

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 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
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Branden Anderson, UDOT, Region Four
Fred Davies, St. George City Transit Manager
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Director, Five County AOG
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
Kathy Starks, UDOT, Region Four
Ed Baca, St. George City Council
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Health Department
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Susan Crook, Conserve Southwest Utah
Diane Lamoreaux, Volunteer

ABSENT

Ty Brinkerhoff, Toquerville City
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Escused)
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer

Arthur LeBaron, 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 March 2, 2016 Meeting:** Arthur LeBaron, Chair, presented minutes from the March 2, 2016 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2016 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

- B. Annual Work Program (UPWP) / Budget Report:** Myron Lee provided copies of the annual work program for FY 2017 to committee members and highlighted some of the items that are accomplished under the work plan. The plan is submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and UDOT for approval. Eldon Bingham, UDOT State Planning Office, assists the MPO in development and execution of the annual work plans. Budget amounts are outlined under each category including: **1) Administration-- \$33,037; 2) Long Range Planning-- \$139,698; 3) Short Range Planning-- \$210,028; 4) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)-- \$28,317; 5) Service-- \$40,116; and 6) Public Involvement-- \$20,766.** There is \$8,049 held in contingency. The total budget of \$480,000 is available beginning July 1, 2016. The work plan outlines items to be accomplished during the upcoming fiscal year. Staff accomplished a number of goals over the past year including the review of the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan to ensure the future of the Northern Corridor transportation route. This route will hopefully be one of the provisions included in the final plan document that is scheduled for completion in December 2016. There are contingency plans and avenues in the event that the route is not included. There are currently two transit studies underway that will be discussed later today. The MPO Regional Transportation Plan was updated last year and MPO staff has assisted in review of local jurisdiction' transportation master plans. A draft of the UPWP was presented to the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee at their last meeting and a couple of suggested modifications have been incorporated into the plan. There is not a lot of change in comparison to last year's work plan. The budget has increased by \$12,000. The vote share remains at \$5,000 for larger participating entities, with St. George City having three vote shares. LaVerkin, Toquerville and Leeds contribute funds based on a 1/3 vote share. The local match included in the budget comes from vote share contributions. UDOT participates as a voting member with no match contribution. Washington County also participates as a voting member with in-kind contributions. Mr. Elden Bingham asked if there are any carryover funds from the previous year. Mr. Myron Lee indicated that there is \$10,000 in carryover funds that is included in the budget. Local match totals \$39,999.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CHUCK GILLETTE TO RECOMMEND THE FY 2017 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (DTEC) FOR FORMAL APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. LONG RANGE PLAN

- A. Long Range Plan Amendment: 1-15 Interchange Improvements at SR-9:** Myron Lee explained that members of DTAC previously discussed this plan amendment to move this project from Phase II into Phase I. A 30 day comment period was held throughout the month of April and no comments were provided. DTAC members are being asked to recommend action to the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC).

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAY SANDBERG, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO RECOMMEND TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC) MOVING THE SR-9/I-15, EXIT 16 PROJECT FROM PHASE II

