

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2011
Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Chair
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Traffic Engineer
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Ross Romero, Washington City
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, FCAOG
Curt Hutchings, MPO, Transportation Manager, FCAOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Ronielle Howard, Parsons Brinkerhoff Engineering
Dustin Shaffer, Sunrise Engineering

ABSENT

Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Vice-Chair
Monty Thurber, St. George City, City Engineer
Rick Torgerson, UDOT, Region Four Program Manager (Excused)
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Excused)
Kenneth Sizemore, Executive Director, Five County AOG (Excused)
Ryan Marshall, St. George City, General Manager SunTran

Dave Glenn, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance.

1. MINUTES MARCH 2, 2011 MEETING

Dave Glenn noted that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the March 2, 2011 DTAC meeting for committee consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY LARRY BULLOCH, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

2. LONG RANGE PLANNING

A. Washington Parkway Coordination with Bureau of Land Management (BLM):
Myron Lee reported that MPO staff attended a meeting with the BLM last week to talk about the Washington Parkway corridor, formerly titled the Great Northern Corridor. BLM has taken the stance that their requirement is to identify a northern transportation route but they will not designate a formal route or conduct any environmental or road planning. UDOT and MPO staff questioned if a cost benefit analysis of four different routes would be of interest to the BLM. The main question of BLM staff is whether people would actually use a road through this area. A cost

benefit analysis would produce data outlining why a route would be beneficial. MPO staff suggests that Horrocks Engineering put together a cost benefit analysis as part of their on-demand contract with the MPO. It is not anticipated that the cost of this would exceed \$50,000. This analysis would examine four routes as follows: 1) Leeds to the Ledges area; 2) MP13 to Snow Canyon Parkway, including Red Hills Parkway; 3) From Exit 13 into the Trails subdivision on SR-18; and 4) Coming off Exit 10 skirting the northern edge of development and tying into 200 East in St. George. This analysis could be incorporated into the second year of the three year on-demand contract with Horrocks Engineering for CUBE modeling work or it could be accomplished through a new contract from the UDOT contracting pool. Staff has also determined that future work should be solicited through use of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to level the playing field. Because of the short turn-around before the next scheduled BLM meeting, staff recommends using Horrocks Engineering.

Myron indicated that it will be important for him to learn a lot more about the preserve and the desert tortoises in order to appreciate the view of BLM staff. Likewise, BLM needs to grasp transportation needs and traffic projections in the area and gain a better understanding of those issues and needs. BLM is amenable to work with Washington County as a cooperating agency. However, cities and the MPO do not qualify under law for this status. MPO and city staff can attend meetings and their input will be considered through the public process. Staff reported that according to BLM this preserve has the highest concentration of desert tortoises, but the population is decreasing. Biologists are trying to determine why this is occurring. Staff asked if there would be any kind of mitigation measures that could be implemented to increase and sustain the population. If so, it may be possible that these measures be accomplished in exchange for right-of-way through the preserve.

Myron explained that this route has been referred to as the Great Northern Corridor. Through further discussion with Washington County and the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) it was determined that in order to dispel confusion the route should be titled Washington Parkway Corridor.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. **Consider Reprogramming \$255,946 from I-15 MP8 Study (PIN 6629) to Washington Parkway:** Myron Lee explained that staff met with UDOT, Washington County, St. George and Washington cities to discuss this issue. It is proposed that action be taken today to reprogram funds as follows: Allocate \$50,000 to MPO Planning for a Washington Parkway Cost/Benefit Analysis (PIN 6393) and to allocate \$205,946 to a Washington Parkway Feasibility Study (including an amendment to the current TIP).

MOTION WAS MADE BY LARRY BULLOCH, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO APPROVE REPROGRAMMING THE \$255,946 FROM I-15 MP8 STUDY (PIN 6629) TO MPO PLANNING FOR A COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND WASHINGTON PARKWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY AS OUTLINED, INCLUDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT TIP. MOTION CARRIED.

