

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2013
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
Dana Meier, UDOT, Region Four Dixie Division
Kirk Thornock, UDOT Region Four
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
Daren Cottam, Toquerville City
Derek Imlay, LaVerkin City
Angela Rohr, Leeds Town
Bronson Bundy, Washington City
Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager, Five County AOG
Kenneth Sizemore, Executive Director, Five County AOG
Curt Hutchings, Transportation Manager, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Five County AOG
Austin Chappell, Stanley Consultants
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
John MacInnis, Jacobs Engineering

ABSENT

Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer (Excused)
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Ryan Marshall, St. George City, General Manager SunTran

Cameron Cutler, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

1. MINUTES

- A. Approve February 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes:** Cameron Cutler indicated that a quorum was present for conduct of business. Minutes of the February 6, 2013 Dixie Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) meeting were presented for committee consideration.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVE GLENN, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO
ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2013 MEETING AS PRESENTED.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Myron Lee asked to move to agenda item 3-B to accommodate Greg Scott who is participating via conference call.

3. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

- B. **Web-based Street Design Dialogue Tool:** Mr. Greg Scott, Mountainland Association of Governments, narrated a slide presentation via conference call of a web-based street design tool. Best practices and design standards are moved into this interactive tool. The intent of the tool is to create a platform that provides good dialogue that incorporates the context of streets. This tool could be utilized by planners and engineers to present information in public meetings. The tool was demonstrated from the dashboard using a drag and drop tool to add in elements such as speed, traffic numbers, transit, etc. The software sorts through the possibilities using future corridor attributes for future land use, bike, freight, transit, etc. The demonstration provided sample street pictures with various elements included. Mr. Scott explained that two engineering companies, who are also software development firms in the UDOT pool, were invited to provide proposals and proof of concepts for this project.

The tool provides a sense of what can be done with right-of-way utilizing Google Earth from a street view. For example, it would allow planners to look at bike lanes on Bluff Street that would give a real picture of the constraints on this roadway. Another version of the tool provided by another firm incorporates auto traffic, transit and keeps track of the amount of right-of-way. Once the cross section is built, it provides an aerial view of the full cross section that can be dumped into Google Earth. The user can click on and off elements that are desired on a specific street. When you zoom in and out, the tool keeps things to scale.

The tool provides a number of options and advantages as follows: 1) It is easy to use; 2) Design options are viewed in real time; 3) Right-of-way is quickly evaluated; 4) Facilitates dialogue with engineers, planners and the public to tie engineering standards into visioning; 5) Makes best design practices more useable; 6) Encourages using ITE Context Sensitive Solutions Recommendations; 7) Provides on-location visualization; 8) Uses Wiki-based libraries; 9) Encourage cities to share street design ideas and practices; 10) Provides sketch level street design cost estimates; and 11) Enhances the opportunity for on-line citizen participation.

The tool also allows the user to pull information from FHWA, as well as case studies from others, for use in the tool. The tool was developed in two stages utilizing funds amounting to \$52,000 to provide the cross section filter, Google Earth and plan view. The second phase of the tool development will possibly include funding participation from the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Five County AOG, Cache MPO, Dixie MPO, UDOT, and UTA. It is also proposed at this point that cities contribute \$2,000 to participate. The second phase will require \$45,000 to \$80,000 in funding which could also be accomplished as a private venture. Phase two of the tool will provide 3D cross sections, more detailed intersections, etc.

Myron Lee asked if the committee members see a value for the Dixie MPO to provide from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in the funding for Phase two. Some of the members could see some value in using the tool for concept level project development or to identify environmental concerns. Dana Meier noted that the tool may provide some benefit to meet the gap between planning, visioning and actual engineering of a project. It was noted that if the MPO participated in funding all of the cities within the

MPO would have access to use the tool. Monty Thurber commented that he could see some functionality issues where the tool would not export to large format for printing and it would not interface with AutoCad. Todd Edwards indicated that Washington County would not have use for this type of tool. Ken Sizemore pointed out that the Wasatch Front Regional Council is working on development of this tool as part of the Sustainable Communities contract that is in place with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Other committee members indicated that the tool would have limited uses and may not be the best use of MPO funds. It was the consensus of the committee to hold off on any funding commitment for the tool.

