

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday, April 17, 2006, 11:00 a.m.

Utah Division of State History
Denver Rio Grand Depot, Zephyr Room
300 South Rio Grand Street (440 West)
Salt Lake City, Utah

PRESENT: Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation
Brent Jensen, Utah Department of Transportation
Henry Maddux, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Robyn Pearson, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Mike Styler, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Steve Call, Federal Highway Administration
Larry Svoboda, Environmental Protection Agency
Butch Waidelich, Federal Highway Administration
John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation
Wilson Martin, Utah State Historic Preservation Office
John English, Utah Transit Authority
Dianne Nielson, Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Diane Josie, Utah Department of Transportation

GUESTS: Tom Smith, Davis County
Darin Bird, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Tyler Owens, Senator Bennett's Office
Matt Seddon, Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Kristen Rogers, Utah State Historic Preservation Office

I. CHAIR AND HOST AND WELCOME

John Njord began the meeting at 11:10 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Wilson Martin also welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Kristen Rogers and Matt Seddon from the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

Butch Waidelich introduced Steve Call who will be Acting Assistant Division Administrator for the Utah Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

II. HOST PRESENTATION

Wilson explained the various handouts that were distributed during the meeting. The State History office created all the handouts.

Kristen conducted a PowerPoint presentation illustrating State History's belief that a meaningful connection to the past provides stability and understanding for the future.

Kristen briefly outlined the different programs State History administers or supports including a quarterly newsletter, oral history programs, a history fair in the public schools, technical assistance to the public when searching for historical information, heritage tourism and grants with local governments. Kristen also discussed some of the programs that State History is involved in as a partner with other state or federal agencies.

III. STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR

Mike Styler asked the group to briefly discuss two issues involving Strawberry Reservoir.

He said that he has been approached by members of the Strawberry Anglers' Association regarding plowing of parking areas near the reservoir. During the winter anglers would like some of the parking areas plowed so they can use them. Mike said that Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) plow operators said they would plow the areas with the approval of UDOT leaders. Mike gave Carlos Bracerias a map identifying the parking areas.

The second item Mike mentioned was the concern the Strawberry Water Users' Association had because the area has been targeted for gas and oil drilling.

IV. FARMINGTON BAY AND HIGHWAY MITIGATION SOLUTIONS

Mike introduced Darin Bird. Darin is a new Deputy at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He also introduced Tyler Owens who is Senator Bennett's aide for natural resources. Tyler attended the meeting because of Senator Bennett's interest in Farmington Bay. John welcomed them to the meeting.

Mike led a discussion about the Farmington Bay Wildlife Refuge. He pointed out that several public and private groups are interested in developing a learning center at Farmington Bay for various reasons including the habitat, education and economy. He said that a trust has been created and a private entity has donated \$300,000 to the trust. Robyn Pearson said the building that DNR envisions would be a full-scale windowed building built as a learning facility with trails around the refuge.

During this discussion, Wilson mentioned that State History has partners who are very interested in the site. This site is sacred to Native Americans.

Mike introduced Tom Smith from Davis County. He mentioned that Robyn and Tom met with a Davis County working group that is very interested in Farmington Bay. Tom mentioned that Davis County is very interested in roads being built to the center. He said that Davis County Public Works could construct the roads and then they could become Davis County roads.

Carlos explained that the purpose of the Legacy Nature Preserve is to provide a mitigation site for the Legacy Parkway. He said that UDOT is required to own, operate and ensure the success of the Preserve for a five-year period after the plan is approved. There will be an endowment for the ongoing operation and maintenance costs. He said that the mitigation area is primarily off-limits to the public. The details have not been finalized yet.

Robyn said that he believes DNR will eventually be responsible for Farmington Bay. His concern was their lack of financial resources to manage the needs and resources of growing state and facility users.

V. WILDLIFE COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

Carlos briefly discussed some of the opportunities UDOT has had to reduce wildlife/vehicle accidents. He distributed a brochure identifying the areas where most of these incidents occur.

Carlos also distributed a copy of the US-6 Multi-Agency Memorandum of Agreement. The Agreement established the US-6 Wildlife Coordination Committee. The Committee explores options and locations for wildlife crossing and critical habitat measures.

He briefly spoke about strategies for wildlife crossings and mentioned that UDOT is trying to be cost effective and provide safety for the traveling public. He also pointed out that the systems built need to be compatible with the environment and projects.

VI. NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER AND NEPA PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Brent Jensen agreed to fill in for Jim McMinimee who was not able to attend this meeting. Brent said that the National Policy Consensus Center recently visited UDOT. Brent passed out a brochure and explained that the Center is a non-profit company focused on dispute resolution. He said the Center is interested in the Executive Transportation and Environment Council (ETEC) and would like to observe an ETEC meeting. Brent said the Center doesn't want to be perceived as selling their services, but wanted to report on what's happening around the country. John asked for comments from group.

The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the Center attending a future ETEC meeting. It was suggested the Center conduct a brief presentation to the Council about what the Center has learned from other groups they've observed. After some discussion, John said it appeared the Council is in agreement that the Center can be invited to the next ETEC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The National Policy Consensus Center should be invited to a future ETEC Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10.

Brent distributed a summary of the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for current UDOT/FHWA projects. The summary listed information about the location, problems or issues, impacts and the expected Record of Decision (ROD) for the projects. John asked the group if they would like to spend some time discussing the projects in more detail. The group agreed they would like to hear more details about the projects listed on the summary.

Brent discussed the projects in the summary. The group spent some time discussing the Mountain View Corridor. Henry Maddux mentioned the wetland impacts with the alignment at Utah Lake. Brent mentioned that Henry's staff is working with UDOT.

During the discussion, Carlos mentioned that John English should feel free to include discussions of any UTA projects in future meetings.

ACTION ITEM: The Council would like to see more detailed EIS presentations in future meetings.

ACTION ITEM: Brent suggested that more information about the Mountain View Corridor could be included in a future meeting.

VII. PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENTS; ETEC WEBSITE AND TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT WEB LINKS

Due to time constraints, Brent agreed to postpone the Programmatic Agreements presentation.

ACTION ITEM: The Programmatic Agreements presentation postponed to the July 10th meeting.

Brent handed out a copy of the ETEC website homepage. He asked if the Council would like to see anything else on the website. Carlos suggested providing links to UDOT projects on the ETEC website.

ACTION ITEM: Include links on the ETEC homepage to project information on the UDOT website.

VIII. SAFETEA-LU DIALOGUE

Due to time constraints, Butch agreed to postpone the SAFETEA-LU dialogue to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: the SAFETEA-LU Dialogue postponed to the July 10th meeting.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

John English mentioned that the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) will receive the ISO 14001 certification on April 20th at the Meadow Brook Facility. Everyone from the Council is invited to attend.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by Henry Maddux, Utah Field Supervisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Offices, 2369 West Orton Circle in West Valley City, Utah.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.