

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.
Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Chair
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director, Vice-Chair
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Town
Chris Hall for Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO, Five County AOG
Gary Zabriskie, Five County AOG
Kathy Starks, UDOT
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Kayde Roberts, UDOT
Ryan Jolley, Jones & Demille
Taylor Ricks, PEC
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineers
Brandon Weight, Civil Science
Tyler Hoskins, Aviation
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Susan Crook, Conserve Southwest Utah
Tim O'Brien, Conserve Southwest Utah
Samuel Gillette, Ivins

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ty Bringhurst, Toquerville City
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning (Excused)

Mr. Chuck Gillette, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. It was noted that a quorum was present to conduct business. .

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from March 7, 2018 Meeting:** Mr. Chuck Gillette, Chair, referenced minutes from the March 7, 2018 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting provided via email for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ARTHUR LEBARON, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE

MOTION CARRIED WITH MAYOR WAYNE PETERSON ABSTAINING BECAUSE HE DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING.

2. LONG RANGE PLANNING

- A. Washington Parkway Open House Recap:** Mr. Todd Edwards indicated that he was not in attendance at the meeting, but provided a handout from the meeting. Washington County elected officials conducted the open house at the Dixie Center in St. George on March 28, 2018. Approximately 250 people attended the open house and about 160 comments were submitted from those in attendance. A website will be live soon and a link will be provided to DTAC members as soon as this is available. A copy of all maps and proposal will be made available on the website. A summary of the potential bill that could ultimately be passed through the U.S. Congress was provided. The proposal would enlarge the size of the HCP and provide clarification of other things in regard to right-of-way for the Northern Corridor through the preserve. The proposed bill will also clarify some of the right-of-way on Old Highway 91. In scanning comments provided, it appears that the proposed expansion area has been utilized for hiking and mountain biking. The majority of comments from citizens was in favor of protecting these ongoing activities for public use of the land in question. There were also a number of comments pro and/or con on the Northern Corridor. Mr. Myron Lee requested that a copy of the comments received at the open house be provided for consideration at the MPO level. Comments will be combined into groups and posted on the website as well.
- B. Hurricane City Active Transportation Plan:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron reported that Hurricane City has received funding from the MPO, Community Impact Board, and the city to update their Master Transportation Plan which include integration of an Active Transportation Plan. This will provide all transportation and activities on one map for use of developers. When discussing roads, it will also provide a quick reminder of active transportation uses. This is being done with the City Council in order for them to take ownership. Some of the corridors require updating through this process. The big effort is the formation of an Active Transportation Committee. This committee will be composed of a lot of city staff, community volunteers, stakeholders, etc. The process for the active transportation portion is approximately 50% completed. Mr. LeBaron noted that Jones and Demille Engineering is under contract with Hurricane City, but Alta Planning is a sub-consultant for this plan. Mr. Cameron Cutler indicated that St. George City integrated the Active Transportation elements into their Road Master Plan.
- C. MPO Safety Focus Areas:** Mr. Myron Lee provided an excerpt from the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan regarding safety and the focus with adoption of UDOT safety performance measures. The graph depicts the incidence of severe and fatal crashes from 2010 to 2014 in Washington County. One thing of interest is that older and teenage drivers are mid way down in contributing factors. Staff is proposing to share examples over the next few months of what has been done in the MPO in the past to improve safety. Objectives and strategies are included in the handout as well. Respective cities have all been working on safety issues over time and staff is asking that representatives of the cities share information on how they are addressing safety within their communities. This information will be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee with these presentations. Page two of the handout covers intersections and various ways to improve safety. Examples can

include specific projects and/or spot improvements that cities have completed. Mr. Cameron Cutler reported that information has been provided to the parks department regarding sight distances at specific intersections to deal with landscape medians. This information assists that department in trimming vegetation to address safety issues at these intersection. Mr. Jay Sandberg also mentioned that a lot spot improvements have been accomplished with re-stripping. Mr. Arthur LeBaron indicated that UDOT recently completed a project on SR-9 and Hurricane City contributed funds for installation of a raised median for a short distance to manage a wide driveway at a gas station. Hurricane City entered into an agreement with UDOT ten years ago that addresses access management on SR-9. Mr. Mike Shaw mentioned the sidewalk safety project that was accomplished on Telegraph Street. Mr. Chuck Gillette also noted that a jersey barrier was installed up by Tuachan to address safety. Mr. Todd Edwards commented that Washington County has completed a lot of guardrail, shoulder widening, and major improvements were made at the Diamond Valley intersection on SR-18. Mr. Lee asked that cities provide photographs and information that can be put together into a presentation.

