



EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RTEC CHAIR-TOM HIRSCHI RTAC CHAIR-ARTHUR LEBARON PLANNING MANAGER-CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (RTEC)

Hurricane City Hall
147 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT

Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 1:30 pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner James Eardley

Mayor Karl Wilson

Mr. Arthur LeBaron representing

Mayor Tom Hirschi

Mayor Darrin LeFevre

REPRESENTING:

Washington County

LaVerkin City

Hurricane City

Toquerville City

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Tom Hirschi

Mayor Hyrum Lefler

Mr. Dana Meier

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City

Leeds Town

Utah Dept of Transportation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Dave Demas

Ms. Doni Pack

Mr. Curt Hutchings

REPRESENTING:

HORROCKS Engineers

Five County Assoc. of Governments

Five County Assoc. of Governments

I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUOROM DECLARATION

Mayor Karl Wilson, Vice-Chair welcomed all in attendance at 1:35 pm. There was a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Mayor Wilson presented the Minutes of the February 24, 2011 meeting to the Council for consideration and approval:



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**A motion was made by Commissioner James Eardley, seconded by Mr. Arthur LeBaron, to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2011 Rural Transportation Executive Council meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A. Introduction

Mr. Curt Hutchings reviewed the contents of the draft Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization (EWCRO) Regional Transportation Plan 2011-2040 for review by the Council. No significant questions for comments were generated.

B. Trails Chapter

Ms. Doni Pack gave an overview of the Trail chapter of the same Plan. Again, no questions or comments were generated.

Both sections of the Plan had been delivered to the EWCRO Advisory Committee (RTAC) a month earlier and no comments had been received by Five County Association of Governments (AOG) staff.

IV. BICYCLE WORKGROUP REPORT

(Due to special request, most of this section was transcribed verbatim)

Discussion:

Ms. Pack: Do you want to talk about the bicycle workgroup (addressed to Arthur) or do you want me to?

Mr. LeBaron: I probably have a couple things to say. (Arthur refers the group to the bicycle routes map).

(Mr. Curt Hutchings Arrives)

Mr. LeBaron: Hello Curt.

Mr. LeBaron: Actually there's a paper in here, the last 11 X 17. This map shows 2 loops that are heavily used in Hurricane, LaVerkin, Toquerville and Leeds, by road cyclists. The pink one, the Sand Hollow Loop, has already been designated by the Hurricane City Council as a designated route and we're working on some signing for it. Right now the signing will consist of Share the Road Signs. Then we will work on another effort to do some branding...

When I say branding I mean when a cyclist that's new comes to a turn they'll see a sign that points them this way or that way, and it will have some kind of branding on it so they'll recognize it as one of our cycling loops and then will say Sand Hollow Loop or Quail Creek Loop My idea..... is that County wide we should come up with some kind of brand because I hope that we'll designate more routes in the very near future.



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Commissioner Eardley: They have to with \$5.00 gas (laughter)

Mr. LeBaron: We have an incredible cycling environment here.

Commissioner Eardley: Yep

Mr. LeBaron: People can cycle year-round. I think we should try to attract them. If we don't attract them, they're still going to be here and we should try to make it as safe and enjoyable for everybody as we can.

Commissioner Eardley: Talk about safe for a minute – that's one of the things I'm not clear on.

Mayor Wilson: That's probably what I get the most comments on – on safety and rules of the road.

Commissioner Eardley: There are two conflicting laws, well maybe not laws, but policies at least, one of them is a law, is the Share the Road concept. And yet it's against the law to obstruct traffic.

Mr. LeBaron: To impede traffic, yeah.

Commissioner Eardley: And to give clearance the law only requires you to give them three feet And so it looks to me that we're going to munch some folks some of these days unless, I don't know, unless there's money spent on bicycle routes or.... I don't know what to think about it. I come down 18 a lot and that road is busy with bicyclists and they are 4 abreast out there.

Mr. LeBaron: And that's not right and part of this effort needs to include giving cyclists this message any which way we can.

Commissioner Eardley: The conflict between Share the Road and don't obstruct – that's the conflict I see.

Mr. LeBaron: Share the road goes two ways

Ms. Pack: Education on this is actually the top item that our bicycle group is addressing...

Commissioner Eardley: So what do you think will come out of that, do you think?

Ms. Pack: Well, we already have bicycle club members and shops and that side of the crew, and we have City Councils and we're working with both and creating a kind of brochure educational thing that we are going to go around with. and the State at the same time are doing a PR thing and actually doing a bicycle ride throughout the State and they are willing to come here.

Commissioner Eardley: Are there changes that are going to be made to statute in regards to this whole thing?

Ms. Pack: No changes in statute that I am aware of but a PR campaign that could even go to tv spots.

