

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 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
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Tom Jorgensen for Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Bronson Bundy for Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Director, Five County AOG
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
John Postert, LaVerkin City
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Tim Tabor, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Susan Crook, Citizens for Dixie's Future (CDF)

ABSENT

Darren Cottam, Toquerville City
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer, Vice-Chair (Excused)
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Excused)
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer

Cameron Cutler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were provided and it was noted that Tom Jorgenson was representing Chuck Gillette, Ivins City and Bronson Bundy was representing Mike Shaw, Washington City. Those asking to be excused include Aurthur LeBaron, Hurricane City and Steve Call, FHWA. The chair acknowledged that a quorum was present for conduct of business.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from August 5, 2015 Meeting:** Cameron Cutler, Chair, presented minutes from the August 5, 2015 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DANA MEIER, SECONDED BY JAY SANDBERG, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. LONG RANGE PLAN

- A. **BLM Resource Management Plan Comments:** Myron Lee provided copies of draft comments prepared for the Dixie MPO by Jacobs Engineering regarding the Bureau of Land Management St. George Field Office Draft Amendment to the Resource Management Plan. Email copies of the comments have been shared with DTAC voting members at various points throughout the process. The comments are due for submission to the BLM on October 15, 2015. The consultant has reviewed the document and provided significant comments which mainly focus on the Northern Corridor transportation route and deficiencies of the RMP in providing adequate consideration for a transportation route. Voting members were asked to review the comments and provide any suggestions and/or corrections no later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. MPO staff has determined that comments will be submitted on October 14th to insure that they are received prior to the October 15th deadline. Washington County has requested an extension to the comment period, but the BLM has not provided a response to their request. Myron Lee indicated that comments provided are defensible. If consideration for the Northern Corridor is not included in the preferred alternative, there is still a provision for the Governor to interject at the consistency level review. He noted that Jennifer and Bruce have done an excellent job in pulling out deficiencies in the plan. A significant amount of time and money have been expended, thereby making it essential for committee members to review the comments provided to make sure that all issues and concerns have been addressed.

Cameron Cutler commented that Myron Lee has reported on the RMP for the past several months, but concerns go beyond the Northern Corridor. St. George City staff has been reviewing the document in regard to watershed and other critical issues. This is a very important document that cities need to review and comment upon. Myron Lee indicated that cities can borrow comments from the document provided by Jacobs Engineering in crafting their response to the document because there are significant flaws that definitely need to be pointed out. Todd Edwards reference page 6 of the comments which references letters that are to be attached and asked if those letters had been submitted. Mr. Lee indicated that Ivins City has provided a letter and other cities are preparing letters for inclusion. Todd Edward also noted that Washington County will be submitting comments. These comments will include the situation where the BLM threatened taking away Washington County's coordinating status because the MPO staff tried to provide documents for consideration in the process.

MPO staff feels strongly that the mistakes and errors need to be pointed out in a significant and high impact fashion. Comments provided by Jacobs Engineering include a significant amount of technical review. Comments for this type of project become part of the record and they must be defensible in case of law suits. Comments provided are concise and defensible with a focus on the Northern Corridor.

- B. **At-risk Projects Presentation & Discussion:** Mr. Curt Hutchings provided a specific presentation outlining projects that are at-risk without construction of a Northern Corridor. Four projects have environmental issues and one project is at-risk because of the cost of construction. These projects include the following: 1)

Washington Parkway; 2) 1450 South; 3) Western Corridor; 4) Man-O-War, I-15 Crossing; and 400 East, I-15 Crossing. Bottleneck areas will result at intersections and on major roadways, including the I-15 corridor. Maps were reviewed for each at-risk project depicting increased and decreased traffic demand. Data presented represents today's traffic and increased traffic over the next 25 years. Dana Meier commented that UDOT is very concerned about the geographic constraints in the Washington County area and has utilized a spreadsheet which depicts cumulative impacts for these at-risk projects. UDOT staff added the level of service and delay times to this spreadsheet in order to perform a more detailed analysis of the projects. Copies of the spreadsheet will be forwarded to committee members for review. However, the cost benefit was not a consideration in UDOT's review. It is also a concern to UDOT that a major incident may occur and there is no network of alternate routes to get people around. Fred Davies commented that increased traffic on roadways will cause delays and a ripple effect on Red Hills Parkway, St. George Boulevard, Bluff Street and other major transportation routes. This is occurring now and will likely increase in the future as continued growth is experienced. Several of the SunTran routes are running behind schedule because of traffic in many areas of the city.

3. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

- A. **Funding Status Report:** Myron Lee referenced upcoming meetings listed at the bottom of the meeting agenda. The MPO will have approximately \$2.3 million dollars to program in 2020 funds. Funding was programmed in 2019 for Exit 11, Mall Drive Underpass, and ITS. A call for projects will be forwarded via email to voting members. Concept reports are due to the MPO on October 21, 2015. This will allow staff time to review the reports for completeness and correct any deficiencies prior to scoring and prioritization. Scoring packets will be provided to members at the November 4, 2015 DTAC meeting and will be due back to the MPO on November 30th. A tour of projects is scheduled for November 18, 2015.
- B. **Call for Concept Reports (2017 - 2021 TIP Program):** Concept Reports forms will be sent out electronically to voting members. These are due back to the MPO office on October 21, 2015. Once the projects have been rated and ranked, a selection process will occur during the December 2, 2015 DTAC meeting for programming of available funds. Myron Lee will refine funding amounts in order to provide an updated amount at the time of programming funds to projects. He noted that MPO funds are not typically designed to completely fund any project, but there have been a couple of exceptions where Old Highway 91 and East Dixie Drive received the majority of funds from the MPO. A portion of funds was utilized in 2009-10 to fund the Bluff Street EIS and the I-15 Environmental Assessment to identify projects that could be built in the future to benefit the area. A number of projects have resulted from this investment and are now coming to fruition. MPO funds are generally used as seed money to get a project moving forward. Once funding is programmed for 2020, a recommendation will be forwarded to the Dixie Executive Transportation Committee (DTEC) for final approval.

Cameron Cutler commented that oftentimes cities choose to not fund a project utilizing federal dollars. It is better to select one project and not several because of the requirements tied to federal dollars and increased project costs. Myron Lee indicated that the MPO has received TAP funds which have accumulated over the

past few years to total \$240,000. An amount was allocated to Washington City for a safety project, but the cost of the environmental would have been more than the TAP funds that were allocated. Therefore, Washington City turned back the TAP funds. The TAP funding includes previous funding that was provided for various programs including for safe routes to schools, enhancement, etc. This funding could be utilized on a project that is already receiving federal funds and the environmental is already required. Applications can be submitted for TAP funds as well as part of the call for projects.

4. **SHORT RANGE PLANNING**

None.

5. **LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

A. **Hurricane:** None.

B. **Ivins:** Tom Jorgensen reported that the Old Highway 91 project is close to going out to bid within the next few weeks. Ivins City has also completed their Master Transportation Plan.

C. **LaVerkin:** None.

D. **Leeds:** Angela Rohr reported that Leeds has recently completed repairs and coating on some of the city streets.

E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that the bidding season has not been great for St. George City. The traffic signal at Brigham Road and River Road is in the process of being installed. The signal at St. James will be under construction within the next few weeks. The Washington Fields drainage and trail project will include the signal. One other signal is under design for Dixie Drive and 1600 South. Jay Sandberg reported that construction has begun for the realignment of Canyon View Drive with surface improvements slated to begin soon. The Black Ridge Drive project is out to bid. The River Road/Fort Pierce bridge widening project is moving along pretty well to submit the environmental, obtain permits and right-of-way. It is anticipated that construction will begin the first of next year. There will also be several slurry seal projects completed this year.

F. **Santa Clara:** Jack Taylor reported that the right-of-way for Old Highway 91 has been completed. There will be one additional review meeting prior to going out to bid. Construction is anticipated to begin in the January to February timeframe.

G. **Toquerville:** None.

H. **Washington City:** Bronson Bundy reported that the 3650 South reconstruction project which includes widening, storm drainage, curb, gutter and sidewalk is now under construction.

I. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards reported that Washington County is doing a number of chip-seal projects in the northern part of the county. A project on Utah Hill will begin next summer. This project includes culverts, guard rail, and widening

of shoulders. The intent is to make the road safer for travel when alternate routes are closed. Because of the lack of shoulders, it will not be feasible to include improvements for bicyclists. The project is 16.5 miles long and includes approximately 150 culverts.

- J. UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that UDOT is combining the St. George Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard projects that will be addressed in 2018. A widening project on I-15 in the vicinity of the Hurricane exit will be moving forward. The milepost 8-10 project will begin next year. This project includes widening of I-15 and building bridges for the Mall Drive Underpass. The Purgatory Road Environmental Assessment is underway and an open house is scheduled at the UDOT offices in Purgatory tomorrow from 5-7 p.m. Committee members are invited to attend to review the proposed project. A reconstruction project in Hurricane from 300 West to 700 West is underway. Another reconstruction project on SR-18 from milepost 6.3 to 9.3 is also slated to begin. This is a mill and fill project this side of the Ledges development, but it does not include any widening of the roadway.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning, reported that Steve Call was unable to attend today. He provided information regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the new ozone rules on October 1st. They settled on 70 parts per billion, which leaves Washington County out of attainment. It is unknown if the Utah Division of Environmental Quality will increase monitoring in the Washington County area. He also reported that Federal Highway released a planning finding for 2015 for the BWR and Unified Plan Work Program (UPWP). Elden will work with Myron and other MPOs throughout the state to address this finding to determine if changes to the format will address issues. A deadline of December 1st has been established for addressing the finding. This will involve each of the MPO's working together to determine the appropriate course of action.
- B. Federal Oversight:** Steve Call asked to be excused.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) will be held on October 21, 2015. The next DTAC meeting will be held Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at the Five County Association of Governments office.

Fred Davies asked for assistance of the DTAC members to address a federal requirement under Title VI reporting. Information needs to be provided for ethnicity of DTAC members as part of a required evaluation that will be added to SunTran reporting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY TODD EDWARDS, SECONDED BY JACK TAYLOR, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.