



EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

MINUTES

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC)

Toquerville City Hall
212 N Toquer Blvd, Toquerville, UT

Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 1:30 pm

RTAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Arthur LeBaron
Mayor Hyrum Lefler
Mr. Daren Cottam
Mr. Todd Edwards
Mr. Dana Meier

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City
Leeds Town
Toquerville City
Washington County
Utah Dept of Transportation

RTAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Derek Imlay

REPRESENTING:

LaVerkin City

RTEC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Tom Hirschi
Mayor Karl Wilson
Mayor Hyrum Lefler
Mayor Darrin LeFevre

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City
LaVerkin City
Leeds Town
Toquerville City

RTEC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Jim Eardley

REPRESENTING:

Washington County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Doni Pack
Mr. Curt Hutchings

REPRESENTING:

Five County Assoc. of Governments
Five County Assoc. of Governments

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DECLARATION**

Mr. Arthur LeBaron, Chair, welcomed all in attendance. There was a RTAC and a RTEC quorum present.



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II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 31 , 2011

A motion was made by Mr. Daren Cottam, seconded by Mr. Todd Edwards, to approve the Minutes of the March 31, 2011 Rural Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. FUTURE RPO FUNDING – UDOT & FCAOG FIVE YEAR MOU

A motion was made by Mr. Daren Cottam, seconded by Mayor Hyrum Lefler, for the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee to recommend to the Rural Transportation Executive Council the expenditure of match monies for Years Four and Five of the operation of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization, namely; \$16,000 for Year Four and \$22,000 for Year Five.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made by Mayor Tom Hirschi, seconded by Mayor Karl Wilson, to approve the expenditure of match monies for Years Four and Five of the operation of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization, namely; \$16,000 for Year Four and \$22,000 for Year Five.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. RPO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2011-2040

A. Final Version

Ms. Doni Pack provided RTAC and RTEC members with copies of the proposed final version of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. LeBaron and Mr. Edwards both noted that there are small changes and/or typos that may need correction. Mr. LeBaron inquired of Mr. Dana Meier if the Plan can be approved at this time and revised as small changes are needed. Mr. Meier responded that it is a plan, and plans can be reviewed and revised, so it may be approved and submitted in its current form.

Both the RTAC and the RTEC Committees agreed to spend time before their next meetings reviewing the document and noting any possible changes needed. Mr. Todd Edwards suggested that the Plan was substantially complete and could be recommended and approved based on that fact.

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B. Recommendation to RTEC by RTAC

A motion was made by Mr. Todd Edwards, seconded by Mr. Daren Cottam, for the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee to recommend to the Rural Transportation Executive Council the approval of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization's Regional Transportation Plan with the realization that there will be minor corrections made initially and revisions made over time.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Approval of Plan by RTEC

A motion was made by Mayor Tom Hirschi, seconded by Mayor Karl Wilson to approve the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization's Regional Transportation Plan with the realization that there will be minor corrections made initially and revisions made over time.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V. TRAILS

A. Quail Creek Bicycle Loop Designation

A motion was made by Mr. Arthur LeBaron, seconded by Mr. Daren Cottam, for the RTAC to petition by letter the appropriate Jurisdictions to request approval of the formation of the Quail Creek Loop, delineated in the RPO Regional Transportation Plan, as a designation bicycle route.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. LeBaron will draft the designation request letter. Mr. Edwards did share that the County does not want any signage on the County owned section of the Route. The County prefers using fewer signs in general. Mayor Hirschi shared concerns regarding liability if a bicyclist is injured on a designated route.

Mr. LeBaron clarified that a bicycle route has a minimal definition: according to UDOT,

Bike Route (a.k.a. Class III) - *A segment of road designated by the jurisdiction having authority, with appropriate directional and informational markers, but without striping,* signing
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and pavement markings designating the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Also called Bicycle Route. This includes wide striped shoulders that (due to configuration and classification) do not meet the standards for a designated Bike Lane. Note that although a Bike Route does not include specific "Bike Lane" signing or pavement markings, it should be signed as a "Bike Route" for safety and way finding purposes.

