

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2019 – 1:05 p.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South

St. George, UT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director, CHAIR
- Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director, VICE-CHAIR
- Monty Thurber, St George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
- Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
- Wayne Peterson, Leeds Town
- Jay Sandberg, St George City
- Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator
- Kirk Thornock, UDOT Region Four
- Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City Public Works Director

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Cameron Cutler, St George City, Public Works Director
- Ty Bringhurst, Toquerville City

VISITORS:

- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Bronson Bundy, Washington City
- Brady Shakespear, Jones & DeMille Engineering
- Rick Snyder, Sunrise Engineering
- Susan Crook, Conserve Southwest Utah
- Kye Norofelt, SWUPHD
- Sarah Thomas, CSU
- Julie Deforest, Spectrum

Mr. Chuck Gillette, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Gillette invited those in attendance to introduce themselves, noting that a sign-up sheet was also being circulated for attendees to sign.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- A. Consider Minutes from March 6, 2019 Meeting:** Mr. Chuck Gillette asked for comments – with no comments presented, Mr. Gillette asked for a motion to approve. **Mr. Arthur LeBaron made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kirk Thornock seconded the motion and voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

2. LONG RANGE PLANNING:

- A. Population Analysis and Reporting** – Mr. Lee presented the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Presentation called “Washington County Temporary Resident Population Estimates, 2017”. This newest analysis is meant to give us the “plus” number i.e., the actual population “plus” visitors and part-time residents in the area. It was noted that the Water Conservancy District hired the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute to do the study and come up with a methodology for forecasting and estimating how many visitors and part-time residents we have in the area daily.

Mr. Lee indicated that the Institute released the numbers the first of April and noted that the website for the full report is: <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/WashCounty2017PopEst-Report.pdf>. Mr. Lee cautioned members to keep in mind that last month’s meeting also had a report from the Kem C. Gardner Institute, but that those numbers were based on a 2018 population estimate of 171,000; whereas this report is based on a 2017 population estimate of 165,592. The intent of this report is to give numbers for overnight visitors and seasonal residents. As a side note, the website given above contains both reports.

First discussed is occupancy. Regarding a question as to why the occupancy changes from month to month, Mr. Lee noted a drop in August (probably due to the start-up of school) and a bump up in September (the beginning of the Fall season and a lot of events). Also noted is the change in capacity – especially in January and December. Mr. Lee stated that this is primarily a result of Hotel Management – typically a good time to do maintenance on the rooms.

Next discussed is temporary residents – primarily looking at housing units and population estimates. The temporary resident population by type for Washington County 2017 shows Total Seasonal Residents of 28,966 and Total Overnight Visitors of 28,103. Simply stated, on an average day (during a peak month), the total temporary resident population is approximately 57,069. The Kem C. Gardner Institute presentation included a Supplemental Analysis on AirBNB, VRBO/HomeAway numbers which will need to be monitored in the future.

Mr. Lee said because we now have a methodology for 2017, we can use that methodology to do an estimate for 2018 and 2019, and then anchor it to the 2020 census and hopefully, from that point forward we will be able to forecast future population numbers. Mr. Lee also stated that the Institute states that these numbers come from a defensible source and that they feel comfortable with the forecast.

From the Power Point:

How then should we interpret these estimates?

- These estimates are a peak daily count on a busy day/weekend in Washington County
- They can vary daily and seasonally

Why are these estimates important?

- These estimates are an important foundation for understanding the Washington County population
- Provides a much more comprehensive view of population
- Creates a data-driven analysis to answer the question: How many people reside in Washington County on a busy weekend?

The Institute's Total Peak Population Estimate for Washington County AS OF 2017 is 13% Visitor (28,103), 13% Seasonal (28,966) and Resident population of 74% (165,592) for a busy weekend total of 222,661. What that means to the Water Conservancy District is that they need to create a system that can service the increased population. The Transportation facilities are a little bit different because they are planning on the peak hour week day when people are commuting – whereas a lot of the traffic increases due to the visitor/seasonal population happens on weekends.

