



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME XI NUMBER 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2012

## Director's Dialogue

Utah continues to be recognized as one of the best-managed states in America. One reason for such accolades is the cooperative means employed to address challenges faced at every level of government.

The Legislature and Governors, past and present, have recognized the value of including local officials in determining how financial resources are allocated. Two examples are the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board and the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant programs. Both of these programs use boards consisting of locally-elected officials to make funding decisions. Both rely on capital improvement priority and project lists developed at the local level. Regional priorities are reflected in such lists.

Recent efforts to further improve state government efficiency include proposals to reconfigure the state Department of Community and Culture. In February, the Division of Housing and Community Development is relocating to state-owned space managed by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). Legislation has also been proposed that would meld that division into DWS.

Associations of Government deliver most of the services funded by the Division of Housing and Community Development. Local officials are working closely with both the Governor's Office and Legislature to assure that any final reconfiguration of the Department of Community and Culture will retain the unique model of local decision making that has been a hallmark of community development across the state for decades.

February brings a shift in leadership at the Association of Governments. I sincerely wish to thank Beaver County Commissioner **Chad Johnson**, who served as Chairman during the past year. I believe this was his fifth opportunity to serve as Chair during his service as a County Commissioner. **Clare Ramsay**, Garfield County Commissioner, will take on the duties of Chairman. We are also welcoming **Darrin LeFevre**, as the new Washington County Mayor's representative.

A new Chief Financial Officer will also be selected in February to replace **Bob Rasmussen**, who is retiring after more than 33 years of service to the Association of Governments. Please plan on joining with us at an **open house for Bob on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. at the Cedar City Senior Citizen Center.**

## Volunteer Network Programs Review



### Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC)-

There are currently 17+ youth in Iron County and 150+ in Washington County involved with YVC. Our current project is

partnering with The Children's Justice Center to help with a fundraiser for them. Our youth are making Survival bracelets and have made 2,500 so far. They are selling for \$8 a bracelet! Call the Volunteer Center and get yours today! 674-5757. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the 70 youth made 500 bracelets at the Upward Bound program.

Karen Goff is our new YVC leader. She recently moved from upstate New York, is a retired teacher, and has a plethora of ideas for our youth. We will miss Dorothy Engelman as she moves on to bigger things. She made a tremendous contribution to our program.

The Volunteer Center also collaborated with Habitat for Humanity on MLK Day and finished 5 homes with the Brush of Kindness program. We had 40 volunteers show up with paint brushes, rakes and shovels.



The Volunteer Center will be having a 5k/10k walk/run again this Spring as a fundraiser. More information will be forthcoming.

The Volunteer Center in Iron County has done a remake and added LOTS of new volunteers thanks to Amy Brinkerhoff, our new coordinator there. Carrie Bittmenn, our new assistant coordinator in Cedar has done a great job in recruiting youth for our Peer Court program and the YVC. She will be leading the youth regularly at the Boys and Girls club in Cedar.

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**Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)-** This year volunteers and staff helped over 2,500 individuals during the Open Enrollment period (Oct 15-Dec 7) with Medicare issues. It was the largest effort to date for our program. We continue our outreach to individuals with low income issues to enroll them in Extra Help and other programs.

**RSVP Program-** The RSVP volunteers finished a strong year of volunteering and booked over 185,000 hours of service. It is amazing what a bunch of nice people can do when they give so much of themselves to help our communities! We have new opportunities monthly for volunteering, so check in with us.

**Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs-** Both of these programs have made significant headway this year in number of clients who have been reached. We are working with the Washington County School District in an effort to use their fingerprinting system. This would allow for more volunteers to work and be a much more efficient way to meet federal requirements. We are still looking for more Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions- our waiting list of clients is huge! (Carol Hollowell)

### Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

Date / Time	Location / Address
<b>February 8, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility/ Search & Rescue Bldg., 30 West Airport Dr., Kanab, UT
<b>March 14, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Beaver Co. Administration Bldg. Commission Chambers 105 East Center, Beaver, UT
<b>April 18, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Parowan Public Library Council Chambers 16 South Main, Parowan, UT
<b>May 9, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Panguitch City Library Council Chambers 25 S. 200 E., Panguitch, UT
<b>June 13, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility/Search & Rescue Bldg. 30 West Airport Dr., Kanab, UT
<b>August 8, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Panguitch City Library Council Chambers 25 S. 200 E., Panguitch, UT
<b>September 19, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Beaver Co. Administration Bldg. Commission Chambers 105 East Center, Beaver, UT
<b>October 10, 2012</b> 1:00 p.m.	Heritage Center 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City, UT
<b>November 14, 2012</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>(Please Note Time Change)</b>	Five County AOG - Conference Room 1070 West 1600 South, Building B St. George, UT

### State Route 9 Corridor Geologic-Hazard Study

Professional geologists William (Bill) Lund and Tyler Knudsen with the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) Southern Regional Office have just completed a Geologic-Hazard Study for the SR-9 Corridor.



**Geologist Bill Lund addressing audience of over 40 in attendance at the Canyon Community Center in Springdale**

A public meeting in Springdale on the evening of January 24 was held to present the findings of the study. It was attended by over 40 citizens and officials from the corridor communities.

The purpose of the study was to provide municipal, county, and regional administrative and planning officials with geographic-information-system (GIS)-based information on the kinds and locations of geologic hazards that may affect existing and future development in the corridor study area. The primary geologic hazards affecting the SR-9 corridor are: floods and debris flows; expansive soil and rock; collapsible soil; gypsiferous (soluble) soil and rock; piping and erosion; landslides; rock fall; earthquake surface fault rupture; liquefaction; and earthquake ground shaking.



**Public reviewing hazard maps**

The principal product of the study was the development of 9 geologic-hazard "red-flag" maps covering the study area with each map designed as a stand-alone document that provides information regarding a specific geologic hazard and hazard-mitigation recommendations.

The maps are intended as an aid for general planning to indicate where detailed site-specific geologic-hazards investigations are required. The maps are not intended as a substitute for site-specific geotechnical investigations.

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**Tyler Knudsen and William (Bill) Lund**

This project was a cooperative project between the communities of LaVerkin, Virgin, Rockville and Springdale and the UGS; facilitated with coordination by the Five County Association of Governments. Funding for the

project was provided by the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB); the Utah Geological Survey, as well as a contribution from each of the four municipalities in the corridor.

The maps and text are being scientific-peer reviewed by other geologists within UGS and when that process is completed they will be published on the UGS web site: [geology.utah.gov](http://geology.utah.gov) (Gary Zabriskie)

### Staff Spotlight



**Carrie Bittmenn, Volunteer Center of Iron County**

Carrie Bittmenn is the newest member of the Volunteer Center of Iron County staff, serving as the new Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Youth Volunteer Corps Coordinator. She joined the Volunteer Center of Iron County in November and has been a wonderful addition to the Cedar City office.

She was born in Southern California and moved often in her life, as her father was in the Marine Corps. When she graduated from High School, they were living in Northern California.

Carrie attended Southern Utah University where she met her husband. She graduated with a degree in Communications and Political Science. After spending three years in Oregon, she returned to Cedar City and has lived there for the last 12 years. Carrie is married, has two sons, and enjoys reading and camping with her family in the summer.

### Community Impact Board Project List Prioritization Meetings Scheduled



In response to our November 2, 2011 notification, the Community and Economic Development staff at the Five County Association of Governments has received Capital Improvement Lists from many entities who are eligible to apply for funding from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB).

Eligible applicants include counties, cities, towns, special service districts, and in certain circumstances school districts and public higher education entities. Data provided from the updated Capital Improvement Lists is incorporated by our staff into the CIB project lists - one for each county. These documents are used for funding decisions by the Community Impact Fund Board.

The CIB's policy is that any entity's project(s), in order to be considered for funding, must be on the 1-Year List developed for that entity's county. If your entity has not provided us with an updated 1-Year List or an updated Year-2 to 5 List, the CIB list prioritization meeting in your county will be your final opportunity to add projects to the lists or make any changes prior to the lists being prioritized by consensus of the meeting attendees and closed.

