

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)  
MINUTES  
June 15, 2011**

**PRESENT**

Jim Eardley, Washington County Commission  
Dan McArthur, Mayor, St. George City  
Chris Hart, Mayor, Ivins City  
Gil Almquist, St. George City  
Gloria Shakespeare, St. George City  
Myron Lee, Five County AOG  
Larry Bulloch, St. George City Public Works Director  
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO  
Nathan Lee, UDOT  
Steve Call, Federal Highway Administration  
Dave Demas, Horrocks Engineering  
Ellen Schunk, Senator Lee's Office  
Ron Whitehead, Washington County

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. A quorum did not exist yet, so action items were deferred to later in the meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Regional Transit Service Study – Review Scope of Work

Myron Lee distributed a document titled "Overview," which outlines the scope of work to be used for a regional transit service study. There is money in the 2012 budget for this study that this group approved earlier this year using \$40,000 to fund it. The MPO wants to issue a Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposals to negotiate the scope of the work according to the money available. The purpose of the study is to compile a series of case studies to illustrate how a regional public transit agency could be created and to define tools that could be used to gauge public support for transit taxes or fees.

B. Need for Council of Governments (COG) Meeting

The RPO anticipates a request in August or September for right-of-way funding from the \$10.00 per vehicle registration money the MPO receives from the Council of Governments (COG). Mr. Lee asked if there are any additional items this group would want to bring before the COG at its meeting, and he suggested the formation of a bike/ped committee overseen by the COG as discussed by DTEC several months ago.

Chairman Eardley said that this can be further discussed at the next DTEC meeting, which will be in August, preceding the anticipated funding request.

## **UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS**

### A. Southern Parkway Update

Mayor McArthur asked about the connection between Washington City and the Southern Parkway, and Nathan Lee said that there are two potential connections, although work is proceeding slowly. Larry Bulloch asked whether it was true that UDOT has abandoned its objections to the jurisdictional issues regarding navigable waters with the Army Corps of Engineers, and Nathan said no, UDOT has filed for jurisdiction on Washes A through Q, and its request has been denied by the USACE. The Corps' premise is based upon the EPA guidelines that may soon be adopted pertaining to jurisdictional issues and by what authority those guidelines may be established. UDOT is mainly objecting on behalf of the local entities, because UDOT is still able to operate on its roadway and highway projects, doing mitigation wherever possible, whether certain waterways are jurisdictional or not.

Chairman Eardley asked whether this issue is on Senator Lee's radar, and his representative, Ellen Schunk, said that he is aware of its importance. Mayor McArthur reiterated that this is another instance of a federal mandate without any authority behind it. He said that the majority of the washes in question rarely even contain water. Mayor Hart agreed, saying that there has been no input from local elected officials. Ron Whitehead added that the USACE considers any wash in the active flood plain to be "navigable," which expands the definition of the term. Many consider the USACE to be, in fact, a rogue agency, answerable to no one.

Nathan said that the premise of UDOT is two-fold: (1) to ensure that all of UDOT's agencies and partners are represented and that choices are not made to their detriment; and (2) to monitor its roads projects properly, irrespective of whether they are located in or near jurisdictional waters.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2011**

**MOTION:** Motion by Gil Almquist to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2011, as presented. Motion seconded by Mayor McArthur and carried by unanimous vote.

A. 2011-2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Lee said that the Federal Highways Administration (FHA) has rendered an opinion on the MPO's Regional Transportation Plan. He distributed a booklet at the last meeting that has typos and needs other minor corrections and asked that this committee approve that Plan. It is available on disk or hard copy. This Plan incorporates Option 3, for the Washington Parkway Corridor, which was discussed at the last meeting as being preferred by the members.

**MOTION: Motion by Gloria Shakespeare to Approve the 2011-2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan as submitted. Motion seconded by Gil Almquist and passed by unanimous vote.**

B. Mobility Management Matching Funds

Curt Hutchings distributed copies of the attachment entitled "Mobility Management," and said that his purpose today is to receive authorization from this group to utilize \$6,400 of MPO reserve funds to match federal funding for a Mobility Manager. The Mobility Manager's function will be to implement some of the goals that this group has identified in other planning documents.

