

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2011
Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Chair
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Vice-Chair
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Traffic Engineer
Monty Thurber, St. George City, City Engineer
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director
Rick Torgerson, UDOT, Region Four Program Manager
Ross Romero, Washington City
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City Engineer
Peter Hansen, Washington County GIS
Jerry Amundsen, Lochner Engineers
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, FCAOG
Kenneth Sizemore, Executive Director, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG
Doni Pack, Five County AOG
Mike Heaps, Horrocks Engineering
Ronielle Howard, Parsons Brinkerhoff Engineering

ABSENT

Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Ryan Marshall, St. George City, General Manager SunTran

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

1. MINUTES APRIL 6, 2011 MEETING

Dave Glenn noted that a quorum was present for conduct of business and presented minutes of the April 6, 2011 DTAC meeting for committee consideration. Todd Edwards provided one correction on page 3 to move Washington Fields Road update to the Washington City update agenda item.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TODD EDWARDS, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2011 MEETING INCLUDING THE ABOVEMENTIONED CORRECTION. MOTION CARRIED.

2. LONG RANGE PLANNING

A. Washington Parkway Cost/Benefit Analysis: Myron Lee reported that a copy of the Cost Benefit Analysis for the Washington Parkway was presented in a work meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prior to reviewing the draft with DTAC or DTEC because of the time frame of meetings. Mike Heaps, Horrocks

Engineering, presented the Cost/Benefit Analysis which included general information describing the Travel Demand Model components and data. He reviewed charts depicting expected population growth, density maps and areas anticipated to grow. Information was presented outlining district person trip travel demand between districts for 2010 to 2040 and increased demand projected for various roads including I-15, Bluff Street, Sunset Boulevard, Red Cliffs Drive, St. George Boulevard, etc. Options reviewed include: **1) Option 1--** Connection into the Ledges with a tie into Leeds; **2) Option 2--** From the Ledges down Turkey Farm Road and tie into Exit 13; **3) Option 3--** Comes off Red Hills Parkway to Exit 13; **4) Option 4--** Hugs the preserve, includes a huge cut through a gulf and actually goes through the golf course; **5) Option 5--** Ledges to Turkey Farm Road into the Red Hills Parkway at Middleton; **6) Option 6--** A combination of options 2 and 5 which ties into Exit 13.

Mike reviewed charts depicting a comparison of all roads with the exception of Washington Parkway as well as charts for all roads, including the Washington Parkway for options 1 through 6. Option 3 depicted the greatest volume changes, delay reduction network wise and the highest relief to congestion on high profile corridors. Overall option 3 showed the greatest cost benefit ratio and performed best in all of the criteria.

In summary, the report concludes the following: 1) Need for a more robust transit network; 2) Need for high capacity grade-separated intersections; 3) Need for additional corridors like the Washington Parkway; and 4) An emphasis on land use planning to reduce trip length. Mike indicated that building of the corridor would be best by 2020 but it would be critical at the 2030 range.

- B. Washington Parkway Coordination with Bureau of Land Management (BLM):** Ken Sizemore reported that BLM is engaged in a much larger planning process dealing with their national conservation areas which were established through the Washington County Land and Conservation Act. The lands bill mandates that BLM evaluate a northern transportation corridor. BLM staff acknowledges that they are not transportation planners or analysts and that they need help in this aspect. BLM staff are being neutral in this planning effort and will incorporate information provided into the planning process. Staff is reminding participants that this is only a small piece of a much broader scope to analyze the conservation area. The state of Utah and Washington County are recognized as cooperating agencies and will play a big role in the planning process. However, none of the municipalities can by law be considered cooperating agencies. Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) input will be funneled through the Utah State Public Lands Coordination office. The Dixie MPO will be providing information to the BLM for incorporation into the planning analysis. BLM staff is trying to be as objective as possible, but there are a lot of biological impediments involved to put a road through the preserve. Staff will be evaluating and weighing the benefits of taking pressure off roads with impacts to the tortoise population. It was pointed out that BLM staff actually asked for options 5 and 6 in the Cost/Benefit Analysis. Myron Lee explained that the land bill directive is to identify and evaluate a northern transportation route.

All alternatives to be considered will be vetted through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Preliminary discussion indicates that Option 3 would violate the agreement

between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Washington County. The Cost/Benefit Analysis will be directed to BLM through the state of Utah, Washington County, and the MPO. Members mentioned that a northern corridor has always been on the table, even when the preserve was designated. Mr. Sizemore indicated that draft alternatives are anticipated to be available by the end of this year or the first of 2012. The MPO, state of Utah and Washington County representatives are trying to have an impact in the development of alternatives considered by the BLM.

