

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South, Building B
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
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Branden Anderson, UDOT, Region Four
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner Engineering
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Association
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley & Associates

ABSENT

Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer

Cameron Cutler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He acknowledged that a quorum was present for conduct of business.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from April 1, 2015 Meeting:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes from the April 1, 2015 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVE GLENN, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. LONG RANGE PLAN

- A. **FY 2015-2040 Long Range Plan Process Update:** Mr. Myron Lee provided copies of comments provided during the Long Range Planning Process public comment period. He reported that 27 comments were provided by the public and 25 of the comments were in favor of a Toquerville bypass road. Eight pages of comment were provided by Lisa Rutherford including the following: **1) Objection to a Northern Corridor road through the Desert Preserve--** Due to concern regarding environmental impacts on the Desert Tortoise; **2) Air quality issues--** Emphasis placed on the need to pay attention to air quality, and **3) The fact that the Long Range Plan focuses on bicycle and pedestrians--** Focus also needs to be placed on transit.

Myron Lee reported that comments provided by individuals in support of the Toquerville bypass road included reasons such as safety, noise, keeping the community quaint, etc. Those in support of the bypass road asked that the project be moved from Phase II into Phase I in the Long Range Plan. MPO staff proposed a meeting next week with UDOT and Toquerville representatives to formulate an adequate response to comments on the bypass road and to determine if it would be possible to move the project from Phase II into Phase I. The bypass road is listed in the Plan as being a \$30 million dollar project and adjustments would have to be made in other projects in Phase I in order to accommodate moving the project from Phase II. Dana Meier explained that SR-17, which currently goes through Toquerville, is a state route. The bypass road would be under ownership of Toquerville Town when being built, but UDOT could accept it as SR-17 upon completion. Darren Cottam mentioned that most of the growth in Toquerville is to the west and the city has been working with developers to obtain the right-of-way that is needed for the bypass road. Two property owners have dedicated land and negotiations are in process with the third owner. The proposed road would eliminate the S curve that is currently on SR17 coming into town. All future commercial growth would be out toward the freeway rather than in town. Horrocks Engineering completed a feasibility study which indicates it will be cheaper to construct a bypass road than to widen the current roadway through Toquerville. This study also included analysis regarding where a road could be built to provide connection between Leeds and Toquerville. It was noted that additional capacity for this road is not an issue in the Phase I time frame. Kirk Thornock, UDOT, noted that the bypass road would belong to Toquerville City but it could be transferred to UDOT upon completion of the construction.

Myron Lee reported that staff would generate responses to the comments provided and present the MPO response for DTAC approval and recommendation to DTEC during the June 2015 meeting.

- B. **FY 2016 Unified Work Program:** Myron Lee provided a copy of the work program to be passed around for review. The work plan includes activities that will be undertaken by the MPO in terms of long and short range planning services, the TIP process, public involvement, etc. for the upcoming year. Each task is broken out separately to include activities and associated costs. The work program covers the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Changes from the current work program

