

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: Wednesday, April 2, 2008

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Utah State Capitol Building
Capitol Board Room – Room 240
350 North State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

THOSE PRESENT:

Jason Gipson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Robin Coursen, Environmental Protection Agency
Larry Crist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Butch Waidelich, Federal Highway Administration
Bryan Cawley, Federal Highway Administration
Greg Punske, Federal Highway Administration
Mike Styler, Department of Natural Resources
Bill Sinclair, Department of Environmental Quality
Wilson Martin, Division of State History
John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation
Jim McMinimee, Utah Department of Transportation
Shane Marshall, Utah Department of Transportation
Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission
John Harja, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
David Hart, Capitol Preservation Board
Julie Lewis, Utah Department of Transportation

ITEM ONE: CHAIR WELCOME

John Njord called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending. He thanked Wilson Martin for hosting the meeting today at the State Capitol.

**ITEM TWO: STATUS ON I-15 SOUTH AND MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRIDOR
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

Shane distributed copies and reviewed the following documents: UDOT Environmental Documents Milestone Report, Statewide Environmental Document Schedule, and 4800 North Connector Evaluation. Shane said over the past several months, they have evaluated 4800 North (which was submitted by Lehi City) as a suggested roadway alternative for the Mountain View

Corridor. After extensive review by both UDOT and FHWA, it was determined the 4800 North alternative would not be a reasonable alternative and would not be carried forward in the FEIS.

Shane said they have received comments from the public on I-15 in Utah County. They have decided to widen I-15 from 12300 South to Payson. The only new access they are proposing is near Lehi, just south of the Utah County line. That document will be given to FHWA legal staff next week for review. We hope to have the FEIS out by the first of June and the ROD by August.

John thanked Shane for the update on the schedule of environmental documents. Butch said there is funding to build these projects on the environmental schedule. In many states, they do the studies, but find they do not have the money when it comes time to build the projects.

ITEM THREE: UPDATE ON 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Carlos provided an update on the I-15 Reconstruction Project in Utah County. The Legislature approved funding (over \$5 billion) to begin this 40-mile project. The outcome was to fund the first portion (\$2.6 billion). The first phase of construction will extend from American Fork Main Street south to U.S. 6 in Spanish Fork. This is the most congested area in the corridor.

Carlos said Dal Hawks has been named as the I-15 Utah County Project Director. Dal has been serving as UDOT's Region Four Director in Richfield. This will be a high-paced operation. They have asked Dal to begin immediately with the procurement and design-build process. He is also in the process of organizing staff for this I-15 Team. They have been informed this is the largest highway project in the country. They have enough cash flow for the project for this year, and will approach the Legislature next year for bonding. They are pushing for a four-year construction period, but it could possibly take five years. They anticipate having three lanes open during construction each way during the project. It will be a difficult project; there is not as much funding in place for work on side roads, but there is some. John said this is a massive project, and it will make a huge difference for people traveling in this area of the state.

Carlos said UDOT received \$1.75 million in General Funds to begin environmental work on the Utah Lake Highway Study. The Department will match \$1 million for the study. They met last week to discuss this matter. UDOT's Region Three Office will be in charge of this project. Reed Price, Utah Lake Commission, said they also want to study the issue to determine the best possible structure, location, etc., for transportation. Mike said the Utah Lake Commission just began a master plan for Utah Lake, and perhaps there could be some coordination on this effort. Carlos said they hope to have someone on board by July/August to help with this study. Reed said the Utah Lake Commission does not have a large staff, so this time frame will work well for them. Wilson said they have many archaeological issues around Utah Lake. Larry said there are many fish and wildlife issues there as well. The USFWS has long-range plans in the area, but funding is the issue in carrying them forward. They are making progress with their spawning projects in the area.

Carlos said UDOT received \$2 million for the Seep Ridge Road Study, which is a project between US 40 and I-70. There is a significant amount of oil shale production in that area.

Carlos said UDOT received \$3 million to do environmental work on I-215 and 3500 South. Provo Airport received funding to match a federal grant for radar. Logan Airport received \$250,000 for repairs. Funding was also appropriated for I-15 improvements near Hill Air Force Base.

Carlos reported on H.B. 242, which provided \$38 million to local government road projects in Salt Lake County. He also reported on funding given to Salt Lake County to develop light rail to the airport. FAA issues have arisen with this project.

Carlos discussed H.B. 221 regarding Agriculture-protected lands. He also reported that UDOT has been directed to test a portion of I-15 for higher speed limits between Nephi and Cedar City.

John thanked Carlos for this legislative update.

ITEM FOUR: ENERGY DEVELOPMENT – UTAH AND WESTERN COLORADO

John Harja, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, presented a map showing existing oil fields in Utah and Western Colorado. The oil in that area is very thick crude. They are trying to find the best transportation route for this oil. There are many EAs and EISs in this area. John also presented areas with oil/gas production, drilling, etc.

John said the counties in the area have complained about wear and tear on the roads from this production, etc. As oil prices rise, new technologies become more attractive. Oil fields along U.S. 6 have a whole area of new natural gas. There are many targets out there as oil prices increase. John said they are doing various studies in the area regarding transportation, economy, housing, etc., due to oil and gas development in the state.

Mike said there are a couple of new oil discoveries in Aurora and Parowan. John Njord said there are ongoing EISs for leasing. Shane said that with so many EISs ongoing across the state, our agencies' resources are being pushed to the limit (USFWS, UDOT, etc.).

ITEM FIVE: OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

John asked if there were additional items to discuss. There were none at this time.

ITEM SIX: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

John asked if there were future ETEC agenda items that needed to be addressed. Wilson suggested more detail on various projects in the future.

The next ETEC Meeting was set for Monday, June 30, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The location for this meeting needs to be determined.

ITEM SEVEN: TOUR OF STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

Wilson provided a background on the Utah State Capitol prior to the tour. Wilson said this is one of the finest preservation projects ever undertaken in the country. It has been a good effort to preserve the original architecture, etc., of the building. When you cannot preserve the original, you try to capture the original as closely as possible. This project was completed with the heart and soul of the history of the building. There was much research, etc., involved in this renovation project.

Wilson introduced David Hart, Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Board, who provided the tour of the building. David gave a background on the Rotunda and Gold Room and the ornate decorations involved. He said much of the renovation is accurate—colors, light, etc. Members were then given a tour of the Utah State Capitol.

ADJOURNED AT 2:00 P.M.