

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2011**  
**Five County Association of Governments**  
**Conference Room**  
**St. George, UT**

**PRESENT**

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  
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Vice-Chair  
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director  
Dana Meier for Rick Torgerson, UDOT, Dixie Team  
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City Engineer  
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  
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering  
Jerry Amundsen, H.W. Lochner  
Ronielle Howard, PB  
Dave Demas, Horrocks Engineering

**ABSENT**

Rick Torgerson, UDOT, Region Four Program Manager (Excused)  
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer  
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer  
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer  
Ryan Marshall, St. George City, General Manager SunTran

Dave Glenn welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that a quorum was present to conduct business.

**1. MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2011 MEETING**

Dave Glenn, Chair, noted a correction to the minutes under city reports on page 4, Ivins City, which should read Chuck Gillette reported..... and Dave Glenn should be listed as absent on the attendance list. With the noted corrections, he presented minutes of the October 5, 2011 DTAC meeting for committee consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2011 MEETING WITH NOTED CORRECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 2. LONG RANGE PLANNING

- A. **Origin and Destination Household Study:** Curt Hutchings reported that meetings have been held with the consultant to review household survey trip diary questions, household survey questions and stated preference add-on survey questions. A copy of the sampling of questions contained in the survey was provided for review and comment. It was noted that this is a statewide survey, but information specific to the MPO is included. The attitudinal survey portion will pick up information for Washington County. Committee members were asked to review the survey questions and provide input to Myron within the next week.
- B. **Ivins City Master Transportation Plan Addendum:** Dave Glenn reported that the Ivins City Council has approved an addendum to the City's Master Transportation Plan which states that roundabouts are the preferred mechanism for intersections. The addendum addresses new development and requires that right-of-way is provided to accommodate roundabouts. Traffic signals would only be a consideration where the engineer determines that a roundabout is not the proper mechanism at a specific intersection. This is a blanket statement that roundabouts are the preferred alternative in Ivins. Copies of a map depicting intersections in Ivins was provided for review.

Myron Lee expressed concern with this preference on Old Highway 91 and the Western Corridor. Both of these roadways would likely be accommodating a higher volume of traffic and roundabouts may not provide the best option for moving traffic. The recommendation for utilizing roundabouts directly relates to dark skies. Chuck Gillette pointed out that Ivins does utilize reduced illumination at intersections and other things were considered in establishing this preference. Myron asked that the City take into consideration the regional demand that will be placed on these two corridors in particular and make sure that intersections will handle the traffic volume. This agenda item is brought to this group to provide awareness of the issue and to determine if the committee would be in favor of developing written policies that define what constitutes a regional transportation facility and look at roads of regional significance in terms of character for a particular class of road. Each city has specific plans for development and establishing their own identify. Dave Glenn pointed out that the Western Corridor does not have traffic modeling at this time and without that data it would be difficult to determine policy for the road. It was noted that a lot of research has been done by Ivins City to explore the use of roundabouts versus intersections. This is the preferred method, but not the only method.

Mr. Lee expressed a desire for the MPO to be notified by cities when these types of decisions are pending and revisions are made to the Master Transportation Plan. Dana Meier, UDOT, commented that roundabouts function well on low capacity roads, but may have a negative impact on higher volume roads by impeding access to the city or creating traffic congestion. In some instances the use of roundabouts creates traffic congestion and bottlenecks traffic. Consideration needs to be given for the best level of service and the best cost in development of alternatives. Larry Bulloch mentioned that when using MPO funds projects need to implement standard engineering principles to achieve the most efficient design. The MPO could develop policy in conjunction with utilization of their funds. Myron indicated that staff will be working to develop draft policies that address the use of MPO funds.

### 3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. **Washington Parkway Study Status Update:** Mr. Lee reported that Jacobs Engineering has been awarded the contract for this study. The study will be approached to bring in some science to the mix when examining the desert tortoise habitat, density, and utilizing the road to enhance the habitat. This study will be forging new ground in interfacing with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with urban land management. A kick off meeting has been held and letters are being drafted for submission by Washington County to assist with the BLM process of developing the resource management plan. Larry Bulloch expressed the desire to maintain administrative record so that the opportunity to preserve a corridor through the preserve is not lost. Jacobs Engineering will be working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to reach mutual agreement with the goal of accommodating traffic demand.
- B. **Potential Planning Studies for FY 2011, 2012:** Myron provided copies of concept reports submitted by St. George City and Washington City for potential studies. Mike Shaw explained that Washington City is proposing a study for the intersection of Green Springs Drive, Telegraph Street, 3050 East and Red Cliffs Drive. The purpose of the study is to analyze the current and future conditions at this intersection to develop alternatives to improve both safety and capacity. The estimated cost for this study is in the \$50,000 range. A specific cost estimate was not obtained and it may be a much lower cost. Larry Bulloch reported that St. George City is proposing a study of 1000 East and River Road at Milepost 8 with an estimated cost of more than the available amount of \$95,000. The City would cover the costs exceeding this amount. A previous study of this area did not provide the necessary analysis to determine a feasible and viable solution to the congestion issue. Dana Meier, UDOT, indicated that the I-15 EA does not address these particular intersections. It would better for both of these projects to be separate from the I-15 EA because both fall under a CAD-X environmental.
- C. **Selection of FY 2011 Planning Study:** Myron Lee commented that both are worthy projects. Ivins and Santa Clara city representatives acknowledged that they did not submit proposals because no studies were deemed pertinent at this time. It was suggested that the funding could be split in half to fund both projects.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY LARRY BULLOCH FOR MIKE SHAW TO OBTAIN A FIRM QUOTE ON THE WASHINGTON CITY STUDY. ST. GEORGE CITY WOULD UTILIZE THE BALANCE OF THE FUNDS LEFT OVER UP TO THE \$95,000 AMOUNT. RECOMMENDATION TO FUND BOTH STUDIES AS OUTLINED WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DTEC). MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS AND CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Myron Lee asked that the quote be obtained prior to the November 16, 2011 DTEC meeting in order to obtain approval from DTEC to proceed with these studies.

