

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 5, 2011**  
**Five County Association of Governments**  
**Conference Room**  
**St. George, UT**

**PRESENT**

Chuck Gillette for Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director  
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director  
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director  
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Transportation Service Manager  
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator  
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director  
Rick Torgerson, UDOT, Region Four Program Manager  
Bronson Bundy, Washington City  
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, FCAOG  
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Planning Manager, FCAOG  
Ken Sizemore, Executive Director, FCAOG  
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG  
Doni Pack, Five County AOG  
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering

**ABSENT**

Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Vice-Chair  
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer  
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer  
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer  
Dana Meier, UDOT, Dixie Team  
Ryan Marshall, St. George City, General Manager SunTran

Myron Lee explained that Dave Glenn has asked to be excused today. He notified the office that his voting rights have been designated to Chuck Gillette on behalf of Ivins City. It was noted that a quorum was present to conduct business. Mr. Lee entertained a nomination to designate a chair for today's meeting.

**MIKE SHAW NOMINATED LARRY BULLOCH TO ACT AS CHAIR FOR TODAY'S MEETING. NOMINATION WAS SECONDED BY MONTY THURBER.**

**1. MINUTES SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 MEETING**

Larry Bulloch, Acting-Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance and presented minutes of the September 7, 2011 DTAC meeting for committee consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 2. LONG RANGE PLANNING

- A. **Potential Planning Studies for FY 2012 and 2013:** Myron Lee reported that approximately \$150,000 in funds will be available in FY 2012 for the development of corridor studies. Approximately \$50,000 is committed to the regional transportation study, but there will be about \$95,000 to \$100,000 for other planning studies. Horrocks Engineering has utilized the travel demand model to identify some potential roadways that may require additional study. Rick Torgerson questioned whether the funds would have to be used for studies only or if funds could be used for safety related improvements. Myron indicated that it is his understanding that the funds must be utilized for studies. A handout outlining alternatives for consideration includes the following: **1) Dixie Drive North--** This roadway is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan for widening to seven lanes. Larry Bulloch pointed out that all of the cities have updated Road Master Plans which outline improvements to various roadways and studying this roadway may not be the best use of funds; **2) River Road (Red Cliffs Drive through Telegraph)--** Expanded capacity for the entire corridor would require significant right-of-way that would be expensive; **3) Old Highway 91--** This roadway is not located in the MPO for the most part. Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County is currently working to address safety improvements; **4) Washington Parkway (Between Telegraph and Washington Dam Road)--** Determine if the terrain is suitable to build a road in this area. If a road in this area is not feasible, it should be pulled out of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP); **5) Plantations Drive--** This road is included in the LRTP and may need additional study; **6) Valley View Drive / Indian Hills Drive--** Larry Bulloch indicated that these roadways are included in the St. George City Transportation Master Plan and the right-of-way is in place for 60' road widths; **7) Purgatory Road--** The Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is looking to utilize corridor preservation funds to acquire right-of-way for this roadway. Approximately one-half of the roadway is inside the MPO boundary; **8) Hidden Valley Drive--** This is the frontage road along I-15 to the Southern Parkway; **9) Sunset Boulevard--** Plans call for this roadway to be widened in the future. Larry Bulloch indicated that the road is already wide enough to accommodate seven lanes; **10) 3,000 East--** Located in St. George City.

Myron Lee asked committee members if utilizing planning funds for any of these projects would be the best use of funds or if members are aware of other projects that may be more appropriate. Larry Bulloch questioned if funds could be utilized for design and suggested that jurisdictions submit concept reports for any planning projects. Cameron Cutler commented that several alternatives were provided in the Exit 8 study to address the intersections on St. George Boulevard and River Road. The exit itself works fairly well but congestion at the two intersections impedes traffic flow. The I-15 Environmental Assessment also addresses some of these problems. It was the consensus of committee members for MPO staff to initiate a call for projects that could be accomplished through a one page description submitted to Myron Lee to be due October 24<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that funding needs to be spent by July 1, 2012. Applications received will be evaluated during the November DTAC meeting for funding consideration.

- B. Origin and Destination Household Study:** Myron Lee reported that RSG is moving ahead with website design and the questionnaire that will be utilized for this process. Data will be collected in terms of daily trips by households that will include all modes of transportation such as walking, biking, automobile and/or transit. The consultant has asked if DTAC members would like specific questions included to collect data on full and part-time residents. Members felt that information on seasonal residents would be helpful. The survey draft will be presented on October 18<sup>th</sup> but could be refined prior to beginning the formal process that is anticipated to begin in December. Members were asked to provide any specific questions they would like included to Myron via e-mail no later than October 14<sup>th</sup>. Draft surveys will be available on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and Myron will provide a copy to members via e-mail.

