

**Utah Department of Transportation
Utah Transportation Commission
Vernal Area Tour
May 9, 2013**

The tour departed at 12:20 p.m. from the Vernal City offices. Shane Marshall welcomed the group on the tour, and introductions of attendees were made. As the bus traveled west on Main Street, Mr. Marshall discussed the Vernal Main Street project. He noted that the ADT on Main Street was as much or more than University Parkway in Orem/Provo. Uintah County Commissioner Mark Raymond commented on the project and complimented the Region on the incredible job that was done. Mr. Marshall then talked about the four mile passing lane project on US-40, which is currently in design. The bus turned south onto SR-88 and Mr. Marshall discussed the paving project planned for SR-88 this construction season. He mentioned that the road went from a Level 2 road to a Level 1 road, so they were able to move additional funding into the project. County Commissioner Raymond distributed a map of Uintah County oil and gas wells, and talked about the findings of the study UDOT recently completed. He also remarked that oil and gas is a very important part of their economy, and there is tremendous potential. If transportation issues are not addressed, they will really be constrained; however, they are appreciative of the improvements that have been made so far. Commissioner Raymond also mentioned the efforts of Cheri McCurdy of the Uintah Transportation Special Services District, and said she deserves a lot of credit.

The bus continued on Seep Ridge Road, and Commissioner Raymond and Ms. McCurdy provided additional information regarding improvements that have been done and are currently taking place on Seep Ridge Road. Ms. McCurdy noted that the road will eventually be paved all the way to the Grand County line. The bus turned off of Seep Ridge Road and traveled to the Anadarko Petroleum Corporation facilities. There was a short break, and then a safety orientation was given by Jeff Duncan from Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in preparation for a tour of the facilities. He gave an overview of their operations, a history of the area, and how their processes work, and answered several questions that were asked. The group was split into two smaller groups for the tour of the facilities.

Following the tour of the facilities, the group boarded the bus and headed back to Vernal via Glen Bench Road and SR-45. Commissioner Raymond talked about the need for passing lanes on the various routes used by trucks. He said the County is going to try to do something on Glen Bench Road. Mr. Marshall added that Anadarko would like to see improvements made to the intersection of Glen Bench Road and SR-45. He also said that SR-45 is now a Level 1 Road so they have more resources to tap into to maintain it. They will be looking to possibly do passing lanes in the future, as the road is narrow with narrow shoulders. However, it's difficult to find capacity type funds, due to the type of road it is. As the bus traveled through Naples, Mr. Marshall noted that they are working with Naples City to do a lighting project. They will also be installing a signal on US-40 by the Maverick Station.

The bus returned to the Vernal City offices and the tour ended at 4:30 p.m.

The following Commissioners, UDOT staff, and others attended the tour: Jeff Holt, Kent Millington, Wayne Barlow, Dannie McConkie, Eddie Cox, Naghi Zeenati, LeAnn Abegglen, Carlos Braceras, Cory Pope, Bill Lawrence, Bob Pelly, Linda Hull, Ahmad Jaber, John Gleason, Pat Morley, Shane Marshall, Muriel Xochimitl, Brent Schvaneveldt, Ervan Rhodes, James Christian, Mark Raymond, Cheri McCurdy, Troy Ostler, Joseph Wolley, Merrell Jolley, Richard Kohler, Jamie Evans.

LeAnn Abegglen, Commission Secretary