



# IRON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ICRTEC CHAIR—MAYOR MAILE WILSON • ICRTAC CHAIR—TOM STRATTON • PLANNING MANAGER—CURT HUTCHINGS

## MINUTES

### Rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC)

January 6, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Enoch City Offices

900 East Midvalley Road, Enoch, UT

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Maile Wilson  
Mayor Donald Landes  
Mayor Geoffrey Chestnut  
Commissioner Alma Adams  
Mr. Monte Aldridge

#### **REPRESENTING:**

Cedar City  
Parowan City  
Enoch City  
Iron County  
Utah Department of Transportation

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Mayor Connie Robinson  
Mayor Galen Allred

#### **REPRESENTING:**

Paragonah Town  
Kanarrville Town

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Tom Stratton  
Mr. Rick Holman  
Mr. Rob Dotson  
Mr. Dave Demas

#### **REPRESENTING:**

Brian Head Town  
Cedar City  
Enoch City  
Five County Assoc. of Governments

#### **I. Quorum Declaration**

The meeting was chaired by Mayor Maile Wilson. Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and declared that there was a quorum present for conduct of business.

#### **II. Approve Minutes for November 4, 2015**

Mayor Wilson presented minutes of the November 4, 2015 meeting for discussion and consideration.

**A motion was made by Mayor Donald Landes, seconded by Commissioner Alma Adams, to approve minutes of the November 4, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**



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### III. Project Prioritization List Approval

Mr. Demas reported that the Advisory Committee reprioritized the project list during their last meeting. Not a lot of changes made, but some projects were added to the list. A copy of the revised list was provided to members. Mayor Geoffrey asked for an explanation of the RPO. Mr. Demas explained that RPO stands for Rural Planning Organization, which is made up of two bodies, the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the Rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC). The Technical Advisory Committee is mainly comprised of public works directors and city managers, etc. The Executive Council is the group meeting today which is tasked as the decision making body for the RPO. The Iron County RPO encompasses the all of the cities in the valley, including Cedar, Enoch, Brian Head, Parowan, Paragonah and Kanarraville. This area has been designated as an urbanized cluster through the U.S. Census Bureau. This designation made it possible for the Rural Planning Organization to be established in Iron County. This was initially a partnership between UDOT and Iron County. UDOT funding diminished and the program is now fully funded by Iron County. The RTAC and RTEC groups are tasked to provide regional transportation planning for the area. The Transportation Advisory Committee members work together in providing recommendations to the Transportation Executive Council. Mr. Demas explained that he is a transportation planner with the Five County Association of Governments who serves as staff for the RPO. Mr. Demas indicated that he is also an engineer. The project list is developed for submission to UDOT for use in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The RPO differs from the MPO because there is no funding allocated by the RPO to projects. It is anticipated that growth in this area may reach the threshold in the next U.S. Census for designation as the next Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Once an area becomes large enough in population for MPO designation, planning dollars and funding to be programmed into projects becomes available. Mr. Monte Aldridge reported that collaboration of these groups helps to put a huge emphasis on projects that are funded by UDOT in this area. This provides a great opportunity for the county and cities to convey their needs to UDOT. Commissioner Alma Adams mentioned that there is a corridor preservation fund that is used to preserve corridor right-of-way.

Mr. Demas explained that over the past several years a prioritization list has been developed and updated for transportation projects in the area. UDOT moves projects forward from this list onto the STIP. The list is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Mr. Demas reviewed the spreadsheet capacity projects with two new projects as follows: 1) West View Drive and 2) Hunter Ridge Road reconstruction in Brian Head. The capacity projects have also been reprioritized to combine one of Cedar City's projects for right-of-way that was already funded, and most of the other



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projects remained the same as on the previous list. A copy of the previous project list is available upon request. The Kanarrville Interchange moved up in priority to #8. This was largely due to completion of the south leg of the belt route.

