

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South, Building B
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer, Chair
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Vice Chair
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Kirk Thornock, 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
Ed Baca, St. George City Council
Michael Clay, BYU
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Kayde Roberts, Jones and Demille
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Dorothy Engelman, Elect Engelman Campaign
Phil Giles, Jviation
Chuck Goode, Toquerville
Susan Crook, Conserve Southwest Utah
Diane Lamoreaux, Volunteer

ABSENT

Mayor Darren LeFevre, Toquerville City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
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 June 1, 2016 Meeting:** Arthur LeBaron, Chair, presented minutes from the June 1, 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 JUNE 1, 2016 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. TRANSIT

A. Transit Study Report, A Brighter SunTran: Mr. Cameron Cutler reported that the consultant Nelson/Nygaard will be presenting the draft study report of the SunTran redesign to the St. George City Council. He reviewed goals, future routes that will provide more efficiency and existing routes that are recommended to discontinue due to low performance. Information was shared in terms of the study time line. Proposed route alternatives were reviewed as per representation of daily boardings. The route on Dixie Drive which serves the DXACT has low ridership as does the route on Riverside Drive which serves the Doctors Volunteer Clinic. Both of these routes are recommended to be eliminated as part of the system redesign. The bus stop located at Desert Industries is a very heavily used stop. The existing system challenge is that there are a lot of loops on each route and service head ways are 40-80 minute routes. It is proposed that routes shift to 30-60 minute routes. Various meetings, surveys, and the Transportation Expo have been utilized to solicit comments and input from the public. Three scenarios are included as follows: 1) Maximize Frequency; 2) Balance Frequency and Coverage; and 3) Maximize Coverage. The preferred scenario will utilize 30 minute service routes. It is proposed that the system move away from the large loops to one way routes that are looped on the end for coverage. It was noted that 97% of the original routes will remain, but the system will utilize more efficient routing. It is anticipated that redesign of the transit system will be implemented in January 2017. This will include no increase in the number of vehicles or routes. Two routes will have 30 minute head ways and others will shift to 60 minute routing. This provide more predictable service that will likely increase usage of the transit system. Mr. Fred Davies explained that the SunTran system serves five times more ADA riders than systems in other areas around the country. It is proposed that 30 minute access will be implemented on routes four and five. This will eliminate the need to dispatch vans to pick up ADA riders. It is proposed that the Tuachan route would provide a drop off and pickup route to accommodate students during the day. Dialogue will occur with Ivins City prior to implementation of route changes for this stop. Key elements for the preferred alternative were reviewed. A future route will be considered when DTAX moves to the old airport site. Mr. Davies noted that 40% of SunTran riders have been using the system for less than a year.

3. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

- A. Review Public Comment Period for 2017-2021 TIP:** Myron Lee noted that the comment period for the TIP will conclude on August 6, 2016. He reported that no comments have been received at this time. The process will close on August 6, 2016 and this board may recommend the TIP for approval at the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC) meeting scheduled on August 17, 2016.
- B. Recommendation to Adopt 2017-2021 TIP:** Mr. Lee reviewed project funding included in the Dixie TIP and provided a handout to committee members. Mr. Kirk Thornock indicated that the SR-9 Rockville to Zion National Park project is outside of the MPO boundaries and does not have to be included on the TIP. One typographical error was noted for correction in the spelling of Rockville. It was

recommended that members of the Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) motion to accept public comments and to forward the TIP to DTEC for formal approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CHUCK GILLETTE, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED AND TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION FOR FORMAL ACTION ON THE 2017-2022 DIXIE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DTEC). MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

4. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. Statewide Small Area Demographic Study:** Dr. Michael Clay, Professor at BYU, provided an introduction. He explained that statewide and county level demographic and economic forecasts were previously completed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, which is no longer functioning as an division under the state of Utah. The Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah has been asked to take over the demographic and economic forecast for the state of Utah. The U of U and BYU have partnered to gather data and complete the demographics and economic forecast. He explained the approach of the U of U beginning at a statewide level and then aggregating back down to county control totals. Dr. Clay noted that he developed the REM model which works in tandem with travel demand models on the Wasatch Front. The model looks at how real estate development shifts in relation to transportation projects. The REM model has been utilized on the Wasatch Front to analyze a number of major projects in the Salt Lake City area. An effort is underway to move this model out into other areas of the state. BYU will be gathering data at the lower level for Census blocks and groups including employers, residents, growth rates, etc. They are developing partners with AOGs, MPOs, and RPOs to work together to assemble data. This will provide a bottom up approach that will be compared to the process utilized by the U of U. In the past a county control numbers has been developed and then taken to cities for debate on where new growth will occur. BYU is trying to utilize an objective, independent method to allocate population growth. Teams of students will be working with AOGs and MPOs throughout the state to gather GIS data and hopefully have a much more solid starting point. This approach will provide a more objective and accurate forecast of population growth. Mayors, city council members, chambers of commerce and economic development organizations will also be contacted to discuss new businesses, business closures, and/or potential business expansions that may be on track to occur in their area. It will be important to include this information into the forecast. A project summary was provided outlining the project steps and including contact information for Dr. Clay.
- B. Ivins City Report:** A presentation on growth in the Ivins City area as it relates to transportation was reviewed, including a summary of building permits, desired expectations for anticipated growth, expected transportation needs and economic development goals and visions for Ivins City. It was noted that Ivins City has issued 81 building permits to date this calendar year. The majority have been for single-family residential units, with only a few commercial construction projects. A map was reviewed which depicts anticipated growth over the next 20 years. Two proposed recreation vacation rental projects would add approximately 203 housing

units. Future growth is anticipated to be steady in the Ivins area. Proposed transportation projects over the next five years include: **1) Center Street--** Landscape improvements; **2) Puerto Drive--** Multi use trail access; **3) Old Highway 91--** Widening design from 200 East to Ivins City limits; and **4) 400 East--** New roadway construction as part of the Rocky Vista University project. Transportation projects projected out five to ten years include: 1) Western Corridor, 200 East to 400 East; 2) Construction of Old Highway 91 project; and 3) Roundabouts and/or signals in various locations throughout Ivins. Economic development goals were also reviewed. Mr. Gillette also noted that there are two reservoirs that may be developed in the future in the Ivins area.

