

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 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
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director
Jay Sandberg, St. George City Engineer
Ed Baca, St. George City Council
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Town
Kirk Thornock, UDOT, Region Four
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO, Five County AOG
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO, Five County AOG
Gary Zabriskie, Five County Association of Governments
Kathy Starks, UDOT
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Tom Jorgensen, Ivins City
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Brady Shakespear, Jones & DeMille
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineers
Brian Christensen, Horrocks Engineers
Cody Howick, Civil Science
Lisa Rutherford, Citizen
Paul Van Dam, Citizen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
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.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from May 2, 2018 Meeting:** Mr. Chuck Gillette, Chair, noted that a quorum was present to conduct business. He referenced minutes of the May 2, 2018 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting provided via email for discussion and consideration. Mr. Cameron Cutler explained that Mr. Ed Baca, St. George City Councilman, will be voting in place of Monty Thurber for St. George City for this meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Myron Lee reported that the TIP is out for public comment through August 5, 2018. To date, the MPO has received over 40 comments from the public. Two new projects were recommended to the Dixie Transportation Executive Council (DTEC) to be included on the TIP as follows: **1) Washington Parkway**-- Exit 13 to Green Springs Drive to receive \$2 million dollars of TIP funding; and **2) Old Highway 91**-- Programmed additional funding in the amount of \$300,000 to this project. A handout in draft format was provided to voting members of DTEC outlining comments received to date. The sheet also provides some draft responses to comments for members to review. Mr. Lee pointed out that the public comment period is still open and comments will be received until the advertised deadline of August 5th. Of the comments received, twenty-five respondents suggested that instead of the two projects recommended for funding that State Route 59 between Hurricane and Hildale receive funding consideration. This portion of SR-59 lies outside of the MPO boundary. Those comments will be passed along to UDOT for consideration because the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is also open for public comment. The primary issue on SR-59 is the lack of room for vehicles to pass and a number of people commute through this area to work competing with those who are sightseeing through the area. The suggestion is for strategically placed passing lanes through this area.

Voting members of DTAC are asked to review the comments and draft responses. Staff is proposing to present comments and draft responses to DTEC at their August 15, 2018 meeting for formal action. Most of the comments were complimentary of decisions that have been made by the Dixie MPO. An email will be sent to DTAC voting members after the 5th of August containing all of the comments and draft responses that will be forwarded to DTEC for action. In addition to the typical public meeting notice this year, staff met with the St. George News and The Spectrum to publish articles regarding the TIP. Staff also made an effort to do a better job on the website to advertise and solicit comments. Any input from DTAC members will be incorporated into information that is presented to DTEC.

3. LONG RANGE PLANNING

A. Analysis of Northern Parkway Intersections: Mr. Myron Lee provided a presentation that was presented to DTEC during their May meeting. Mayor Chris Hart, Ivins, raised a question about the capacity of the Bluff Street and Red Hills Parkway Interchange with the addition of traffic from a Northern Corridor. This information was also requested by Washington County and the committee working on the HCP renewal. Information presented is taken from the Dixie MPO Traffic Demand Model to provide computer generated numbers that are validated in the model. He pointed out Bluff Street, Red Hills Parkway, Valley View Drive, Sunset and Snow Canyon Parkway. Traffic counts are projected for 2025 traffic volumes, 2025 to 2030 volumes and 2040 volumes. The consultant has crunched numbers based on the new proposed alignment for the Northern Corridor, and numbers vary up and down depending on the features of the roadway. It is anticipated that by 2040 there will be between 24,000 and 30,000 vehicles on the Northern Corridor. This would generate a higher volume of traffic on the west section of Red Hills Parkway and a lower volume on the southeast section. Numbers presented

represent peak hour volumes with the thicker lines representing a greater volume of traffic than the thinner lines. The main traffic volume flow would be from the Northern Corridor to SR-18. Left hand turn movements from the Northern Corridor to Red Hills Parkway are very minimal. Mr. Lee also reviewed peak hour volumes at Red Hills Parkway and the ramps which are the main line for SR-18. Various visual configurations of intersections were also reviewed.

