Utah Department of Transportation
Utah Transportation Commission
Richfield Area Tour and Presentation
August 13, 2015

Prior to the tour at 12:03 p.m., a presentation was made in the UDOT Region Four Offices – Conference Room by Malcolm Nash of Sevier County. He talked about the industries that drive the economy in Sevier County, including agriculture, tourism, trucking, mining and oil. He said the challenge rural Utah has is infrastructure. A community needs three things for economic success: an interstate, an airport, and an institution of higher education, which they have. But the area has also suffered because there isn't any access to a rail line. There has been a lack of growth opportunities due to having no rail access. However, they are in the permitting process for a new rail line between Levan and Salina. Handouts were distributed and Mr. Nash reviewed a map showing the alternatives that have been assessed in the Supplemental Draft EIS. There was extensive discussion regarding the potential alignments, impacts, safety issues, and trucking impacts on SR-28. Rick Torgerson noted that the tour will include showing various locations of the proposed alignments, the effect on agriculture, and where the rail line would end in Salina. Mayor David Ogden of Richfield talked about the expansion of the Richfield airport and what the expansion will do for them economically.

The tour departed from the Region Four Offices at 12:47 p.m. The bus traveled on SR-118 towards Austin. Rick Torgerson pointed out the Richfield airport and the industrial park. In Austin, Daryl Friant referred to the pictures in the handout and discussed some issues they have with a couple of narrow bridges that they haven't been able to widen due to a lack of funds. Shane Marshall commented that part of the recent gas tax increase will go towards bridges to address these types of issues. As the bus traveled to SR-258 and I-70, Kevin Kitchen mentioned the county's investment in the bike trail that goes all the way to Marysvale. On I-70, Mr. Friant discussed the $30 million project to address issues with the concrete pavement from MP 17 to MP 49. Mr. Torgerson pointed out the undercrossing near Salina for the proposed rail line, with ramps possibly being added in the future. The bus exited I-70 in Salina and traveled to the newly constructed UDOT maintenance station. The group got off the bus for a discussion and tour of the facilities by station supervisor Brian Quarnberg. Mayor Dustin Deaton spoke briefly to the Commission regarding the commercial growth in Salina over the last 18 months.

The group returned to the bus and traveled on various area roads to view portions of the potential rail line alternatives. Along the way, Mr. Friant pointed out an intersection on SR-24 where the county will be constructing turn lanes, and Mr. Torgerson pointed out some of the agriculture areas that would be affected by the rail line. On 1100 North, Mr. Torgerson noted that Sevier County and Redmond Minerals built a new road to handle the high volume truck traffic from the Redmond mine. The bus traveled to Salina, where there was a short break taken. The bus then traveled to the UDOT Region Four Offices in Richfield, and the tour ended at 3:30 p.m.

The following Commissioners, UDOT staff, and others attended the tour and/or presentation: Jeff Holt, Wayne Barlow, Dannie McConkie, Naghi Zeenati, Gayle McKeachnie, LeAnn Abegglen, Shane Marshall, Cory Pope, Bill Lawrence, Linda Hull, Bryan Adams, Agustin Avalos, Rex Harris, Rick Torgerson, Kirk Thornock, Kevin Kitchen, Monte Aldridge, Robert Dowell, Daryl Friant, Dana Meier, Anne Ogden, Steve Call, Lee Davidson, Mayor David Ogden, Malcolm Nash.

LeAnn Abegglen

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