One of those goals was to develop a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) route from St. George to the Purgatory complex and to the industrial area. The purpose of that would be to transport approximately 1,500 people to and from their employment. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study said that in a few years, when the population threshold has reached an appropriate level and a route has been established, a transit system will be viable. He said the commuter route will be a precursor to that established transit route.

Larry Bulloch asked if this would be an ongoing position, and Curt said it would be a current staff person whose job would be partially paid for by this funding from a \$6,400 MPO match. An employee who is currently employed would spend a percentage of his or her time on this project. In future years, the funding would have to be obtained elsewhere. Myron said that in the past ten years, a portion of the vote share money went into a reserve account earmarked for things like this. He proposed taking \$6,400 of this reserve money to fund the mobility manager initiative. The current vote share is \$7,000 per vote; if this \$6,400 is added, we would have to increase the vote share amount to approximately \$8,000 next year to cover the second year and all years beyond that for the Mobility Manager. In the past, the vote share was \$12,000 and the amount between the \$7,000 and the \$12,000 was placed in a reserve account for about 5-6 years. That amount is in a reserve account that contains approximately \$45,000 at this point.

Gloria asked if this proposal is to hire a person to perform the transit study, and Curt said no, several years ago an Implementation Plan was done for coordinated services, and this position would satisfy the needs of that Plan, which is already in place. Mayor McArthur said that within St. George City, they would like to expand the transit services of SunTran by adding routes, shorten the wait time, increase ridership, etc. But there needs to be a gradual increase because of the enormous costs involved in subsidizing these services. He added that because most of the County is in a metropolitan area and Hurricane is in a rural zone, St. George and Hurricane will not be competing for the same funds.

Mayor Hart said he didn't see an immediate need for this position and asked for clarification. If a new full-time employee needs to be hired, then that salary will require additional funding; but if it is possible to use a currently-employed staff member who will switch his/her duties to perform those of the Mobility Manager, then it appears no additional funding would be required. Curt said a current member of staff could devote approximately one-third of his or her time to this new position. Chairman Eardley agreed, saying that if that is the case, there is no need to hire a Mobility Manager. Curt added that the funding that has been received is specific to the duties of the Mobility Manager.

Myron said the transit study done in 2009 showed that in order to do mobility management, a certain list of tasks must be accomplished. The MPO is now ready to do that list of tasks, but in order to free up a third of one of its full-time employees to do that list of tasks, we need something to bill his time against. This funding source would be that billing source; otherwise we would find another program to bill his time against and have him do the tasks for that other program. Or, if there are no other programs, available, then it would be a reduction in force in our office.

Mayor McArthur said that the description of the job duties contained in the Mobility Management document did not convince him that the salary was commensurate with the tasks. Ron Whitehead said that perhaps this group should wait until transit routes are established before designating a Mobility Manager. Myron said that the Transportation Feasibility Study was done for the purpose of creating a transit authority in Washington County. The duties of the Mobility Manager would be more geared towards filling commuter buses to capacity and maximizing profit, and other managerial tasks.

Curt pointed out that the underlying purpose is to coordinate transportation in the County. One of the biggest hurdles is insurance issues for agencies that have a desire to participate in this effort. The MPO has located several agencies who have expressed

a desire to work together insofar as staffing is concerned. The school district spends too much money transporting too few people to a jobsite, and TURN Community Services travels essentially the same routes at the same times of day. This duplication would be one way to increase efficiency. The coordination of that type of paperwork would be another job of the Mobility Manager.

Mayor Hart said that the above type of coordination could easily be done by the two agencies getting together to figure it out themselves. He complained that resources are too thin to be funding a position like the Mobility Manager, at least at this time. He asked for a more specific job description, and Mayor McArthur agreed. He suggested using the resources that currently exist in the community and trying to make better use of them.

Chairman Eardley asked whether the group preferred to table this item until a later date or move to invest the \$6,400. Mayor Hart said his preference would be to have a specific list of tasks submitted so that the committee knows exactly what it would be paying for.

**MOTION: Motion by Mayor Hart to Table this Item until the MPO submits a specific list of tasks/job description to be undertaken by the Mobility Manager. Motion seconded by Mayor McArthur and carried by unanimous vote.**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Steve Call indicated that he represents the federal government and is responsible for obtaining funding for various projects, approving plans, the statewide TIP (which includes all the MPO TIPS), and other administrative duties.

### **NEXT MEETING**

A. No meeting in July; next meeting **August 17, 2011**

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.