

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2012
Five County Association of Governments
Conference Room
St. George, UT

PRESENT

Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Chair
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Transportation Service Manager, Vice-Chair
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director
Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director
Rick Torgerson, UDOT, Region Four
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, FCAOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four
Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
David Cox, FHWA, Engineer
Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering
Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
Drake Howell, S2N Development
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Dave Demas, Self

ABSENT

Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Ken Sizemore, Executive Director, FCAOG (Excused)
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Planning Manager, FCAOG (Excused)
Ryan Marshall, St. George City, General Manager SunTran

Jack Taylor, Chair, welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. MINUTES

- A. Approve May 2, 2012 Meeting Minutes:** Jack Taylor presented minutes of the May 2, 2012 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting for committee consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY DAVE GLENN, TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2012 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

2. SERVICES

- A. **Report - Adaptive Signal Approach:** Myron Lee mentioned that a presentation was provided at a previous DTAC meeting about adaptive signals that have self adjusted timing for different traffic patterns. Since that meeting, a conference call was initiated which included UDOT, St. George City and Washington City. UDOT is currently in the process of installing a new central management system statewide that will run signals. UDOT has requested that jurisdictions hold off on acquiring adaptive signal packages until the new central management system is in place. Mr. Lee also mentioned that there may be some available funds through DTAC that could be considered for programming for this purpose. The adaptive signal process shows a lot of promise to effectively move traffic, but cities are asked to hold off for the time being.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- A. **Household Travel Survey:** Myron Lee provided a handout outlining a report prepared by RSG on the household survey and breakdown of survey responses to date. The Household Diary survey is proposed to be completed by 8,300 households statewide, with 900 in the Washington County area. One third of the individuals completing the household survey are then asked to participate in one of three categories as follows: 1) Long Distance; 2) Attitudinal/Opinion; and 3) Walk/Bike. A college student travel diary survey is also being administered to Dixie College students that includes questions such as off campus employment, number of person trips per day, trip mode, use of transit, etc. A presentation was reviewed outlining delivery dates, progress to date, and completion dates. To date, there have been 465 surveys completed in Washington County. Information gathered from the surveys is being compared to Census data. The Scope of Work for this project earmarked \$15,000 of the overall budget for transit on-board surveys. The DMPO could survey riders on SunTran or opt for a reduction in the budget. Larry Bulloch suggested that perhaps the scope could be broadened to areas that are not currently using SunTran because they need to know more about those people that are not using the system. Mike Shaw indicated that Washington City is in the process of developing a survey tool for their residents. Perhaps the survey time frame could be adjusted to accommodate working with Washington City on their survey. Mr. Lee indicated that copies of the presentation could be provided via e-mail to committee members.

4. LONG RANGE PLANNING

- A. **Land-use Scenario Planning Discussion** Myron Lee provided a handout titled "Scenario Planning Trends". Current transportation planning includes information gathered from land use plans. The travel demand model utilized by the MPO is based on current land use plans. The scenario planning approach is utilized by the Wasatch Front Regional Council seeking to capture a broader range of issues and challenges. Ken Sizemore is very interested in pursuing this approach and asked that information be presented to the committee for consideration. Committee members expressed concern in regard to anticipating what future city councils would want in terms of planning, noted that general plans are typically updated every five

years and wondered how beneficial it would be to adopt a new planning approach. Concern was also expressed in terms of this appearing to be an attempt to direct policy for growth from a transportation stance and it was noted that this may not be a function of this committee. Myron indicated that approximately \$140,000 is available in the budget for planning and/or studies. The household survey will utilize about \$50,000 of these funds. A balance of \$90,000 would be available for other studies or planning. Larry Bulloch indicated that his preference would be to call for proposals for planning and/or studies. Participating jurisdictions would then have the opportunity to submit proposals for studies such as those recently undertaken by St. George and Washington City.

- B. **MPO Transportation Safety Plan:** Myron Lee provided information from a recent meeting with UDOT and InterPlan on crash data which has been collected across the state. A handout was provided summarizing crash data on county and state levels. InterPlan has offered to share data with the MPO. This information would be helpful in development of a safety plan for the MPO which will need to be included in the 2015 Transportation Plan update. The cost of this data collection is being covered by UDOT. Committee members indicated that full data sets should be requested.

5. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- A. **TIP Public Comment Period - July 1 to July 31, 2012:** Diane Lamoreaux reported that the Dixie MPO TIP comment period will be advertised in The Spectrum for the period July 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012. The advertisement and comment period will coincide with the State Transportation Improvement Plan and will be coordinated with Bob Pelley, UDOT. This affords the public the opportunity to review and comment on proposed projects in the MPO.

6. **LOCAL PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE**

- A. **Ivins:** Dave Glenn reported that the roundabout on Snow Canyon Parkway is now complete.
- B. **St. George City:** Cameron Cutler reported on the Red Hills Parkway paving progress and noted that the completion date for this project is July 29th. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week for the Dixie Drive East project. The completion date is July 26th. Landscaping has been completed on Dixie Drive, but there are some remaining pavement issues that need to be addressed. The Mathis Bridge project is progressing with the Army Corps permit anticipated in the near future. Rick Torgerson indicated that the notice to proceed for the Dixie Drive East project will be delivered today.
- C. **Santa Clara:** None
- D. **Washington City:** None
- E. **Washington County:** None.

