

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South

St. George, UT

Conducting: Todd Edwards, Chairman – Mr. Edwards indicated that this meeting is being held 100% electronically because of Governor Herbert's Executive Order issued March 18, 2020 which allows open public meetings to be held electronically under the declaration of a national emergency due to a pandemic that requires social distancing and other precautions.

Mr. Edwards noted that each Committee member will be asked if they are present and if they can hear clearly.

The Committee members were also instructed that they must give a verbal indication that they can hear and understand what the Chair is saying and what is happening at the meeting, and if at any time during the meeting they are having difficulty hearing or understanding whoever is speaking, they should interrupt and let the Chair know they are having problems hearing and ask the speaker to speak up and speak directly into their phone or whatever they are using to communicate.

Mr. Edwards also asked members to place their devices on MUTE except when speaking.

Mr. Edwards also stated that once he knows how many Committee members are present, and if a quorum is present, he will ask for a motion to continue the meeting electronically. The motion will need a second and a favorable roll-call vote to proceed with the meeting.

In addition, Mr. Edwards noted that he will take roll again at the end of the meeting wherein the Committee members must declare for the record that they participated in the meeting from beginning to end and that they were able to hear and comprehend everything that occurred during the meeting.

Mr. Edwards then conducted the roll call:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Todd Edwards, CHAIR, Washington County Engineer
- Wayne Peterson, Leeds Town
- Jay Sandberg, St George City
- Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
- Jeff Sanders for Kirk Thornock, UDOT Region Four
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
- Chuck Gillette, Ivins City, Public Works Director
- Mike Shaw, Washington City Public Works Director
- Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
- Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Public Works Director

- Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City Administrator
- Keen Ellsworth for Ty Bringhurst, Toquerville City

Chairman Edwards noted that a full quorum is present and called for a motion to continue the meeting. Chuck Gillette made a motion to continue the meeting electronically based on the verbal indication of a full quorum present. Monty Thurber seconded the motion.

Chairman Edwards then conducted a verbal roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- A. COVID–19 Accommodations/Protocol – The COVID-19-Accommodations and Protocol were discussed prior to Item 1.A in order to comply with the roll call rules when holding an electronic meeting.
- B. Consider Minutes from March 4, 2019 – Chairman Edwards noted that he is listed as the Washington County Public Works Director and asked that the minutes be changed to show his correct position as Washington County Engineer and CHAIR. With no other comments offered, Mr. Edwards asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Cameron Cutler made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Chuck Gillette seconded the motion.
Chairman Edwards then conducted a verbal roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.
- C. Resolution 2020-01 - - Policy Regarding Electronic Meetings – Mr. Myron Lee led a discussion on RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01 (this was included in the pre-meeting materials), which allows the Dixie MPO Bylaws to be amended to allow electronic meetings in accordance with Utah Code or as allowed by executive order by the Utah State Governor’s office in times of emergency.
Jay Sandberg made a motion to recommend Resolution No. 2020-01 as an Amendment to the Bylaws, to the Executive Body for approval. Kyle Gubler seconded the motion.

Chairman Edwards then conducted a verbal roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.

2. PLANNING SERVICES:

- A. Attainable Housing/Transportation – Shirlayne Quayle (Housing Action Coalition) – Ms. Quayle and John Willis discussed a screen share presentation on the moderate income housing plan that St. George City submitted to the State and how that ties in with Transportation planning in the City:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qPfHnEu9ZQPOlf5BE1IR2wp9wFZd8SsvbXm-i2-dyww/edit#gid=2039759063>
Ms. Quayle discussed the affordable housing modifications Bill (legislative session 2019 SB 34) which states that every municipality has to have a moderate income housing plan element that identifies how the municipality is going to be working towards creating more moderately priced housing (in Washington

County it is called attainable housing) which is housing that is adequate and affordable for all of our residents. Also discussed was the areas in which transportation comes into play, i.e., access to public transportation and the transportation corridors.

Mr. Myron Lee asked what our housing situation is and where we are hurting the most. Ms. Quayle brought up a graphic that shows that the average wage in Washington County (on an individual basis) is about \$34,000 - and so if you're a single income family and you're working and bringing in that amount of money, you're already \$20,000 below the AMI amount of \$54,000 which is definitely a big gap. She noted that there are instances of how the developers and the private community is coming together to fill this gap. She expressed the feeling that we're at a point where we can be ahead of it – not behind it.

- B. Leeds Growth Report – Mr. Wayne Petersen presented the Leeds Growth Report (this report was sent out in the pre-meeting packet). The present and proposed projects were discussed.

3. Short Range Planning:

- A. Unified Planning Work Program – Recommendation to DTEC – Mr. Myron Lee reported that this item will be postponed until the next DTAC meeting.
- B. Traffic Volume Comparison Study (Pre-COVID-19 to today) – St. George City – presented by Monty Thurber and Aron Baker. It was noted that of the 104 traffic signals that we have in the MPO, 63 of these can get traffic counts. They performed some actual counts which were then compared to the traffic signal counts. Where discrepancies were found, they were able to determine the reason and correct the issue (where possible).