4. LOCAL PROJECTS

- A. UDOT: No representatives in attendance.
- B. Ivins: Dave Glenn indicated that Ivins City has started paving roads in their old township project area. In addition, Horrocks Engineering is working on the roundabout design.
- C. St. George City: Cameron Cutler reported that the Dixie Drive Interchange project completion date has been moved back a few months because of project delays. Beams will be set within the next few weeks on the Convention Center bridge portion of the project. Flooding in the area caused some problems with the sewer line and those repairs have been completed through a separate contract. The city is awaiting signatures on a contract for the Dixie Drive East project. Horrocks Engineering is completing the design for this project. Red Hills Parkway is moving forward with a CM contract. Seven firms submitted proposals for this project and selection will be completed in the next few weeks. The project is 90% complete in terms of design and should be out to bid in May. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the June/July time frame.

Myron mentioned that a developer has met with the MPO and St. George City staff to discuss the Mall Drive Bridge project. Apparently the developer owns property in this location and wants the bridge project expedited. Cameron indicated that funds are not in place to move this project ahead, and consideration would not be given unless a proposal were to be provided by the developer. This also brings questions to light in terms of which project should come first, Mall Drive Bridge, MP 8 pedestrian/drainage or connection of Red Hills Parkway and Red Cliffs Drive. CUBE modeling will be required to determine traffic counts and pressure on existing roadways. Construction of the bridge may necessitate improvements at MP8 earlier. Any proposal from the developer would be considered by the MPO, Washington City and St. George City. No modeling or future action will be taken unless a proposal is brought forth by the developer.

- D. Santa Clara City: None.
- E. Washington City: Mike Shaw reported that the Virgin River Bridge project is winding down. Construction on Telegraph street is scheduled to begin on Monday.
- F. Washington County: Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County has been meeting with FEMA representatives to obtain final determinations on flooding repairs. The majority of projects are small, but a total of \$600,000 is anticipated from federal funds. Washington City is moving ahead with efforts to extend Washington Fields Road. All right-of-way has been obtained for this project. This project includes new alignment of 3650 South to the Southern Parkway interchange. It is anticipated that this project will be bid out in the fall or winter. The road must be finished before the interchange is completed. The city is also working to extend Washington Dam Road to the Southern Parkway. The city is anticipating a loan from UDOT at 2.69% with a four year term. These projects will provide critical links to the new airport.

Arthur LeBaron reported that the SR-9 project is nearing completion. The landscaping is almost finished for this much needed improvement in Hurricane City. The city is also working with UDOT on the Southern Parkway segment 4. No determination has been received from the Army Corps of Engineers.

5. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

A. Program Development - UDOT: None.

B. Federal Oversight: Kelly Lund, FHWA, reported that the MPO is required to complete a Unified Work Plan draft by April 26, 2011. This plan depicts what the MPO is doing and outlines efforts for a two year period of time. FHWA staff will be working with Myron to develop a draft plan which will eventually be approved by FHWA. He explained that funds flow through the four MPOs in Utah based on population. The Unified Work Plan will begin on June 1, 2011 as the old plan expires.

Mr. Lund shared a handout depicting the FHWA Crosswalk to Consolidated Programs which is proposed for future highway funding. The proposed funding structure consolidates a number of funding categories into five programs as follows: 1) National Highway Program; 2) Safety Program; 3) Livability Program; 4) Research and Technology Program; and 5) Federal Allocation Program. It is anticipated that this chart will be very close to the highway bill once it is passed by Congress. The sheet does not include dollar amounts but total funding in the amount of \$556 billion will be tied to the Department of Transportation six year funding bill. The purpose of this consolidation is to manage programs more efficiently, provide more functionality in programs and reduce administrative costs. Under this proposal states will be making more decisions in terms of where transportation dollars are spent and the delivery of some funding will change somewhat. This encourages states to address all aspects of road projects including transit, enhancement, etc. There is still a lot of unknown in terms of this proposal but it appears to be the direction that transportation funding is moving towards.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Five County AOG office beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY LARRY BULLOCH, TO ADJOURN.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.