- D. Long Range Plan Update Needs:** Mr. Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering, reported that household information including the number of people per household, number of homes, types of homes, household income and land use plans and maps are utilized to update the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Staff is currently in the process of collecting information from the U.S. Census and the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). As part of this process, traffic analysis zones are being rebuilt for incorporation into the MPO Travel Demand Model. A copy of the TAZ map from a few years ago was shared with the group. Horrocks staff will be working with all of the cities to gather current land use plans and land use maps for incorporation into the LRTP. A copy of the road/transit network map was reviewed and it was noted that this will also be a part of the LRTP update. Roadway maps are constantly changing with amendments accomplished at the Planning Commission level. There have been changes in both roadways and transit since the last plan update. The model update will be calibrated and validated. All of the information being gathered is very important in planning over the next five year period. Population information will be obtained from the University of Utah. Potential growth and land use information will be gathered from city staff and this is a very important piece of the plan update. DWS information on employment is extremely helpful. Cities are asked to forward any land use plans, major developments that planning commissions and city councils are dealing with, master transportation plans, etc. A reminder email will be sent out to members of DTAC outlining specific things that are needed. Mr. Myron Lee explained that it is important that cities assist in this process in order to have accurate information reflected in the plan. The MPO has shared in the cost of Master Transportation Plan updates for this reason. It was noted that the model covers all of Washington County and land use information from the county will be needed. The origin destination study that was completed in 2012 will also be included in the model.

3. SERVICES

- A. Legislative Update:** Mr. Myron Lee referenced Senate Bill 136 that passed through the Utah State Legislature. The primary purpose of this legislation was to enhance UTA and some changes that could enhance transit services throughout the state. The original bill was introduced, about seven amendments were made that

either passed or failed, and there were a total of six substitute bills. The bill changed substantially from one bill to the next throughout the process. The local sales tax option for transit and roads is handled differently as a result of this bill. Washington County included the sales tax option on the ballot two years ago, but the initiative failed. This new legislation provides the opportunity for Washington County to increase the sales tax by a quarter percent countywide. This would be done through a referendum by the Washington County Commission without having a public vote. Two fifths of the money would go to roads in the cities, two fifths would go to transit in the cities, and one fifth would go to the county for transportation. If the county chooses not to pass the sales tax increase by July 2019, it falls to the cities who could pass a sales tax increase at the city level. A sales tax increase to cities would be split 50/50 between transit and roads. There are currently four quarter percent sales tax options available that can be used for transit. The option is available to Washington County as of May 8, 2018 through July 1, 2019. The city option goes from July 2019 to 2023, and then it would go back to a referendum vote of the public after that time. There will also be an initiative included on the November ballot statewide asking if people want to increase the gas tax by ten cents per gallon to fund education.

- B. Call for Planning Grant Proposals:** Mr. Myron Lee reported that approximately \$100,000 will be available beginning in July, 2018 for planning grants. The money would need to be spent by June, 2019. In the past, the MPO has used these funds for mater transportation plan updates and other types of planning initiatives. If the MPO share of funding is more than 50 percent, the contract must be initiated through the MPO. If the MPO share is less than 50 percent, monies are given to cities as a grant. The Ivins Master Transportation Plan was funded fully with MPO funds and the contract was initiated by the MPO. Other cities have provided more than 50 percent of funding and received the money directly from the MPO as a grant. Funds could also be used to update communication plans, transit plans, and/or various studies. Some funding is being utilized to update the travel demand model. Those interested in obtaining some of this funding are asked to submit a concept report application no later than April 27, 2018.

4. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. Hurricane:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron reported that the 300 North project bid was awarded to Interstate Rock and will be under construction April 16, 2018. This a local project. Work is also continuing on the Master Transportation Plan update, and the environmental assessment for Purgatory Road is still ongoing. An extensive slurry seal project including Hurricane, LaVerkin, Leeds and Toquerville is under construction with M & M Asphalt Services.
- B. Ivins:** Mr. Chuck Gillette reported that Ivins has received bids for slurry seal and chip projects in conjunction with Santa Clara City. The contract is with American Pavement out of Colorado for the slurry seal and Straight Stripe will be doing the chip seal. The City has received word from UDOT that \$500,000 in TAP funds for 2020 will be funded to Old Highway 91.
- C. LaVerkin:** Mr. Kyle Gubler reported that LaVerkin City is working with Hurricane on the slurry seal project. The City is also working on their Transportation Plan update.

- D. Leeds:** Mayor Wayne Peterson reported that Leeds is also working with Hurricane City on the slurry seal project. The town is also working on a curb, gutter and sidewalk project in conjunction with UDOT.
- E. St. George:** Mr. Jay Sandberg reported that the Bloomington Drive project is nearing completion, but utilities in this area have been very challenging. The Riverside 2450 East signal is also nearing completion. Mr. Cameron Cutler mentioned that the City is working on the design and right-of-way acquisition, in conjunction with the School District, in the Washington Fields near the High School and Middle School to redo the sewer and water lines in this area. Mr. Monty Thurber reported that the City purchased a trailer similar to those used by UDOT for doing their traffic counts. The city will be working with a company called countingcars.com for all traffic counts.
- F. Santa Clara:** None.
- G. Toquerville:** None.
- H. Washington City:** Mr. Mike Shaw reported that Washington City is still working the Milepost 11 environmental study. Slurry seal projects will begin the end of April. The city is still working on right-of-way acquisition for Merrill Road.
- I. Washington County:** Mr. Todd Edwards reported that the county will be doing a chip seal projects beginning in July and a paving project near New Harmony.
- J. UDOT:** Mr. Chris Hall reported that construction on passing lanes from milepost 22-28 is underway. Work is progressing on the Bluff Street project Design has started on the Southern Parkway project and the 400 South Underpass project.

5. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** None.
- B. Federal Oversight:** None.

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES

Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows: **1) Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC)**-- Wednesday, April 18, 2018; and **3) Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC)**-- Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY ARTHUR LEBARON AND SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.