

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2016 - 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
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Bronson Bundy for Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Director, Five County AOG
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Branden Anderson, UDOT, Region Four
Thomas Joegensen, Ivins City
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner/Santa Clara City
Kayde Roberts, Jones & Demille Engineering
Diane Lamoreaux, Volunteer

ABSENT

Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Darren Cottam, Toquerville City
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Excused)
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning

Arthur LeBaron, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. It was noted that a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from December 2, 2015 Meeting:** Arthur LeBaron, Vice-Chair, presented minutes from the December 2, 2015 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHUCK GILLETTE, SECONDED BY KIRK THORNOCK, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

- B. ST. GEORGE TO ZION TRANSIT PLANNING:** Curt Hutchings provided an update of the transit study under contract with the KFH consulting group. Focus meetings were held on January 25th and 26th in Hurricane, Springdale and St.

George to target private sector involvement in the planning process. There were 12 people in attendance at the Hurricane meeting, 20 people in Springdale and only 2 people attending in St. George. Hotels were very interested and felt that transit would be positive for both their guests and employees. Town meetings will be held next week on February 8th and 10th that will be open to the general public. These are titled listening sessions that will begin with a brief explanation and then opened up for public comments. A number of emails and telephone calls have been made to solicit participation from different organizations. There are public service announcements and newspaper articles that will be made available as well. The consultant is in the process of developing a website for this project and this information will be made available next week at the Transportation Expo. The consultant is also looking for co-sponsors to include public/private partnerships that will be developed as time goes on. Arthur LeBaron reported that the discussion at the Hurricane meeting was positive and included housing, retail, hotels, etc.

- C. **St. George City Transit Planning:** Fred Davies reported that Nissan/Nygaard consultants are working to develop an analysis study of the SunTran Transit system routing. They will be collecting bus counts over the next few days. A website which has been developed and the 1st draft will be presented next week at the Transportation Expo. This has been a very rapid analysis of the current SunTran routes.

Myron Lee explained that there are currently two transit studies underway. One will address the St. George to Springdale transit and the other will address the SunTran bus system routing. Mr. Davies indicated that SunTran has utilized old routing for the past 15 years and the study will provide better routing and better efficiencies.

2. **LONG RANGE PLAN**

- A. **Report on Congressional Field Hearing:** Myron Lee reported that a Congressional Hearing was held recently in St. George on the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan. Congressional members from Utah, California, Arkansas and other states were involved in the hearing to address the draft Resource Management Plan released by the BLM. The hearing quizzed Mayor Jon Pike and Commissioner Alan Gardner on local participation extended by the BLM in this process and how well they worked with mayors and other elected officials in the development of the plan. The Congressional panel determined that the BLM had done a sorely inadequate job in coordinating with entities and the panel ordered the BLM to begin the process over with particular emphasis in gathering input on grazing, water rights, recreation and especially the Northern transportation route. It was noted that the clear intent of the 2009 Lands Bill required inclusion and identification of a northern transportation route. The conclusion of the hearing was to begin the process again to include participation of mayors and other local elected officials. The hearing was left open for a ten day period for acceptance of written comments. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Sierra Club both intended to provide written comments for inclusion into the hearing. That comment period ended last Friday and it is anticipated that written conclusions will be provided within the next two months. Since the hearing, the BLM has requested an opinion from the Solicitor General on the Northern Corridor and whether it must be part of the Resource Management Plan. Even though specific

