

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
June 20, 2012**

PRESENT

Jim Eardley, Washington County Commission
Jerry Lewis, UDOT Commissioner
Kelly Lund, UDOT
Chris Hart, Ivins City Mayor
Gail Bunker, St. George City
Jeff Turek, Washington City
Ken Sizemore, Five County
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Marreen Casper, Sen. Hatch
Ellen Schunk, Sen. Lee
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Dean Cox, Washington County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2012

Lacking a quorum, approval of the minutes of May 16th was deferred until the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

No items were presented today.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Origin and Destination Survey Update

Myron Lee narrated a PowerPoint presentation concerning the recent Origin and Destination Survey Update. He said that the other three MPOs and UDOT had decided to do a similar study for \$1.2 million, and the Dixie MPO contributed around \$116,000.00 to that amount in order to avoid duplication of effort and expense by conducting its own study.

In the Household Travel Survey, nearly 9,000 people were surveyed across the State of Utah, 900 of which live in Washington County, to figure out how and why they travel, and use that information to populate the travel demand model. This will determine what roads are needed in the future. Right now, national statistics are being used, which show that approximately 10 trips a day are generated in the average household (3.2 individuals per household). Next, these same households will be asked to submit to a survey to provide long-distance (greater than 40 miles) trip data.

RSG, the consultant hired to do the survey, has been working on it since August of 2011, and anticipates finishing it in October of this year. So far, most people surveyed have been found to be representative of the 2010 census in terms of household size, number of vehicles, age, and other factors. There are also bike-pedestrian questions included in the survey. College students were also interviewed: 2% biked, 9% walked, and less than 1% took mass transit. The rest drove private vehicles. Ms. Bunker asked whether the college has been provided with this information, and Mr. Lee said that it would be when it is finalized. At Dixie State College, 97% of the students were not using mass transit, although the transfer station is located almost on campus.

Financial questions were also directed to the participants, asking what amount of money should be spent on transportation in a given year. Currently, about \$1.2 billion is spent in Utah, representing federal funds, gasoline tax, and whatever other revenue is directed by the State Legislature towards transportation costs.

Ms. Bunker suggested disseminating this information to the public as quickly as it is compiled to counteract the often negative comments concerning mass transit throughout the community. There is a perception that local government is trying to ramrod mass transit down the public's throat, when in reality, surveys have been conducted and input received from citizens. Chairman Eardley also suggested a presentation similar to the one today, but more concise, during a Commission meeting, to inform the viewing public.

Mr. Lee will email a copy of the PowerPoint to anyone who wishes to have one.

b. TIP Public Comment Period July 1-31, 2012

The TIP consists of the projects for which money has been programmed over the next five years, including the TIP amendment which was approved last month. All public comments received during the comment period will be analyzed in August, with the TIP finalized in September. Comments may be submitted via a link on the Dixie MPO website.

c. State Safety Plan Local Statistics

UDOT gathers statistics statewide from vehicular police reports that can then be analyzed in depth. That information is divided into three categories: crash data, personal data, vehicular characteristics. Various analyses are performed, such as on distracted drivers, cell phone usage, age of the driver, incidence of fatalities, and so forth. Hopefully, this data will reveal trends that can be analyzed.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Kelly Lund, representing UDOT, was filling in for Steve Call,. Mr. Lund said that the 2010 Census has now been completed. Later this fall, the MPO will look at the census boundaries and do the “smoothing process,” which means that the MPO will look out 20 years from now and decide where the planning boundaries should be. Those boundaries will determine how the MPO operates in conjunction with the cities. After the boundary studies, they will begin doing functional classification of roads – arterial, locals, collectors – to upgrade or downgrade those classes. This year, UDOT will be using U-Plan, which is a GIS tool used to evaluate various roads.

Jerry Lewis said that he had received a call from Nathan Lee, who was unable to attend today’s meeting. Mr. Lee advised that a contract was out for Phase 4 of Highway 7 (the Southern Parkway), but it was decided not to award a contract, primarily because Fish & Game announced that it did not get a 90-day notice, so there will be at least a 3- to 4-month delay while UDOT completes a Section 10 Report for Fish & Game. Another reason was the wide range of bids received.

Mayor Hart asked for the completion date of the new interchange, and Mr. Lee replied that it is already complete but will not officially open until July 26.

Ken Sizemore said that a request has gone to our local legislators, using Brad Last to spearhead the effort, to amend a law that prohibits the use of corridor preservation dollars to fund planning efforts in counties with MPOs. The amendment would allow corridor preservation dollars to be spent on planning efforts outside MPO boundaries. Communities inside MPOs would continue to use MPO funds toward transportation planning.

NEXT MEETING

There will be no meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August

15, 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 1:16 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Hall