

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South

St. George, UT

Conducting: Jay Sandberg, Chairman – Mr. Sandberg called the DTAC meeting to order from an anchor location with an electronic meeting option over a GoToMeeting connection.

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

In addition, Mr. Sandberg noted that he will take roll again at the end of the meeting wherein the Committee members attending electronically 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. Sandberg conducted the roll call:

MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE ANCHOR LOCATION:

- Jay Sandberg, CHAIR, St. George City
- Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
- Monty Thurber, St. George City, Engineer Associate/Traffic Coordinator
- Chuck Gillette, Ivins City
- Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
- Todd Edwards, Washington County
- Paul Mogle, for Blake Foncesbeck, Washington City Public Works Director
- Dustin Mouritsen, Santa Clara City Public Works Director
- Angela Rohr, Leeds Representative
- Afton Moore, Toquerville City
- Chris Hall, UDOT

MEMBERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

- None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Cameron Cutler, St. George City Public Works Director

OTHER ATTENDEES:

- Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
- Nicholas Gayer, Dixie MPO
- Susan Crook, CSU
- Randy Smith, Sunrise Engineering
- Sam Grimshaw, Sunrise Engineering
- Aron Baker, Horrocks Engineering

- Patty Wise, LaVerkin City Council
- Sharice Walker, Avenue Consulting
- Andy Stevens, Washington City
- Kayde Roberts, Mainline Engineering
- Tim O'Brien, St. George City resident
- Other attendees were present but did not introduce themselves.

Chairman Sandberg noted that a quorum was present and called for the meeting to continue.

Chairman Sandberg also welcomed visitors who were in attendance.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. Consider Minutes from March 1, 2023.

Chairman Sandberg noted that no additions or corrections were mentioned and called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Kyle Gubler made a motion to approve the minutes. Paul Mogle seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with all Committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.

2. PLANNING:

A. Review of Regional Transportation Plan – Myron Lee discussed the Dixie MPO Regional Active Transportation Plan.

- **Project List Review** - Mr. Lee asked the committee members (within the MPO jurisdiction) to review the projects that are listed for their city and/or county, and/or state and make sure that these are the right projects to have on the long-range plan for Phase 1. He then asked the members to review the Phase 2 projects as well.

Mr. Lee noted that they ran the travel demand model and queried what projects should be moved up into Phase 1, and which ones should be moved up into Phase 2, and which ones should be dropped off the list completely. Those edits are done and are reflected in the Plan.

Some of the projects that are highlighted in yellow are either under construction, or they are funded by a developer and have no cost estimate. Myron asked if any of the information needs to be edited or updated and if so, to please let him know as soon as possible because this long-range plan is out for public comment as of the 31st of March and is listed on our website.

- **Financial Constraints Review** – Myron explained that the financial constraints are set, based on the requirement for our MPO. To have a fiscally constrained long-range plan, we need to come up with the fiscal constraints (the estimated dollars that we have to spend on projects over

the next 30 years). He indicated that we worked really close with UDOT, Wasatch Front Regional Council, MAG, and Cache MPO to come up with a spreadsheet that would forecast our revenues over the next 30 Years. Up until the 31st of March the tool to come up with a number to present to you was not complete, but that number is now listed on the spreadsheet. As you can see (down on the bottom of the front page), the state funding assumption for Phase 1 is approximately \$323 million which is approximately 29% shy of the State needs. We're allowed to go over 10% so we need some suggestions as to which project(s) we might want to drop back in to Phase 2.

One of the problems we are going to have is that Phase 2 is 64% too high so we will have to do some work on the phasing of the plan, realizing all of the projects that are on here are the projects that we need .

Additional discussion was held regarding the estimates and the formula that was used to come up with the numbers. Mr. Lee emphasized that the estimated costs of these projects are just that – estimates, and they are planning level estimates. Myron again asked the committee members to take some time and review the numbers and come back with any edits they feel are necessary.

Basically, what we want you to do is look and see if the projects in phase 1 make sense to be in Phase 1 to be built in the next 10 years. Our model, our travel demand model tells us, this is what needs to be on the list. **And again, the deadline for any changes is before the end of the month.**

- **Transit Plan review** - Myron Lee discussed the Transit Plan which is on Dixie MPO.org, and the plan which is listed there for review. Nicholas Gayer reported that he went to all the cities individually and talked about their ideas for transit between now and ~~2015~~2050.