include the following: **1) Update to the Public Involvement Section**-- Incorporated the Transportation EXPO to include increased public interest in this event; **2) Long Range Plan**-- Reflects that the plan has been completed for the next four years, but includes maintenance of the plan in preparation for the next update; **3) Short Range Planning**-- Activities including the Master Transportation Plan updates for member cities and moving forward with concept planning phases utilizing anticipated funding that will be available; and **4) Mobility Management**-- Expounds on coordination with other sub-departments in the AOG as well as proposed involvement with SunTran and St. George City in development of their transit plan. He reported that the vote share dollar amount will be the same as last year's amount.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, TO RECOMMEND THE FY 2016 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DTEC) FOR FORMAL ACTION. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. HB 362 Anticipated Revenue Update):** Myron Lee provided a handout outlining HB362, Transportation Infrastructure Funding. The table depicts the existing fuel tax, additional fuel tax and optional local sales tax. Washington County and the incorporated cities are included as well as anticipated revenue for each entity. Curt Hutchings reported that this was a topic of discussion during the Washington County Mayor's meeting last night. The group seemed to be in consensus that this should be placed on the ballot, but the question was the timing in which it should be done. The county commissioners are more inclined to wait and the mayors are more anxious to move forward. One reason for hesitancy on the part of the county is that the RAP tax was narrowly passed during the previous election and it may be too soon to consider another tax increase. Another concern is that adjacent counties work together to place the initiative on the ballot during the same election. The county and cities also realize a need for educating the citizenry prior to placing this on the ballot. Another concern is whether transit will remain with St. George City or move to a regional transit authority. Myron Lee projected a potential list of projects that could be considered if the local sales tax option was in place. The only danger in providing such a list of projects is that the public then anticipates that all projects would be built immediately. Because of the limited amount of funds available for projects, it would be necessary to continue prioritizing the greatest need to determine which projects would be built and when. Information included in the Long Range Transportation Plan makes the assumption that these funds would be available at some point during Phase I of the plan. As the area continues to grow, the need for capacity projects increases. Committee members agreed that some type of presentation that could be provided to various cities, chambers of commerce, business groups, etc. would be a good tool in education to the public. Darren Cottam commented that it is important for city representatives to speak with County Commissioners to explain the need for projects in larger jurisdictions as well as maintenance needs of the smaller cities. Jay Sandberg commented that recent legislative action increased the gas tax for transportation and some may see this is an unnecessary increase locally. This may make it hard to sell this option to the public. Committee members also suggested enlisting the Transportation Coalition to assist with public education. Myron Lee indicated that Salt Lake, Weber and

Davis counties are all likely to place the initiative on the ballot in November. He also noted that numbers provided on the handout are based on all 29 counties passing the local option sales tax.

4. SERVICES

- A. **Call for Planning Grant Projects:** Myron Lee indicated that concept reports for planning grant projects are due June 1, 2015. There will be \$150,000 available in July 2015 and a small amount may be available to carry forward from this fiscal year. Interest was expressed last month to complete an update to the ITS Communications Plan to include all areas now in the Dixie MPO. St. George City has submitted a request for \$80,000 to complete a Transit study for SunTran. Cameron Cutler explained that the city has never developed a formal plan for routing and bus stops. It would be very beneficial to have a plan in place as future expansion is considered. The St. George City Council will be asked to approve \$85,000 for this study as well to provide a total of \$165,000 to undertake this project. There has been no official means deployed in determining where routes and/or stops are placed based on population in various areas. The city would like to make sure that these are developed in the appropriate locations. The plan would not be limited in scope to St. George City but would also include outlying areas of potential expansion. Myron Lee explained that \$46,000 was recently approved for a transit study from Hurricane to Zion National Park. Curt Hutchings suggested that merging the St. George area transit study into the other transit study may provide some savings. Funding has been pledged from the Washington County Council of Governments in the amount of \$10,000 and staff is seeking an additional \$37,000 in funding from UDOT. Mike Shaw indicated that if the St. George City transit study includes outlying areas it would be of interest to Washington City. Monty Thurber estimated that it would require approximately \$60,000 to update the ITS Communications Plan, but some funding may be available from ITS funds.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the contractor is ready to begin paving on the 600 North project. It is anticipated that construction will be completed by Memorial Day.
- B. **Ivins:** Dave Glenn reported that design for the Old Highway 91 project is wrapping up. The Ivins City Master Transportation Plan is nearing completion as well.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Jay Sandberg reported that the Indian Hills Drive project is moving forward with an anticipated completion date of July 2015. St. George City is moving forward with micro pave projects on River Road and Brigham Road with Intermountain Slurry as the contractor. The St. James and River Road signal project will begin in July 2015. The Brigham Road and River Road signal project will be bid out soon. This will include some reconfiguration of the intersection to tighten it up, similar to the St. George Boulevard and Bluff intersection. Interstate Rock has

been selected as the contractor for the Washington Field Canal drainage project. This project may include a change order to include the Mall Drive and 3000 East signal project to subcontract with a signal contractor. The Canyon View Drive bypass realignment to Dixie Drive is moving forward. The River Road/Fort Pierce Wash Bridge and signal project design is approximately 70% complete. This project is included in the upcoming St. George City fiscal year budget. There are no right-of-way issues and it is anticipated that the project will bid in the fall.

