



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME X NUMBER 3

MAY-JUNE, 2010

## **Director's Dialogue**

In my last message I mentioned that two program directors were considering retirement near mid-year. Both have made that decision.



Beth Cottam will be moving on to grandchildren, writing, and a myriad of other personal goals after dedicating almost 20 years of service to the Association of Governments. Her service began in 1979 when she joined a small human services program just getting underway.

Beth left wishing to be a full time Mom, but ended up working for the next 11 years with the state of Utah. She then returned to the Association in 1993 to direct the Human Services program. She has served as my Deputy Director since 2006. We will miss Beth's steadiness and her wealth of contacts throughout Utah and the nation. Beth has loved working with the people in southwest Utah.

Lowell Elmer is also moving on to enjoy his second major retirement. We were fortunate to have Lowell arrive to nurture the newly-created Metropolitan Planning Organization in 2000 after a successful career with the Utah Department of Transportation. Lowell has established a respected organization with strong local support and a track record of success in coordinating transportation activities within the urbanizing area of Washington County.



Formal presentations will occur at 3:00 p.m. for Beth and 4:00 p.m. for Lowell.

We invite all who have been touched by the work of Beth and Lowell to join us on June 29.

## **Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMPO) Regional Transportation Plan**

The Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) recently released a long range plan entitled the "2007-2030 Regional Transportation Plan" for the St. George Urbanized Area. The urbanized area includes the cities of Ivins, Santa Clara, St. George and Washington. The plan, published and distributed by staff of the Five County Association of Governments, provides transportation growth needs out to the year 2030.

This plan is accessible on the MPO website: [www.dixiempo.org](http://www.dixiempo.org), along with other reports, studies, and meeting information. We encourage anyone to provide feedback on our programs and plans at anytime. Staff is currently working on the development of an update to this plan which will be published in 2011.

A long range transportation plan identifies demographic patterns, projected growth in population and traffic, and may list transit, bicycle and highway project solutions in response to the identified needs. As one of the fastest growing small urbanized areas in the United States, Dixie has been and will continue to feel pressures in development, real-estate growth, housing, water and other sectors. Keeping up with infrastructure needs, providing access to land uses, preventing traffic congestion, improving safety and operations of the transportation system while protecting open-space and contributing to other social and environmental values, are primary goals of the MPO.

MPO transportation plans focus on transportation safety and security, and provide opportunities for public involvement in identifying the safety issues and problems unique to Dixie. St. George Boulevard improvements made recently by UDOT are a great example of implementing objectives found in the plan.

**Beth and Lowell will be honored at an Open House scheduled for Tuesday, June 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Five County Association of Governments Offices, located at 1070 West 1600 South, Building B, St. George, Utah.**

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Crashes are nearly non-existent today! Another example is Utah's ZERO Fatalities program. Anyone can access this medium by linking to [www.zerofatalities.com](http://www.zerofatalities.com)

Work will soon begin on the Dixie Drive Interchange, a project that stemmed from the long range plan. This new interchange will likely be labeled 'Exit 5' by UDOT, when completed in the fall of 2011 and will be a single point urban interchange (SPUI). The project ranked as one of the high priority projects in the State of Utah and received \$74,000,000 in state funding. It will function as a 'savior' to the Bluff Street Interchange, projected to fail by 2015 if other alternatives are not provided. By 'failure' we mean, it would reach congested levels not just during peak times (morning & evening), but throughout the day.

The Dixie Drive Interchange and associated collector and distributor roads will allow Dixie Drive traffic to enter the freeway and be distributed in a free flowing fashion. Current traffic is routed along Black Ridge/Hilton Drive bottlenecking at the Main Street/Bluff Street intersection and continuing through the numerous signals. We apologize in advance for the delays and detours that visitors to our St. George office will confront in the coming year!

If you have any questions about the MPO or any of our plans or programs, please direct inquiries to Kenneth L. Sizemore, Executive Director, Five County Association of Governments, P.O. Box 1550, St. George, UT 84771, via e-mail to: [ksizemore@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:ksizemore@fivecounty.utah.gov) or call 435-673-3548 to speak with someone in the Transportation Planning Office. (Lowell Elmer)



## Staff Spotlights:



**Cambria Conlin, Iron County Volunteer Center**

**Cambria Conlin** recently joined the Volunteer Center of Iron County as the new Program Assistant. She is a student at Southern Utah University, studying Marketing. She looks forward to graduating next spring and then pursuing an MBA. Cambria has worked for 5+ years as an administrative assistant and is excited to contribute her experience and skills in her new position.

Cambria grew up in Cedar City, moved to Northern Utah for college, and then returned to Cedar City to be closer to family. She lives here with her husband, Jared and their 13 month old daughter, Mahlee. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, oil painting, yoga, hiking, camping, and watching movies.



