

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
January 19, 2011**

PRESENT

Jim Eardley, Chair, Washington County Commission
Jerry Lewis, UDOT Commissioner
Gloria Shakespeare, City of St. George
Gil Almquist, City of St. George
Myron Lee, Five County AOG
Larry Bulloch, St. George City Public Works Director
Rick Torgerson, Dixie MPO
Roger Bundy, Washington City Council
Matt Ence, Santa Clara City Council
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Marreen Casper, Senator Hatch's Office
Mike Empey, Rep. Matheson's Office
Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2010

MOTION: Motion by Gloria Shakespeare to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2010. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

A. 2015 TIP Approval

Myron Lee distributed two handouts concerning the Dixie MPO 2012-2016 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) Process. The MPO gets approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year from the federal government and is required to come up with a seven percent (7%) match for its projects. The first handout shows how the money has been allocated in the years 2011-14. There is a million dollars left to earmark for 2015. In the DTAC meeting 2 weeks ago, concept reports were written up for each of the projects listed on the sheet. The Advisory Committee discussed all of the projects and determined that the two projects they wanted to be funded with that million dollars for 2015 were the Mathis Bridge widening and the 1900 East Washington Dam Road to the Southern Corridor. He asked for a motion to adopt those projects onto the 2015 funding year in the new TIP, as recommended by the Advisory Board.

Also, St. George City has three projects that are receiving federal funds: the Dixie Drive widening, East Dixie Drive widening, and the Mathis Bridge project. St. George City has asked to take all of the funding earmarked for those three projects and move it into the East Dixie Drive widening project. The City will fund the other two projects out of its budget. The purpose of doing this is to consolidate all of the federal funding into one project and allow them to build the other two as local projects. The Advisory Committee proposed that plan because it lessens the cost of the other two projects. Larry Bulloch advised that this would not change the schedule of the projects but simply rearrange the funding.

Gloria Shakespeare asked about the status of East Washington Dam Road, and Myron said that it would remain on the 2015 TIP as a Washington City project, the balance of which will be funded by Washington City.

MOTION: Motion by Gil Almquist to Adopt the 2015 TIP as presented. Motion seconded by Gloria Shakespeare and carried by unanimous vote.

B. FY 2012 Budget Direction

Myron said that the MPO is discussing where the budget monies are best directed for the 2012 budget year, which begins July 1, 2011. It looks as if there will be a very small amount of money (about forty thousand dollars) to program toward a transit study, based on authorization from this body. One of the questions that arose out of the BRT study done last year was that we should compile some case studies on how other areas have funded transit services outside of a single jurisdiction. We currently have some transit systems that are functioning well in St. George City, but those do not extend to Ivins or Hurricane at all. The question becomes, What kind of funding mechanisms are available to expand such services to outlying areas? We could put together a scope of work and hire a consultant to do research and come back with a report.

Gil Almquist mentioned that a study had already been done by St. George City that could be made available to the MPO for this research. Chairman Eardley said that discussion occurred at earlier meetings as to when the time might be right to expand transit service to Santa Clara, Ivins, Washington, and so forth. Gloria Shakespeare asked what type of method is used in this type of study; the response was: ridership numbers, traffic flow statistics, head counts, surveys, and other data. The problem is that there are five cities and the County who would participate in transit expansion, and it becomes a question of funding. The ultimate source for funding is the taxpayer, who, in the current economic climate, be reluctant to support it. Chairman Eardley said that this issue was also discussed during the Vision Dixie process, and there was public

support for rapid transit.

MOTION: Motion by Gil Almquist to authorize up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) of the 2012 Budget for a Transit Study. Motion seconded by Roger Bundy and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. CUBE Model Update

Myron presented three large maps for review. His group took socioeconomic data (jobs, residential locations) and used modeling software to predict traffic patterns, which were then put onto a map and projected out to 2040. This helps identify which projects are needed during which decade. Curt Hutchings mentioned that the central benefit of these maps is that they are countywide and permit a countywide assessment of impact. The MPO is working with the cities, inputting their general transportation plans into the model in order to predict the best location for road funds in the future. His office can send a pdf file of the maps to anyone who wants one. Gloria asked whether the county plans a rail system, and Chairman Eardley said that the concept of light rail came up during Vision Dixie and was deemed too futuristic and expensive. The Winston Group said that the rights-of-way and lanes of traffic that are now dedicated to bus rapid transit could be adapted to light rail in the future.

B. Long Range Plan Update

The Long Range Plan requires updating every four years, and Myron and Curt have been working on that. First drafts of six of twelve chapters are complete and have been shown to DTAC. Copies of those drafts are available to anyone who would like to see them, and any suggestions are welcome. Within a few weeks the other chapters will be complete and ready to present to DTAC and this body. Finalized versions will be presented to the public at the Transportation Expo on March 8th. Rick Torgerson said that UDOT is also doing its long range plan, and Curt said the RPO is also going through this process.

C. Dixie Transportation Expo: March 8, 2011

The Expo will be from 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on March 8th at the Dixie Center.

D. I-15 Coalition Update

Myron passed around a handout (attached) prepared as a result of a request by the I-15 Alliance (comprised of California, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona) to put together a list of

projects that may potentially come under its radar screen. Once funding is secured for future projects, Idaho and Montana may desire to join this alliance.

E. Concept Reports from TAC

A document was distributed earlier concerning these concept reports in connection with the TIP.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Rick Torgerson discussed several ongoing UDOT projects:

- Black Ridge is under construction, with an expected completion date of August 2011
- Widening SR-18 up near Winchester Hills for 2012
- Work on the Red Hills Parkway (city project) has been delayed because of United States Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional and regulatory issues, which are problematic countywide. This project may be delayed up to one year, with an estimated cost increase of nearly six million dollars (\$6,000,000)
- Dixie Drive is under construction
- Southern Parkway is complete to the airport with 2 segments left to do (which are funded)
- The project for widening Telegraph Road will be bid in the next month or so
- Work in Hurricane has slowed down due to the weather
- Bluff Street from St. George Blvd. to Sunset: an Environmental Assessment (EA) should be complete within the year
- The Northern Corridor from Milepost 13 to Red Hills is under consideration
- Still working on the I-15 EA

OTHER BUSINESS

No items were presented.

NEXT MEETING

- A. February 16, 2011 – Finalize Transportation Expo Assignments

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.