

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

Five County Regional Mobility Council Meeting

March 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 W. 1600 S. Building B, St. George UT

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Mike Earl
Ms. Christine Holliday
Mr. Curtis Crawford
Ms. Donna Chynoweth
Ms. Sheila Shotwell
Mr. Todd Edwards
Mr. Neal Smith
Mr. Fred Davies
Mr. Clint Cottam

REPRESENTING

Red Rock Center for Independence
Washington County Council on Aging
Iron County Council on Aging
Garfield County Council on Aging
Beaver County Council on Aging
Washington County Public Works
Southwest Center for Behavioral Health
SunTran Manager
Five County AOG Community Action Planner

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIA TELEPHONE

Ms. Fayann Christensen

Kane County Council on Aging

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Jeff Turek
Mr. Dennis Broad
Ms. Susan Johnson

REPRESENTING

Washington City Councilmember
Department of Workforce Services
TURN Community Services

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jay Aguilar
Dave Demas
Robin Erickson
Diane Lamoreaux

REPRESENTING

Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments
Utah Clean Cities Coalition
Volunteer

QUORUM & MINUTES

I. **Welcome and Call to Order**

Mr. Earl, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. It was noted that a quorum was expected for conduct of business. While waiting for anticipated members to arrive, he asked Ms. Erickson to provide the Clean Cities update, Agenda Item #III.

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

PLANNING AND REPORTS

III. Clean Cities Update

Ms. Robin Erickson, Executive Director for Utah Clean Cities, provided a handout outlining various sources of loan and grant funding through the Utah Clean Fuels and Vehicles Technology Grant and Loan Program. Funding is provided to assist businesses and government entities. Three low-interest loan/grant programs are available as follows: **1) Low interest loans are available to cover the cost of converting vehicles to a cleaner burning fuel--** Grants are available to cover 50% of the cost of conversion; **2) Low interest loans are also available to cover the incremental cost of a clean fuel OEM vehicle--** Grants cover 50% of costs; and **3) Low-interest loans to cover the cost of clean fuel refueling equipment for a private sector business vehicle or a government vehicle--** Grants are available to cover these costs. There will be approximately \$200,000 available on October 1, 2016 for these grant/loan programs. Those interested in receiving the funding solicitation need to contact Ms. Erickson. State staff with the Division of Air Quality failed to include funding in last year's legislative appropriations request, but there is some funding that is available from repayment of current loans. One caution is that the vehicles cannot be purchased prior to the application process and release of funds. Lisa Burr is the contact person for these programs and her contact information is included on the handout. Funding for eligible projects is also provided for diesel retrofits, engine upgrades, idle reduction technologies, low-rolling resistance tires, and vehicle or equipment replacements. Applications for the CARROT grant program is currently closed, but the new application cycle will begin in October 2016.

Ms. Erickson reported that an alternative energy vehicle grant may become available through the U.S. Department of Energy, but this will be allocated through a very quick process. Notice will be forwarded as soon as an allocation is announced. Match funding is required for the allocation of federal dollars. Ms. Erickson provided cards with her contact information and encouraged committee members to call if interested in receiving notification about potential funding opportunities.

QUORUM & MINUTES

II. Approval of December 17, 2015 Minutes

Mr. Earl, Chair, acknowledged that a quorum had arrived and entertained discussion and/or consideration of a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 17, 2015 Regional Mobility Council.

A motion was made by Christine Holliday, seconded by Fred Davies, to approve minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

PLANNING AND REPORTS

IV. COA Director Reports

Ms. Chynoweth, Garfield County, reported that things are going well in Garfield County in terms of transportation services. Low gas prices are allowing a number of trips and opportunity for elderly individuals to participate in various trips. On the other side, there has been a tremendous impact of job loss that is tied to the energy industry. Trips to the doctor and/or shopping are being offered even if the bus is not totally full. All vehicles are running well with the exception of one meals-on-wheels truck. A new ADA bus is anticipated for arrival in the near future.

Mr. Crawford, Iron County, reported that things are going well in Iron County in terms of transportation. He noted that windshields need to be inspected and replaced at intervals to prevent more expensive repairs down the road. One of their vehicles has electrical issues that resulted from windshield leakage.

Ms. Holliday, Washington County, reported that Washington County is still experiencing repairs needed on their buses, but is able to service all of their clients by doubling up on buses. In addition, one of the bus drivers is going in for surgery and they have not been successful in finding an alternate bus driver with a CDL license. A new meals-on-wheels truck is on order and anticipated for delivery within the next few weeks. The County is considering purchase of a Sprinter van to assist with transporting clients.

