

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010

**TIME:** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Utah Department of Transportation  
4501 South 2700 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

**THOSE PRESENT:**

Larry Svoboda, Environmental Protection Agency  
James Christian, Federal Highway Administration  
Ed Woolford, Federal Highway Administration  
Paul Ziman, Federal Highway Administration  
Jason Gipson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Larry Crist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Cheryl Heying, Utah Division of Air Quality  
Michael Styler, Utah Department of Natural Resources  
Wilson Martin, Division of State History  
John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation  
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation  
Randy Park, Utah Department of Transportation  
Becky Stromness, Utah Department of Transportation  
Randy Jefferies, Utah Department of Transportation  
Reed Soper, Utah Department of Transportation  
Julie Lewis, Utah Department of Transportation

**ITEM ONE: CHAIR WELCOME**

John Njord called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending. He had everyone introduce themselves.

**ITEM TWO: HOST PRESENTATION – UDOT ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEDULE**

Becky Stromness gave a presentation and provided a handout on the UDOT Environmental Program for 2010. She reviewed the environmental documents completed in 2009, which was a slow year for UDOT. They are working to reduce timeframes with the various agencies to move documents forward. For 2010, they are working on 14 documents: 5 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), 6 Environmental Assessments (EA,) and 3 State Environmental Studies (SES).

Becky reviewed the 2010 environmental projects by Region (listed below) and the

purpose, environmental issues, and schedule for each project.

- 200 East in Logan EIS.
- SR-30; 1400 West to Main Street, Logan SES.
- 200 East; Center Street - 300 South, Logan EA. Wilson asked about the impact to historic properties for this project. Ed said the east side of the street has less impact. FHWA will be meeting to review the impacts of the 106 Agreement.
- I-15; 24<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange, Ogden City EA.
- 1800 North, Main to 2000 West, Clearfield Traffic Study.
- SR-193; 2000 West to State Street, Davis County SES.
- West Davis Corridor EIS.
- SR-252; 1000 West Logan SES.
- Tooele Midvalley Highway EIS.
- Taylorsville Mobility EIS.
- Lehi 2300 West, 1900 South to SR-92 EA.
- Provo Westside Connector EIS. Larry asked what they are doing to work through a dialogue on this EIS process. Becky said there have been several meetings/conversations on this project. There has been more data and factual evidence collected. Ed said they have been reviewing possible alternatives; and, hopefully, they will have a consensus in the next couple of months. Ed said they should know more by the next ETEC Meeting.
- Bluff Street; St. George Boulevard to Red Hills Parkway EA.
- I-15; MP 0 to MP 16, Washington County EA.

John thanked Becky for her presentation.

### **ITEM THREE: LUNCH DISCUSSION**

John Njord discussed the Utah Lake Crossing proposal during lunch. Mike Styler said there is a private developer who wants to build a toll bridge across Utah Lake. He requested a permit with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to start the process. Mike has asked the developer if he will be able to collect enough tolls to pay for the \$400 million bridge. The state does not want to be responsible for a half-constructed bridge. The proposed bridge will go from Pelican Point to 800 North/Geneva Road. The developer has listed several legislators in Utah County as supporters. He also listed many state agencies who were supporters, but that is not necessarily correct.

Mike said they are organizing an Interdisciplinary Team to review the feasibility and fiscal analysis of the Utah Lake Crossing proposal. If anyone is interested in serving on this Team, they should contact Mike.

Carlos said the developer has good engineering companies on board for the proposal. Jason said the developer met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) last year regarding the proposal. He informed the developer that an EIS, etc., would be required for such a project. The developer said the bridge would be constructed in such a way it would not require permits. Jason did not think that was possible but has been told there is no federal nexus that fits the proposal. Larry said it does seem that the project as proposed would not fall under requirements of federal environmental impact review. Carlos said the project would tie into two state roads and would fall under the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) conformity requirements.

John thanked everyone for the discussion on this matter. Carlos suggested that Mike inform the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) on this matter.

#### **ITEM FOUR: WEST DAVIS CORRIDOR UPDATE**

Randy Jefferies, Project Manager in UDOT Region One, provided an update on the West Davis Corridor EIS. He outlined the study area. They are looking out to 2040; and it is projected that population and households will increase 180 percent and employment 150 percent in this area. Randy provided a history since 1962 of this study area. He discussed several transportation plans for the area from the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Wasatch Choices 2040, and local municipalities.

Randy said in the study approach, they will keep this an open process and remain objective. They will “trust the process” in this approach. They will conduct an environmental study that will address the transportation need, whether it is an asset to the community, and if it is compatible with the natural and built environment. They will engage all the stakeholders for feedback and build consensus and resolve concerns. They will provide comprehensive documentation of the process. They plan to complete the EIS in three years and complete the study within budget. The EIS Schedule will occur in three phases. They have an agency scoping meeting scheduled for February 17, 2010. They will then have Public Scoping Meetings on February 23, 24, and 25. Randy said they have a commitment to team work on this process. They will keep all the agencies informed and involved in the process.

Cheryl asked if the Division of Air Quality has been invited to the meetings. Randy will make sure they are on the list of invitees for state agencies. Randy distributed a handout outlining the overview, goals, and events for the West Davis Corridor EIS. Reed Soper said there is a meeting next week to begin discussions on the project with federal and state agencies and what we can do to interact better.

John thanked Randy and Reed for their presentation.

## **ITEM FIVE: I-15 CORE WETLANDS UPDATE**

John said they have awarded the contract for the I-15 CORE Project, and construction should begin soon.

Becky said wetlands are always a worry with these types of projects. The Northern Utah County Mitigation Bank was set up to help with the wetlands impacts with the I-15 CORE Project. Becky said it was educational and a lessons-learned process for them. As of today, the NEPA/Environmental is completed on this project and designs have been refined. The result is leftover bank credits. Becky presented a map showing the proposed wetlands service area for the project. They will try to extend this area.

Becky reviewed supporting reasons. UDOT will have leftover credits. They have reviewed upcoming projects in the area where they could use these credits; i.e., Vineyard Connector, Geneva Road, remaining I-15 South, and SR-198 (Spanish Fork to Payson).

Becky said expanding the bank service area will allow upcoming projects to be mitigated at the bank and not cause any delay to the I-15 CORE Project. UDOT will work with the Wetland Bank Team for a successful outcome now and on future banks.

## **ITEM SIX: OPEN AGENCY ISSUES**

Wilson asked if there was any legislation being proposed during the upcoming General Session of the State Legislature of which ETEC needs to be aware. Carlos said currently there are no issues that would affect this group.

Wilson said the Division of State History recently signed a complicated Programmatic Agreement (PA) on Nine-Mile Canyon. There is much interest in the area with oil and gas development, as well as archaeological sites. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was the lead and a very important part of this process. Larry said they have had concerns in the area with ozone projections.

Larry said by the next meeting, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidance on Climate Change Implementation should be available for discussion.

Wilson asked if the State Department of Agriculture has been a member of ETEC. John said they have not included this agency in the past, but they could in future meetings.

Cheryl said EPA has released an Endangerment Finding on Ozone. They have also proposed to lower ozone standards, which essentially means some of our areas will be out of compliance with the proposed standards. One of these would be the Great Basin National Park. Because of its location, this area gets pollution from forest fires from the West Coast.

Ed Woolford presented awards to the Utah Department of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highway Administration for the Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative (EEI) and the Exemplary Human Environment Initiative (EHEI) on the Southern Corridor Endangered Plant Preserve in Washington County, Utah.

**ITEM SEVEN: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The next ETEC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The USACE will host this meeting.

**ADJOURNED AT 1:20 P.M.**