

UTAH TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Friday, December 16, 2022

Calvin Rampton Complex, Redwood Conference Rooms - 4501 South 2700 West, Taylorsville

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The December 16, 2022 meeting of the Utah Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:01 by Chairman Naghi Zeenati, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions of Commission members, UDOT staff and others were made and included the following:

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| Naghi Zeenati, Chairman | Diana Leka, UDOT Right of Way |
| Lew W. Cramer, Commissioner | Eileen Barron, UDOT Communications |
| *Donna J. Law, Commissioner | Elizabeth McMillan, UDOT Communications Director |
| Jim Evans, Commissioner | Jodi Howick, Assistant Attorney General |
| Natalie Gochnour, Commissioner | Leif Elder, UDOT Policy & Legislative Services Director |
| Kevin T. Van Tassel, Commissioner | Lisa Zundel, UDOT Traffic Management Division |
| Ronda R. Menlove, Commissioner | Monte Aldridge, UDOT Region Four Director |
| Carlos Braceras, UDOT Executive Director | Peter Asplund, UDOT Policy & Legislative Services Deputy Director |
| Teri Newell, UDOT Deputy Director | Rob Clayton, UDOT Region Three Director |
| Lisa Wilson, UDOT Deputy Director | Rob Wight, UDOT Region One Director |
| Diane Josie, UDOT Executive Assistant | Robert Stewart, UDOT Region Two Director |
| Tessie Lords, UDOT Office Specialist | Shane Young, UDOT Internal Audit Director |
| Grant Potter, UDOT Communications | Shara Hillier, UDOT Finance Director |
| Ivan Hartle, UDOT Programming Director | Troy Peterson, UDOT Operations Director |
| Jordan Lee, UDOT Technology & Innovation | Brigitte Mandel, FHWA Assistant Division Administrator |
| Keriann Noble, UDOT Technology & Innovation | Bryan Chamberlain, AECOM |
| Andrea Olson, UDOT Program Development | Eric Isom, MIB West Partners |
| Ben Huot, UDOT Program Development Director | Kris Peterson, Horrocks |
| Bob Pelly, UDOT STIP Coordinator | Marc Bonnet, CobbFendley Associates |
| Brad Palmer, UDOT Region Two Program Manager | Rikki Hrenko-Browning, Utah Petroleum Association |
| Carmen Swanwick, UDOT Project Development Director | Wayne Bennion, WFRC |
| Charles Stormont, UDOT Right of Way Director | |
| Cheryl Hersch-Simmons, UDOT Structures | |

**indicates virtual participation*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rikki Hrenko-Browning, Utah Petroleum Association President, thanked the UDOT team for their prompt attention to Highway 191 and the Uintah Basin transportation issues. Utah Petroleum is appreciative of the Basin-wide transportation corridor study and working towards securing the additional resources to implement the projects. She said there has been a lot of growth along the corridor and traffic volume is rapidly escalating. During the first quarter this year, there were three trucks per hour along the corridor, today there is a truck every 11 minutes. By summer 2024, there will be a truck every four to five minutes. She said they look forward to working together to ensure safety along that route. Commissioner Van Tassel said yesterday he counted 17 trucks in 1 hour 15 minutes.

Eileen Barron read an email from Sajil Shrestha: “While traveling to Salt Lake City close to Exit 319, the road has many confusing markings that make it hard to follow the lane. The old white line and the new white line are both present and can cause major accidents. It would be helpful if only one marking was present.”

FHWA REPORT

Brigitte Mandel, FHWA Deputy Division Administrator, presented the FHWA report. She said Shailen Bhatt was confirmed as the 21st Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. She spoke about the federal funding status. A one-week extension was passed by Congress. A RAISA grants Notice of Funding Opportunity was announced on November 30. National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) new guidance is available. Section 504(c) guidance is now available. The final item she mentioned was the Every Day Counts Innovations. A virtual summit is planned for February 2023.

UDOT SCOREBOARD

Carmen Swanwick, UDOT Project Development Director reported on the Construction program. She presented the project delivery status. There are 61 projects ready to advertise in the next two months. Seven are past due. \$105 million in projects was delivered within the last month. We currently have 154 projects in construction. She said because of price fluctuations, they have asked project teams to reevaluate engineer's estimates.

