

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Department of Environmental Quality
168 North 1950 West
Building 2, Room 201
Salt Lake City, Utah

THOSE PRESENT:

Shawn Zinszer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Brooks Carter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lee Waddleton, Federal Transit Administration
David Gibbs, Federal Highway Administration
Wilson Martin, Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Michael Styler, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Dianne Nielsen, Utah Department of Environmental Quality
John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation
Jim McMinimee, Utah Department of Transportation
Brent Jensen, Utah Department of Transportation
Julie Lewis, Utah Department of Transportation

ITEM ONE: HOST WELCOME

John Njord called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending. He thanked Dianne Nielsen for hosting the meeting at the Department of Environmental Quality. Dianne thanked everyone for attending and for the efforts taken to organize the meeting. John asked the meeting attendees to introduce themselves. He then reviewed the agenda, and there were no changes.

ITEM TWO: CHARTER DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

Dave Gibbs led the discussion on the ETEC Draft Charter. He reviewed the Mission, Goal, Charter, Membership, and Chair of the ETEC.

Dave said their goal is to develop stronger working relationships and better communications with state and federal resource agencies in Utah whose responsibilities and interests intersect with the state transportation system.

The Chairs of the ETEC are the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Transportation and the Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. Dave

said he has accepted the FHWA Division Administrator position in Florida and will be moving in July. FHWA will appoint a new FHWA Division Administrator in the Utah Office.

The members discussed the Draft ETEC Charter. The following changes were made to the objectives of the Council:

- Objective 4 was changed to read, "Address/resolve policy issues to accomplish project objectives in a timely, appropriate, and mutually beneficial manner."
- Objective 5 was added and will read, "Look for and develop creative opportunities to advance the quality of life for the citizens of Utah."

Action Item: The ETEC Charter will be finalized with the noted changes/additions. The ETEC Members will sign the Charter at its next meeting.

ITEM THREE: MEMBER DISCUSSION - "GETTING THINGS DONE"

John asked ETEC Members to discuss and identify the top priorities the Council can work on together for successful results.

ETEC Members discussed federal transportation monies that are available for funding transportation positions at resource agencies. This funding would be given to agencies to hire positions that would primarily focus on transportation matters. Dave said there are several states that are currently using federal funding for transportation positions. Brooks said these employees do all the research, work, etc., but they are not allowed to sign documents, etc.

Action Item: Carlos said they will research this federal funding further so ETEC Members can discuss it in more detail in the future. Brent received a report from AASHTO regarding DOT-Funded Positions at Resource Agencies. He will forward a copy of this report to the ETEC Members for their review.

ETEC Members discussed programmatic agreements between agencies. Wilson said these agreements are generally policy-related, and many things can be streamlined with these agreements. Brooks said many projects can move forward more quickly with these agreements, and there is much value in them.

Wilson said there are issues, legislation, etc., affecting transportation that ETEC could discuss and agree upon prior to moving them through Congress. TEA-21 Reauthorization is still in the process of being resolved. There have been several short-term extensions since it ended in October 2003. Hopefully, Congress will soon come to a final agreement on full reauthorization.

ETEC Members discussed scoping involvement and the need to get a better understanding of how important it is to each agency. They also discussed enhancement projects and the Color Country Partnership.

ETEC Members discussed data sharing between their agencies. For example, UDOT's Archaeologist would be able to share information with the Division of State History's archaeological data base.

ETEC Members discussed the opportunity for joint training/education on various matters. Dianne said it may be worthwhile to explore where friction occurs between the agencies. It is easier to discuss matters of a policy nature, but it gets more difficult to work through project matters. Carlos said it may be good to share training schedules between the agencies and make these training sessions available to each other. Brent mentioned there is a 404 Training scheduled in the near future.

Action Item: ETEC Members should provide their training schedules to Brent Jensen, and he will post them on the ETEC Website.

John thanked ETEC Members for their input and suggestions. They can work through these issues further in subsequent ETEC Meetings.

ITEM FOUR: DEQ PRESENTATION

Dianne Nielsen gave a presentation on the Department of Environmental Quality and distributed copies to the ETEC Members. She outlined DEQ's mission and organization. She reviewed the various items that are coordinated between DEQ and UDOT. These include air quality, water quality, solid and hazardous waste, transportation of radioactive waste, underground storage tanks, pre-design meetings, and emergency response.

ETEC Members thanked Dianne for her thorough and informative presentation.

ITEM FIVE: COUNCIL WEBSITE - WWW.UTAHETEC.ORG

John said the ETEC Web Site has been established. Brent distributed copies of the Home Page, located at www.utahetec.org. This web site provides an opportunity for ETEC Members to share successes, provide information on the ETEC, etc. This web site is still in its early stages. If ETEC Members have any suggestions, they should contact Brent.

ITEM SIX: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next ETEC Meeting will be held on October 5, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (lunch meeting), at the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. More details will be forthcoming. Dave Gibbs suggested that FHWA host the meeting following the October Meeting.

ADJOURNED AT 3:30 P.M.