

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
March 15, 2017

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Vice-Chair Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Zachary Renstrom, Washington County Commissioner
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City Council

OTHERS PRESENT

Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor
Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor
Ed Dickie, Santa Clara City
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Nathan Merrill, UDOT & SUBA
Jim McConnell, UDOT
Steve Call, Federal Highway Administration
Courtney Brinkerhoff, Senator Orrin Hatch's Office
Katie Marble, Zero Fatalities
Kim O'Brian, St. George Citizen
Paul Van Dam, Ivins Citizen, Conserve Southwest Utah
Lisa Rutherford, Ivins Citizen, Conserve Southwest Utah

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. It was determined that a quorum existed for voting on action items.

BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes –February 15, 2017 Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Utah Transportation Commissioner Naghi Zeenati to Approve the Minutes of February 15, 2017 DTEC Meeting. Motion Seconded by Mayor Bramall and Carried by a Unanimous Vote.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

a. Transportation Expo Full Report

Myron Lee of the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Transportation Expo held at the Dixie Center on February 7, 2017. There were approximately 889 people that attended throughout the day, of which; the majority was over the age of 55. Mr. Lee stated that in future years more can be done to solicit the attendance of those younger than 55.

The major concerns that were noted were safety and congestion, along with roadway alternatives and cycling trails. In regards to transit use, it was reported that more people would use it if there were stops closer to home and to specific destinations. Surveys also showed that forty percent (40%) of people never intend to use the transit system.

(See attached PowerPoint)

b. New FHWA Requirement – Performance Measures

Mr. Lee explained that the Federal Highway Administration FHWA is migrating toward performance measures as directed under the most recent Transportation Bill. Under that legislation the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and the Dixie MPO will soon have to show progress in safety as measured by the number and rate of serious injury crashes and fatal crashes on our transportation system. UDOT's deadline to set a performance measure baselines and a statewide goal is October 1, 2018. The MPO will then be required to adopt the state goal or to set its own goal.

To illustrate the safety performance measures, Mr. Lee distributed a handout with statistics of crashes and injury crashes on State and local roads. The statistics were shown for both statewide crashes and crashes that occurred in Washington County. Some of the specific numbers correlate to: teenage driver involved; older driver involved; speed related; aggressive driving; distracted driving; Driving Under the Influence (DUI); pedestrian involved; bicyclist involved; collision with fixed object; adverse weather; nighttime; work zone related; etc. UDOT is working to set a reduction goal for serious and fatal crashes in anticipation of the coming deadline. More information will follow.

(See attached statistic report)

c. Safety Reports and Zero Fatalities

Katie Marble, representing the Zero Fatalities campaign, distributed a list of community partnership resources and presented several videos and statics demonstrating the types of programs that are available to local entities to reverberate the messages of safe driving including the importance of buckling up. The goal of the State campaigns are to get to a point where there are zero fatalities on the roads in Utah.

Ninety-four percent (94%) of all crashes are due to human error. The top five factors related to crashes and injury are: drowsy driving; distracted driving; aggressive driving; impaired driving; and not buckling up. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of fatalities in crashes are people not in vehicles: including motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The most dangerous time to be a pedestrian or bicyclist is between the hours of 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM due to low visibility for drivers. Ms. Marble encouraged anyone running, walking, or biking during those hours to wear reflective clothing to increase visibility and safety.

The programs highlighted by Ms. Marble are available for use anywhere in Utah and can be coordinated through her office. She encouraged everyone on the DTEC Committee to take the Zero Fatality initiatives to heart, especially in light of the pending performance measurement requirements from FHWA.

(See attached partnership list)

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS UPDATES

a. UDOT Updates

UDOT Region 4 Program Engineer Jim McConnell gave an update of current UDOT projects, stating that paving is on schedule for the SR-9 Rockville to Springdale project and is anticipated to begin on April 1, 2017. The second phase of that project is the Springdale to Zion National Park section, which will be advertised in July after a few additional right-of-way acquisitions. The Bluff Street Interchange will be advertised in September, as right-of-way acquisitions are anticipated to be completed by June. The Projected start date of the Bluff Street project is January, 2018, with a completion date of October, 2018. Rockville and Veyo bridge rehabilitation will begin soon as well.

Utah Transportation Commissioner Naghi Zeenati mentioned the upcoming UDOT project tour on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 2:00 PM. The following morning there will be an Open Public Meeting at 8:30 AM in the St. George City Council Chambers for anyone to attend and give comments and feedback to the Commission.

Mr. Lee stated that the 2017 Utah State Legislature has approved a one (\$1) billion dollar bond to be used for transportation. There will be a staff meeting held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the St. George City Offices where UDOT will introduce a priority list of projects that could potentially receive some of the aforementioned bond funds. The legislation includes an earmark of \$100 Million for projects that have a significant economic development impact associated with recreation and tourism within the state and that address significant needs for congestion mitigation. Friday's Transportation Commission Meeting would be a good opportunity for mayors, as well as anyone from the Committee, to review the list and ensure that any projects in this area that meet the criteria are also included on the UDOT priority list.

b. Federal Updates

Steve Call, from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) gave a summary of regulations affecting the MPO at the federal level in Washington D.C. None of the regulations have been officially adopted yet and are still subject to change.

OTHER BUSINESS

None presented .

NEXT MEETING

DTEC meeting: April 19, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cheyenne Bentley