

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
September 18, 2013**

PRESENT

Rick Rosenberg, Santa Clara Mayor
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor
Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Karl Wilson, LaVerkin Mayor
Daniel McArthur, St. George City Mayor
Alan Gardner, County Commission
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Highway Commission
Gail Bunker, St. George City
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Jimmy Tyree, BLM
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Larry Bulloch, St. George City
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
Ellen Schunk, Senator Mike Lee
William Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Dana Meier, UDOT
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. He excused Chairman Eardley, who has had surgery recently, and recognized that Commissioner Alan Gardner is in attendance, with voting authority. He also excused Councilman Matt Ence, who is unable to attend today.

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2013

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Jeff Turek to Approve the Minutes of August 21, 2013. Motion seconded by Mayor McArthur and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Introduction of new UDOT Region Four Director

Myron Lee introduced Rick Torgerson, the new UDOT Region Four Director. Mr. Torgerson said that he is from central Utah. He was a member of DTAC for six years and is familiar with many of the issues and projects concerning DTEC. Carlos Braceros, the new UDOT statewide director, has distributed a Vision Document which contains strategic goals, visions, and focal points for UDOT going forward.

a. UDOT Vision Document

UDOT's Final Four Strategic Goals are:

- Preserve infrastructure
- Zero fatalities
- Optimize mobility
- Strengthen the Economy

Emphasis areas for UDOT are:

- Integrated transportation – how to meet the public's needs
- Collaboration – with local and regional governments
- Education – science, engineering, math instruction in high schools
- Transparency – track the progress of tax dollars
- Quality – strive to have quality processes in the field and elsewhere
- Operational Excellence – be the best-managed state in the country

UDOT's core values are:

- Innovation
- Public Responsiveness
- Dedication
- Passion
- Integrity
- Fiscal responsibility

Mr. Torgerson said that there is a traffic application is available for both the Android market and iPhone market, providing weather and construction information throughout the state which is invaluable for planning one's commute.

b. Status of BLM Resource Management Plan

Jimmy Tyree of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) narrated a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which can be obtained from Mr. Tyree upon request.

Highlights of the PowerPoint are as follows:

- Maps of the NCAs were shown, along with wilderness areas and campgrounds. Heavy use is reported in these areas, both equestrians and hikers.
- In the Red Cliffs NCA there has been recent legislation regarding recreational use, endangered species, historical use, etc. In 2012, based on traffic counters, there were 140,000 visits. The traffic counters can determine whether those visits were equestrian, hiking, or motorized.
- Gross revenues for special recreation permit holders (spas, businesses, guides, commercial operators) were \$3.7 million, of which the BLM gets 3% to put back into the facilities.
- Beaver Dam Wash is becoming more popular also. Congress has designated the open roads in that area.
- The BLM is currently developing two Resource Management Plans (RMP), one for Beaver Dam and one for Red Cliffs, and an amendment to the current plan which was done in 1999. The intent is to address the two parts of the bill that would evaluate potential areas of environmental concern and to modify the current OHV area designations because of the new wilderness areas.
- The cooperating agencies in these RMPs are Washington County and Mohave County (NV).
- When the official draft goes out (hopefully mid-spring of 2014), everyone gets an opportunity to comment on it. After that, it goes out to the public for comment. Public meetings will also be held, with a sixty-day protest period to commence afterwards.

Ron Whitehead commented that the County, as a coordinating entity, should be more involved in the entire process, sitting at the table. He said that neither he nor Cornell Christensen were informed of meetings or participated in the creation of the draft. Mr. Tyree said that the County has plenty of time to present input into the draft. Larry Bulloch asked Mr. Tyree to characterize the working relationship between BLM and the other cooperating entities, and Mr. Tyree said that he thinks it is a good one.

Mr. Whitehead asked when the Transportation Plan will be coming out, and Mr. Tyree responded that he hopes it will be thirty days from the RMPs. He is trying to arrange for the Transportation Plan and the RMP to come out at virtually the same time.

Myron Lee said that Bryan Thiriot, the new AOG Director, asked him to relay a couple of thoughts: (1) he is concerned about the status of the RMP process and the Transportation Plan process; and (2) the Ombudsman Act, passed by a Democratically-controlled Senate and House in 2009, provided for a three-year deadline for the RMP

and Transportation Plan to be produced. It also said that the federal government would contribute resources as needed to the processes, and that a transportation route would be a part of the process.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

a. UDOT Issues

Dana Meier said that Phases 3A and 4A of the Southern Parkway will be completed by the end of this year. The presence of Bear Claw Poppy and desert tortoises has delayed Phase 3B, and it is hoped that it will be completed by next spring. A consultant has been retained for the Sunset/Bluff interchange project, and that will take about a year to design. By 2015 it should be completed. The Red Hills Parkway interchange will be advertised in November and hopefully completed by the end of 2014. St. George Blvd./Bluff Street improvements are ongoing. Cost estimates were low, so further analysis and re-evaluation may be required. It is hoped that the Divergent Diamond interchange at Milepost 8 off the I-15 will still be open by Black Friday.

Mr. Meier mentioned the increased signage going up along I-15, increasing the speed limit to 80 mph. Speeds on I-84 and I-80 will also be increased to 80 mph. Most auto accidents are attributed to driver inattention rather than speed; ever since the 80 mph speed limit has been implemented, fatalities have dropped.

b. FHWA Issues

No items were presented today.

OTHER BUSINESS

No items were presented.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Turek to Adjourn the Meeting at 1:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bunker and carried by unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: November 20, 2013

Having no other business, Chairman Rosenberg adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Hall