Mr. LeBaron: That's what I told.... There's a gal who is over all this named Evelyn Tuddenham (over at UDOT) that nothing is going to change unless you get on the right media and its going to be radio and tv with some very poignant public service announcements that send a very strong message to cyclists and drivers alike .



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I went to a cyclists' breakout session at the UDOT Engineering conference. I was really non-plussed how were very against motorists they were. Cars are bigger than cyclists and their hard too. It doesn't How cruddy motorists are to bicyclists. You are to mind yourself as a cyclist

Mayor Wilson: Don't you think they ride on the white stripe especially with highway tires because the debris on the side.

Mr. LeBaron: The fact remains, though, that just because the statute says 3 feet, doesn't mean there is 3 feet.

Ms. Pack: We are working with UDOT to get sweeping

Commissioner Eardley: Intimidating - fast car at 65 miles per hour within 3 feet of a cyclist.

Mr. LeBaron: There was an accident last year where the wind blew a motor home into the cyclist.

Mayor Wilson: There was also that accident in LaVerkin.

Ms. Pack: Part of this we think we can address, too, when people come to a municipality, starting with the permitting process; starting with the safety, liability, and PR part. We discovered after talking to Chief Excell that the permitting part is an important part. Also safety education and flagger training. Bike clubs are willing to contribute parts of entry fees back to the community to help buy signs and striping. We're trying to see both sides of the issues on everything and what the base problems are. We're trying to do much more than just putting signs up.

Mayor Wilson: The permitting process makes it so our Public Safety people are aware of it. Do they permit with LaVerkin or UDOT or with Toquerville?

Ms. Pack: The permitting process is more than that. It's also trying to think what both sides of the issue are and what the base problems are; getting bicyclists training as flaggers. They say they are willing to take portions of the charge that they charge for the events and give back to that community to help buy signs and such So we're really trying to make things better for the communities.

Commissioner Eardley: I think we are going to see increasing numbers of cyclists in the future.

Ms. Pack: There is no doubt about it.

Commissioner Eardley: We're just getting started on that.

Mayor Wilson: I can't afford a bike so since LaVerkin has sidewalks, now I've gotta walk.

Ms. Pack: So, there is a primo bicycle advocacy group in the State called BikeUtah. We had the Chair of the Board come down and addressed our group. He popped in today at my office with some financial possibilities. We'll share that later in our meeting, Arthur. They are ready and willing and half of them come down here to bike; some are prepping for the Ironman.



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Commissioner Eardley: Oh good.

Ms. Pack: So, they really want to help us out and when UDOT and Evelyn Tuddenham and all them come through here with their Share the Road thing, we want to do an event and involve the community.

Commissioner Eardley: I'm looking forward to that media effort because that really needs some definition, I think.

Ms. Pack: Very much so.

Mr. LeBaron: We've got to change some of the cyclists' habits. I realize that there's probably a minority that cause all of the problems, but

Ms. Pack: They sure get under your skin, that minority

Commissioner Eardley: Well they dare ya, they just really dare ya.

Ms. Pack: Oh, yes

Mr. LeBaron: I bet you on Hwy 18 you really get a lot more problems up there.

Ms. Pack: And they know sign language...

Commissioner Eardley: I've noticed that....

Mayor Wilson: I think along Hurricane and LaVerkin it's not so bad because you usually have two lanes. When I see somebody coming up, I try to back off and get out of their way but on Hwy 18 you can't do that.

Mr. Hutchings: It only takes a few people being a little obnoxious and it affects a whole bunch of other people who are driving; that's the bad part of the thing.

Commissioner Eardley: That's a problem that needs to be addressed, that's for sure.

Mr. LeBaron: I think trying to influence driver expectation. There may be people like you who travel the road often, you expect you're going to see a cyclist and you probably have a different awareness, but the new people if they see a Share the Road sign, it might help them to "oh yeah there might be a cyclist here", whether they are polite or not, however their expectation is that they may have an awareness and won't run over somebody.

Ms. Pack: Yeah...?

Commissioner Eardley: Well, maybe just one..... (laughter)

Ms. Pack: It gets tempting, but,..... (laughter)

Mr. Hutchings: Every now and again I come across a cyclist that's in a spot where I go - what in the heck are you doing here? This is a ridiculous place to be biking.



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Mr. LeBaron: The other thing is we need to exercise wisdom when we designate the routes and trying to put the people in the best place we can, which we've done with this Sand Hollow Loop. We only have two crossings on Hwy 9; we're not going along Hwy 9 at all. And if we can properly sign these with the branding and keep the cyclists where they need to be, because there are a lot of people who are here for the first time. If we can get them where they are going to be the most safe, then we'll be better off.

Mayor Wilson: What's your distance on that loop?

Mr. LeBaron: It's like 22-23 miles

Mayor Wilson: What about Quail Creek, that looks a little longer?