### **3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING**

- A. Washington Parkway Study Status Update:** Mr. Lee reported that MPO staff, UDOT, and St. George and Washington cities are going through the contractor selection process for this study. Proposals were received from eight firms, but the field has been narrowed to two consultants who will be interviewed tomorrow. In recent conversations, Jimmy Tyree, Bureau of Land Management, has acknowledged that the land bill requires that the preferred alternative must incorporate a northern transportation route. It appears that BLM staff have changed their thinking and will proceed with development of alternatives after the Thanksgiving Holiday. Information provided by the MPO through Washington County will be considered in the RMP process. Draft copies of Chapter 1 of the document will be reviewed by the working committee which includes representatives from Washington County as a cooperating agency.
- B. Transit Study Status Update:** Myron reported that meetings with AECOM and Lewis, Young, Robertson and Burningham indicate that a fair amount of work has been accomplished ahead of schedule. The study will include development of a case study outlining how to develop and structure regional transit services. A draft is anticipated by the end of October for review.

### **4. SERVICES**

**A. TIGER III Grant Program - Group Discussion**

Larry Bulloch reported that St. George City is working hard to pull this application together. Staff has reached the point where they realize that they need to be engaged in an environmental process in order for the project to be competitive. Horrocks Engineering is working to determine if the project can be accomplished through a Cad-X process. Some environmental work has been done but not necessarily through an official process.

### **5. OPERATIONS PLANNING**

- A. Statewide Household Survey Status Update:** This item was discussed previously under the Origin and Destination Household study.

6. TIP

- A. **Concept Reports:** Myron Lee mentioned concept reports will be due at the November 2, 2011 DTAC meeting. Once reports have been submitted, copies will be provided to jurisdictions for scoring. Funds will be considered for allocation during the December DTAC meeting.

7. LOCAL PROJECTS

- A. **Ivins:** Dave Glenn reported that the roundabout design is approximately 70% complete. The City is in the process of acquiring all of the right-of-way and it is anticipated that construction will begin in January 2012.
- B. **St. George City:** Cameron Cutler reported that the Dixie Drive Interchange project has slowed somewhat because of a utility issue with Questar Gas. This issue could push the project completion to next fall. The Dixie Drive East extension is ahead of schedule and appraisals for right-of-way are underway. The Red Hills Parkway project has been awarded to J.P. Excavating, and construction should begin in the near future. Design of the Red Hills Parkway Interchange is approximately 90% complete. The Dixie Drive widening project is under construction, and the Mathis Bridge design is now underway.
- C. **Santa Clara City:** No representative in attendance.
- D. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that construction on Telegraph Street has been completed with the exception of final punch list items. The Washington Fields Road project work plan has been approved and is now awaiting fund availability that was moved forward in the 2012 TIP.
- E. **Washington County:** Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County is still working on flood repairs to Old Highway 91. It appears that the county may be able to expand some of the culverts, safety improvements, guard rail improvements, etc. A chip seal will be applied next summer. He also reported that additional emergency requests have been submitted for consideration. There has been some conflict between FEMA and the county's insurance company that has slowed payment for some small projects.
- F. **UDOT:** Rick Torgerson reported that a grand opening for Telegraph Street will be scheduled within the next few weeks. This is a very impressive project that progressed well through completion. The Black Ridge project is substantially complete, with the exception of some fencing and ATMS work. Design work for the passing lane over the Browse area is in process with construction anticipated next spring. UDOT is also moving design forward for widening of SR-18 from Redhills Parkway to Winchester Hills. Bluff Street construction will begin sometime in October with the first layer of asphalt applied this winter. The project will include a micro surface that will be applied in the spring. Work on the Bluff Street project will be done at night to avoid heavy daytime traffic. State Route 59 over the Hurricane Cliffs area will be bid within the next few weeks. Issues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Southern Parkway have been cleared. UDOT received a non-jurisdictional determination on all but two washes, which are interstate because they

cross state boundaries. Larry Bullock stated that St. George will be seeking a non-jurisdictional determination on the St. George Airport.

## 8. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. **Program Development - UDOT:** Rick Torgerson reported that the federal program extension occurred but there has been no authorization to spend money. Projects are moving forward with advance construction, and this may become an issue if a continuing resolution or federal budget is not approved in the near future. He also noted that SB 229 passed through the Utah Legislature last year was to provide additional sales tax revenues for transportation. This has been delayed and it appears that the bill will be taken back to the Legislature. UDOT was anticipating some new transportation projects in 2013-15 and it was hoped that the Southern Parkway 3D could be presented to the Transportation Commission during the April workshop.

Mr. Sizemore asked about the status of the Welcome Center in Washington County. Mr. Torgerson indicated that this has been a discussion at the Governor's office and some effort is underway to keep it at the current location in the Dixie Center. It is being proposed that once the Dixie Drive Interchange opens it will be determined if the welcome center can function the current location. UDOT has requested a proposal from the Office of Tourism, but to date staff has not responded. Mr. Sizemore explained that the current location in the Dixie Center is not working very well. Other city owned property in the vicinity of the Dixie Center may be a consideration. Larry Bulloch indicated that the city is currently accepting proposals on this property.

- B. **Federal Oversight:** None.

## 9. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at the Five County AOG office beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER AND SECONDED BY CHUCK GILLETTE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.