Mr. Jack Taylor joined the meeting and assumed his role as Chair.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- A. **Bylaw Amendment:** Myron Lee reported that he and Dave Demas have been working to amend the MPO bylaws. A copy of the edited Bylaws were provided to committee members for review. Only one copy of the strike out edited copy was available for viewing. It was noted that the major change to the Bylaws was to add the communities of Hurricane, LaVerkin, Toquerville and Leeds. Members suggested that a chart reflecting the number of votes, voting members, and cost share also be included in the Bylaws. A better organizational chart is also needed that outlines the relationship between the Five County AOG, DTAC and DTEC. Some of the information contained in the original Bylaws was somewhat vague and it should be expanded and/or in some cases eliminated. It was requested that Myron forward a copy of the edited copy including word strike out and/or additions for further review. This item can be included on the April DTAC agenda for discussion.
- B. **Local Cost Share:** Myron Lee explained that a cost share per vote spreadsheet was e-mailed to members two weeks ago for budget purposes. Each jurisdiction will be billed in July for vote shares at the rate of \$5,500 per community, per vote share, with the exception of LaVerkin, Toquerville and Leeds who will be billed at the rate of \$1,833 each for one vote share. The cost to St. George City will be \$16,000 for three vote shares. The MPO work plan and vote share will be formally adopted during the April DTAC meeting.

3. **SHORT RANGE PLANNING**

- A. **HB 11 Update (Corridor Preservation Funds):** Curt Hutchings reported that House Bill 11 passed the Senate with a 26-0 vote. The legislation portion dealing with funding options for the RPO is moot at this point. However, the legislation was amended toward providing a revolving fund for corridor preservation. Larry Bulloch indicated that this would not be a benefit to jurisdictions if they had to borrow and pay back funds. Todd Edwards indicated that his understanding is that the bill language gives options to the COG to provide funding as a grant and/or revolving. The COG will ultimately elect the system that it utilizes. Some funds could be set aside to use in a revolving fund and the remaining could be utilized to best fit the COG needs. At any length, Washington County will be working to amend the COG Bylaws to determine who would receive a grant versus the revolving loan option.

Through the process of re-writing COG Bylaws, it will be determined what will work best for Washington County. The COG will also have to address the issue of utilizing the funds for relocation. All of these things are still up for debate at the COG level. Dana Meier indicated that discussion between UDOT right-of-way and Washington County will continue to make determinations that will work for the COG and still meet the language outlined in Senate Bill 8. UDOT will be providing right-of-way training to Washington County on March 18-19 at the Washington County Administration Building. All of the public work directors from various jurisdictions are encouraged to attend this training. After the training is provided to Washington County, a letter or e-mail will be issued to the county to provide guidance regarding the use of funds for relocation.

4. **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

- A. **Florida State DOT Award:** Mr. Ken Sizemore acknowledged a letter of recognition received by the Dixie MPO for their Long Range Transportation Plan as an excellent example of a citizen friendly document by the Florida Department of Transportation. Over 186 documents were analyzed by Florida DOT and the DMPO plan received praise for being one of six plans that were the most citizen friendly documents. It was noted that the plan, containing 14 chapters, was only 40 pages long. It was easy to find things and understand the long range transportation plan.

5. **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- A. **2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** Myron Lee explained that MAP 21 federal funding for FY 2013 and beyond includes \$72,000 in TAP program funding that can be programmed by the MPO. This amount of funding requires a local match of 20 percent. The MPO will receive this amount of funding each October for programming. Recreation trails, safe routes to schools and enhancement are combined into the TAP program. UDOT receives \$6.4 million to distribute statewide. Several activities that would not be eligible under this program were reviewed. Allocation of these funds could occur at the same time that other funding sources are programmed into the TIP by the MPO. The group consensus was to hold off on programming until the normal TIP cycle.
- B. **2013 TIP Amendment:** Larry Bulloch indicated that St. George City currently has two small projects that are included on the Dixie MPO TIP to receive federal funding. Through recent discussions with UDOT, it was determined that it would be a better to transfer federal dollars to one project and complete the other utilizing city funds. The transfer of funds from the 3000 East project to the Indian Hills Drive project will allow improvements on 3000 East to be completed quicker.

MOTION WAS MADE BY DANA MEIER, SECONDED BY MIKE SHAW, TO TRANSFER FEDERAL FUNDING FROM THE 3000 EAST PROJECT TO THE INDIAN HILLS PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED.