Ms. Christensen, Kane County, reported that things are going well in Kane County. Trips are being made to Cedar City and St. George and the buses are generally full. Drivers for Kane County do not hold CDL licenses because the vans are under 16 passengers. Fred Davies indicated that drivers must have an endorsement Z license to carry passengers even if less than 16 persons are carried in the vehicle. This is the same type of license that is required for a taxi driver that is transporting people. This requires a separate test at the Driver's License Division.

Ms. Shotwell reported that the bus at the Beaver Senior Citizens Center gets a lot of use between centers and for trips to Cedar City and St. George. The bus stationed in Minersville is not utilized mainly because a driver is not available. The bus in Milford is experiencing problems with its battery not holding a charge. This will hopefully be resolved soon.

V. Transit Director Reports

Mr. Davies, SunTran, reported that not much has changed since the last report to this committee. Recent job postings for two full-time and two part-time drivers resulted in one qualified applicant. It is becoming more and more difficult to recruit new drivers because of the low wage and limited hours. SunTran pays \$11.25 per hour for drivers and has not been successful in getting increases in this wage. SunTran is currently in the process of redesigning their system to provide better service to those utilizing the system. A survey is being conducted that is available online and will be open for about another month's period of time. It is anticipated that the redesign of the system will

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

provide faster service at more frequent intervals. Staff will be reaching out to other communities who may be interested in expanding services. Articles have been published in The Spectrum regarding the redesign study and need for input from the public. Washington City and Santa Clara City officials have been in contact to request cost estimates for service expansion into their cities. It is hoped that the system will be more regionalized in the future. Staff is hopeful that ridership will increase once the system redesign is completed and implemented.

Mr. Davies reported that the Ridgetop Complex in St. George will be the site for our Southern has been scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2016 for the Bus Rodeo. There will be opportunity for everyone to volunteer for setup of the event, judging, and other organization and staffing. This will be a full-size course for both full size and cut-away bus drivers to participate. URSTA provides a training component as part of the event, and provides up to \$2,000 to cover event costs. Those having to travel a long distance may have to stay overnight in hotels and reimbursement will be available. Planning for the event needs to begin immediately. The event application must be submitted to St. George City 45 days in advance of the event. Ms. Christensen reported that she has experience with a similar event in Kanab and would be willing to assist with planning, setup and participation in a conference call next week. She suggested contact with Jim and Carma Sly of Beaver to assist with judging the event. Neal Smith offered assistance to judge the event. Ms. Robin Erickson indicated that she would be willing to participate in the conference call as well. Mr. Davies explained that the event has components for wheel chair loading and securing, vehicle pre and post inspection, driving the course, etc. Mr. Smith reported that judging the event is very simple and not a technical process. A rider must be on each bus to provide scoring. The Area Agency on Aging Directors reported that they have drivers that may be interested in participating. Mr. Davies indicated that drivers of the SunTran buses in St. George have been issued tickets for improper turning and merging into traffic. Mr. Cottam indicated that he would assist with scoring and may be able to line up some volunteers to assist in setting up the course. Mr. Aguilar indicated that he would be available to assist with event planning as well as the event itself.

VI. Non-Profit Transportation Providers

Mr. Earl reported that the Red Rock Center for Independence purchased a Chevy Astro Van with a recon lift on the side for transporting their clients. The van is good for transporting one person in a wheelchair as well as two to three others. He noted that wheelchairs could be provided for the Bus Rodeo if needed.

Mr. Smith, Southwest Behavioral Health Center, reported that all of their vehicles are running well, but they are having trouble with a lift on one of the buses. He asked for suggestions of a local vendor that may be able to work on the lift. Mr. Davies indicated that he will ask his mechanics where the work could be done and forward that information.

Mr. Cottam reported that the Utah State Legislature made some changes to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program in terms of local match requirements. These changes could impact the nonprofit organizations such as TURN and Red Rock Center for

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

Independence who utilize SSBG funds. Staff will work with these organizations to determine how to best meet the match requirements. Nonprofit organizations will need to be specific in terms of what funds are used for match.

VII. Mobility Management Report

New Mobility Manager, Jay Aguilar, provided his business card with contact information as well as a new annual meeting schedule and contact list for the Regional Mobility Council. The new schedule reflects changes from the previous RMC meeting discussion. Meetings will be held in the Five County AOG office conference room beginning at 10:00 a.m. He also outlined the UDOT application process, letter of intent submission, and submission of applications in November of each year. The AOG reviewed and prioritized projects during December and January. At this point the process will begin for the new funding cycle. Notification from UDOT about funding requests is anticipated in the near future. This information will be forwarded as soon as it becomes available.

