

**Meeting Summary**  
**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL**  
**Monday, March 21, 2005**

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** UDOT Traffic Operations Center, Room 230

**THOSE PRESENT:**

John Njord, UDOT Executive Director  
Carlos Braceras, UDOT Deputy Director  
David Gibbs, FHWA Division Administrator  
Dianne Nielson, DEQ Executive Director  
John English, UTA Executive Director  
Wilson Martin, Utah State Historic Preservation Officer  
Larry Crist, USFWS Assistant Field Supervisor  
Jim McMinimee, UDOT Project Development Director  
Larry Svoboda, EPA NEPA Program Director  
Robyn Pearson, DNR Deputy Director  
Wes Bolinger, FHWA Assistant Division Administrator  
Brent Jensen, UDOT Environmental Services Director

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

John Njord welcomed the members to the inauguration of the Council and indicated that the meeting was relocated to the Traffic Operations Center for participants to see first hand how UDOT works to make the transportation system better. Attendee introductions followed.

**DRAFT CHARTER**

John Njord and Dave Gibbs initiated discussion about the draft council charter that had been sent in advance of the meeting. The objectives of the council were read and the membership reviewed. Initially, John and Dave would serve as co-chairs with the opportunity for this responsibility rotating to other council members in the future. The draft charter proved generally agreeable with the determination that additional time would be allowed for its review followed by signature approvals sought at the next meeting.

**HOST PRESENTATION**

Carlos Braceras discussed UDOT's mission, "Quality transportation today, better transportation tomorrow" and strategic direction, highlighting UDOT's "Final Four": 1. Take Care of What We Have, 2. Make the System Work Better, 3. Improve Safety, and 4. Increase Capacity. He also presented the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) philosophy that guides UDOT's process wherein safe transportation solutions are planned, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained with the guiding principles to address the transportation need, be an asset to the community, and fit in with the natural and built environments.

Jim McMinimee presented how UDOT makes what we have better with traffic management, traveler information, and intelligent transportation systems. He discussed travel growth, the consequences of traffic congestion, and the vital need to monitor and manage the transportation system and provide information to the travel. Intelligent transportation systems improve efficiency and reliability with time and cost savings as well as improved safety. Elements of the CommuterLink System such as traffic monitoring cameras, weather sensors, traffic signal controls, ramp meters, dynamic message signs, traffic incident management and 511 traveler information were highlighted. Featured CommuterLink results include annual user savings of \$156 million, 20% reduction in delays at signals, and reduced incident durations by 40% with the associated environmental benefits of reduced fuel consumption and traffic emissions.

Brent Jensen presented the current EA/EIS workload and other environmental activities. UDOT has initiatives to improve environmental document quality, strengthen planning and NEPA linkage, and promote environmental stewardship with programmatic agreements and successful practices throughout all phases of project development and maintenance.

Carlos concluded the host presentation with a discussion of partnership serving as a path to success.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSIONS**

Optimism was expressed that the newly established council would provide a proactive, positive partnering experience among agencies. Comment areas included:

- Willingness to focus on the council objectives
- Process refinements
- Opportunities for flexibility
- Working together to make things better
- Understanding future needs
- Examining a range of solutions and choices

### **FREQUENCY OF COUNCIL MEETING AND NEXT HOST**

The Council agreed that quarterly meetings with host rotations would serve the objectives best. The next meeting will be held in June and Dianne Nielson offered to host at Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 1950 W. North Temple.

**ADJOURNED:** 3:55 p.m.