The prioritized 1-Year Lists and Year 2 to 5 Lists will then be submitted to the state CIB staff as the official lists and will be used for CIB applications submitted by entities in the CIB trimester application cycles of June 2012, October 2012 and February 2013.

A local representative (clerk, manager, etc.) or an elected official from all entities which are planning to apply to the CIB during the next year should be in attendance to help organize and prioritize the projects on the lists. We have scheduled a meeting in each county on the following dates and times:

Date/Time	Location
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 21, 2012</b> 11:00 a.m.	Beaver County Administration Building - Commission Chambers, 105 E. Center Street, Beaver, UT
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 21, 2012</b> 3:00 p.m.	Cedar City/Brian Head Tourism & Convention Bureau Conference Room, 581 N. Main Street Suite A, Cedar, UT
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 28, 2012</b> 10:30 a.m.	Kane County Courthouse Commission Chambers 76 North Main Street, Kanab, UT
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>February 28, 2012</b> 3:00 p.m.	Panguitch City Library City Council Chambers 25 S. 200 E., Panguitch, UT
<b>Thursday</b> <b>March 1, 2012</b> 2:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Office - Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Building B (Tonaquint Center Hi-Tech Business Park), St. George, UT

Meeting participation will also be made available via telephone conference call for those who cannot attend in person and in the case of inclement weather. Information on that option as well as formal notice of these meetings is posted on the front page of the Five County AOG Web Site:

<http://www.fivecounty.utah.gov>

We look forward to meeting with you at the meeting in your county. (Gary Zabriskie)

## 2012 Dixie Transportation Expo



The 2012 Dixie Transportation Expo will seek public review and comment of several transportation projects and issues. The annual expo is designed to help a number of federal, state and local governments prioritize

road maintenance, congestion relief, safety, and economic development transportation projects.

Of particular interest this year are projects like Bluff Street, State Route 18, Washington Parkway, East Dixie Drive, 1450 South, Dixie Drive, Red Hills Parkway, and the 30-year Regional Transportation Plan. (See the insert included with this newsletter for a complete list).

The Expo is slated for Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Dixie Center in St. George. This is an excellent opportunity for government officials and the people they serve to communicate all things transportation.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail [dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550.

For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://fivecounty.utah.gov>

Five County Association of Governments is now on



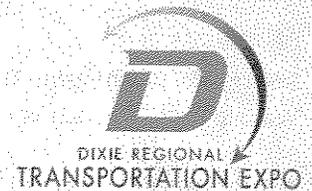
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## WHAT'S UP WITH TRAFFIC IN DIXIE?



The 2012 Dixie Transportation Expo seeks public review and comment on several transportation projects and issues on Feb. 7, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dixie Center in St. George. Projects and sponsoring government agencies are detailed below:

### **Booth # 1: TravelWise**

Penna, Powers, Brian, Haynes staff will address the TravelWise program created by UDOT to implement strategies that encourage Utahans to use alternatives to driving alone.

### **Booth # 2: UDOT – Know Where Know Why**

Intrepid Agency staff will explain a UDOT program which works proactively to communicate construction information to help the driving public plan ahead and avoid inconvenience. This program features various communication tools (including a traffic app now available on the iPhone and Android Smartphones), including an interactive website, text messages, radio announcements and television segments and outreach to lodging properties.

### **Booth # 3: Bluff Street Environmental Study**

HW Lochner will discuss an environmental assessment of a 1.7 mile section of Bluff Street from St. George Blvd. to Red Hills Parkway. The goal is to widen Bluff Street to reduce congestion. This study evaluated traffic operations, conducted public outreach, developed an environmental assessment and has selected a build alternative. Details of the proposed improvements will be available.

### **Booth #4: SR-18 and I-15 Passing Lanes**

UDOT is planning an additional southbound lane on SR-18 from milepost 3.8 to milepost 6.5 (north of Snow Canyon Parkway and south of the Ledges). They are also planning to widen I-15 from milespost 28-30 (in the Toquerville-Leeds area) to accommodate a climbing lane. The purpose of these projects is to reduce congestion and improve safety.