Troy Peterson, UDOT Operations Director, reported on the Safety Dashboard. The fatality rate is 0.96 through October 31. VMT statewide is 29 billion miles for the year. Fatalities for this year are currently at 312 which is down from this time last year. He discussed a poll done by AAA regarding unsafe driving behaviors including speeding, red light running, and driving while intoxicated. Carlos said there has been a notable trend in risk taking behaviors across the country.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Evans moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Cramer seconded the motion, and the items were unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

2023 STIP Amendment #3

I-84; I-15 to SR-26 - Funding Addition

Region One requested approval to add \$700,000 of High Volume Roads funds to the I-84 from I-15 to SR-26 project, after crews identified that the top two inches of HMA needs to be milled off and replaced prior to the placement of bonded wearing course. The additional funds will address this work and will also address cost increases in HMA prices. Commissioner Menlove moved to approve the request and Commissioner Van Tassell seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

US-91 Intersection Conflict Warning Signs - New Project

Region One requested approval to add a new \$600,000 Transportation Solutions project to the current STIP. Due to increased truck traffic entering and leaving US-91 at the Pisgah Mine intersection in Sardine Canyon, the Department would like to install an intersection conflict warning system to alert drivers on US-81 when trucks are present at the intersection. Rob Wight, UDOT Region One Director, said the location of the signs will most likely be before the maintenance shed. Commissioner Menlove gave praise to UDOT in handling this situation. UDOT has come up with a responsible solution to increase safety without an incredible amount of funding. Commissioner Evans moved to approve the request and Commissioner Menlove seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

800 North Trail, 400 West to 900 West - Funding Addition and Scope Change

Region Three requested approval to add \$375,000 of Transportation Solutions funds to the Orem 800 North Trail, 400 West to 900 West project. The project received additional funding in December 2021, but the price of concrete, labor and construction costs have increased above the estimate of that time. The additional funds are needed in order to advertise the project. Mountainland Association of Governments approved this funding addition on November 28. Commissioner Evans moved to approve the request and Commissioner Cramer seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

[SR-45: Southam Canyon to MP 14 - Funding Addition](#)

Region Three requested approval to add \$950,000 of Transportation Solutions funds to the SR-45; Southam Canyon to MP 14 project, in order to award the project after the cost for several bid items were higher than the estimated amount, resulting in the bids being- 114% of the engineer's estimate. Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the request and Commissioner Cramer seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved. Commissioner Law asked for the definition of mobilization. Ivan Hartle, UDOT Programming Director, said mobilization is for contractors to set up their equipment at the worksite. Some overhead costs are included in mobilization as well.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

[SR-18; MP 0 to 2, & SR-8, Sunset Boulevard - Funding Adjustment and Scope Change](#)

Region Four requested approval to remove \$1,810,000 of High Volume Roads funds from the SR-18; MP 0 to MP 2 and SR-8; Sunset Boulevard project. With the potential of lane shifts on SR-18 and the city's interest in a more involved decorative median, the project team is recommending the preservation portion of SR-18 be delayed and included in the 2025 widening project. Monte Aldridge, UDOT Region Four Director, said this project was originally for a pavement project, but as we analyzed it, we decided there was an opportunity for an All Users project. An analysis of installing a median was done as well. A median will reduce crashes. The Region coordinated with St. George City, and they are interested in a landscape approach. We are seeking to have this section delayed to do further analysis. Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the request and Commissioner Law seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

[US-6; SR-55 to 100 West, Wellington - Funding Addition](#)

Region Four requested approval to add \$580,000 of High Volume Roads funds to the US-6; SR-55 to 100 West, Wellington project to address increased mobilization costs seen in delivery projects in rural locations, and inflation related to chip seal oil and other construction costs. Commissioner Van Tassell moved to approve the request and Commissioner Law seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commission Gochnour

[US-6; Tie Fork to White River - Funding Addition](#)

Region Four requested approval to add \$375,000 of High Volume Roads funds to the US-6; Tie Fork to White River project to address increased mobilization costs seen in delivery projects in rural locations, and inflation related to chip seal oil and other construction costs. Commissioner Law moved to approve the request and Commissioner Menlove seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Excused: Commissioner Gochnour

[US-163, SR-261 and SR-316, Various Locations - Funding Addition](#)

Region Four requested approval to add \$3,000,000 to the US-163, SR-261 & SR-316; Various Locations project to address increased mobilization costs seen in delivery projects in rural locations, and inflation related to chip seal oil and other construction costs.