Myron Lee asked the committee members to go into that particular chapter of the plan and read through the statements that are made for each city. The reason we are asking for this specifically is because the Regional Director with the Federal Transit Authority (out of Denver) is asking that we make that chapter of our plan as detailed as possible, anticipating some pretty heavy funding availabilities coming for transit projects in the coming years.

To summarize Agenda Item 2A:

- Review your project lists.
- Realize the funding constraints that are associated with that, and
- Review the transit plan on our website, and make sure that all comments are back to Myron Lee no later than March 31, 2023.

- B. Active Transportation Plan further prioritization and phasing discussion – Nicholas Gayer led the discussion for Nate Wiberg who was unable to attend today’s meeting. Here are some highlights of the discussion:
- We have been working on the Active Transportation Plan for quite some time now. This is also a new process for MPO, and we appreciate all the input that has been given as we learn together. The fiscally constraining phase-1 of the Active Transportation Plan was discussed in a bit more detail today than last month and hopefully will be at a point where we can move forward at the end of this meeting.
 - At the last DTAC meeting we discussed:
 - the fiscal constraint formula that staff has developed.
 - reviewed the projects on the phase-1 list.
 - assigned projects to the \$16.5 million that the formula estimated to come to the region for active transportation through TIF Active, TAP, and CRP; and
 - made a motion to recommend to DTEC that they approve the prioritized projects and add to the list any projects that the cities plan to fund with their own funding.
 - Since that time, MPO staff requested that the participating entities look over the phase-1 list and determine which projects the participating cities plan on funding. Staff also inquired about how much funding the participating cities spent on active transportation in the previous fiscal year, as well as how much they plan on spending during the coming fiscal year. The idea behind this was to estimate the local dollars spent on projects.
 - During these discussions, a few projects were moved to the funded list, a few additional projects were determined to be developer funded, and Leeds asked to have a project added to the Plan.
 - UDOT offered some clarification – the funding source does not include the new ATIF funding, so UDOT is creating a whole new division to manage the Active Transportation with that new money so, we have no idea how it’s going to be implemented or prioritized.
 - Nicholas Gayer led a discussion regarding the DMPO handouts and several questions regarding projects that involved developers were discussed.
 - The question is, do we think that these projects in phase 1 of the active transportation plan could reasonably be built within the next 10 years.
 - **After further discussion, it was determined that there will be some changes presented to Nate Wiberg to incorporate into the list prior to presenting the list to DTEC in 2 weeks.**
 - The Dixie MPO Regional Active Transportation Plan (2023 – 2050) was also presented and the committee members were asked to review it and get back to the MPO staff to make sure that everything looks good.
 - We did not receive enough information about how much funding the participating cities spent on active transportation in the previous year and the upcoming coming year to come up with a good estimate. As of right now the MPO staff feel that the best way to estimate the local contribution is to use the list of projects that the cities plan to fund through 2030. If this body feels

that that is the best way to move forward, the list as presented (with any additional changes recommended) is ready to be the phase-1 constrained list.

- Also, if anyone wants to move projects from phase 2, please let us know prior to DTEC.

Paul Mogle made a motion to recommend the lists as presented, along with any recommended changes to DTEC for their approval. Kyle Gubler seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all committee members verbally voting in favor of the motion.

- C. Update on Amtrak's Passenger Rail Initiative – Myron Lee noted that Amtrak has passenger rail service between most metropolitan areas – major metropolitan areas on the east coast and not so much on the west coast. With the new Transportation Infrastructure bill – there is an effort to see if there could be additional services re-established or established involving Amtrak services. The Wasatch Front Regional Council is asking for Dixie MPO's support of the re-establishing the Desert Wind Corridor – Salt Lake to Las Vegas. This corridor was serviced with Amtrak passenger rail service through the 1970's.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council held a few public scoping meetings and found that there was a lot of interest in bringing the line into St. George. **This was mentioned to the DTEC committee 2 weeks ago and they were interested in looking at it again.** As directed by DTEC, we went ahead and wrote a letter of support for the Wasatch Front initiative. Again, the initiative is to study the possibilities of re-establishing the Desert Winds Line with potential service to St. George. Myron wanted to bring this to this group to see if you have any questions about that or any input. Mr. Lee reported that this item was only brought up so that the committee members and their Mayors and Councilman can be aware of it.