instructions were made at the field hearing as well as in a letter written by Senator Hatch, the BLM will be asking for a Solicitor General opinion. In addition to consultation with local entities, the BLM is required to utilize local land use plans as part of the process. This would include the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan as well as other local land use plans. The BLM is under court order to complete the Resource Management Plan by June 30, 2016. However, they have requested an extension to December 31, 2016. There has been no contact with local officials from the BLM as a result of the field hearing. Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County drafted a letter in regards to the Northern Corridor. Arthur LeBaron reported that he did not read the entire draft Resource Management Plan but noticed that the BLM preferred alternative was closed to any kind of rights-of-way being granted. This needs to be pushed by local jurisdictions as the process begins to redraft the plan. There is a need for local officials to engage in the process not just for the Northern Corridor but for any right-of-way for future transportation corridors. Myron Lee indicated that the BLM should also take into consideration city transportation master plans. It is suggested that jurisdictions notify the BLM of the existence of these local land use plans and ask for discussion in this regard. Chuck Gillette asked if it appears that litigation will occur. Myron Lee commented that the environmental community has threatened a law suit if the right-of-way is included and Washington County has likewise threatened a law suit if it is not included in the plan. The Congressional Field Hearing lends strength to the argument of a northern transportation route. Jack Taylor mentioned that a number of corridors were included years ago that were removed from other documents. The congressional representatives involved in the hearing made it clear to the BLM that mayors and other elected officials represent the public and they should be working with these individuals because they directly represent the electorate. Mr. Brian Tritle with the local BLM office will be asked to provide an update to the Dixie Transportation Executive Council in regard to where the BLM is with the Resource Management Plan.

- B. Unified Plan:** Myron Lee reported that the MPOs in Utah, along with UDOT, have created a Unified Transportation Plan that includes the Long Range Plans for each MPO. The document is available online with interactive maps. The Dixie MPO Long Range Plan is integrated into the document. He pointed out that there are not many states that have a unified plan but Utah felt that it was important for all MPOs and UDOT to be utilizing the same type of financial assumptions for transportation planning. The completed Unified Transportation Plan will be utilized by JPAC for presentation to the Utah State Legislature. The plan will also be provided to local elected officials over the next few weeks. Kirk Thornock indicated that UDOT would be requesting one modification for the SR-9 Interchange to be moved from Phase 2 to Phase 1 in the plan. This is a very high priority project that somehow was placed in the wrong phase.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. Transportation Expo:** Myron Lee announced the Transportation Expo scheduled for February 9, 2016 at the Dixie Center. This has been a challenge because Miriam Palma retired. Other St. George City staff has stepped up to the table to spearhead planning of the event. It was noted that Jay Aguilar, Five County AOG Mobility Planner, has sent out flyers to cities to advertise the Expo. Email and social

media are being utilized to spread the word. There will be an antique car and bikes on display at the Expo. Everyone is encouraged to participate and attend the event.

4. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. **Concept Report Quality Discussion:** Myron Lee reported that bids for the Old Highway 91 project came in very favorable. In fact, the bids would not even utilize the amount of MPO funds that have been programmed into the TIP. There were several items that had been pulled from the bid because it appeared that the project would be over the engineers estimate. It was possible to bring back a number of these items into the project because some old concept reports were detailed enough to include these specific items. It is very important when completing the concept reports that all aspects of the project are included in detail. Had there not been old concept reports to fall back on, funds could have been pulled back for reprogramming. Cities should pay particular attention when completing future concept reports to make sure that the reports are of good quality with specific detail. It is anticipated that construction for this project will begin on February 8th. Kirk Thornock, UDOT, stressed the importance of making sure that there is adequate funding for TAP eligible items for this project that are within the concept of this program. Chuck Gillette indicated that there is sufficient work that would be eligible for utilization of TAP funds.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the Purgatory Road Environmental Assessment is underway for the connection between SR-9 and Washington Dam Road. There will be a booth at the Transportation for this project. A project on 400 South in Hurricane will be the first to include a stripped bike lane as part of their Sand Hollow Loop designated bike route. It was noted by Monty Thurber that bike route designation is included in the Unified Transportation Plan.
- B. **Ivins:** Chuck Gillette reported that construction on the Old Highway 91 project is anticipated to begin next week. He asked how other cities deal with request for changing speed limits in specific areas. Other city representatives indicated that their police departments have written grants to obtain equipment such as radar boxes that are placed in various locations to determine speeds. This is very helpful in determining speed limits in conjunction with a speed study.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St George:** Jay Sandberg reported that the River Road widening and signal project will be advertised in March. The Mall Drive drainage project is very close to being advertised. They are working on right-of-way as well.

Monty Thurber reported that the City is working with a consultant on their Active Transportation Plan. An interactive website and map will be presented at the Transportation Expo. The mapping tool that utilizes Google to look at routes and for submission of comments. This is a very good tool for gathering data and will

provide the first public outreach for this particular project.

