

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
MAY 18, 2016**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan Gardner, County Commission Chair
Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Vice Chairman Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City Council
Bette Arial, St. George City Council, Senator Mike Lee's Office
Kerry Gubler, LaVerkin Mayor

OTHERS PRESENT

Victor Iverson, Commissioner
Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor
Arthur Lebaron, Hurricane City
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Jim McConnell, UDOT Program Engineer, Region 4
Rick Torgerson, UDOT Regional Director, Region 4
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Chuck Gillett, Ivins City
Adam Snow, Congressman Chris Stewart's Office
Hayden Ballard, Congressman Chris Stewart's Office
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Craig Shanklin, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Tim Tabor, Southern Utah Bicycle Alliance
Susan Crook, Conserve Southwest Utah

EXCUSED

Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance. It was established that a quorum existed for voting on action items.

BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2016 Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Bette Arial to Approve the Minutes from the April 20, 2016, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Mayor Pike and carried by unanimous vote.

B. Long Range Plan Amendment (I-15 Interchange Improvements at SR9) Recommendation from DTAC

Myron Lee stated that when the Long Range Plan was put together last year, the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) inadvertently put the SR-9 Interchange Modifications into Phase 2, rather than Phase 1. There is sufficient funding in the Phase 1 fiscal constraints to allow an amendment modification in the Long Range Plan to add the SR-9 modifications into Phase 1. In the March 16, 2016 DTEC meeting, the committee approved the amendment and a thirty (30) day public comment period was set. No comments were made within the thirty (30) days and the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) is now recommending final approval from the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC).

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Approve the Long Range Amendment; Moving SR-9 Interchange Modification from Phase 2 to Phase 1. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote.

C. TIP Amendment – Merrill Road from TIP Year 2020 to TIP Year 2017

DTAC voted in January and approved the Merrill Road project to be listed for funding in the Year 2020. Washington City has since made a proposal to move the project funding to the Year 2017. If approved, funding is available to meet the needs of this request. DTAC has reviewed the request and is recommending DTEC approve it.

Mike Shaw mentioned that preliminary designs are already underway.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pike to Approve the TIP Amendment; Moving Merrill Road from TIP Year 2020 to TIP Year 2017. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS / DISCUSSIONS

A. JPAC Report

Ken Sizemore stated that the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) did a legislative wrap-up during the May 5th meeting in Utah County; discussing Senate Bill 80 and House Bill 318. The Utah Transit Authority reviewed the Transit Bill of Rights and their

core transit network. JPAC then discussed the earmark process that was done away with approximately five (5) years ago; wherein, Congress would designate a certain dollar amount for specific projects across the country. Although earmarking is no longer practiced, over the years those earmarked projects have built-up with no latitude to move the earmarked money from one project to another in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) process. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is moving earmarked funds into federally funded projects that already have very specific requirements attached to it; thereby allowing more latitude. Senate Bill 80 also allows earmarked funds to go towards the Water Development Fund.

Lastly, the Transportation Commission meetings are now streamed live. In addition, UTA will begin live streaming their meetings starting in June 2016.

The June JPAC meeting will be held at the American West Heritage Center in Logan, Utah.

B. Funding, Corridors, and Traffic Congestion

Mr. Lee gave a PowerPoint presentation on Long Range Plan funding, and explained the steps taken to form a travel demand model to forecast traffic. The traffic model showed maps and statistics explaining the repercussions if building new roads does not occur vs. building new roads, and went into detail on the following: amount of traffic congestion in the year 2040, roads that would reach a volume of ninety percent (90%) in the year 2040, and traffic delays in the years 2015, 2035 and 2040. Mr. Lee then went on to explain the roads that were dependent on new revenue, either from the Local Option Sales Tax or some other means.

(See the PowerPoint presentation)

C. Local Option Sales Tax

Director of Government Relations Political Affairs for the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of the Utah Transportation Coalition Abby Albrecht, through telephone conversation discussed with DTEC the House Bill 362, Proposition 1 Local Option Sales Tax. Ms. Albrecht explained the efforts and campaign in northern Utah last year to have Proposition 1 placed on the ballot. From those efforts, 10 out of the 17 counties voted in favor of the tax. Those counties will begin to see the revenues from the tax in July.

Washington County needs to make a decision of whether to put it on the ballot by mid-August.

Ms. Albrecht went on to explain three scenarios in which Washington County can approach putting Proposition 1 on the ballot and explained that the first scenario is to do

nothing and leave it to the voter information base. The second scenario involves educating the public, in which Ms. Albrecht is willing to offer assistance that involves materials and limited support for a fee. The third scenario involves using a Political Information Committee (PIC) to advocate with private funding.

(See Abby Albrecht's Local Option Sales Tax handout for additional details)

Ms. Albrecht reiterated that the main message to the citizens should be that: Transportation is the backbone of the economy and continues to move goods and services.

DTEC determined that the second scenario makes the most sense for Washington County and discussed additional ways the public could become more educated on the topic through websites, newsletters, Community Education Channel (CEC), signs, the St. George Chamber of Commerce, etc. County and city funds can be utilized in the education process.

It was reiterated that putting Proposition 1 on the ballot simply gives voters the opportunity to decide if they are in favor of the tax or not.

Mayor Pike and Mayor Bramall spoke in favor of the second scenario and suggested that they would be willing to share the cost.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS UPDATES

A. UDOT Updates

Rick Torgerson stated that construction will begin on I-15 from mile markers eight through ten (8-10) on May 31st. This will ultimately add an additional lane in each direction with an underpass between Red Cliffs Drive and Red Hills Parkway, across from Red Cliffs Mall. Two lanes of I-15 in each direction will remain open during the daylight hours and one (1) lane in each direction will be maintained at night. Completion of this project is estimated to be in November.

Design work and bridge design has begun on the Brigham Road to Dixie Drive project, with construction starting in January 2017.

In their April meeting, the Joint Highway Committee awarded funds for the restoration of the Rockville Bridge.

Naghi Zeenati participated in the April STIP workshop meeting where a list was presented of programmable preservation, rehabilitation, new capacity and widening projects. The proposal is now out for public comment. Two (2) passing lanes on SR-9 is one of the projects on the proposed list.

A corridor study analysis will begin on SR-59 to determine what can be done to increase safety and mobility. In addition, UDOT is also looking at doing an analysis study from I-15 to St. George Boulevard on Bluff Street, as well as starting a study to determine if there is a better connection for the easterly side of I-15 and St. George Boulevard; more specifically, is there a way to make a better connection to I-15 and Red Hills Parkway without having to go through the exit eight (8) interchange.

The Road Respect group from the Division of Public Safety begins their Southern Tour May 19, 2016 in Richfield. May 20th they will be in Cedar City and Parowan and Saturday, May 21st they will be in Enterprise.

Lastly, the SR-9 rehabilitation project, from 300 West to 700 West, will begin June 6, 2016.

B. Federal Updates

Bette Arial explained that Senator Lee is fighting for balance of power and voted against the National Defense Authorization Act due to it including the draft of women between the years of eighteen to twenty-five (18-25), required registration through selective service, and also the authorization of millions of dollars into Syria for training six (6) individuals.

Adam Snow mentioned that Congressman Stewart is making headway on the Northern Corridor and should have additional information within a few months.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Pike expressed that in the near future, the City of St. George will likely be asking the MPO if funding can be made available to extend 2450 South in St. George (Little Valley to Washington Fields). The school district will be building two to three (2-3) new schools within a two (2) block area. Two-thirds of the population will be bused from St. George to the new schools and currently there are no existing paved roads that lead to the new schools.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: June 15, 2016

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nicholle Felshaw