- D. SS4A Subcommittee Application Process – Nicholas Gayer stated that we are going through the process of getting our grant agreement submitted. We are still in that process and waiting for FHWA to tell us that the template they created is good to use. Because of issues with the template, it's going to take longer than we anticipated. After we submit our grant agreement with FHWA, it will take an additional 45 days to get it approved and to begin getting funding. Mr. Gayer reported that they have been advised not to spend any money, match or otherwise, until the grant agreement is final and good.

While we are waiting to get approved, there are some things that we can do:

- Set up a subcommittee, task force, or community lead group to follow the action plan development through its entirety.
- This group will need to meet on a regular basis to get the action plan developed.
- The Subcommittee application form will be sent out via e-mails to the committee members. The committee members were encouraged to fill out the form if they have an interest in being a part of the committee or

send the link to anyone they think may be interested. We would like to have 8 – 10 people on the committee. These committee members are non-elected officials but can be anyone involved in the community. The MPO will go through the process of selecting the committee members from the applications that are received. The goal is to have a committee that would be representative of the population of Washington County because the grant was written for the whole of the County.

- Below is the link to the SS4A Sub-Committee Application form:
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee-I0L1eT5YFdHtUYG6QokJ5tlu7ZjAv_N81OSWGiWU_pP5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

ROLL CALL VOTE:

A Roll Call Vote was not completed because there was not a voting member attending the meeting electronically.

3. LOCAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

- A. Hurricane – Hurricane City has a road project going on – the 2800 W connection between SR9 and 600 N. They are hoping to pave this next week, the trail that goes alongside it has already been paved. We have broken ground on our 700 W project, which is very similar to the 2800 W connection. This is a connection between SR9 and 600 N. Mr. LeBaron then gave an update on the Purgatory Road project. They are working on putting together a \$6 million funding commitment from the local communities. They have also sent an email to the MPO requesting some planning funds. This issue will probably be discussed at a future DTAC meeting. They are also working with UDOT to look at alternatives for SR9 through Hurricane proper.
- B. Ivins – Working on highway 91. They are still evaluating a change order going from a 2-lane road to a 3-lane road.
- C. LaVerkin – Nothing new to report.
- D. Leeds – They are looking to do an asphalt biking/walking trail alongside Silver Reef Road going from I-15 up to the turnoff to the museum and then up to Oak Grove where it turns into the national forest.
- E. St. George City – They have the alignment nailed down on the George Washington Parkway Bridge and are doing some geo testing. Also, they have some big-ticket roadway reconstruction projects for next year; River Road, Fort Pierce Industrial, Dixie Drive - with approximately 6 projects. They have also entered into some agreements with a few telecom companies to send signals to the UDOT system by the end of the fiscal year. They are also moving forward with a micro ground project on diagonal (from one end to the other) and will chip seal it in a couple of weeks. They will also be doing some chip seal projects in the first weeks of June.
- F. Santa Clara – Just completed a slurry seal bid that they are ready to award.
- G. Toquerville – No report this meeting.
- H. Washington City – They have bid out their slurry seal projects. Also working on the 3650 S project. Putting in some bus pullouts along Telegraph and sidewalks

where there is some missing. Also working on the I-15 interchange project between mileposts 10-13.

- I. Washington County – Working on flood repairs on 3 dirt roads washed out along the Santa Clara. Also, an MPO trail project between Veyo and Central
- J. UDOT – Sunset Boulevard and SR8 rehab project pre-construction meeting in March. We have set a start date of April 15 on the I-15 milepost 10 to 13 and interchange 11. The Quail Creek turn lanes project recently had a kick-off meeting. Have been working on the culvert on Foremaster, and the access ramps have been started.

- 5. Upcoming Meetings / Deadlines:
 - A. April 18, 2023 – DTEC Meeting
 - C. May 3, 2023 – DTAC Meeting

ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED; THE MEETING ADJOURNED.