

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday, October 17, 2005; 11:00 a.m.

Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Room 3710
Salt Lake City, UT

PRESENT: John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation
Jim McMinimee, Utah Department of Transportation
Shawn Zinszer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Brooks Carter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilson Martin, Division of State History
Mike Styler, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Jason Curry, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Larry Crist, US. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wes Bolinger, Federal Highway Administration
Larry Svoboda, Environmental Protection Agency
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation
Dianne Nielsen, Department of Environmental Quality
Robyn Pearson, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Diane Josie, Utah Department of Transportation

I. CHAIR AND HOST WELCOME

John Njord called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mike Styler for agreeing to host the meeting at the Department of Natural Resources offices. Copies of the agenda, previous meeting summary and Council Charter were distributed. Mike Styler thanked the Council members for their attendance at the meeting.

Mike mentioned that DNR and UDOT have worked together to mitigate environmental issues on various projects. He said that DNR is planning to build a visitor's center near the Legacy Parkway. Brooks Carter mentioned that he is also working with a team that is planning a visitors' center near the Legacy Parkway. Carlos Braceras suggested that the two teams coordinate together with UDOT.

II. FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

FHWA-Utah Division Update

Wes Bolinger gave an update on FHWA. The new Utah Division Administrator, Butch Waidelich, will be reporting in mid-November. Wes mentioned that because an appropriation

bill was not passed, FHWA is under a continuing resolution. He pointed out that some significant projects are moving forward, specifically the Record of Decision on 11400 South and the southern corridor.

Charter Signing

John said that the Council's Charter was discussed in the last meeting and a copy was included with the handouts distributed at today's meeting. John said he thought the Charter should be similar to a partnering agreement that is signed by all the members of the Council. It was agreed that everyone on the Council should sign the Charter. Larry Svoboda said he would like Robbie Roberts, Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8 Administrator, to sign the Charter. Wes would like to get a signature from the Federal Transit Administration on the Charter. Carlos said that John English, Executive Director of the Utah Transit Authority, needs to sign the Charter.

ACTION ITEM: Larry will obtain Robbie Roberts' signature on the Charter. Wes will obtain the signature of a representative from Federal Transit Authority on the Charter. Carlos will obtain John English's signature of the Charter.

AASHTO Report on DOT-Funded Positions at Resource Agencies

Jim McMinimee distributed a report prepared by Venner Consulting for AASHTO's Environmental Technical Assistance Program. The report includes information pertaining to state-DOT funded positions at resource agencies. Jim pointed out that this option should be available to any partner agency that would like to go through the process. He said that he and Shawn Zinszer have had a discussion regarding the workload on environmental documents.

Wes asked if the report went into any detail about the type of contracts. Jim said it does not, but if they get that far in the process, they can look into another agreement to use as a template for a contract.

Training Opportunities and Other ETEC Website Updates

Jim distributed information printed from the ETEC website. He pointed out some of the listings on the website, such as Training. He said the website is available for Council members who would like to post training opportunities. If anyone would like to post a training opportunity on the website, contact Brent Jensen at (801) 965-4327 or brentjensen@utah.gov. The group agreed they would be interested in NEPA training.

Also included in the handout was UDOT's Project Delivery List (PDL) which is listed under Other Useful Information on the ETEC website. Jim explained that this report lists the environmental documents currently tracked in UDOT's electronic Program Management (ePM) system. The system monitors projects for schedule, budget and quality. The intent of this report is to provide a list of all major environmental projects.

Action Item: Jim McMinimee will work with Brent Jensen to have NEPA training listed on the ETEC website.

III. HOST PRESENTATION

Mike Styler and Jason Curry conducted a presentation highlighting the Department of Natural Resources. Jason reviewed DNR's mission statement: To sustain and enhance the Utah quality of life today and tomorrow through the coordinated and balanced stewardship of our natural resources. Jason outlined the responsibilities and tasks performed by the different divisions within DNR.

A short discussion was held regarding the harvesting of dead timber. The timber is usable and should be harvested, but the problem is getting the proper permits to clear the timber. Brooks, Mike and Martin Wilson discussed having the parties involved meet to discuss the issue.

Carlos asked about the basis of oil, gas and mining permit fees. Dianne Nielson said it was based on administrative costs. She mentioned that a community impact board was initially set up to take the royalties paid to allocate money for repairs to roads.

John asked about the funding when building a dam. Mike said that DNR helps with the planning, but the local conservancy district is in charge of the funding plan and repayment. He said that a consortium of end users come up with the funding package.

Carlos asked if DNR would be interested in UDOT's core samples. He mentioned the opportunity to have a centralized core library at DNR.

ACTION ITEM: Jim McMinimee will contact Richard Ellis, the State Geologist and Director of the Utah Geological Survey Division, to discuss this issue.

IV. LEGACY PARKWAY AGREEMENT

Carlos distributed copies of the Legacy Agreement in Principle. He stated the Agreement in Principle represents a skeleton to a final agreement. He reviewed the table in the Agreement, which outlines major elements of the settlement.

Carlos mentioned that the Legislature needs to approve a joint resolution on the Agreement. He said that UDOT is hoping to reach an agreement this week. If that happens, the Governor will call a special session. If everything goes as planned, UDOT hopes to get a Record of Decision from the Corps of Engineers and the FHWA by the end of this year. He said the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be released soon. The final EIS will go to Environmental Protection Agency by the end of the week.

John mentioned there are still a lot of hills to climb, but they are confident the agreement will be approved.

V. SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT (SAFETEA-LU)

Overview – Wes Bolinger

Environmental Provisions – Jim McMinimee

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: This item will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

Martin Wilson talked about the progress the group is making and his hope for future agreements. Larry commented that he feels UDOT and the Corps of Engineers have made progress toward standing together and moving forward. Brooks agreed that working together is the key to making the Council successful.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos and Wilson would like to discuss Representative Johnson's proposal. This may be a future agenda item.

VII. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. Wes Bolinger has offered to host the next meeting at the FHWA Utah Division Offices, 2520 West 4700 South, Suite 9A in Salt Lake City.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.