$50,000** from the Corridor Preservation Fund for Five County AOG to administer the RPO.
- Funding level remains unchanged from prior years.
- An additional \$10,000 UDOT match has already been approved.

RPO Responsibilities Highlighted

- Regional transportation coordination and stakeholder engagement
- Support for statewide and regional planning efforts
- Travel demand modeling (in coordination with UDOT)
- Long-range transportation and corridor preservation planning
- Assistance with grant writing and project development
- Coordination with UDOT planning staff

There was additional emphasis on the value of RPO coordination in leveraging state funding for local transportation projects.

Action

- **Motion: Mayor Jim Rushton motioned to recommend to the Iron County COG to approve \$50,000 from the Corridor Preservation Fund for Five County AOG to administer the RPO program.**
- **Second: Mayor Clayton Calloway**
- **Vote: Passed unanimously.**



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*** A Utah State Legislators and Senate Representative joined the meeting virtually and were welcomed to give updates between items three and four.**

Presenter: Rep. Carl Albrecht (remote)

Highlights:

- Wildfire mapping revisions delayed one year.
- Rural-focused appropriations secured:
- Approved RFA Appropriations
 - \$4.5M for water reuse for Cedar City and Enoch City
 - \$4.5M for cybersecurity training
 - \$900,000 for NEPA in Garfield County
 - Some funding for the Rural Business Accelerator
- Bills that Albrecht Worked on
 - HB222, Limitations of Actions
 - HB376, allows the Forestry Institute at Utah State University to work with watershed restoration. funding (\$2M)
 - Passed a nuclear bill
 - Interposed the elimination of the restaurant tax.
- Ongoing work on:
 - IPP plant preservation

Presenter: Barry McLerren, Senator John Curtis Office (Remote)

Highlights:

- Senator Curtis engaged in:
 - Foreign relations Committee
 - Provided information regarding the President's legal authority under the War Powers Act of 1973
 - There are concerns regarding cable infrastructure from China to Taiwan
- Legislation includes:
 - Fiscal Commission Act
 - Education transparency improvements
 - Geothermal energy development support

4. UDOT Long-Range Plan Overview

Presenter: Chris Hall (UDOT)

Key Points

- The UDOT Long-range transportation plan is updated every 4 years; the next publication is expected in 2027.
- Planning uses an improved travel demand model to project growth and traffic.
- A recent stakeholder meeting in Cedar City provided valuable input.



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Critical Strategic Topic: MPO Transition

- Iron County is approaching Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) status (population +50,000 threshold).
- Upon transition:
 - Local agencies will assume greater control over planning.
 - UDOT's role will shift from lead to supporting partner.
- Estimated timeline:
 - Census trigger: 2030; MPO implementation: ~after the next Decennial Census.

Planning Coordination

- Effort underway to align:
 - RPO Long-Range Plan
 - UDOT Long-Range Plan
 - Stakeholder engagement

Discussion Highlights

- Concern raised regarding lack of representation from west-side/unincorporated communities.
- Suggestions:
 - Improve outreach and contact lists
 - Engage fire departments, tribal representatives, and local stakeholders

5. UDOT Updates

Presenter: Chris Hall

Construction & Projects

- Extensive construction activity across Iron County:
 - SR-14, SR-143, SR-56 pavement preservation
 - SR-130 (Enoch to Minersville) pavement preservation
 - Multiple I-15 projects

Major Projects

- I-15 Southbound Passing Lane (New Harmony to Black Ridge):
 - 90% complete
 - Construction is expected possibly this year or next year.
- South Cedar Interchange:
 - Approximately 60% design completion

Other Notes

- Third-lane striping is delayed intentionally to avoid safety risks from incomplete segments.



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6. Local Transportation Projects/Studies/Updates

Cedar City

- 800 West Extension to Coal Creek Road:
 - In design and environmental phase
 - Working on the Right-of-way acquisition
- Providence Center Extension:
 - Advanced in Joint Highway Committee process
 - Recommended to Transportation Commission
- Efforts underway to secure greater regional representation on the Joint Highway Committee.

Enoch

- The Old Highway 91 project has been delayed due to the asphalt testing.
- Development projects expected to impact future transportation needs, including connections to the belt route.
- Potential future property acquisition opportunity identified along the Belt Route.

Brian Head

- Upcoming installation of:
 - Crosswalks and shuttle stops.

Parowan

- Coordination with UDOT on:
 - ATV/UTV trail expansion discussion between Parowan and Brian Head
 - Active transportation trail planning expansion.
 - Construction is underway on a sidewalk project on 200 North.
- Maverik interchange improvements underway due to development requirements.

Kanarraville / Unincorporated Areas

- Road upgrades to improve emergency access during I-15 construction closures.
- Coordination among local officials, EMS, and contractors to ensure access.

7. Other Discussion Items

There was no further discussion

8. Next Meeting

- Date: July 1, 2026
- Location: Brian Head



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9. **Adjourn**

Mayor Mollie Halterman entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mayor Steve Nelson motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Mayor Jim Rushton

Vote: Unanimous approval.