B. COG Meeting Recap – Todd Edwards presented a summary of items from the COG meeting held last night (April 2, 2019). A financial update was given, in approximate numbers:

- 13 million in revenues since start up
- 7.5 million in expenditures to date – which leaves
- 5.7 million (bank balance) and
- 1.8 obligated funds

As of February 28, 2019, there was an approximate balance of 1.5 million in the preservation fund.

There is also approximately 200,000 in the construction grant fund, and approximately 2 million in the revolving loan fund.

At the meeting there were (2) requests which were approved for funding. The first request was for \$225,000, and the second was for \$400,000.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of the disposal of excess property. It was noted that the By-Laws state that it is up to the Cities (at their convenience) to sell those excess properties and send the money back to the COG. This hasn't happened yet, so the discussion centered on various methods of how and when to sell the properties and get the money back (approximately 2 million). **No final decision was made at this time; however, a decision was made to order appraisals on several properties for discussion at the next COG meeting.**

Final items were:

- Diane McGuire (UDOT) conducted a question and answer session on Right of Way acquisition from the State's perspective, and
- A discussion regarding transportation needs in Washington County, and the legislative discussion on the .25% 4th quarter option sales tax and where it might go.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING:

- A. Active Transportation Planning Workshop** – Monty Thurber reported that about a year ago, the Utah Department of Health and Welfare provided a training by the Vitruvian Planning Group called the Standard Looking Glass Academy Workshop that he and several other members of the committee attended. He felt that the Workshop was valuable and should be made available again for those involved in transportation and community planning to attend.

The Workshop covered “walkability issues” and how we can benefit and improve our communities by making them more accessible for walking and bicycling. Mr. Thurber presented a Scope of Work from the Vitruvian Group and asked for a Motion to recommend approval to fund this Workshop.

Mr. Mike Shaw made a motion to recommend approval to the Executive Committee to fund this Workshop – for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Jack Taylor seconded the motion. Todd Edwards abstained from voting, following which the motion was approved unanimously.

The workshop would be held on May 23, 24 (1 ½ days) and includes a 2-hour lunch and learn version on the 2nd day (for those that can’t make the full 1 ½ days).

4. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

- A. Hurricane** – Nearing completion on a study for an extended Southern Parkway into Hurricane City that would cross the Virgin River and head north – initial estimates for the bridge crossing is 80 million.
- B. Ivins** – Received bids on chip seal and slurry projects and are working with Santa Clara on these projects.
- C. LaVerkin** – No update
- D. Leeds** – UDOT in the process of scheduling a resurfacing of Main Street along with a few other small projects.
- E. St. George** – The Slurry seal is under process. There are 4 signals under construction and nearing completion – with these 4 there will now be 55 signals under City maintenance. Commerce Drive is back on track and they hope to begin construction soon. Washington City and St. George City are working together on tying the 2 streets (1450 and 3650) together.
- F. Santa Clara** – The new bridge has been awarded and is under construction.
- G. Toquerville** – No update
- H. Washington City** – Two weeks ago they held the final public open house for the Milepost 11 project. The Washington Parkway is in design. A new project, the Main Street reconstruct (curb and gutter) between Telegraph and I-15 (because of flooding

issues in the past) will be holding their first public open house tomorrow night. Merrill road project is approximately 90% complete on design.

- I. **Washington County** – Nothing new to report
- J. **UDOT** – Doing a study on 700 So interchange and a possible exit at milepost 18 in Hurricane. The 400 South underpass project is under way as well as the Exit 16 project. There is also an environmental study going on the SR 9 between milepost 16 and the Southern Parkway. The Southern Parkway project is still in design and they are hoping to advertise in May with construction to start shortly after which will go through the 2019 -2020 season.

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS/DEADLINES

- A. April 17, 2019 – DTEC meeting
- B. May 1, 2019 – DTAC meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY Mike Shaw, SECONDED BY MONTY THURBER

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.