- B. Interchange Feasibility Study Requests:** Mr. Myron Lee explained that the Dixie MPO has some planning grant funds that can be utilized for planning studies that would look out into the future. Mr. Kirk Thornock reviewed proposed studies that UDOT has discussed for a 700 South interchange in St. George that would provide direct access to the hospital, a flyover for Red Hills Parkway at 1000 East, and an Exit 17 that would serve the industrial area in Gateway at 5500 West in Hurricane. Mr. Arthur LeBaron explained that businesses in the area have approached DTAC previously to discuss a possible interchange in this area, and this has been on Hurricane's Master Transportation Plan for a long time. Warner Trucking is now proposing an industrial subdivision in this area and there may be a need to preserve a corridor for future interchange ramps. Correspondence between Hurricane City and UDOT back in the 1990s was provided, and a study was conducted that projected numbers out to 2020. This work was done when the Walmart Distribution Center was going to be built in the area. Hurricane City is interested in conducting a study of the area to determine if a new interchange is warranted and whether a corridor needs to be preserved. Also of consideration is Exit 16 truck traffic as well as the intersection of SR-9 and Old Highway 91. Mr. Kirk Thornock indicated that the environmental is also beginning for this section of SR-9 and the Southern Parkway. Hurricane City will be collecting traffic counts on Old Highway 91 this month that would help with a study. The study would also include a proposed 700 South Interchange in St. George. Mr. Rick Torgerson has indicated that the funding request to the MPO for a study should come from UDOT because they would provide match funding. Additional information and discussion will be required before any funding action could be considered. Mr. Lee indicated that there is approximately \$80,000 in funding that could be used for planning studies. A call for projects was completed in February, and the only request for funding made was by Leeds Town for a transportation master plan. It was the consensus of the group that additional information would need to be presented at the next DTAC meeting. Mr. Kirk Thornock noted that high level information that has been collected and reviewed previously by UDOT would be a good start for a study. Mr. Cameron Cutler agreed that 700 South is something that should be investigated and studied to determine if it should be considered as a future Interchange on I-15. Additional information will be brought back for discussion at the September DTAC meeting.

4. PROJECT UPDATE

- A. ITS Plan Status:** Mr. Brian Christensen, Horrocks, reported that at the end of last year their engineering firm was selected to update the Dixie MPO ITS Communications Master Plan. ITS communications enables city engineers and others to manage traffic signals, timing, message boards, etc. It is also important to have an infrastructure that vehicles can talk to as the industry moves in that direction. Fiber optics provides the means for this type of communication. The current infrastructure that is in place has been reviewed, the majority of which is currently maintained and owned by UDOT. An analysis of where fiber optics is

needed in each jurisdiction has been undertaken within the boundaries of the MPO. Utilizing partnerships in the communications industry to trade conduit for conduit in various locations is a strong tool in the expansion of fiber optics. A map was projected depicting the existing communications conduit that is currently in place. The map indicates conduit owned and maintained by UDOT as well as other third-party communications companies. A main objective is to plan a network that is robust, will allow for expansion, and also takes into consideration where future roads are anticipated to be built. A lot of the information ties back to the Unified Plan and it follows a lot of the same corridors. Utilizing the Unified Plan, routes have been prioritized as to where they are to be built. The plan contains three different priorities with #1 being short term or immediate need, #2 medium term, and #3 long term. Each jurisdiction is asked to review the map and provide any comments pertinent to ownership of current conduit and/or fiber optic lines. The plan is approximately 95 percent complete at this point. The map will eventually be hosted by the MPO on their server and changes can be made as necessary to keep information up to date. Third-party information is for where conduit and/or fiber optic lines are currently co-located and does not include potential opportunity for future partnerships. Presentations will be made to city councils upon completion of the final document.

Mr. Myron Lee explained that the Dixie MPO has set aside \$150,000 in each STIP year for ITS projects. The plan will be utilized to prioritize ITS projects for either state and/or local funds. However, utilizing the MPO funds for ITS on a project would federalize that particular project. The most recent project utilizing the ITS funds was a connection on SR-9 that was a stand alone project. Mr. Kirk Thornock indicated that UDOT has made the shift to include ITS in projects even if it is just the installation of conduit during construction. This is important for future development that will be occurring throughout Washington County. Old Highway 91 and the portion of Washington Parkway are already federalized projects that will need to have conduit and/or fiber optics installed. It was also noted that the River Road projects that is mostly structure work should also consider conduit installation. Mr. Thornock explained that adding conduit to a specific project is oftentimes not as cost effective as doing a stand alone ITS project. Mr. Cameron Cutler indicated that it is also important to consider projects that would close a short gap in the existing infrastructure. Mr. Mike Shaw mentioned that Washington City includes the installation of conduit into any new project, including water, sewer, and/or roads.