**INTO PHASE I OF THE LONG RANGE PLAN PHASED PROJECT LIST. MOTION
CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. St. George City Study:** Cameron Cutler reported that the consultant has collected all of the pertinent data for this study and has reviewed some possible options in draft alternatives that may be considered. The study focus is to shorten routes and provide more efficient transit services. One option is to shorten routes to 30 minute cycles, hit stops that are most used on existing routes, number and size of stops that are used, etc. The anticipated result of the study will provide a more efficient design and options for existing and/or additional route expansion. There are currently six routes being utilized, with one route of these being shared with Ivins City. With the anticipated move of the Dixie Technology College to the ridge top, there may be a need to expand and/or add additional routes into this area. Fred Davies reported that the next step will be a public survey that will be available on the SunTran website. A meeting to solicit public input is scheduled for May 25th. The consultant will be making a formal presentation to DTEC at their May or June meeting. Information will be forwarded to DTAC members outlining the date and time of this presentation.
- B. St. George to Springdale Study:** Dave Demas provided an update regarding the St. George to Springdale Transit Study. The kickoff meeting for this study was held in November 2015. The focus of the study is to analyze the feasibility of establishing a transit route from St. George to Springdale for a target audience that may also be beneficial to Springdale in solving some issues in terms of parking. A Steering Committee has been established to provide oversight for the study. The consultant and MPO staff have also been working closely with DTEC, UDOT, SunTran, Zion National Park, etc. Focus meetings were held in Springdale, Hurricane and St. George. The meetings in Hurricane and Springdale were very successful, but the meeting in St. George was not as successful. There were also three public meetings held in Springdale, Hurricane and St. George to gather information. Again, the meeting in St. George was not well attended. The consultant has been working on the demographic analysis and has provided a draft of the partial technical memorandum to staff for review. Copies of the technical memorandum were provided to committee members. The technical memorandum in its entirety is anticipated within the next week. The document is quite long, but it provides a flavor of the analysis and data collection. The consultant is also working with Zion National Park to solve some of the transportation/parking issues in the park. The study may be a little bit behind schedule, but work is progressing. It is anticipated that a presentation will be made at the June 15, 2016 DTEC meeting. It may be possible that the consultant could provide a presentation to DTAC via electronic participation. The consultant is currently working on draft alternatives for how a system would operate, what entity would assume responsibility, possible incorporation into SunTran, etc. It is anticipated that additional information will be provided to the MPO in mid-May. Information has been shared with this consultant in order for coordination with consultants who are working on the SunTran Transit Study. Cameron Cutler was asked to followup to make sure that coordination has been established. Staff is anxious to see the alternatives and future public outreach for review of the study. A survey that was made available on the consultants website was completed by 100 participants. He

shared the website address with members as follows:
www.kfhgroup.com/utah/transitfeasibilityplan

4. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. **Merrill Road funding from TIP Year 2020 to TIP Year 2017:** Myron Lee provided a TIP handout sheet to members and noted that cash flow information is included. There is adequate cash flow to facilitate moving the Merrill Road project from TIP year 2020 to TIP year 2017. Because the Mall Drive Underpass and River Road Ft. Pierce Wash projects will not be utilizing federal funds that were previously programmed for 2017 and 2019, it is possible to move the Merrill Road project to the earlier TIP year. Mike Shaw explained that the extension of Merrill Road is a high priority project for the Washington City Council. Right-of-way work is progressing and it is anticipated that construction will move forward very quickly. This local road helps to accommodate traffic from the Mall Drive Bridge and Mall Drive Underpass. It was noted that COG funds are being utilized for the right-of-way acquisition. Merrill Road provides a tie into the Washington Fields Road and the Southern Parkway.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ARHTUR LEBARON, SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC) TO MOVE THE MERRILL ROAD PROJECT FROM TIP YEAR 2020 TO TIP YEAR 2017. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

5. SERVICES

- a. **Call for Planning Grant Projects:** Myron Lee reported that the Dixie MPO will be releasing a call for planning grant projects for funds that will be available July 1, 2016. There will be \$150,000 in funding available for studies such as transportation master plans, travel demand modeling, and/or studies such as previously completed studies on River Road, Green Springs Drive and Telegraph. Planning grant funds for the previous year were utilized for the transit studies and a bike ped plan. An email will be forwarded to jurisdictions requesting potential project concepts be submitted at the June DTAC meeting. Toquerville City has expressed interest in updating their master transportation plan. Arthur LeBaron reported that at some point Hurricane City will need to update their Master Transportation Plan, but some legal issues with a large block of land need to be settled prior to any update. Myron Lee reported that there are no carryover funds from last year. Funds can flow directly to cities as long as the MPO share of funds is not in excess of 50%. The MPO must manage projects that receive in excess of 50% of the total project.

6. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the Purgatory Road Environmental Assessment is ongoing. A local project on 400 South in Hurricane will be out for bid within the next few weeks. This is a complete reconstruction of 400 South for approximately four blocks. The project will include stripped bike lanes and planters between the curb and sidewalk. He indicated that there will be several road closures at the end of this week to accommodate the Iron Man race.