- C. Washington City Report:** Mr. Mike Shaw provided a graph outlining actual and projected growth estimates over a 20 year period. In 1998 the population of Washington City was 6,800 and today it is approximately 24,000. The city has averaged a 6% growth rate over the past 20 years. There were 402 residential building permits and 17 commercial permits issued last fiscal year. There were 42 permits issued in the month of July 2016. Areas of residential growth include: 1) Washington Fields, 2) Upper Green Springs; 3) Long Valley area; 4) Warner Valley; 5) Coral Canyon area; and 6) North of I-15. Commercial growth is anticipated in the following areas: 1) Around Exit 13 with vacation rental units; 2) Green Springs Drive off Exit 10; 3) Coral Canyon area with vacation rental units; and 4) South end of Washington Fields with vacation rentals. The Washington City market is likely to be flooded with vacation rental properties. Transportation projects over the next ten years include: **1) New Interchange at Exit 11--** To relieve pressure on Exit 10; **2) Merrill Road--** Important connector road in the Washington Fields area that will connect to Mall Drive; **3) Milepost 10 Exit Improvements--** - To help alleviate traffic issues; **4) Milepost 11 Interchange--** - On the Southern Parkway at 3650 South; **5) Widen Merrill Road--** From 20 East to south city limits; **6) 4200 South--** - 20 East to Washington Fields Road; **7) South Frontage Road--** Washington Parkway to 300 East; and **8) Extend Main Street--** To connect to 100 East and 400 South. This is important to accommodate growth north of I-15.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- A. Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that work is progressing on the environmental assessment for Purgatory Road. A local road project on 400 South is currently under reconstruction. UDOT is also working on a SR-9 project in the downtown area.
- B. Ivins:** Mr. Chuck Gillette reported that construction on the Old Highway 91 project is nearing completion. A change order is pending that includes street lighting and landscaping. The asphalt and curb and gutter have been completed. Mr. Kirk Thornock explained that the work included in the change order must be part of the original project scope in order to qualify for FHWA funding.
- C. LaVerkin:** None.
- D. Leeds:** None.

- E. **St George:** Cameron Cutler reported that the traffic signal on Dixie Drive is nearing completion. The River Road project is progressing with an anticipated completion date in early September. This project also includes a traffic signal. St. George City is participating with UDOT on the Mall Drive Underpass utilities.
- F. **Santa Clara:** None
- G. **Toquerville:** None.
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that Washington City is working on the slide area on Telegraph which began movement in January 2016. A survey is being conducted to determine areas that are moving. A 12 inch water line in this area has ruptured twice and a power line has dropped and moved approximately six inches. This line carried power for Washington City as well as Rocky Mountain Power. It is estimated that repairs in this area will cost approximately \$2 million dollars.
- I. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards reported that Washington County is working on a chip seal project near New Harmony. A walking lane is under construction on Old Highway 91 by the Indian Reservation.
- J. **UDOT:** Kirk Thornock, UDOT, reported that a new concepts feasibility type project is being utilized to look at the cost and feasibility of the Bluff Street Project from Main Street to St. George Boulevard. This will examine cost, right-of-way, as well as the drainage study completed for Bluff Street to determine the future of this roadway as a five or seven lane facility. A concept report is being completed to study a flyover from Red Hills Parkway eastbound to northbound I-15. This will look at traffic that could be pulled from the 1000 East intersection. Work is progressing for a slip ramp at Exit 10 rather than previously proposed thru-turns on the Green Springs side of the exit. UDOT is also working on a feasibility study for SR-57 from Hurricane to the state line to look at passing lanes in this area. Myron Lee asked if Dixie State University had contacted UDOT to discuss a pedestrian underpass at 400 South. Mr. Thornock indicated that they had not been engaged but would like to be involved in any discussion that would have a potential impact to I-15. This would be a difficult project to undertake and improvements should be considered at the existing crossing at 700 South. UDOT is concerned that previous cost estimates were extremely low and involvement of an engineering company would be important. The previous estimate of \$2.6 million would not likely be adequate funding for this type of project. He reported that all of the right-of-way has been secured for the Mall Drive Underpass project and work is progressing. The milepost 4-5 widening project is scheduled for advertisement in November. It is proposed that current lanes in this area will remain open during the construction. Some micro surface preservation projects will be occurring on I-15 at various locations. As previously mentioned the SR-9 project between 300 and 700 West is undergoing full reclamation and paving. The right-of-way acquisition and design have been completed for the SR-18 St. George Boulevard to Sunset Boulevard project. Mr. Thornock also mentioned that the SR-9 project from Rockville to Springdale will be split into two projects with overlay and shoulder widening beginning January 2017. The portion including Springdale Main Street will need additional funding to meet community needs and it is anticipated that construction on this portion would commence in the fall of 2017. He pointed out that it will be important to understand all utilities that exist in this area.

6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

A. Program Development - UDOT: Mr. Kirk Thornock reported that the climbing lanes on I-15 from milepost 22 to 28 will be accomplished through in-house design for advertisement in the fall of 2017.

B. Federal Oversight: None.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES

The next DTEC meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2016 and the next DTAC meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

DRAFT