- B. Southern Parkway Phase 5 Update:** Mr. Kirk Thornock explained that Phase 5 of the Southern Parkway will make the connection from SR-9 to I-15. This section will be built as two lane expressway with three tight diamond interchanges at SR-9, 4300 West (Sand Hollow Road) and 3000 South in Hurricane. It is possible that other interchanges will be added in conjunction with land owners in the area who are willing to swap lands for an interchange. The right-of-way team will be presenting offers to property owners by mid-September. It is anticipated that the PS&E review will be completed by November, and the bid advertisement would be in December. Construction would begin in the March 2019 time frame over the next 18 months. The second barrel of the Southern Parkway will be addressed as growth occurs along the corridor. The big thing with this project will be right-of-way acquisition which could delay the project. Some of the right-of-way issues will likely be cleared as the project is being constructed. Mr. Arthur LeBaron explained that Sand Hollow Road will be closed for a period of time during the construction.

Other UDOT projects include Bluff Street which is ongoing, passing lanes on SR-9, and the climbing lanes from milepost 22 to 28 at Leeds is closer to completion. Funding is also in place to carry the existing climbing lane from milepost 37 to milepost 44 on I-15. Once completed there will be a continuous climbing lane northbound from milepost 20 to milepost 44. UDOT is also looking at another study to determine when three lanes on I-15 will be necessary for both north bound climbing as well as south bound general purpose lanes. A micro surfacing project from I-15 through LaVerkin will be occurring in two to three weeks. This will be mostly night time work. In addition, right-of-way work is continuing on the Northern Corridor. Design work for Exit 16 is going smoothly and it is anticipated that advertisement will occur in November/December. This will provide an additional southbound general purpose lane from Exit 16 to Exit 13. Modifications to the interchange will include two southbound on ramps.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. **Hurricane:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron reported that the 300 North project is under construction.
- B. **Ivins:** Mr. Chuck Gillette reported that Ivins bids open today for a utility project along the north side of Old Highway 91.
- C. **LaVerkin:** Mr. Kyle Gubler reported that LaVerkin City has completed their Transportation Master Plan update.
- D. **Leeds:** Mayor Wayne Peterson reported that Leeds opened bids on a curb, gutter and sidewalk project on the west side of Main Street toward the north end of town.
- E. **St. George:** Mr. Cameron Cutler reported that three traffic signals are under design. Additional roadway width will be added to 2000 South between St. George and Washington City. Right-of-way acquisition is continuing on the fields roads at 2000 South, 2450 South, etc. A project on River Road between Riverside Drive and 1450 South is under design. The 400 South underpass at I-15 is under design, and the Ledges Interchange is nearing completion.
- F. **Santa Clara:** None.
- G. **Toquerville:** None.
- H. **Washington City:** Mr. Mike Shaw reported that Washington City is proceeding with the Milepost 11 environmental study. A public open house is scheduled for August 8th on this project. The Washington Parkway project is moving ahead quickly. It is almost ready for advertisement of the environmental and design as a package. The City is still working on right-of-way acquisition for Merrill Road, and once this is complete they will move into design. This ties Washington Fields Road to Mall Drive.
- I. **Washington County:** Mr. Todd Edwards reported that the County is completing a 20 mile chip seal project in Veyo and on Gunlock Road. He announced that a COG meeting is scheduled next week on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Approximately \$2.8

million in requests for right-of-way acquisition will be considered for Rockville, Santa Clara, St. George, and Washington City.

J. **UDOT**: Covered under Agenda Item #4-B.

6. **UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES**

Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows: **1) Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC)**-- Wednesday, August 15, 2018; and **3) Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC)**-- Wednesday, September 5, 2018. Mr. Myron Lee provided an announcement for the Southwest Utah Public Health Department workshop learn how to access walkability in communities.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW AND SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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