

**DIXIE MPO TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
September 16, 2020**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Dean Cox, Commissioner
Ken Neilson, Washington City
Richard Hirschi, La Verkin Mayor
Naghi Zeenati, UDOT Commissioner
Jon Pike, St. George City Mayor
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Wayne Peterson, (via Zoom) Leeds Mayor
Michele Randall, St. George City
Rick Rosenberg, Santa Clara Mayor

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT / EXCUSED

Lynn Chamberlain, Toquerville Mayor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Chris Hart called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. It was determined that a quorum existed for voting on action items.

BUSINESS

a. Consideration of August 19, 2020 DTEC Minutes

MOTION: Motion by UDOT Commissioner Naghi Zeenati to Approve the August 19, 2020 DTEC Minutes. Motion Seconded by Mayor Ken Nielsen and Carried by a Unanimous Vote.

DISCUSSION

a. Dixie State University (DSU) Transportation Report – Paul Morris

DSU Vice President of Administrative Affairs Paul Morris presented on the future expansion projects at DSU in regards to roadways, parking, buildings, and transit. DSU and Sun Tran have an agreement with students in need of transportation. The pedestrian underpass has been a great benefit for the University as well as the City of St. George.

DSU is constructing a Science, Engineering, and Technology building and a second Campus View Suites along with additional parking lots. Currently, student Campus is about 95% occupied.

There are specific areas around the campus in need of necessary safety improvements including expanded pedestrian walkways and additional crosswalks along 1000 East.

b. SR-7 Active Transportation Plan - UDOT

UDOT Region Planning Manager Jeff Sanders presented on the SR-7 active trail plan. A primary goal with active transportation is to plan and create a safe pathway network. A parallel trail is planned along SR-7. By providing a safe bike and trail network, the number and severity of crashes involving bikes and pedestrians should be reduced along the Southern Parkway. There are twelve (12) identified projects which can be found here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/dcc0f5b943694fb7863ffb573ce2f148>

UDOT views the project as a partnership between the cities and the state to build the pathway along SR-7. It is important for each municipality to update their respective active transportation plans in order to have the most current transportation needs outlined.

c. Status Update on Northern Corridor EIS

Myron Lee mentioned that the comment period for the Northern Corridor closed last week with 15,000 comments. 14,000 received comments were a form letter which only counts as one comment. A record of decision is anticipated by January 2021. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will compile a biological assessment which will be a part of the record decision in January.

d. Work-From-Home Destinations (St. George named #3 in Nation)

Mr. Lee reported that St. George was named the No. three (3) work from home destination in the nation. The analysis took data from a 2018 study which ranked the top metropolitan areas with the highest shares of people who regularly worked from home in 2018, doing so at two (2) to four (4) times the rate of the national average. With the impacts of COVID-19, that number is estimated to be even higher.

REGIONAL UPDATES

a. Local Government Updates

Mayor Neilsen reported that there will be a bike-ride and ribbon cutting event up the new Washington City Main Street project to the new boilers park on October 13th at 5:30 PM.

Mayor Pike reported that the transit line from St. George to Springdale has been discussed with the St. George City council. A follow up meeting with UDOT and the County will be put together soon. Mayor Pike mentioned that it would be beneficial for Sun Tran to be the operator of the system under the Greater Zion brand.

b. UDOT Updates

Kayde Roberts reported that the Southern Parkway is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2021.

The South Bluff Tunnel is in the design phase.

The UDOT Commission meeting will be held virtually on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 8:30.

c. Federal Updates

Congressman Stewart met with the local Sheriff's and chiefs to vocalize his support for law enforcement. He is also looking at better alternatives for the reduced shuttle system in Zion National Park as that is affecting overall travel throughout Utah. Congressman Stewart will be back in Washington County in the upcoming weeks.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DTAC- October 7, 2020

DTEC – October 21, 2020

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cheyenne Bentley