Cameron Cutler reported that St. George City has been meeting with UDOT to discuss various options for the Mall Drive underpass project. It has been determined that the City will assume responsibility for the local road component and UDOT will take responsibility for the underpass. The final location has been determined to be between 1680 East and Mall Drive. Funding is programmed for 2017-18 for construction. This will be two separate projects. The final alignment does not take any property owned by the Mall development, but work will include improving the access from Red Cliffs Drive. The alignment avoids residential areas and only impacts one business on Red Hills Parkway.

- F. **Santa Clara:** None.
- G. **Toquerville:** None.
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the 3650 South reconstruction project design is 90% complete on design. The 2000 South signal is currently under construction with anticipated completion in about a month. The Telegraph Safety project is moving forward and will include installation of barrier.
- I. **Washington County:** None.
- J. **UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that the Southern Parkway project is moving forward with completion anticipated sometime in mid-December. The Bluff Street and Sunset Drive project will likely be an at-grade intersection. This project will provide a level of service C in the year 2040 with a good level of service on the front end. It is anticipated that the environmental document will be completed for advertisement this fall. Construction will be timed for next year for minimal disruption of the Iron Man event and completion prior to the St. George Marathon. The intersection will be raised 4-6 feet to accommodate a pedestrian crossing utilizing a box culvert.

Kirk Thornock reported that the SR9 Arch Bridge to LaVerkin project is under construction. Bridge preservation projects on SR-9 and Exit 10 have been completed. Advertisement of a guard rail/rumble strip project on Telegraph will advertise in the near future. Another guard rail project on SR-18 between milepost 34-39 is close to advertisement. Dana Meier reported that UDOT is completing a corridor study of SR-9 from LaVerkin to Zion National Park to address issues and develop a series of projects. The study will try to anticipate bicycle and transit usage. Levi Roberts is attending the UDOT meetings to provide coordination between this study and the proposed transit study that will be undertaken by the MPO.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** Kirk Thornock reported that several projects in Washington County were approved in the STIP process. Rehabilitation work will begin in 2016 on SR-318, Quail Creek Reservoir Road, in the amount of \$900,000. An overlay mill and fill project will be undertaken on SR-18 near the Ledges development. Structure funds were provided for the Veyo Arch Bridge retrofit project with \$3 million in state funds in 2016. Funding in the amount of \$300,000 has been provided to investigate the bridge. Capacity funding includes \$20 million for I-15 milepost 8 to 10 including structures in 2019-2022. A safety project on I-15 from milepost 28.1 to 29.3 will provide new barrier. UDOT staff will be aggressively looking for STIP money for other projects in Phase I. Climbing lanes from milepost 22 to 28 are funded in 2017-18. Design should begin in December 2015 or January 2016.
- B. Federal Oversight:** Steve Call reported that no new highway bill has been passed, but it is anticipated that a Continuing Resolution will be passed to fund through the end of September. FHWA will be reviewing unified work plans to provide approval in the next few months. He announced that FHWA representatives will be visiting Santa Clara and Springdale on Thursday, May 28 to perform a bike/pedestrian safety audit. Arrangements are being made through the UDOT Central office. Committee members are invited to participate in this event. He noted that FHWA is conducting these audits in every state.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Upcoming meetings include the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) on May 8, 2015 and the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) May 20, 2015. The next DTAC meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at the Five County Association of Governments office.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JAY SANDBERG. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.