Myron Lee indicated that a work meeting is needed between the municipalities, MPO and UDOT to develop a scope of work for a Washington Parkway feasibility study. Left over funds amounting to \$200,000 have been transferred from the MP8 study to a new pin for the feasibility study. Rick Torgerson asked that Myron coordinate with John Harja, State Public Lands Coordination office, to make sure he could attend the meeting. Myron will work with cities and state to schedule a meeting.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Approval:** Myron Lee provided draft copies of the UPWP. Some edits have been made to incorporate input received from committee members. A funding summary is contained on page 21 and the work task summary is on page 22. MPO staff is requesting that DTAC approve and recommend the plan to DTEC for their approval. Local match funds total \$42,000 with a \$7,000 cost per vote share. Larry Bulloch asked that work program tasks include expansion of transit services to outlying communities. Mr. Sizemore indicated that two specific projects will be considered during the upcoming year. Those include Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) to provide an express route to Purgatory and a Van Pooling program region wide in all of the five counties to provide transportation to various job sites.

MOTION WAS MADE BY LARRY BULLOCH, SECONDED BY JACK TAYLOR, TO APPROVE THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) PLAN INCLUDING EXPANSION OF TRANSIT SERVICES TO OUTLYING AREAS, WITH A \$7,000 PER VOTE SHARE. MOTION CARRIED.

A table depicting the programming for the 2012-16 TIP was also provided for review. Myron indicated that there may be some additional funds available for programming. However, staff is hesitant to program any additional funds until a transportation bill is approved by Congress.

- B. GIS Mapping Coordination:** Peter Hansen, Washington County GIS, reported that Washington County staff has been collecting data from individual cities for regional mapping. He indicated that most of the data looks good but there are a few problems with road disconnects along the municipal boundaries of St. George and Washington City as well as St. George and Santa Clara. He reviewed maps of these areas where it appears that roads are meant to be the same road. It was determined that Myron will provide information to each of the cities to be updated and returned to Washington County.

4. OPERATIONS PLANNING

- A. **Origin and Destination Study Update:** Myron Lee reported that MPO staff is working in coordination with other MPO's in the state to develop a scope of work for Origin and Destination studies for each of the four MPOs. This approach takes advantage of economies of scale to obtain a better price. Funding is programmed in the Dixie MPO TIP in the amount of \$300,000. However, preliminary estimates indicate that the study would cost approximately \$110,000 to \$120,000. It is proposed that the Wasatch Front Regional Council lead with the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The entire group would participate in the analysis of different consultants and make a determination of which consultant provides the best overall service. This study will provide information which will make the model more defensible if questioned in court proceedings. Myron will provide a draft copy of the proposed scope of work for committee members to review and asked that any input be provided within a week.

5. LOCAL PROJECTS

- A. **Ivins:** Dave Glenn indicated that Ivins City is still working on township improvements. The project is approximately 45% complete. Horrocks Engineering is still working on the roundabout design.
- B. **St. George City:** Cameron Cutler reported that several firms responded to the RFP for the Red Hills Parkway. The selection team selected Horrocks Engineering for the project and a contract is being drafted. The Dixie Drive East project contract was received last week for Council approval. Once approved, the contract will be forwarded back to UDOT. Funding for right-of-way was approved by the County Council of Governments but they are waiting on right-of-way plans. The Dixie Drive Interchange project is moving forward with connections to Black Ridge Drive and some of the other outer roads. Monty Thurber reported that TransCorp is installing seven new cameras on the Southern Parkway from I-15 to Exit 7. They are also working on the fiber design for River Road. Larry Bulloch reported that St. George City is working on their previous commitment to use local funds for the Mathis Bridge/Dixie Drive widening. It is anticipated that this project will be under construction sometime this year. The city's goal is to have five lanes all the way up and down this corridor.
- C. **Santa Clara City:** No projects.
- D. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the 300 East Virgin River Bridge project is completed and Telegraph Street is under construction. Monty Thurber indicated that a change order will accommodate new fiber from I-15 to 300 East.
- E. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County is still working with the Federal Highway Administration on flood damaged roads.

5. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. **Program Development - UDOT:** Rick Torgerson reported that Segment 1 of the Southern Parkway was cleared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The decision

for Segment 3 has been put back to the region office for re-evaluation. It is anticipated that it will be another month or so before a determination is received. UDOT is working with jurisdictions throughout Washington County on federal funds for repair of flood damaged roads. The Black Ridge project which includes addition of a truck lane is scheduled for completion in July.

B. Federal Oversight: None.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER, SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS, TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.