- F. **UDOT:** Rick Torgerson, UDOT, reported that Daryl Frait has taken another position at UDOT. He introduced Branden Anderson who will be working as project manager on several projects in Washington County.

Dana Meier indicated that Segment 4A of the Southern Parkway was cancelled after the bid opening because of environmental and design risk issues. There were a lot of questions and confusion with items contained in bids that were received. Clarification is needed in terms of environmental issues dealing with the Southwest Willow Flycatcher. A migratory survey needs to be completed in order to obtain a Section 10 permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project will require more internal discussion to address the project and deal with legal issues. However, UDOT is still moving forward with Segment 3 for anticipated bid advertisement no later than August. Arthur LeBaron asked for a time frame for Segment 4A to be back on docket. Dana explained that it will take approximately 3-4 months to address the Southwest Willow Flycatcher issue. The engineer cost estimate for the project was \$20 million. Bids were received from eight contractors with a wide range of costs from \$16 million to \$21 million.

The bid opening for the Dixie Drive Enhancement project is scheduled for tomorrow. Work will begin as soon as possible on this project.

Rick Torgerson demonstrated on UDOT's website a new application for tracking all projects and programs included in the State Transportation Improvement Program. A lot of GIS information is included as well as data for each project. This is a new tool that will be useful for individuals interested in tracking the progress of any project in the state of Utah. Information for local projects is not mapped as well as state routes, but there is still a lot of useful information available. The program is in the development stages but it should be full functional beginning July 1st.

A brief update was provided for the Highway 14 landslide project. The project is at 65% completion. The road is open daily from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and on weekends beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning. Work is being accomplished in four different locations and some failure zones are requiring additional work. Additional funds have been appropriated to deal with the problems that are surfacing. The total project cost is at \$15 million.

- G. **Hurricane:** Arthur LeBaron reported that the City of Hurricane recently approached the Washington County Council of Governments (COG) to obtain corridor preservation funds for the 600 North Phase II project. This project is being accomplished through the use of federal aid dollars over the next few years. The Environmental Assessment for this project identifies six properties that will need to be purchased. There are two property owners that would currently like to sell their properties. At this point, Hurricane City has one willing buyer/seller negotiation in place. When the City approached the COG, they learned that the 600 North project was not included on the prioritized list for corridor preservation dollars. The 1400 West corridor is on the 2009 prioritized list. Since the initial submission of projects, the 600 North corridor has become a higher priority for Hurricane City.

Myron Lee reported that the COG meeting that was scheduled for June 5th was cancelled because of issues that surfaced in regard to adding projects to the

prioritized list. COG rules are in place that dictate a process and requirements for updating the prioritized list. The Washington County Attorney's Office determined that the priority list was opened in February for consideration of new projects and the Hurricane City project cannot be added to the list until next year. The chair of the COG called for additional corridor preservation projects at the February meeting, but mayors in attendance had no knowledge of projects that needed to be added without input from city staff. The participating mayors in the COG indicated that there was no formal call for projects prior to the meeting and that a specific process should be utilized. It would be best for cities to receive a call for projects prior to the meeting to make sure that other staff members are involved in the process. Because mayors had no knowledge of projects, there was no action taken during the February meeting. MPO staff and Hurricane City staff will be meeting with the Washington County Attorney's Office to determine if the list can be re-opened utilizing a formal process in order to accommodate the inclusion of the 600 North corridor. It is also proposed that the list would be opened again in 2013 with a formal call for projects. Todd Edwards explained that these funds are designed to be used for right-of-way preservation of corridors for future transportation projects that accommodate growth in specific areas.

It was the consensus of committee members to support Hurricane City in their request that the COG re-address the corridor preservation project priority list through a formal call for projects which would allow for the inclusion of the 600 North corridor. A formal call for projects should be established and utilized in the future.

Arthur LeBaron reported that the Utah State Department of Environmental Quality recently set up an air quality monitoring station at the Hurricane City offices.

7. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT: None.**
- B. Federal Oversight: Steve Call, FHWA, reported that the Salt Lake Field Office has 16 staff members, four of which are engineers. He introduced Dave Cox, FHWA Engineer, assigned as the field person for Region Four who will attend DTAC and other types of meetings in the region. He also noted that a highway bill has not been passed and it appears that continuing resolutions will be utilized until after the election in November. Funding is remaining at the 2008 budget levels.**

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at the Five County AOG office beginning at 1:00 p.m. Myron Lee indicated that public comments on the TIP will be reviewed at this meeting.

Rick Torgerson reported that the Arizona Department of Transportation will be undertaking a paving project in the Virgin River Gorge where a new surface will be applied. As information is received, it will be forwarded to committee members attention.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jack Taylor, Chair, entertained a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY CAMERON CUTLER AND SECONDED BY
DAVE GLENN. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.