#### 4. TIP

- A. **TIP Concept Reports:** Myron Lee provided a copy of the TIP spreadsheet and reviewed funding that was shifted forward for East Dixie Drive and Washington Fields Road. He reviewed funds that are available for programming each year and the running balance. At this point, a continuing resolution that would continue SAFETEA-LU funding has been approved by the Senate and sent to the House for action. Funding levels could continue at the historic level or see an approximate 30% reduction. Funding to the MPO could be programmed at the full level or at an 80% level as in the past. If funds are programmed at the 100% level, there is risk that reductions may be required. Using the 80% funding level provides the opportunity to program any additional funds at a later time. Members requested that the table include another column that would depict the 20% funding that may be available to move forward as funding becomes available. Funds available for programming were outlined as follows: **1) 2014--** \$500,000; **2) 2015--** \$1.3 million; and **3) 2016--** \$1.3 million.

Ms. Lamoreaux called for concept reports from jurisdictions and noted that packets would be provided next week to voting members for scoring. Correspondence attached to the packets will provide a due date prior to the December DTAC meeting.

#### 5. LOCAL PROJECTS

- A. **Ivins:** None.
- B. **St. George City:** Cameron Cutler reported that Notice to Proceed for the Red Hills project will be issued by the end of this week. Construction of this road will include removal of some hill areas. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in July 2012. The Dixie Drive East bid advertisement will occur prior to Thanksgiving and completion is anticipated within 50-100 days after the contract is executed. The Dixie Drive widening project is requiring a lot of excavation between the Sunbrook Golf Course and Valley View Drive because of clay issues in this area. Mathis Bridge is under design, but it will be approximately 1.5 years before construction is completed. Riverside Drive is under design with the layout about 30-40% complete. This project includes widening to five lanes in most areas up to River Road. Larry Bulloch reported that St. George City submitted a TIGER III grant application for Mall Drive Bridge. Funding notification is not anticipated for at least 30 days.
- C. **Santa Clara City:** None.
- D. **Washington City:** None.
- E. **Washington County:** None.

#### 6. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. **Program Development - UDOT:** Dana Meier provided an update on the Southern Parkway and reviewed a map depicting all of the segments. It was noted that

segments 3A and 4A still have some right-of-way issues, but advertisement is anticipated sometime after the first of the year. Segment 3B is designed to approximately 30% and it is not anticipated that there will be any environmental issues. However, this is an unfunded section. He reviewed each segment and how connectivity will be provided to the airport. The Washington Dam Road will be completed to tie into the Southern Parkway. In addition, Washington Fields Road will be completed and ties into the Warner Valley Interchange. The Dixie Drive Interchange is on schedule with an anticipated opening in January 2012.

Mr. Meier provided an update on the SR-14 landslide and noted that this road will be closed for some time. UDOT is working to determine an avenue for funding this road, but it could include cancelling some projects. This project is massive and will include a fair amount of blasting.

Mr. Ken Sizemore mentioned that continued dialogue about the Welcome Center needs to occur. The temporary location in the Dixie Center does not work well. He reported that the Association of Governments contracts with UDOT and provides fiscal oversight through a subcontract with Maxine Stringham. The number of visitors has decreased significantly since relocating to the Dixie Center. This is in part to poor access at this location. Dana Meier provided a brief update of potential locations that have been under consideration. Recent discussion has included the Dixie Center as a permanent location with increased directional signs. Mr. Sizemore explained that the Welcome Center needs additional space for displays and there are limitations at the museum locations in terms of hours of operation. Support from Washington County and St. George City will be required to make sure that the Welcome Center remains. Jack Taylor agreed that the Dixie Center is not a good location for the Welcome Center, especially with the limited parking that is available during events. Mr. Sizemore asked that consideration of the Welcome Center remain an active topic of discussion to reach a viable solution.

**B. Federal Oversight: None.**

**7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Five County AOG office beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Ken Sizemore announced that the Joint Planning Authorities Council (JPAC) will be meeting on February 3, 2012 in St. George. Additional information will be provided prior to the meeting date. DTAC members are invited to attend.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY LARRY BULLOCH AND SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.