

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)  
MINUTES  
May 20, 2015**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor  
Vice Chairman Jon Pike, St. George Mayor  
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor  
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor  
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor  
Bette Arial, St. George City Council, Senator Mike Lee's Office  
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City Council  
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stan Smith, Virgin Mayor  
Cameron Cutler, St. George City  
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City  
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator  
Gary Webster, Cong. Chris Stewart's Office  
Bill Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office  
Rick Torgerson, UDOT  
Dana Meier, UDOT  
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO  
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO  
Levi Roberts, Dixie MPO  
Curt Hutchings, Five County AOG  
Bryan Thiriot, Five County AOG  
Mike Shaw, Washington City  
Monty Thurber,  
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance

**EXCUSED**

Kerry Gubler, LaVerkin Mayor  
Zachary Renstrom, County Commission  
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4

**ABSENT**

Jimmie Hughes, St. George City Council

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance. There was no quorum at the beginning of the meeting, but one existed later for voting on action items.

## **BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2015**

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Approve the Minutes from the April 15, 2015, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Mayor Peterson and carried by unanimous vote.**

### **B. Active Transportation Plan**

Levi Roberts mentioned that last meeting he handed out the Dixie MPO Regional Active Transportation Plan booklet, which encompasses bicycle and pedestrian transportation and offers recommendations for programs, policies, and facilities.

The plan encourages the use of trail systems that are currently in place as well as future trail systems that will better connect the cities and existing trails and is ready to be used as a guiding document for cities as they plan for bicycle and pedestrians in their area.

With several gaps in the current trail system, it makes it difficult for bicyclists or pedestrians to safely go to and from their destinations. As the proposed trails are implemented, this plan closes the gaps and creates a better and safer environment for the whole community.

The Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) recommended the plan be adopted by Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC). However, being so detailed, the Executive Committee suggested taking a month to review the Active Transportation Plan before making a motion for approval.

Jeff Turek questioned what the process would be to keep the plan updated once approved. Mayor Hart mentioned that any proposed amendments would come through the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC). Myron Lee stated that this process is part of the Long Range Plan update done every four (4) years and would envision that in 2019 the MPO would update the plan as they receive updates from the cities as to what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done.

Mr. Turek would like to see the plan continually being updated as the cities implement changes so that the plan doesn't have to wait four (4) years to be updated. Mr. Roberts agreed with this recommendation and mentioned that perhaps the Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee could function in that capacity and will discuss this at the next DTAC meeting. Mayor Hart suggested that the Active Transportation Plan be reviewed annually.

Mr. Lee stated that the Active Transportation Plan will be posted on the MPO website and a notice will be sent out to the Public Works Directors if DTEC approves the plan.

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Approve the Active Transportation Plan. Motion seconded by Jeff Turek and carried by unanimous vote.**

### **C. Unified Planning Work Program FY2016**

Mr. Lee mentioned that prior to this meeting, the FY2016 Unified Planning Work Program document was emailed to the Committee for review. This document specifies what the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be working on over the next year to fulfill the obligation they have to the Federal Highway Administration, which uses this document to program funding.

DTAC has reviewed the document and recommends approval by DTEC. Ken Sizemore recommended some minor grammatical changes along with a few edits on procedural and reference updates. However, these changes do not affect the context of the projects or processes.

**MOTION: Motion by Bette Arial to Approve the Unified Planning Work Program FY2016 as Amended. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.**

### **D. On-Call Services Contract**

Mr. Lee stated that the MPO has had an on-call contract with Horrocks Engineers to update the Dixie MPO travel demand model. The MPO would like to extend the contract with Horrocks for an additional three (3) years since they are local and have maintained the model over the past six (6) years.

This is an on-call, "as needed" contract with Horrocks, meaning they would be called if their services were needed. The contract mentions dollar limits and task boundaries to be complied with.

Mr. Lee handed out three (3) documents on Horrocks Engineers that included a statement of qualifications, the scope of work to be provided, and a "Sole-source justification" memo.

*(See attached for documents)*

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Approve the (3) Three Year Extension of the On-Call Services Contract with Horrocks Engineers. Motion**

**seconded by Bette Arial and carried by unanimous vote.**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. B&C Road Formula**

Rick Torgerson handed out a B&C Road Fund fact sheet which gives information on the history of the program along with project eligibility, distribution and allocation of funds.

Mr. Torgerson mentioned that due to House Bill 362, starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will no longer be a separation between gravel and dirt roads. These two (2) categories will be combined.

If there are any questions or requests needing to be submitted for changes on paved or gravel roads Jeff Ericson is the contact person. His contact information is on the front of the fact sheet, along with Chris Potter who is another key contact for any questions that may arise.

*(See attached for fact sheet)*

## **REPORTS / DISCUSSIONS**

### **A. Local Option Sales Tax**

Mayor Hart mentioned that at the last Mayors meeting the conclusion was that the majority of Mayors were in favor of moving forward this year on the Local Option Sales Tax.

Mayor Bramall stated that three (3) out of five (5) Hurricane Council members are in favor of the tax and went on to say that it would be easier to pass presently while gas is down and the economy is up. The cost to the County to have a mid-term election would be ninety four thousand dollars (\$94,000).

Jeff Turek expressed that most of the Washington City Council is in favor of moving forward since the Legislatures worked hard to pass the Bill with the belief that additional funding for transportation is a serious need. If the counties delay presenting it to the citizens to let them decide, the Legislature may delay future responses.