Commissioner Cramer asked for the difference between low volume and high volume roads. Monte Aldridge said high volume roads have 1000 or more vehicles per day. Commissioner Law asked what lane leveling means. Monte said lane level is to apply asphalt overlay to level out the high and low spots in a road and then add a seal on top of it. Carlos Braceras, UDOT Executive Director, said in 2006 the Department recommended that we treat the roads differently based on volume. All low volume roads were not being proactively treated because of funding. We reacted to problems on the low volume roads. Every year we would go to the legislature and show predicted trends on the roads. Senator Van Tassel decided that was not the right business approach and pushed for gas tax. When the gas tax passed, it was for low volume roads and bridges. As you can see now, the low volume roads are trending in the right direction. Commissioner Van Tassel said that money has affected the roads in Region Four more than any other area in the state. Commissioner Law moved to approve the request and Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Gochnour, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

(Commissioner Natalie Gochnour arrived at 9:56 a.m., and Chairman Zeenati recognized her arrival.)

Cottonwood Wash Bridge Replacement

Region Four requested approval to add \$3,396,296.39 of Federal Emergency funds to the Cottonwood Wash Bridge Replacement project, which will replace the structure damaged during a high flow event. In August 2021, the Commission approved \$700,000 for the emergency repair of the structure and \$5,300,000 for the structure replacement. Federal Emergency Relief funds have now been allocated to the project. The additional funds will address inflation-related increases in construction costs, exacerbated by the remote location, and an increase in span length necessary to establish solid foundations on each side of the channel. Chair Zeenati asked about the timeline for this project. Monte Aldridge said they are working through the design right now and he believes it's scheduled for 2026. The current shoring in place is safe. Commissioner Law moved to approve the request and Commissioner Gochnour seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Gochnour, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

Project Combinations - For Information Only

Region Two has combined 2 projects on 7800 South, 2 projects on 700 West, and 2 projects on Foothill Drive to provide efficiencies in project delivery. These projects are currently being directed by WFRC. Combining them will save time. They have been previously approved by the Commission. Money can be saved on mobilization costs by combining them.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Charles Stormont, UDOT Right of Way Director, reviewed the Marda Dillree Corridor Preservation Budget and Obligations and Fund Tracking spreadsheets for August, September and October 2022.

Alvey: SR-73, Eagle Mountain

Charles Stormont requested approval to purchase an Eagle Mountain property that has appraised for \$747,000. The property will be used for the future expansion and widening of SR-73 through Eagle Mountain. Charles said the Preservation Advisory Council has given this a favorable recommendation. Commissioner Cramer moved to approve the request and Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Gochnour, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

PROPERTY EXCHANGE WITH JACKSON OIL IN PAYSON

Charles Stormont requested approval to exchange property with Jackson's Oil to facilitate safety improvements in the area. Jackson's Oil operates a convenience store on the northeast corner of 800 South (SR-178) and 1270 West in Payson. A westbound right turn lane is needed at this intersection. Jackson's Oil currently has an access near the intersection that would interfere with the future right turn lane. Moving the access from 800 South further to the

east, away from the intersection, would provide room for a right turn lane and increase safety at the intersection. Jackson's Oil agrees to convey a strip (approximately 1120 square feet) of new right of way along 800 South to UDOT for the right turn lane, and to close the existing driveway access on 800 South and convey the access rights to UDOT. The Department would agree to grant two new driveway accesses on 800 South, further away from the intersection, and surplus a parcel of excess lane on 1270 West (approximately 2430 square feet) for a new access driveway. The property exchange, together with the consolidation of access points by the landowner, are deemed to be a value for value exchange. Commissioner Cramer moved to approve the request and Commissioner Menlove seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Gochnour, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

2023 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Shane Young, UDOT Internal Audit Director, requested approval of the previously reviewed schedule of performance audits for 2023. Shane said the schedule was developed with feedback from the senior leadership team. By law, the Commission approves the schedule for the upcoming year. Commissioner Law moved to approve the request and Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. The request was unanimously approved.

