



EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

MINUTES

Rural Transportation Executive Council (RTEC)

Leeds Town Hall
218 North Main, Leeds, UT

Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 1:30 pm

RTEC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Tom Hirschi
Mayor Darrin LeFevre
Commissioner Jim Eardley
Director Nathan Lee

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City
Toquerville City
Washington County
UDOT, Region 4

RTEC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Karl Wilson
Mayor Hyrum Lefler

REPRESENTING:

LaVerkin City
Leeds Town

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Arthur LeBaron
Mayor Rick Moser
Mr. Dave Demas
Ms. Doni Pack
Mr. Curt Hutchings

REPRESENTING:

Hurricane City
Apple Valley Town
Horrocks Engineering
Five County Assoc. of Governments
Five County Assoc. of Governments

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

Mayor Tom Hirschi, Chair, welcomed all in attendance. There was a quorum present.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2011**

**A motion was made by Commissioner James Eardley,
seconded by Mayor Darrin LeFevre, to approve the Minutes of the
May 26, 2011 Rural Transportation Executive Council
with a change in the following Motion due to a conflict of interest:**



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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”

The change is the removal of the Utah Department of Transportation representative as a signer on the Letter of Petition to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Babylon Road.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. **CHANGE IN BYLAWS**

A request was made by the Utah Department of Transportation to include a member of their Agency as a voting member of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization Executive Council. (EWC RPO) Mr. Nathan Lee, Director of UDOT Region Four would be the current representative. Mr. Dana Meier of the Dixie Team of UDOT Region Four will continue as a voting member of the Rural Transportation Advisory Council, as previously established by a change in the EWC RPO Bylaws.

A motion was made by Commissioner James Eardley, seconded by Mayor Darrin LeFevre, to approve the addition in Article II, Section III, Paragraph 1 of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization Bylaws: “In addition there shall be a representative from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT).”

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Pack handed out updated copies of the EWC RPO Bylaws which included this change.

IV. **EWC RPO LOGO APPROVAL**

A new staff member of the Five County AOG transportation department offered to make improvements to the EWC RPO logo. Ms. Pack presented RTEC members with three versions of the updated logo for their review. It was decided to accept one of the three newer versions.

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A motion was made by Mayor Darrin LeFevre, seconded by Commissioner James Eardley to approve the updated version, with the black print, of the Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization’s logo.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V. **FINAL UDOT-FCAOG MOU**

Ms. Pack distributed copies of the final version of the UDOT-FCAOG Memorandum of Understanding that was previously approved by motion. This was just to provide a final print copy to all RTEC members.

VI. **TOQUERVILLE BYPASS DISCUSSION**

Mayor LeFevre explained that more than ¾’s of the proposed Toquerville Bypass corridor has already been purchased by the City of Toquerville. The corridor is planned according to State Route standards so that the existing portion of SR-17 that goes through downtown Toquerville could most easily be swapped for the new corridor by UDOT, if agreed.

Mr. Lee inquired regarding the ultimate goal to trade the bypass and the current SR-17 through downtown Toquerville. Mayor LeFevre responded that swapping SR-17 with the bypass corridor would solve some State safety problems along SR-17, such as a dangerous “S” turn and no room to go to four lanes. It would also allow more commercial and residential development in western Toquerville City, and open up the Westfield Road traffic congestion.

Mr. LeBaron inquired as to who owned the rest of the property. The unpurchased portion belongs to the Lowe Family. In preliminary negotiations, the Lowes have no problem with deeding the property over to the City, but they have a few stipulations including making sure the road meets UDOT road standards.

VII. **RTP CORRIDOR CORRECTIONS**

Ms. Pack explained that the Projects and Phasing Map included in the EWC RPO Regional Transportation Plan has been updated to indicate that an East-West connector road between the Toquerville Bypass and Leeds area does not pass through the Babylon Section of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area. The East-West connector is representative only – the alignment has not been determined.



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Mr. Lee inquired regarding the Babylon Road. Mr. LeBaron shared that an extension of the Babylon Road to 600 North has been in the Hurricane City Master Plan for many years. The extension could also continue south to the Southern Parkway on SR-9. This is the extension referred to in the letter being sent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mayor Hirschi noted that Babylon Road is an old County 2477 road that may be needed for access

to I-15 as the population increases in Hurricane. Mr. Hirschi related that 3-4 years ago Congressmen Matheson, Hatch and Bennett came to Hurricane City where they were requested by Hurricane City to “red line” the Babylon Road to keep it available as a transportation corridor.

Mr. Lee asked if the current RPO Projects and Phasing list reflects these possible corridor plans and future changes. Ms. Pack answered in the affirmative. They will be considered as part of the RPO’s annual project prioritization process.

Mr. Lee also inquired if the transportation plan for the NCA that will define land use in that area has already been written, and if not, when it is going to be written. Ms. Pack responded that Mr. Meier heard that the General Plan and the Transportation Plan for the NCA’s are going to be done separately and have separate completion dates, which may cause confusion. Commissioner Eardley said the development of the plans was an ongoing process.

VIII. BABYLON ROAD LETTER SIGNATURES

The Babylon Road letter that was already approved by the RTAC and the RTEC only needs a few more signatures from the Mayors. Mr. Hirschi requested that Mr. LeBaron be sure to send a copy to Mr. Mike Lee. Mr. LeBaron clarified that the letter only requests a preserved corridor that would provide for a 32’ wide swath of asphalt with no sidewalks. It would also be a good utility corridor.

IX. CORRIDOR STUDY SCOPE OF WORK

Last week, representatives from the RPO, MPO, and UDOT got together to discuss the need for a cost-benefit analysis of four proposed corridors. The RPO would like to work with UDOT to develop a Scope of Work to contract a cost-benefit analysis. Mr. LeBaron said they are planning to approach the Council of Governments (COG) for funding. There was some discussion regarding whether COG funds can be used to pay for corridor planning.

After a cost-benefit analysis, then an alignment study would be next.

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X. **TRAILS**

A. Road Respect Campaign Report

Mr. LeBaron reported that the event went very well. It began with a group ride around the newly designated Sand Hollow Loop. Approximately 75 people joined in that ride. A number of children came to receive bicycle road rules training and were given free bicycle helmets. The Road Respect bicyclists arrived later in the morning.

Commissioner Eardley voiced his concerns regarding the conflicts between bicyclists and motorists. Mr. LeBaron suggests media messages and campaigns like Road Respect. He also suggested making the sides of the roads more friendly for the bicyclists so they are motivated to use the other side of the white line.

A Dan Jones survey regarding who in the general population understands the Rules of the Road for bicyclists and motorists found that motorists are much less informed than the bicyclists.

Mr. LeBaron quoted that people ride SR-59 only one time. It is very unsafe for bicyclists.

B. Quail Creek Bicycle Loop Designation Finalization

After working with Mr. Dana Meier, Mr. Robert Dowell, and Bike/Ped Director Ms. Evelyn Tuddenham of UDOT, the Quail Creek Bicycle Loop is now considered a designated bicycle route.

C. Signage Plan

A signage plan will be developed indicating Share the Road signs and Route markers and submitted to UDOT for approval.

XI. **OTHER/FUTURE PROJECTS**

A. Annual Project Prioritization

This process will begin at the next RTAC meeting. Please have staff be prepared.

B. Next meeting will be held October 27, 2011 at 1:30 at Hurricane City Hall.

XII. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.