Ken Sizemore stated that Santa Clara has discussed the issue and a resolution will be on the June 10<sup>th</sup> city council agenda. It's not a unanimous agreement among the council but the majority thinks that it is something that needs to be put on the agenda for discussion so that a resolution can be given to the Commissioners.

Myron Lee handed out a document from the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULTC) that offers facts and a sample resolution on the Local Option Sales Tax that the cities can use. Curt Hutchings stated that the Transportation Coalition will support the County on this effort.

Mayor Hart mentioned that only the counties that pass the tax will receive the monies. He noted that with the help received from the League in dealing with the media and current public knowledge, this is a good time to move forward. He worries that the passage of time may diminish the momentum in trying to pass the tax.

Kyle Gubler discussed wanting to make a presentation the first of next month to the LaVerkin City Council.

Mr. Lee stated that the MPO could help educate the cities by providing a list of projects from the MPO's Long Range Plan that would be impacted by these funds. He went on to mention that it would be important for cities to also work with their public works departments to determine the types of projects that would be affected and to include that in their resolution, thus, providing knowledge to the citizens to assist them in making an educated decision when voting. Mr. Lee expressed that because the MPO spends public dollars the MPO can neither endorse nor object to the tax.

Rick Torgerson mentioned that it would be helpful for the public to know what percentage of the tax would come from out of state visitors versus the local citizens. Mayor Hart along with Mayor Pike expressed the need to mention these points in individual city newsletters along with city council meetings so the citizens can understand the difference this tax can make in each individual city. Individuals have come to appreciate the trail system which takes money to maintain, along with our roads.

Mayor Hart ended the discussion reiterating that the Commission wants each of the cities to pass a resolution in support of the Local Option Tax before they decide to put it on the ballot. This will require education within each of the cities from Mayors and Council members.

*(See attached for ULCT document)*

## **B. JPAC Report (May Meeting)**

Mr. Sizemore updated the Committee on the May JPAC meeting in Provo, Utah where Utah County spoke concerning their transportation systems, planning, and implementation. Utah County mentioned having a hard time keeping up with the

infrastructure needs in trying to accommodate traffic flow.

The House Bill 362 was also a discussion item, with the general consensus of state-wide municipalities leaning towards elections happening in 2015 due to the cities and counties wanting to show the legislation they were serious in meeting transportation needs. In June the Utah Transportation Coalition is funding a state-wide poll of 7,000 individuals to get a statistically valid result from around the state to hopefully show support for the tax. The Utah Transportation Coalition recommends a short campaign of three (3) to six (6) weeks and reiterated that public funds cannot be used in the campaign once a decision is made at the county level to move forward with an election.

Updating the Unified Transportation Plan at the State level was also a topic of discussion.

The JPAC meeting in October will be hosted in the St. George area but needs a venue site as the Dixie Center will not be available due to the marathon and senior games. Jeff Turek mentioned that Washington City Community Center could facilitate that meeting and will work on scheduling the building. Mayor Hart will plan on attending the October 2<sup>nd</sup> JPAC meeting.

## **UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS UPDATED**

### **A. UDOT Updates**

Rick Torgerson made a presentation with GIS maps showing the following plans:

- Sunset and Bluff interchange location, incorporating a bike/pedestrian path along with three (3) southbound lanes to help with mobility
- Sunset to St. George Boulevard seven (7) lane roadway which will require relocating businesses along with a few historic buildings
- Mall Drive crossing, connecting Red Cliffs and Red Hills Parkway

Mr. Torgerson mentioned that at the Transportation Commission meeting the Mall Drive project was approved for the 2017-2018 year at twenty million dollars (\$20 million). Eight million dollars (\$8 million) will be used to build the bridges, twelve million dollars (\$12 million) will build the new lanes and St. George City will contribute four to eight million dollars (\$4-8 million) towards the scope and local road connections on Red Cliffs and Red Hills Parkway. Mr. Lee commented that the MPO has voted to program one point one million dollars (\$1.1 million) in 2019 towards the Mall Drive project.

Mr. Torgerson also informed DTEC that Utah was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> overall nationwide for active transportation (biking/pedestrian). He went on to mention that the Road Respect Tour will first be in Panguitch and then Santa Clara on Thursday, May 28, 2015 and

then will be in Hurricane and Washington City on Friday, May 29, 2015 to examine the bicycle and pedestrian paths and facilities. The goal is to bring attention to bicycle and pedestrian needs on a national scale.

Dana Meier mentioned that a corridor study has been started from LaVerkin to Zion National Park to build a vision for what it will look like in the future that will include passing lanes. Mayor Bramall would like to see UDOT work with Arizona and Mohave County to seal chip approximately a 5 mile strip from the Utah border to the cane beds which would allow travel without dust and provide an alternate route to avoid the construction at Zion National Park.

Mr. Torgerson reminded DTEC that the Seat Belt Law went into effect May 12, 2015 and UHP is actively looking for violators, giving them warnings and educating them.

#### **B. Federal Updates**

It was mentioned that the House passed a resolution to extend the highway and transportation funding until July 31, 2015 in order to determine how to pay for a six (6) or seven (7) year plan. This now goes to the Senate for their endorsement before May 30, 2015. The Republicans have no interest in a ten cent (.10) per gallon gas tax and the Democrats have an interest in taxing repatriation of international dollars, thus, more time is needed to determine how it will be paid for.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing was presented.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: June 17, 2015.

#### **ADJOURN**

Having no other business, Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nicholle Felshaw