Mr. Demas referenced the safety project portion of the project list and reviewed changes. Three new projects were added to the safety list as follows: **1) State Route 143 safety/drainage**-- This project came from the Brian Head study and drainage problems that are causing safety issues; **2) SR-143 Passing Lanes**-- There is a need for additional lanes in certain areas to alleviate safety issues; and **3) Main Street Lighting Replacement**-- Cedar City added this project to address areas around Southern Utah University as well as light replacement on Main Street. The only other change is for the Parowan Main Street Bridge project which moved up to #2 on the list. Mayor Don Landes asked if it would be possible to cover this particular bridge. Mr. Monte Aldridge pointed out that this bridge is not on the state system. Mr. Demas noted that the rehabilitation of the bridge would address the walls, approach, guard rails, etc. These are deteriorated and need quite a bit of work. The actual bridge seems to be in pretty good condition. The City is attempting to make application to the Joint Highway Commission for some funding to rehabilitate this bridge. However, this is considered to be a local road. It may also be possible to extend the functional class system for one block to include this bridge structure.

Mr. Demad reviewed the studies list prioritization and noted that Enoch City is moving forward with their Transportation Master Plan. This project was moved up to the top of priorities because it will be occurring very soon. The remaining portions of the list for transportation alternatives and transit remain unchanged in terms of priorities or additions to the list.

Mr. Demas indicated that the Coal Creek Road project has been moved into the funded project category on the list. The south leg of the belt route which was recently completed by Iron County has moved onto the completed project list.

This completes review of recommendations made by the Iron County Transportation Advisory Committee for consideration of the Executive Council. It is good to note that project is being made by looking at the list of funded and completed projects.

**A motion was made by Mayor Donald Landes to approve the Iron County Rural Planning Organization Transportation Priority List as reviewed and presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Malie Wilson and carried by unanimous vote.**



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**A motion was made by Mayor Donald Landes that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Iron County Transportation Executive Council will now serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of Iron County Coordinating Council. The motion was seconded by Mayor Geoffrey Chestnut. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Demas reported that once the prioritized project list is signed by Mayor Wilson, it will be submitted to UDOT for Region Four STIP discussion.

#### **IV. UDOT Update**

Mr. Monte Aldridge, Pre-construction Engineer for UDOT Region Four, who as part of his planning responsibilities participates in the Iron County RPO as a voting member on the Transportation Advisory Committee and Executive Council. He demonstrated navigation the UDOT website to show information about upcoming construction projects for this year that are located in the area. A GIS interactive map is helpful in accessing project information. Utilizing the county tab on the map it is easy to view specific project details. Projects under construction may actually be those that have advertised and are not currently under construction. UDOTs goal is to advertise projects between October and February each year. This is the best time to advertise and obtain favorable prices. A detailed summary sheet is imbedded with a hyperlink in each project depicted on the map. Some projects include pavement preservation versus a complete reconstruction of the road. Updates on projects are made as the project goes into substantial completion. Projects that would be most pertinent in the coming year are those under design. During a past flooding event in Nevada, traffic was diverted to SR-56 out of Nevada into Cedar City. This increase in traffic caused a lot of damage to this road because the road is not designed to handle all of the heavy loads. Initial funding for this project was less than \$100,000 to address those challenges. However, FHWA recently approved emergency funding of \$7.5 million for SR-56 improvements. Since the flooding incident, UDOT has been re-examining the type of road that SR-56 functions as, especially as a detour route. UDOTs emphasis is to now maintain this road at the highest level possible. The SR-56 project will advertise this month, with construction to begin in June 2016. This project will consist of an overlay and rehabilitation work. He shared another example with the Coal Creek Road that is a local project. Each project contains a basis data sheet that explains what the project will provide for the travelling public. Anyone can access this information through the internet.

Mr. Aldridge reported that some leadership changes have occurred within UDOT. The programming and development group has been led by Corry Pope for the past number of years. Corry Pope has retired and Nathan Lee has been moved into his



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vacated position. Brian Adams, a Parowan native, has moved to Region Two as the Director.

## V. Next Year's Schedule

Mr. Dave Demas provided a copy of the 2016 annual meeting schedule and an updated contact list.

## VI. Other Discussion Items

**A. Next meeting, Date and Location:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2016 at the Parowan City Office. This will be the same day as the Iron County Coordinator's meeting.

## VII. Adjourn

**A motion was made by Commissioner Alma Adams, seconded by Mr. Geoffrey Chestnut, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.