Cameron Cutler reported that the signal for Dixie Drive has been ordered. The Mall Drive and 3000 East project needs to be completed prior to other I-15 projects. It is anticipated that the drainage portion will be completed by the end of April. The Corp of Engineers permit is slated for receipt by mid-March.

Branden Anderson asked for a status update for the Bluff Street Drainage study. Jay Sandberg indicated that the contract has been signed and the consultant has been asked to complete the study before the end of June.

- F. **Santa Clara:** The Old Highway 91 project will commence next week with Sunroc as the contractor.
- G. **Toquerville:** None
- H. **Washington City:** Bronson Bundy reported that the 3650 South storm drainage and reconstruction project has been completed. It is anticipated that the Washington Fields Road phase 4 project will be out to bid within the next 4-5 weeks.
- I. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards reported that Washington County has been working with the BLM to negotiate right-of-way for Old Highway 91 to the Arizona state line.
- J. **UDOT:** Kirk Thornock reported that a mill and fill project on SR-18 by the Ledges has been advertised for bid. The bid has been awarded for the SR-318 Quail Creek Road chip/seal project that will begin this spring. The Mall Drive 8-10 project will advertise the first part of March. A project on SR-9 from 700 West to 300 West will also advertise the first of March. The SR-18 project from Sunset Boulevard to St. George Boulevard will now focus on right-of-way acquisition in order to proceed with construction in 2018. This will include expansion to seven lanes from Sunset Boulevard to St. George Boulevard. UDOT will also focus on a corridor concept from Main Street to St. George Boulevard. The Rockville to Zion road project is under negotiation and design. It is anticipated that this project will proceed very quickly once it begins. I-15, Brigham Road to Dixie Drive, project will include new bridges in both directions. The bridges will be completed ½ at a time for each structure. This will be out for SOQ in the next few weeks. Bridge work will accommodate four lanes in each direction to fit into future expansion of I-15 between milepost 6-8. The SR-34, St. George Boulevard 9-10th East, project is under design. This will provide additional lanes to project more vehicle storage at the interchange. This could not be fit into the original project scope but has been funded as a choke point project. This will be constructed in conjunction with I-15 lane expansion. Kim Manwell will be the project manager for the SR-34 and I-15 projects. There will be several climbing lane projects to extend the lanes on the Black Ridge and between milepost 22-28 in 2018. The Southern Parkway to SR-9 project is slated for funding in 2022. UDOT is happy to see development along this corridor and would like to see the Southern Parkway become more effective in the future. This is still a priority for UDOT. Three SR-9 projects are in the top five TIF project list.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** Kirk Thornock reported that UDOT has completed their initial education on the FAST ACT five year transportation bill. Under this legislation, the state of Utah will be receiving approximately \$25 million additional dollars, with a 5% increase in each of the five years. A new program titled National Highway Freight has been included in the bill to deal with freight issues such as parking, climbing lanes, etc. on major freight routes to help with freight mobility. The state of Utah will receive an annual allocation from \$15 to \$25 million for this program. Myron Lee reported that increased funding will be coming to the MPO and this may require programming additional funds in 2016 and beyond. Kirk Thornock reported that TAP funds will be rolled into the STP fund category and may be somewhat easier to use
- B. Federal Oversight:** Myron Lee reported that Steve Call asked to be excused, but he will be attending the Transportation Expo next week.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Arthur LeBaron reported that the term for Cameron Cutler to serve as Chair of the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) has ended. This will be included as an agenda item for the next DTAC. The next DTAC meeting will be held Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at the Five County Association of Governments office.

The next DTEC meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016. Myron Lee reminded committee members that the Transportation Expo is scheduled for February 9, 2016.

Cameron Cutler provided a brief update regarding the School Traffic Safety Committee structure which has separated out emergency response from the committee. Ms. Jan Prince will provide an email to jurisdictions for requesting time on the agenda to discuss issues. The process seems to be working much better. He expressed thanks to the Washington County School District for efforts in this regard.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER, SECONDED BY CHUCK GILLETTE, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.