

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 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
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
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
Gary Zabriskie, Five County Association of Governments
Chris Hall, UDOT
Kayde Roberts, UDOT
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Brady Shakespear, Jones & DeMille
Susan Crook, Conserve Southwest Utah
Kye Nordfelt, Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Mori Kessler, St. George News

MEMBERS ABSENT

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. Todd Edwards, Vice-Chair, noted that Chuck Gillette, Chair, had not yet arrived. He called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Minutes from August 1, 2018 Meeting:** Mr. Todd Edwards, Vice-Chair, noted that a quorum was present to conduct business. He referenced minutes of the August 1, 2018 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting provided via email for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

A. Planning Certification Resolution

Mr. Myron Lee provided a copy of the Resolution that is adopted on an annual basis to certify that the Dixie MPO is following federal guidelines. The Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee will recommend approval of the formal resolution by the Dixie Transportation Executive Council (DTEC). Chuck Gillette, Chair, arrived and the gavel was turned over. He entertained a motion in consideration of the planning certification resolution.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JAY SANDBERG, SECONDED BY ARTHUR LEBARON, AUTHORIZING CHUCK GILLETTE, CHAIR, TO SIGN THE RESOLUTION AND TO FORWARD THE RESOLUTION TO DTEC FOR FORMAL APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

3. LONG RANGE PLANNING

A. Funding Assumptions for 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

-Transportation Specific Funds, General Funds, and Fees: Mr. Myron Lee provided a handout outlining existing revenue assumptions for discussion. Funding assumptions for the Long Range Transportation Plan are developed in order to determine how much funding is available for capacity projects, preservation/maintenance and/or operation. It is difficult to track the amount of funding that is provided from general funds for transportation or how these expenditures are being made. The RTP was last updated in 2014-15 and it was determined that B & C Road funds were allocated on an average at 30% to preservation and 70% to operations. Jurisdictions need to provide information to MPO staff for analysis in order to formulate average expenditures of B&C road funds. All cities, with the exception of Leeds, are collecting the 1/4 percent sales tax for highways. Staff needs a breakout of how much is going to preservation versus capacity and/or operations. Information also needs to be provided for private developer funding participation for building roads of regional significance. This can be in the form of impact fees and/or construction of roads. The previous plan outlined developer participation at 100% for capacity (adding lanes, new road) projects. The RTP is only referring to roadways included on the project priority list which must be fiscally constrained. Information regarding general fund contributions is also needed to determine funding assumptions for the plan. A copy of the existing revenue assumptions sheet will be emailed to committee representatives to assist in these determinations. He explained that Santa Clara City charges a \$2.00 per month household utility fee that is dedicated to transportation. All of this was used for preservation of existing roads at the last plan update. The Unified Plan committee is working on funding assumptions and the amount of funds required for maintenance/preservation of new roads. Future project needs are projected at the bottom of the sheet depicting state roads, local roads of regional significance, and local road needs. County information needs to outline the amount of funding from the B&C road fund that is going to county roads versus roads inside the Dixie MPO boundary. An assumption has been made that all impact fees would be used for capacity projects. Mr. Mike Shaw indicated that all cities included impact fees in their budgets, and this information should be readily available to share with the

MPO. Jurisdictions are asked to review the sheet and provide updated information to MPO staff.

Mr. Myron Lee shared an article regarding fees charged by Pleasant Grove, Utah and a group claiming that the fee is illegal. This is for a household utility fee similar to that used in Santa Clara. The group hopes to stop similar practices in other Utah cities.

A handout was also provided outlining road mileage for Washington County and cities including paved, gravel and dirt surfaces. The list depicts when each jurisdiction updated their B&C road inventory. Revenues received from the B&C road fund are based on a formula that takes into account the type of road and actual roadway miles. It would benefit communities to make sure that their inventories are updated.

- B. Interchange Feasibility Study Requests - UDOT:** Mr. Myron Lee explained that each year the Dixie MPO receives approximately \$150,000 that can be used for planning grants. In the past, these funds have been utilized for general plans, master transportation plans, etc. There is approximately \$100,000 in funds this year that have not been allocated to projects. UDOT has selected two projects that they would like to study as follows: **1) I-15 MP 7, 700 South in St. George--** Feasibility study including cost estimating and geometric analysis for constructing an interchange system connection at 700 South and I-15 near milepost 7. A previous high-level concept study was completed for this area, but this study would provide more in-depth numbers, cost estimates, impacts to other roads in the area, and a better understanding of what an interchange may look like. This would provide information for a FHWA interchange justification report; and **2) I-15 MP 18, 5500 West in Hurricane--** This feasibility study would also provide cost estimating, geometric analysis for construction of an interchange system connection near 5500 West, growth in the industrial park, impacts to Exit 16, etc. It is estimated that the cost for each study would be approximately \$30,000. UDOT will manage the project and they are willing to pay any required match funds. It was noted that the MPO must manage the project unless a jurisdiction pays more than 50% of the total amount. Mr. Kirk Thornock indicated that these studies would benefit both parties, and UDOT is happy to 50.5% funding for the project. The deliverable would provide a storybook of information needed for UDOT to continue the process in the future. Mr. Myron Lee mentioned that neither of these interchanges and/or concepts are included in the LRP, but information would be available for inclusion into the plan for future development of an interchange in these areas. This would benefit both the state and the MPO to look at the need or benefit of future interchanges. UDOT would look at involving Horrocks Engineering because they worked on the initial study and also provide travel demand modeling support for the MPO. Mr. Myron Lee indicated that it is always good to have data looking at surface streets, and potential impacts associated with an interchange.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ARTHUR LEBARON, SECONDED BY KYLE GUBLER, TO RECOMMEND TO DTEC THAT \$30,000 OF THE DIXIE MPO PLANNING FUNDS BE ALLOCATED TO INTERCHANGE CONCEPT STUDIES FOR MP 7 AND MP 18, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT UDOT WILL PAY AT LEAST 50% OF THE TOTAL COST. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