**Myron Lee, Transportation Planning Manager, Dixie MPO**

**Myron Lee** is the new Transportation Planning Manager for Dixie MPO – in training to fill the void of Lowell Elmer's impending retirement on June 30. Myron comes to Dixie from Monticello City where he served as the Monticello City Manager/Treasurer for two years.

Prior to Monticello, Myron served UDOT Region Four as the Public Involvement Manager where he was responsible for assisting the government agency in communicating with a variety of elected officials, citizen groups, public agencies, small business owners, news reporters, and soccer moms.

He also served as a public involvement consultant and public relations manager at several communications and public involvement symposia with the Department of Transportation, the International Association of Public Participation, the International Association of Business Communicators, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program.

Myron served for seven years as Public Information Officer for the Tooele County Department of Emergency Management (including the County Sheriff's Department, Dispatch, County Commission, and the County Elections Committee) where he responded to hundreds of media inquiries annually. He also authored the 1995 Tooele County Crisis Communications Plan, edited the County's Emergency Response Plan, established and directed a Joint Information Center with the U.S. Department of the Army, and published several emergency preparedness materials. Myron is certified as an Advanced Public Information Officer and an Integrated Emergency Manager by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Myron has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Degree from Brigham Young University and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Phoenix. He and his wife Korin are the parents of five children (ages 7-22).

In his spare time Myron enjoys remodeling homes, hunting upland game, training bird dogs, biking, critiquing poor usage

of the English language, and has been known to cheer for both teams at little league baseball games.

## Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee

The Five County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee (FC LHCC) is working to mitigate homelessness by coordinating agency programs and resources. The committee has been fortunate to be chaired by Mayor Mary Reep for the past year. She was instrumental in the success of the committee, completing the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and helping to collect information for the annual Point-in-Time Homeless count.



**Benjamin Nickle, St. George City Councilman**

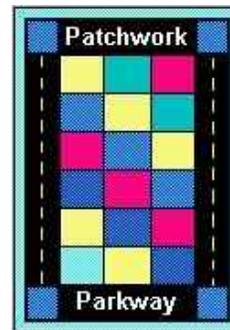
As of April 21, 2010 the Chair position for the FC LHCC has been transitioned to St. George City Council Member Benjamin Nickle. He has taken on this responsibility with enthusiasm and will be a great asset to the future of the committee.

There has been a surge of newly homeless or families that are on the verge of homelessness. Funds are available that assist families and individuals to remain in their homes during difficult but temporary financial hardships. The funds can be accessed through the Iron

County and Dixie Care & Share offices. (Sherri Dial)

## Scenic Byway Celebration on June 12<sup>th</sup>

Utah's newest National Scenic Byway: Utah's Patchwork Parkway – Highway 143 from Parowan to Brian Head to Panguitch, invites you to come explore Byway 143 on Saturday, June 12th. The highlight of the day will be a special ribbon cutting at 5:00 p.m. at both ends of the byway – Center and Main in both Parowan and Panguitch. You are invited to attend either of these ribbon cutting ceremonies and celebrate with us this great national honor and recognition that local communities, individuals, businesses, and state and federal agencies have worked together to achieve.



A detailed listing of all events in each community is posted on the Five County Association of Governments website at: <http://www.fivecounty.utah.gov/patchwork.html>

For more information on Exploring Byway 143, contact Byway Coordinator Nancy Dalton at (435) 463-3735, Garfield County Tourism at (435) 676-1102, 1-800-444-6689, or Cedar City-Brian Head Tourism Bureau (435) 586-5124, 1-800-354-4849.

The Community & Economic Development program staff at the Five County Association of Governments is very appreciative of having had the opportunity to work with the local elected officials and residents of the byway communities in developing a Corridor Management Plan and being able to assist in their efforts to elevate SR143 to national scenic byway status. (Gary Zabriskie)

## ***From Dungeons to Daylight***



Cedar City HEAT workers have smiles on their faces and have thrown away their flashlights. They have moved from the dark basement with no windows at the Senior Citizens Center to a

brighter facility at the Fiddlers Canyon building (88 E Fiddlers Canyon Road, upstairs from the other AOG offices). Now they can see sunshine and soon (hopefully) will see flowers and grass.

They have decorated their office so it looks really nice. When I went for the "Tour", I got fresh cinnamon rolls also. If you are in that vicinity, they would love for you to stop and see their new digs. You might get lucky too, there were still some cinnamon rolls when I left. *(Rosanne Tietjen)*



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

### **Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:**

**Wednesday, June 9, 2010, 1PM**

Kane County Courthouse  
Commission Chambers - 76 North Main  
Kanab, UT

**Wednesday, August 11, 2010 1PM**

Panguitch City Office  
Council Chambers - 25 South 200 East  
Panguitch, UT

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