Mr. Aguilar introduced himself noting that he previously worked for the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization and served as the Director of Community and Economic Development for the Bear River Association of Governments. He will be working as the regional mobility manager and looks forward to working with the mobility council in this capacity. He stated that he is looking forward to providing support where needed. Over the next months he will be scheduling site visits around the region to discuss services and needs that need to be addressed.

Several committee members explained that their greatest need at this time is recruiting young drivers who may stay with the agency for some time. Mr. Davies reported that his challenge is mainly due to low wages being offered to drivers. It's difficult to pay drivers at SunTran \$11.35 per hour when they can go to work for the Washington County School District for \$14.00 per hour. Some individuals that have applied have been professional truck drivers and they are not willing to work for that low of a wage. It has been difficult to educate management at St. George City in terms of the need to increase wages in order to recruit drivers for SunTran. Years of service are not taken into account for increased wages and this makes it difficult to retain drivers.

Mr. Aguilar also reported on the Scope of Work submitted to the Economic Development Administration. It has been expanded to fill in gaps between what UDOT funds and other mobility management needs throughout the region. This should provide the opportunity for staff to provide more seamless services in the mobility management arena.

VIII. Bus Shelter Work Group

Mr. Demas provided a brief update on the bus shelter work progress. The work group has not met for some time and staff will be working to schedule a meeting in the near future. The proposed bus stop near Lin's Grocery Store on Sunset Boulevard is still in the hands of the attorneys for both the business and the City. It has been difficult to get the attorneys to communicate directly in order to draft the agreement and get approval to move forward. The city attorney has several issues with the easement agreement, but these should be a fairly simple to resolve. Mr. Davies indicated that he would have

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

a conversation with Cameron Cutler, Public Works Director, regarding the remaining issues. It was noted that the bus shelters are prefabricated and can be easily moved if necessary. Mr. Demas stated that there has been some positive movement on the Dixie Drive easement. It is very important that shelters are put in place for these two locations, even if they need to be moved in the future. One other concern we are taking into consideration is the possibility that the bus shelters may need to be moved as an outcome of the study/redesign of the SunTran system that is currently underway. Mr. Davies reported that a new onboard passenger counting system will be in place by the end of 2016 that will assist in gathering numbers for each stop. He also noted that the percentage of double counted passengers on SunTran is very small. Numbers have increased dramatically and it has been difficult to communicate this change to the City Council. Unless you ride the bus regularly, it's hard to understand that the buses are full, with standing room only in many instances. This is a very good transit system that continues to expand with the population. The system is averaging over 100 DSU students, staff and/or faculty members daily. More definitive numbers will be provided over time. The bus pass information was not fully published prior to fall semester, but it will be included in future semester publications. DSC is paying \$21,600 to SunTran for participation and including a small fee onto student tuition. There have not been a lot of businesses willing to offer passes to employees, but this is an area that will be explored in the future.

Mr. Demas indicated that we have continued to explore and promote the same type of partnership between SUU and CATS to provide student passes in Cedar City. This will assist in generating matching funds for operating capital for the transportation system. Mr. Davies indicated that he would be willing to assist staff in meeting with SUU to explain how the agreement with SunTran and DSU has been very beneficial to both the University and St. George City.

OTHER

IX. FTA Grant Application Update

Mr. Aguilar indicated that this information was shared under a previous agenda item.

X. Review Action Items

Mr. Demas reported that there are no new action items carrying over from the previous meeting. The only pending item is TURN lobbying the legislature to communicate needs in this area, but has no new information to share regarding progress at this time.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Cottam reported that some issues have surfaced with match funding from the Community Services Block Grant program. It was previously proposed that CSBG funds be utilized to expand the travel voucher program. UDOT state staff was not comfortable with utilizing CSBG funds to expand the program, even though CSBG funds have been utilized in different parts of the country for this program. Because of UDOT staff's concerns regarding the use CSBG funds for match, the application was pulled. It was recommended that an application to the Department of Workforce Services for this funding may be more appropriate. There is still funding available for flexible gas

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

vouchers, and the program is being utilized in Garfield County. Beaver and Kane counties will still have the opportunity to participate in this program. Mr. Aguilar noted that staff will continue to work with UDOT to reach some agreement for use of CSBG funds. At this point, UDOT is trying to focus the use of funds for buses and capital expenses rather than expansion of programs such as flexible gas vouchers.

Mr. Cottam also asked that council members utilize social media to communicate with CAP staff at Five County. The federal government has requested that staff increase the usage of social media in providing services to clients. Information on the gas voucher program is available on the CAP website as well as through social media.

XII. Adjourn

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Five County AOG offices in St. George.