4. SHORT RANGE PLAN

A. DIXIE MPO PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS - PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Myron Lee provided a spreadsheet containing project selection criteria information. New funding legislation for transportation requires that MPO projects and plans more closely follow performance measures. The MPO has agreed to adopt the same safety performance measure as the state of Utah with regard to fatal and serious injury accidents. Coming very quickly are the objectives and performance measures for economic vitality, state of good repair, air quality and environment, and mobility. These are included on the spreadsheet for members to read through at their leisure. The selection criteria used to score project concept reports for the TIP does not align specifically with Unified Plan Goals and Measures outlined in the spreadsheet. All of the new goals and measures must be adopted by this time next year. Over the next few weeks, staff will meet to revise the selection criteria to more closely align with new federal legislation requirements. He asked for volunteers willing to assist staff with this process. Monty Thurber and Arthur LeBaron volunteered to participate. It is important that when funds are programmed on the TIP these performance measures are considered. This will also facilitate comparing one project against another based on the performance measures, but the process does not need to be too complicated. Draft copies of the selection criteria will be brought back to DTAC for review of edits and/or suggestions and comments.

5. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. Hurricane:** Mr. Arthur LeBaron reported that the 300 North local project is under construction. Curb and gutter have been completed. UDOT is working on a SR-9 project that just started, and some design projects (I-15 Exit 15 and Southern Parkway) are underway that will have positive impacts.
- B. Ivins:** Mr. Chuck Gillette reported that some storm drain and sewer work is being along the north side of Old Highway 91.
- C. LaVerkin:** Mr. Kyle Gubler reported that LaVerkin City is working on their General Plan update and has started work on a Trails Master Plan.
- D. Leeds:** Mayor Wayne Peterson reported that Leeds has awarded the contract on the curb, gutter and sidewalk project on the west side of Main Street toward the north end of town, and work will begin in October.
- E. St. George:** Mr. Cameron Cutler reported that the city is doing a lot of signal designs and ordering equipment for multiple locations. St. George City is kicking off their Master Transportation Plan update. The River Road project between Riverside Drive and 1450 South is under design. The 400 South Underpass at I-15 is also under design. A large construction project at the St. George Airport will commence next year to re-do the runway. The bid has been opened in order for FAA to know how much the construction will cost. The airlines have asked to shift the construction schedule, but that has not been approved at this time.

- F. **Santa Clara**: None.
- G. **Toquerville**: None.
- H. **Washington City**: Mr. Mike Shaw reported that Washington City hosted a public open house for the Milepost 11 environmental study. It was very well attended, and a lot of good comments were provided. The next step for this project will be development of preferred alternatives. The Washington Parkway project has been advertised for a consultant for the environmental and design. Proposals for this package are due September 11th. The City is close to completing right-of-way acquisition for Merrill Road, and once this is complete they will move into construction.
- I. **Washington County**: Mr. Todd Edwards announced that the Washington County Commission has determined that road crews are too busy to do any municipal chip seal projects after this year.
- J. **UDOT**: Mr. Kirk Thornock reported that UDOT has started some SR-9 passing lanes in some locations toward Springdale. The I-15 project from milepost 22 to 28 is being paved and structural work is nearing completion. It is anticipated that this will be opened in the next few weeks. The goal is to have pavement down on the Bluff Street project by the end of November. The micro seal project on SR-9 has started. Depending on right-of-way acquisition, the Southern Parkway project could be out bid between January and April. The Exit 16 project is anticipated to be out bid by October with a bid opening in November. UDOT has just started the right-of-way acquisition process for the Northern Corridor. Because the Bureau of Land Management does not have adequate resources, UDOT will be doing the environmental document for this project. It is anticipated that the Transportation Commission will approve funds to provide the necessary resources. UDOT is currently advertising for a program manager to assist in writing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the \$15 million transit project between St. George and Springdale/Zion National Park. A rehabilitation project for Leeds Main Street will be coming up next summer, and a safety project for SR-59 is under design. The SR-59 project will widen shoulders with gravel, and UDOT is looking to add funds to this project to add some passing lanes as well. It was noted that this was the number one comment on both the Dixie MPO TIP as well as the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

6. **UPCOMING MEETINGS / DEADLINES**

Mr. Monty Thurber provided a flyer outlining walk audit training workshop scheduled for September 27-28 at the St. George City Social Hall located at 212 North Main Street. The workshop runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He encouraged committee members to attend if possible.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows: **1) Dixie Transportation Executive Committee (DTEC)**-- Wednesday, September 9, 2018; and **3) Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC)**-- Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

DRAFT