The Comparison Study was an effort to capture normal patterns of traffic so they can analyze how, with the typical season, what the typical travel would be for that road. Because of the slowdown due to COVID-19, the study is on hold or proceeding on a limited basis with some best guess estimates.
Other links provided by Monty:

Links to Traffic Volumes Comparison

<https://tinyurl.com/DixieMPOCOVID19Trafficreport>

Unacast Social Distancing Data

<https://www.unacast.com/covid19/social-distancing-scoreboard>

UDOT Automated Signal Performance Metrics

<http://udottraffic.utah.gov/atspm/>

4. Long Range Planning:

- A. Federal Stimulus Transportation Funding - Myron Lee discussed the email sent out from Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations on what kind of aid is being offered through the different divisions and what some of the packages that have come out are for. The email was included in the pre-meeting documents. Mr. Lee indicated that the funding will likely be available for shovel-ready projects at a minimum, and for projects that have cleared environmental requirements and would be ready to move forward in this area.

5. TIP:

- A. New STP Funding Availability - Mr. Myron Lee discussed the "2020-24 Dixie MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) spreadsheet that was sent out in the pre-meeting materials. He indicated that we have a new funding source (approximately 1.3 million) that is immediately available in STIP year one. Mr. Lee stated that, as a staff, they would recommend to this Board (DTAC) which (if approved) would then be recommended to DTEC the following:

- Commit 1 million dollars in a project that we've already agreed on as an MPO to fund. These projects would be Exit 11, the old HWY 91 project from 200 E to Shivwits, and the 1450 to 3650 S realignments.

The recommendation is that in one of these projects, the highway infrastructure fund monies be put in – and then an equal amount of small Urban funds be taken out.

Then when we get to the Fall (where we do concept development reports, we can include this amount, and instead of programming 2.2 million dollars this next Fall, we could then program 3 million dollars through our competitive process that we've done in the past.

At this point, Myron asked for a discussion from the group as to whether this is an acceptable proposal. And if so, which project would we swap the money out from and and/or if there are other ideas or other ways to spend the money.

The reason for swapping out the funds is so that we can program them immediately which then locks them in, so we don't lose them.

Jeff Sanders mentioned another possible use for the monies and that is a project that is already identified somewhat in the TIP as part of the Reconstruction of Lower Bluff Street. This project involves building a tunnel under Bluff Street near I-15 to accommodate the active transportation that crosses Bluff street right there. This project is at a cost of approximately 2.5 million which could possibly be partnered 3 ways.

Chairman Todd Edwards asked if we needed a motion to move some of this money now or just wait another month for additional discussion and then decide how we want to program the additional monies that we have. Myron Lee mentioned that the earliest we are at risk of losing the monies would be in the Fall of 2021. So, if we are going to program it, it needs to be done this Fall.

He further explained that if we are going to swap the money out, we would just swap it out for some small Urban monies on an existing project and then wait till the Fall to reprogram the smaller monies that we pulled out. He felt that either approach would be fine; however, if we are going to swap it out – we would need a motion. If we're not going to swap it out, we probably do not need a motion.

The consensus of the group was to wait on programming this money with all the other monies in the Fall.

6. Local Project Status Updates:

- A. UDOT – the big project right now (underway) is the construction of SR7 Southern Parkway from Sand Hollow to SR9. Another project is an active transportation study on the Southern Parkway and the towns and County that touch the Southern Parkway. The purpose is to identify active Transportation projects and to prioritize them so that we can start applying for some of the money. The environmental study on SR 9 is also continuing.
- B. Hurricane – started some pavement management projects
- C. Ivins – proceeding with our sealing projects.
- D. LaVerkin – no report
- E. Leeds – working on chip seal projects later this year
- F. St. George City – just started a very large chip seal project. The signal on Sunset Boulevard and Tuweep has advertised, the 1400 W Snow Canyon signal is under construction and nearing completion. They are doing a project along the Bloomington Hills Drive walking path with paved curb and gutter which should help pedestrians and kids trying to get to school in that area. Working on a widening project on 1450 S Riverside Dr which should be advertised soon. Are working on, but not yet ready to advertise the signals on 700 S 200 E as well as Morningside Dr and Riverside Dr. Commerce Drive (1680 E over to the hill on the East) will also start soon – they have the agreements from the property owners which will be on the upcoming City Council agendas.
- G. Santa Clara – continued progress on the Bridge which is pretty much done except for some rock work and asphalt.
- H. Washington County – waiting for chip seal to start
- I. Toquerville – proceeding with the Public Infrastructure District and then going for the design work within the next 30 to 60 days.
- J. Washington City – the Washington Parkway projects are doing well – are planning on having it paved out by the 1st of May. Main Street project is underway and should be completed by July. They opened bids yesterday for the signal on Telegraph and Washington Parkway.

7. Upcoming Meetings / Deadlines:

- A. April 15, 2020 – DTEC Meeting
- B. May 6, 2020 – DTAC Meeting

8. Roll Call Vote:

- A. All Committee members must declare for the record that they participated in the meeting from beginning to end and that they were able to hear and comprehend everything that occurred during the meeting.
- B. Chairman Todd Edwards conducted a verbal roll call as to the participation in the meeting from beginning to end with the ability to hear and comprehend all that went on.
11 of the 12 Committee members that started the meeting verbally declared their full involvement in the meeting as outlined.

ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED; THE MEETING ADJOURNED upon a motion by Kyle Gubler and a second by Chuck Gillette. No roll call vote was required for this motion.