

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
March 21, 2012**

PRESENT

Jim Eardley, Washington County Commission
Jerry Lewis, UDOT Commissioner
Chris Hart, Ivins City Mayor
Gail Bunker, St. George City
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Matt Ence, Santa Clara City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Steve Call, FHWA
Nathan Lee, UDOT
Myron Lee, Five County AOG
Larry Bulloch, St. George City Public Works Director
Mike Empey, Cong. Matheson
Marreen Casper, Sen. Hatch
Ellen Schunk, Sen. Lee
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Dean Cox, Washington County
Ron Whitehead, Washington County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. A quorum was confirmed.

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2012

MOTION: Motion by Matt Ence to Approve the Minutes of February 15, 2012, as presented. Motion seconded by Jimmie Hughes and carried by unanimous vote.

SHORT-RANGE PLANNING

- **Information: I-15 EA Report**

Russell Youd and Lee Cabell, both of Horrocks Engineering, presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "I-15 South Environmental Assessment / Dixie Transportation Executive Committee, March 21, 2012." A copy of that slide show is available through the office of the Washington County Commission.

- The purpose of the project was to get an acceptable level of service on I-15 at the interchanges
- Key objectives include keeping costs reasonable by utilizing as much of the existing infrastructure as possible and providing a clearance envelope that is somewhat forgiving to allow for some innovation and flexibility during design and construction
- An extra lane will be needed by the year 2040 between the Southern Parkway and SR-9
- Managed lanes (HOV lanes, truck-only lanes, etc.) would not be needed by 2040
- Freight traffic through this corridor is heavily dependent on the national economy and is expected to increase in coming years
- Certain interchanges would need to be reconfigured, including St. George Boulevard (diverging diamond), Brigham Road roundabout (Single Point Urban Interchange), and Telegraph Road
- Frontage roads may need to be relocated, especially at the Telegraph Road interchange

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- **Information: Washington Parkway/Public Comments, Feedback**

Myron Lee discussed the letters from Ms. Jane Whalen and from Citizens for Dixie's Future that were received several weeks ago and discussed in the previous DTEC meeting. Those letters both questioned the Dixie MPO's Travel Demand Model (TDM) and the application of that model in creating the 2011-2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Lee explained that the best data available at the time (2010), from a variety of sources, were used; and that the model will continue to be updated as new data become available (census figures, population projections, household travel surveys).

Mayor Hart asked how data from second-home users is factored into the TDM; specifically, in the City of Ivins, 2,000 residents out of 9,000 are part-time residents. Mr. Lee said that information about primary vs. secondary homeowners is included in the studies.

In discussions of the road through the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve/Habitat Conservation area, Nathan Lee of UDOT explained that there is a process that must be followed in the creation/designation of all roads, including the proposed Northern Corridor. That process must be allowed to run its course. Those who would object to a route through the HCP need to remember that a road is a natural firebreak, which would tend to

mitigate fire damage to the tortoises. Additionally, it is possible to manipulate natural vegetation to the benefit of the tortoise population. A specialized biologist has been hired to study the Reserve and has asked that he be permitted to do his job before criticism and contradiction ensue.

Commissioner Eardley asked for a time frame for a decision to be reached, and it was estimated to happen sometime this year or the next, based on the BLM's Resource Management Plan schedule. Larry Bulloch said that it would be well to avoid putting an actual line on a map for the corridor through the Reserve, but it is important to convince the BLM to incorporate into its Master Plan that such a roadway is necessary and that the MPO reserves the right to build it. Nathan Lee said that, unfortunately, 50% of the tortoise population has been lost in the last decade, to fire, disease, and other factors.

SERVICE TO AREA

- **Information: Mobility Management**

Curt Hutchings said that the funding of the Mobility Manager position, approved several months ago by DTEC (and matched by federal funds), has resulted in the designation of a Mobility Manager. He has been tasked with moving forward on thirteen strategies that were identified in the MPO's planning documents. Included in those projects are a commuter service route and certain insurance barriers that required clarification and coordination between the insurance companies.

The commuter service route project began as a desire to take employees from St. George out to the Gateway complex and outlying cities. Details concerning interlocal agreements need to be finalized.

Another strategy being worked on by the Mobility Manager is travel training, intended to educate the public in accessing travel facilities available throughout the County.

A pilot project has been started which includes the Washington County School District and Turn Community Services, an agency that services the disabled community. The outcome of those meetings has been optimistic.

TIP

- **Information: Transit TIP**

Mr. Lee distributed the Proposed 2013 Transit TIP handout, on which projects and their anticipated costs (both federal aid and matches) are listed through 2017. He said that

the MPO anticipated receiving some 5307 and 5309 monies in the next year. This TIP expresses interest in all of those funding sources and will wait for a project that will fit the criteria and then apply for appropriate funding.

- **Action Item: Approval of 2013-2016 Transit TIP**

MOTION: Motion by Councilwoman Gail Bunker to Approve the 2013-2016 TIP, as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Hughes and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioner Eardley voting aye with the proxy of Commissioner Lewis.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Steve Call from the Federal Highway Administration informed the committee that no new highway bill is in place as of today. A two-year bill that is basically an extension of the current bill was passed by the Senate, which urged the House to fall in line as well. The ability of the government to collect gas tax ends on March 31, 2012, so the funding for FHWA technically stops then, although an eleventh-hour agreement will probably be reached prior to that date.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 18, 2012**, in the Upstairs Conference Room of the Washington County Administration Building located at 197 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, Utah, at 12:00 p.m.

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.