In favor: Commissioners Cramer, Law, Evans, Gochnour, Van Tassell, Menlove, Zeenati

Opposed: None

NEW FEE FOR GRAMA REQUESTS

Shara Hillier, UDOT Finance Director, reviewed a new fee for Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) request. Per Utah Code 63-G-2-203, a governmental entity may charge a reasonable fee to cover the entity's actual cost of providing a governmental record from a GRAMA request. UDOT has historically not charged for GRAMA requests and has not had an approved fee. Significant interest in the Cottonwood Canyons EIS has resulted in GRAMA requests that have overwhelmed staff and required extra labor to respond. It was determined that implementing a GRAMA fee would help offset the costs for high volume requests. Utah Code 63-J-1-504 requires any new fee to be presented at a public hearing before the start of the legislative session. Utah Code 63-G-203 stipulates that the fee "may not exceed the salary of the lowest paid employee, who, in the discretion of the custodian of records, has the necessary skill and training to perform the request". Since UDOT receives a wide breadth of GRAMA requests, it was determined that \$40/hour is a reasonable salary average for this fee. Carlos Braceras said the volume of GRAMA requests has increased over the last couple of years. Shane Young said there are governing requirements for charging the fees. We would notify the requestor of the estimated amount prior to responding to the GRAMA request. This would allow them to narrow down the request. The fee would be paid after the GRAMA request was completed.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

R926-3: Class B and Class C Road Funds

Leif Elder, UDOT Policy and Legislative Services Director, reviewed proposed changes to Rule R926-3: Class B and Class C Road Funds. Leif said Class B and C Funds come for the Transportation Fund. UDOT is responsible for distributing the funds to the cities and counties. He worked with the local governments on the proposed changes to the rule.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

[Carlos Braceras discussed the Governor's proposed budget that was released last week.](#) He explained the process used to put together the budget. He excited about this year's budget proposal. He presented the funding portion of the Strategic Direction on the UDOT website. He talked about the different funds and line items.

Commission Committee Reports

[Commissioner Menlove reported on a meeting to identify western arterials in Cache Valley.](#) She said Logan Main Street has many issues and Cache Valley leaders are looking forward to establishing a western arterial. She mentioned Rob

Wight has instituted quarterly meetings with Cache Valley and Rich County. The Rich County Mayor was very pleased with the last meeting.

[Commissioner Gochnour reported on the State's latest population estimate.](#) Utah surpassed 3.2 million with 40% of the growth coming from Utah county. Six counties that had more deaths than births. For the last two years in-migration has accounted for almost 2/3 of our growth. [Commissioner Cramer said they're seeing a lot of expansion in Utah County, Salina, and central Utah.](#) He met with Rocky Mountain Power regarding the growth. [Commissioner Evans said planning needs to happen for the growth.](#) He will continue to have planning meetings with Mountainland Association of Governments. They are working with the local governments.

[Commissioner Van Tassell said Wasatch Front Regional Council met and approved freeway repair.](#)

[Commissioner Law passed along kudos on the local front.](#) She is looking at long range visions with Iron County and Cedar City. Region Four and Cedar City are doing a great job at looking at current needs as well.

[Chair Zeenati spoke about an emergency DTAC meeting regarding Purgatory Road.](#)

Upcoming Transportation Commission Meetings

- February 10, Herriman
- March 23-24, UDOT Complex
- May 4-5, UDOT Complex
- June 22-23, Price
- August 17-18, Ogden
- September 21-22, Duchesne
- November 16-17, Hurricane
- December 14-15, UDOT Complex

[Commissioner Van Tassell moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m.](#)



Diane Josie, UDOT Executive Assistant