### **Booth #5: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Eastern Washington County Rural Planning Organization Long-Range Planning**

The Dixie MPO uses "Vision Dixie" principles, certified population projections, and local land-use plans to determine what roads, trails, transit services, road capacity and safety features will be needed in Washington County's future. A long list of transportation projects such as: Washington Parkway from I-15 exit 13 to State Route 18, Regional Transit Services and coordination, surface streets and intersections near I-15 exits 8 and 10, and Purgatory Road. A map of anticipated road facilities, will be displayed this booth and staff will be available to answer questions.

### **Booth # 6: City of St. George Public Works Department**

Public Works Staff will answer questions about Traffic Signal Projects, Dixie Drive East, 1450 South Widening Riverside Drive and a Pedestrian Crossing Study at I-15 milepost 8.

### **Booth # 7: City of St. George Municipal Airport**

Citizens can look at future plans for the St. George Airport regarding commercial and private air operations and development.

### **Booth #8: SunTran Bus System**

Information will be available regarding routes, times, and future plans for expansion. They will also present the Regional Bus Transit plan and solicit public input regarding routes. Bus Rider's Guides will be available.

**Booth #9: Washington City Master Transportation Plan**

Washington City staff will be available to discuss the City's Master Transportation Plan.

**Booth #10: City of Hurricane**

City staff will be available to discuss their Draft Trails and Road Masterplan

**Booth #11: City of St. George Trail System**

Information will be available regarding the regional trail plan and the status of trail repair required from last year's flooding.

**Booth #12: Dixie Storm Water Pollution Prevention Awareness**

This is a coordinated effort by the Cities of St. George, Washington, Ivins and Santa Clara to reduce storm water pollution in local streams and rivers.

**Booth #13: URS – Southern Parkway**

The Southern Parkway is designed to become a belt route for Washington County that will become a four-lane divided expressway when fully built. The 33-mile parkway begins at I-15, Exit 2, extends east to the St. George Airport, and is planned to go north to SR 9 and reconnects to I-15 at Exit 16.

**Booth #14: Red Hills Parkway; Bluff Street to Industrial Road**

Horrocks Engineering will explain the roadway widening and related improvements on Red Hills Parkway between Bluff Street and Industrial Road which are in progress at this time. The road is currently two-lane and is being widened to five lanes with full reconstruction of the pavement and related improvements.

**Booth #15: I-15 Milepost 0-16 Environmental Assessment**

Horrocks Engineering staff will explain the process of conducting an environmental assessment on I-15 between milepost 0-16 in Washington County. It is estimated that by that by 2040 I-15 will lack sufficient capacity for projected traffic volumes on this 16-mile stretch of interstate. This environmental assessment will identify current and future transportation needs within the project area and evaluate alternatives to address impacts on the environment.

**Booth #16: Dixie Drive Widening**

Rosenberg Associates Staff will be on hand to answer questions regarding the Dixie Drive and Mathis Bridge widening project. Improvements will include: providing two travel lanes in each direction plus adding curb, gutter, sidewalk, and landscaped medians in certain stretches of the road from Mathis Park to Tonaquint Park.

**Booth #17: Dixie Drive Interchange**

Washington County Constructors have been building this ongoing project which is scheduled to be complete by July 2012. Upon completion, six major structures will have been built including the new Dixie Drive overhead Single Point Interchange, four bridges over the Santa Clara River, the new Dixie Drive structure over Convention Center Drive, collector-distributor roads connecting to the Bluff Street Interchange and re-design of the Confluence Trailhead. Coinciding projects by the City of St. George have upgraded the trail system and adjacent Southgate Golf Course.

**Booth #18: Zero Fatalities**

Penna, Powers, Brian, Haynes staff will explain Utah's Traffic Safety program. Information will be available on all aspects of traffic safety, from passenger vehicles to commercial motor vehicle. The goal of the Zero Fatalities program is to educate the public and improve safety on Utah's Highways to the degree that there are Zero Fatalities.