- B. Ivins:** Chuck Gillette reported that construction on the Old Highway 91 project is moving along. Jack Taylor indicated that work is progressing on the trail, installation of conduit and installation of utilities. Chuck Gillette also reported that Ivins City has completed and adopted their Master Transportation Plan.
- C. LaVerkin:** None.
- D. Leeds:** None.
- E. St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that work is on schedule for culvert extensions on Red Hills Parkway. The creation of wetland areas was completed as part of the mitigation for this project. This was a requirement of the Army Corps of Engineers. The wetland corridor has been documented and will remain in the control of St. George City. Completion is anticipated by May 14th in order for UDOT to proceed with their construction project. A seal project was recently completed on a small section of Red Hills Parkway utilizing a new application process that is supposed to last longer. It is anticipated that the application will provide better friction on this roadway. Staff is concerned about utilizing a chip and seal for this high speed road. This is a test project completed by Straight Stripe with newly acquired equipment.
- The planned signal for 1600 South Dixie Drive is on schedule. The signal on 3000 East Mall Drive and Merrill Road was rotated on the base as a result of a recent accident and is currently not operational. Personnel is working to determine if the poll and signal arm can be used without having to order new ones.
- F. Santa Clara:** Included under Ivins project report.
- G. Toquerville:** None
- H. Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the Washington Fields Road project is moving forward with paving anticipated on Thursday and Friday of this week. The final inspection is anticipated next week. He reported that the contractor, PCI, has done a real good job on this project.
- I. Washington County:** Todd Edwards reported that Lochner Engineering has been selected for the Old Highway 91 project. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall. The project will include safety improvements such as culverts, clear zones, guardrail, etc. The total project cost is \$1.9 million. An additional \$800,000 in federal funds has been allocated for improvements on Old Highway 91 and the Pine Valley Highway. Additional funding was received because of cluster accident studies on these routes. Washington County was approached to complete an application for the additional funds.

Todd Edwards reported that the Washington County COG met last night to approve a request by UDOT for an easement on a piece of property on Bluff Street south of Smith's. This provided right-of-way clarification for a small project for temporary construction in the area that will assist with the land expansion to three turning lanes onto Tabernacle Street. Branden Anderson noted that this accommodates changes

to the driveway that will allow UDOT to avoid demolition of the existing building in this area. UDOT will be paying funds into the COG for this particular project. A property management company, NAI, was approved to collect rents and manage the property in an appropriate manner. He also reported that there are a lot of funds available in the corridor preservation fund. Approval for use of these funds is provided with a time line for completion. Some projects may need to apply for extensions once the deadline approaches. It was noted that UDOT will identify potential willing sellers on Bluff Street, but St. George City will complete the sales utilizing COG funds. There may be some acquisitions that are controversial, but there are definitely some willing sellers.

- J. UDOT:** Branden Anderson reported that UDOT may be doing a few mini projects on Bluff Street prior to the full blown widening project. Wadsworth Brothers has been selected as the contractor for the widening project on I-15 between mileposts 8 and 10. This will include auxiliary lanes on both sides of I-15 as well as the Mall Drive Underpass. The SR-9 project from Rockville to Zion National Park is under design. The project will be broken into phases with construction anticipated in 2017. UDOT is working with communities in the area to make sure that their desires are included for consideration. Construction is anticipated for October 2016. The I-15 Brigham Road to Dixie Drive project is under design, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2017. A reconstruction project in Hurricane from 700 to 300 West is anticipated to occur during the summer months. A preconstruction conference for the Quail Creek Road, SR-318, will be held tomorrow. Construction is anticipated to begin within the next two weeks. There is also a chip and seal project that will be occurring on SR-18.

UDOT recently conducted meetings with Rockville Town officials and the citizenry to determine the appropriate course of action for rehabilitation or replacement of the old bridge in Rockville that serves as the transportation route to the Grafton Area. UDOT officials were on hand to explain why a new bridge is needed. However, it is the desire of the majority of residents and elected officials to rehabilitate the old bridge rather than to construct a new bridge. This action will be taken to the Joint Highway Committee for consideration and/or formal approval. It is proposed that this will remain a one lane road over the bridge. UDOT will oversee the project and has suggested that the town complete a Master Transportation Plan.

Branden Anderson announced that he will be leaving the UDOT Dixie Team to return to Richfield. However, he will remain as the project manager for the Bluff Street widening project. Kris Hall will be the new project manager in the Dixie area and he will assume management of the majority of projects.

7. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** Elden Brinham reported that he is working with the MPO's throughout the state to assist with their annual Unified Work Programs. He also noted that the Environmental Protection Agency has released new ozone standards which dropped from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. The St. George area is at around 62 parts per billion and will not be reach a non-attainment status. All of the Wasatch Front, including Utah County, will be non-attainment. Zion National Park may reach a non-attainment status on the federal side. The ozone during summer months in the park is pretty high.

B. Federal Oversight: Steve Call asked to be excused.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES

The next DTEC meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2016 and the next DTAC meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

DRAFT