Mr. LeBaron: Someone told me 40 kilometers, but I don't really have a concept of what 40 kilometers is.

Ms. Pack: There's someone who wants to do a time trial on that loop.

Commissioner Eardley: Mayor Wilson's going to have it here in a second.....

Mr. LeBaron: So anyway, we have a good bicycle group. We're coordinating with UDOT and we're coordinating with the MPO and other separate groups, so it's a good thing.

Ms. Pack: And I'd like to say that...

Mayor Wilson: 24.85

Commissioner Eardley: We'll call it 25.

Ms. Pack: Commissioner, I...I.. there is a group that's kind of , it's actually not under the MPO anymore Arthur, they were just doing a project for the MPO. They have given themselves a name; they're calling themselves the Washington County Bicycle Advocacy Committee. It bothers me a little bit that they're saying 'Washington County', because sure they're in the County but it kind of makes it sound to me like they're trying to represent the County.

Commissioner Eardley: Like they are officially designated somehow.

Ms. Pack: Yeah, and we are in communication with them and I would like to see a County level committee come back to life and address some of this, partly because this funding that I heard about today might require the MPO to be involved (I haven't even been able to talk to Curt about it), partly for this kind of coordination that

Arthur's talking about, that we could really do a nice job of having things branded, and well done on all levels across the board. The kind of bicycle use increase that we're having down here is exponential as you may know and we got that feedback from Bike Utah, this group. And the economic benefits that come with it - I just think that it is maybe something we need to look again at, at a County level.

We still got our Three Rivers Trails. Everybody and their dog lost the report. I finally found the professor whose students wrote it and got a copy so we do have a copy of the old 3 Rivers Trails That's not bicycle route per se ,



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but there is trails talk going along with these studies as well. And we have an Eastern Washington County Trails Coordination Committee that goes to here (indicates on map). I wouldn't mind seeing trails being included in the work being done at the County level, not just bicycles.

But I feel like it's time for something to happen on that level. And I don't know if it's proper for the RPO group, maybe some folks from the RPO group, maybe some folks from this other group, I don't even know really logistically how that should be handled.

Mayor Wilson: You mean for the trails?

Mayor Wilson & Commissioner Eardley: Or for County wide?

Ms. Pack: For both. If we do a County wide committee I would propose that it should be approaching both.

Commissioner Eardley: MPO and RPO both?

Ms. Pack: Ah, well, the whole County, but I mean it should be looking at bicycles and pedestrian trails.

Ms. Pack: I know that the mapping work being done right now with trails is really tricky, cause I've talked to those guys at GIS a lot and I know it's tricky - how you designate what and how you use it.... It just would be nice if things could be done in a most efficient fashion across the County.

Commissioner Eardley: Are there examples of an organization like that, I guess, in other counties –

Ms. Pack: There are.

Commissioner Eardley: How is that structured?

Ms. Pack: Well, I've got an example of a master plan Weber County just finished and the gentleman who visited me today, his company just produced one for Mountainland Association of Governments and it's with some funding I was unfamiliar with. It's a master pedestrian/bicycle plan.

Mr. Hutchings: But you are asking about the makeup of that group.

Commissioner Eardley: I'm just puzzled at how it would be structured. I can see MPO and RPO but beyond that what do we do?

Mr. Hutchings: That's a real good question. A few years ago there was an ad hoc committee. And I don't even know if you are familiar with that bunch. They had representatives from not all the communities, but several of them. And then they had members of bicycle advocacy . They produced this plan in 2007. As soon as the plan was produced, it just kind of fell away.

(Ms. Pack produced a copy of the 2007 plan and gave it to Commissioner Eardley)

Ms. Pack: That's too bad because they did some good work.



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Commissioner Eardley: This is as recent at '07.

Ms. Pack: It needs more detail to it but it's a great start.

Mr. Hutchings: But it is bike/ped and I think that's important to include all of that in the process.

Ms. Pack: A lot of these people are still around orl want to be involved. Some of them are in our bicycle group that were part of this document. I just.....

Commissioner Eardley: So would this be out of your office?

Mr. Hutchings: To tell you the truth that's one thing that we probably ought to have a better handle on, is what the makeup of that group is. The Chair of the ad hoc committee was a St George City employee.

Commissioner Eardley: This was kind of a St George effort mostly? I see who is listed here...

Mr. Hutchings: Well, Lynne Scott was.....

(Commissioner Eardley went on to read many of the member names)

Ms. Pack: Special thanks to Elmer at Five County so I don't know how much he put into it.

Mr. Hutchings: Well, I actually attended the meetings

Ms. Pack: You're up here too Curt

Commissioner Eardley: Yeah, Curt's here on the MPO.

Mr. Hutchings: There was a pretty good range of people there. The problem this group had is that they didn't really have a home, they were just kind of doing it.