Myron Lee indicated that Gary Zabriskie, Five County AOG, requested that copies of a Memo regarding loan funding from the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board be provided to committee members. The PCIFB has lowered their interest rate to 1.5% and currently has a large amount of funding available.

6. **LOCAL PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE**

- A. **Hurricane City:** Arthur LeBaron indicated that a consultant has been selected for the 600 North project.
- B. **Ivins:** None.
- C. **LaVerkin:** None.
- D. **Leeds:** None.
- E. **St. George:** Monty Thurber reported that the ITS project on River Road is near completion. This includes signals on 1450 South to St. George Boulevard, Telegraph Street as well as replacing the existing wireless system in St. George. The lights in Washington City and Santa Clara City will also be connected to the system. This will accomplish signal connection throughout the Dixie MPO area.

Cameron Cutler indicated that the Red Hills Parkway Interchange design is at 80-90% completion. It is anticipated that construction will begin July 2014. Meetings with UDOT and Horrocks Engineering have been conducted to discuss the MP 8 Interchange preliminary design. The RFP for this project has been released and it is anticipated that a Notice to Proceed will be issued July 1st.

Larry Bulloch reported that a new signal will be installed on River Road at the Red Lobster. This will provide an alternate pedestrian crossing for the MP8 Interchange reconstruction. The crossing pattern for pedestrians will change at St. George Boulevard and River Road. Right-of-way acquisition for the St. George Boulevard thru turns will begin with the use of COG funds that were approved. Larry also reported that the scope of work for the River Road Corridor Study has been expanded to include the Mall Drive Bridge. The study will include multiple corridors in the area which will benefit UDOT, Washington City and St. George City.

- F. **Santa Clara City:** None.
- G. **Toquerville:** Daren Cottam reported that Toquerville City is working on a \$2.2 million culinary water improvement project.
- H. **Washington City:** Mike Shaw reported that the Washington Fields Road Phase 6, which will tie into the Southern Parkway, will likely advertise sometime in April. This has been pushed back because the environmental document needs to be complete prior to advertisement. He noted that work is also continuing on the Exit 10 study.
- F. **Washington County:** None.
- G. **UDOT:** Dana Meier reported that the Southern Parkway Segment 3A is underway and it is hoped that it will open sometime in the September/November time frame. It is also hoped that the Washington Fields Road segment will be completed during the same time frame. Segment 4A in Hurricane is progressing somewhat slower

than anticipated due to the unearthing of new archaeological sites. It was understood that these sites were a high probability in this particular area. If the items are similar to those already found in the area, they will merely be documented. The discovery of new items would shut down construction to allow archaeological recovery.

Kirk Thornock, UDOT, reported that truck lanes will be added to two sections of I-15 this summer. There is also a large cable barrier project that will be constructed on I-15 to fill in gaps where cable was not placed previously. Dana Meier indicated that these safety projects have been successful in decreasing fatalities. A micro seal will be applied to St. George Boulevard that will proceed in the near future. The bid for this project was very favorable. Mayor Angela Rhor asked about improvements near the town of Leeds. Kirk Thornock explained that UDOT's first priority is the curve at milepost 23, the second priority is the second truck lane to the south interchange, and the third priority would be to improve the acceleration lanes. There are a number of issues with right-of-way, mitigation of wetlands, etc. However, this is a high priority area up to Anderson Junction.

- H. Five County AOG:** Mr. Ken Sizemore reported that the Five County Association of Governments has struggled over time in working with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget on population projections that reflect reality in this area. This has been difficult because of the dynamics in Washington County. The demographic and economic analysis group at GOPB is now being split apart and is losing the capability to work at the required level. The office is now transforming into the Governor's Office of Management and Budget which will shift to a performance measures system. It is the intent of Governor Herbert to shift the economic and demographic analysis work to the University of Utah Economic and Business Research Department. Washington County has been invited to participate in a county analysis as the first attempt to engage local government in this type of work. A scope of work for this project will be presented to DTAC and DTEC as the proposal moves ahead. The work being offered by the U of U would also be accomplished through the use of funding in conjunction with the HUD Sustainable Communities project. He also reported that the local government engineer for UDOT will be conducting visits to counties in the area over the next few weeks.

7. STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATE

- A. Program Development - UDOT:** None.
- B. Federal Oversight:** It was noted that Mr. Steve Call asked to be excused from today's meeting.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at the Five County AOG office beginning at 1:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO
ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.