Ms. Pack mentioned that monies may come available to make improvements on the roads if the area becomes designated a non-attainment area. There was some discussion regarding air quality and 'attainment' and 'non-attainment'.

B. Road Respect Update

Ms. Pack handed out copies of the Five County AOG newsletter, Volume X Number 3 that includes an article regarding the Road Respect bicycle ride and events. The agenda is posted on the Five County AOG transportation website (www.tpo.fivecounty.utah.gov). The Road Respect project is a public relations campaign sponsored by UDOT and the Utah Public Safety Department to help educate the public on the rules of the road for cars and bicyclists.

VI. OTHER/FUTURE TOPICS

A. Babylon Road Discussion

Mr. Drake Howell asked to speak at the meeting regarding the future of Babylon Road, which bisects the newly designated Babylon Section of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA). With this new designation, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was advised to update their Resource Management Plan (RMP), including a transportation plan, created in conjunction with the local governments.

Within the RPO there is a major north-south road that transects the NCA called Babylon Road. Mr. Howell stated that within the BLM there are two different groups regarding where to place utilities corridors within these NCA's.

Mr. LeBaron volunteered to write the letter and Mr. Curt Hutchings requested including the RPO Regional Transportation Plan and Map which both indicate the need for a transportation corridor in that area.

A motion was made by Mayor Hyrum Lefler, seconded by Mr. Daren Cottam, representing the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee, in support of a Letter of Petition to be drafted and delivered to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the importance of Babylon Road as a transportation route and utility corridor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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A motion was made by Mayor Tom Hirschi, seconded by Mayor Karl Wilson, representing the Rural Transportation Executive Council, in support of a Letter of Petition to be drafted and delivered to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the importance of Babylon Road as a transportation route and utility corridor, signed by all the Mayors and County Commissioner and Utah Department of Transportation representative of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Some discussion followed regarding the options possible for the “Northern Corridor” or “Washington Parkway” transportation route.

B. Toquerville Bypass Discussion

Councilmember Lynn Olds presented a map indicating the proposed Toquerville Bypass Route. Mr. Olds indicated places where transportation corridors from other RPO communities could connect into the Bypass.

Commercial and residential development is planned along the Bypass by Toquerville City. The full right-of-way is almost purchased completely. Mr. Cottam suggested that members of the RPO do master planning, to consider where the main roads in that entire region are needed. The FCAOG staff will produce a map showing a larger area for such master planning at the next RTAC meeting.

Mayor Wilson suggested not linking projects together or it can slow down the projects.

Mr. Dana Meier asked what type of road the Bypass is intended to be. Mr. Cottam replied that the intention by Toquerville City is that SR-17 would follow the bypass, and the section of SR-17 that currently goes through town would be the responsibility of Toquerville City.

Mr. Meier asked what the purpose and need for the road would be?

The Bypass would allow for residential and commercial development in the west section of Toquerville and open up the Westfield Road traffic congestion. It would also facilitate State safety rules the area.

The last of the Right of Way could be acquired within the next six months.

Mr. Meier explained the usual process of putting in a road. You do a Feasibility Study, identify a purpose and need, then an Environmental Assessment needs to be done.



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Next a designer is hired to design the road and a contractor to build the road. That is usually an approximately 10 year project.

Mr. Meier inquired into the land owners who donated their property; what Toquerville's commitment is to them. Mr. Olds responded that the property was deeded over.

In the mid-1990's the municipalities of Hurricane, LaVerkin, and Toquerville participated in a 20 year plan for the development of these roads.

Mr. Meier asked what action they want UDOT to take and the RPO to take. He suggested that the RPO try to move up the feasibility study on the RPO priority list. Mr. Cottam wants to investigate east-west routes and be sure to think about master planning. Mr. Meier said he is willing to take the information on what has already been planned to the Regional Engineering Team and discuss potential funding for a future study. The feasibility study is basically unnecessary this far along, but there are one or more environmental documents that need to be done as part of the environmental evaluation – categorical exclusion, environmental assessment (EA), and possibly an environmental impact study (EIS). He also pointed out that Toquerville's contribution or match is the right-of-way, which is huge.

C. The next RTEC meeting will be held on August 25, 2011, 1:30 pm, at Leeds Town Hall.

VII. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.