Commissioner Eardley: That's the problem, you need someone to take ownership

Mr. Hutchings: So there needs to be some kind of formalization of that, so whatever it is....

Mayor Wilson: We need to talk about some source of funding because when we get into this it would require engineering and the mapping and all that stuff.

Commissioner Eardley: I understood that the purpose was to obtain funding, at least in part.

Ms. Pack: I've just been told about some funding to have it done and it would be done by a consultant.

Mr. Hutchings: That's project funding right?

Ms. Pack: Yeah that's to get a really good master plan out. But I think that whoever that is, they should probably be working with a group of local representatives.



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Commissioner Eardley: We probably ought to talk about this at our next DTEC meeting a little bit.

Mr. Hutchings: Yeah, well actually this might not be a bad discussion for the COG, but we've got to start somewhere.

Commissioner Eardley: Yeah, well

Ms. Pack: People are coming and the economic development opportunities are there and the time just seems to be right - people are coming out of the woodwork to want to be involved in bike/ped projects right now, so..

Mayor Wilson: Could we use COG money to protect that kind of right of way?

Commissioner Eardley: You couldn't use Registration money, and that's our only money – it's about 2 million right now.

Mr. Hutchings: We'll be talking about that as we get further down the agenda

Mayor Wilson: When we purchased that for St George....

Commissioner Eardley: I think that was before.

Mayor Wilson: Before?

Commissioner Eardley: Yeah, I think before.

Ms. Pack: Anyway, I feel strongly about this, because I'm the one who seems to be networking with everyone on this. Arthur much too.

Mr. LeBaron: Not as much as you.

Ms. Pack: I can see the impetus happening and if we decide where this impetus goes we're going to have something good, but if we ignore it we're going to have something kind of haphazard that will be hard to ever clean up.

Mayor Wilson: Well hiking, hiking is catching on more and more every year. The more we do that way, I think the citizens would like us to pursue this.

Ms. Pack goes on to address litigation prevention briefly.

V. RPO PROJECT LIST

Mr. Hutchings reviewed with the Council the makeup of the RPO Project Prioritization List. These are the projects that the RPO would most like to see accepted by UDOT and included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).



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Then Mr. Hutchings provided the Council members with an MPO/RPO project map and new RPO project list. UDOT recently suggested that the RPO project list include projects that have been on the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) project list but cross boundaries from the MPO into the RPO. An example are portions of the Southern Parkway project.

Since the RPO lacks any funding and acts in an advisory role for UDOT, all RPO projects are actually UDOT projects. The new RPO project list and map also includes all UDOT projects within the RPO boundaries whether generated from the RPO or UDOT.

Mr. LeBaron recited a discussion he had with Mr. Dana Meier regarding the Southern Parkway Phase 4A. Hurricane City has a concern about funding drying up. Mr. LeBaron was concerned that moving projects from the MPO project list to the RPO project list might take them out of the 'limelight' of the MPO and they could take longer to be completed.

Mr. Hutchings responded that this concern has been discussed and steps will be taken to prevent that from happening. Commissioner Eardley remarked that this basic concern has been discussed consistently at the DTEC meetings. Commissioner Eardley added that a new member of the Transportation Commission, Mr. Danny McConkie, served as a County Commissioner in Davis County but now lives in St George. With Commissioner Jerry Lewis, Washington County now has two members on the Commission who care about southern Utah issues.

VI. CONTINUED RPO FUNDING

Mr. Hutchings explained to the Council that the original Memorandum of Understanding between the RPO and UDOT was for three years and will end as of June 30, 2011. Mr. Hutchings provided funding options for continuing the RPO with monies from UDOT and the RPO entities. Mr. Hutchings will continue to pursue options with all parties and keep all informed. A joint effort between UDOT, the RPO and the MPO has been suggested.

Mr. LeBaron remarked that the RPO has been very productive these three years, but inquired what it's goals would be in the following years. Mr. Hutchings responded that he has created a list of goals and objectives. He also pointed out that remaining active would assist toward eventually becoming part of the Dixie MPO or becoming a separate MPO.

The Executive Council decided to make a formal motion to demonstrate their support for the continuation of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization.



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A motion was made by Mayor Darrin LeFevre, seconded by Commissioner James Eardley, to continue support of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization and to continue funding based on amounts that have not yet been determined.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussions concerning future funding amounts and allocations will be ongoing.

VII. TRANSPORTATION EXPO

The Transportation EXPO is coming up on March 8th. This has always been a successful effort to interact with the public and exchange information. There has not been a lot of advertisement to date. Ms. Pack created a handout and emailed it out to all leadership in Washington County. Mr. Hutchings encouraged all RTEC members to volunteer and assist at the RPO booth, and also to advertise within their communities.

VIII. OTHER/FUTURE TOPICS

A. The next regular RTEC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2011 at 1:30 pm to be held at LaVerkin City Hall.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.