***Southwest Transportation Planning Region Meeting Minutes***

***Thursday, December 14 , 2023, at 9:00 am***

# Introductions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Elected Representatives**  | **Guests** |
| X | Kevin Kissler | City of Cortez Alt. | X | Jamie Grim | CDOT |
| X | Sarah Hill | City of Durango | X | Kevin Curry | CDOT |
| X | Steve Garchar | Dolores County | X | Timothy Funk | CDOT |
| X | Clyde Church | La Plata County | X | Tony Cady | CDOT |
| X | Katie Sickles | Town of Bayfield | X | Shak Powers | City of Cortez |
| X | Paul Ruud | Town of Dolores | X | Elizabeth Heine | Region 9 |
| X | Mark Garcia | Town of Ignacio | **X** | David Harris | Dolores County |
| X | Lucy Mulvihill | Town of Silverton | X | Patrick Davis | Region 9 EDD |
| X | Mike Torres | Archuleta County | X | Brendan Adams  | Ute Mountain Ute  |
|  |  |  | X | David Harris | Town of Pagosa Springs  |

**Sarah Hill, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.**

# Consent Agenda

## Previous Meeting Minutes’ approval

**Motion from Steve Garcher to approve all minutes as presented.**

**Second: Mark Garcia; Motion passed unanimously.**

## Financial Report approval

**Motion from Steve Garcher to approve the financial report as presented.**

**Second: Clyde Church; Motion passed unanimously.**

# Reports

## STAC Update – Sarah Hill

## ***Noted that the TPR study was well done and that there will be updates made to the website.***

## ***Patrick Davies is the representative for Transit for our region at STAC.***

##  ***Program distribution formulas were all approved for planning projects.***

## Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia

## ***The TPR report has recommended changes as well as no changes. Final edits will go to the committee for approval, but no action has taken place.***

## ***It was encouraged for everyone to look at the report because is contains a lot of useful information. The report was set to be distributed post meeting.***

## ***The proposed broadband fee is up for consideration. If the three cents per foot gets approved, the implications for CDOT would be immediate orders to give right-away access. If it’s a no vote, then the committee goes back to the drawing board to work on other solutions.***

## ***There is no current plan for the allocation of these fees, however it was proposed that is may go toward maintenance. It was argued that it should go toward rural broadband expansion.***

## Congressional Updates- Jamie Grim

## ***The idea with I-70 is to split it between Eagle County and Summit County. Although this may happen, it could get rejected or an entirely new map could be drawn.***

## ***We are only allowed to have 15 urban TPR and 10 rural TPR for the state of Colorado; for one to be split we do have to maintain those sizes.***

## ***CDOT does not have the staff capacity to host the TPR websites. CDOT is suggesting that TPRs make websites and maintain them for the public to see what meetings are happening. CDOT has a money pot for administration fees and will ask TPRs to use that funding to create a website, but they can’t force TPRs to make websites.***

## ***There is a possibility that CDOT could share space on their website or at least a page on the CDOT site that can hold links to get to other TPR websites.***

## ***A Defense Spending Bill has been passed. A federal spending bill is in the works.***

## ***Proceedings started to impeach Biden.***

## ***On the senate side, they are currently looking at funding for the Israel and Syria Crisis.***

# Decision/Discussion Items

## Election of Officers

## ***Sarah Hill and Jim Candelaria have been honored to serve as chair and vice chair. Both would continue, but Hill noted that she would also step down and see someone else step up and take the responsibility.***

## ***Mark Garcia cannot attend STAC as a county commissioner and is therefore unable to be chair or vice chair.***

## **Katie Sickles nominated Sarah Hill;Seconded by Steve Garcher.**

## ***Even with above nomination, it was recommended that this discussion will be tabled until February where there will be more attendance and a quorum.***

## Discuss suggested edits to bylaws.

## ***There are a few updates for the bylaws to be cleaned up.***

## ***One edit is to update our seats to 18 seats***

## ***Officer elections happen at the last meeting of the year, but they could happen in February instead. It was supported that this change would be beneficial and an edit will be made to the bylaws***

## ***There was a discrepancy on Article IV under meetings to clarify that TPR meets on the 2nd Thursday. Additionally, the wrong location was listed for the meeting place. Both edits will be made toward the bylaws***

## ***Another edit is to update the bylaws that all public notices will now be at the Region 9 office and website.***

## ***No other bylaws were noted to update or change***

## Letter Requesting TC to delay or oppose annual fees

## ***The letter was provided and written out loud***

## ***It was noted that the letter could address the issue up front at the start of the letter, however due to the timing, the suggested edit will not be made***

## ***The counties are welcome to send their own versions of a letter to TC***

## ***A notable edit would be to address the letter to the TC commission rather than Allie***

## ***Getting a contractor to produce during a contract time can be difficult, but other than that no issues with fiber optics were brought up***

## ***Another notable edit was that including that this letter was discussed in the SWTPR 12.14.23 group***

## ***The mailing address on the letter was also incorrect***

## ***It was noted that, after the edits mentioned during the 12.14.23 meeting, the letter will be emailed out with a 24 hour turnaround to the TPR group for approval***

# CDOT Reports

## Construction Update - Kevin Curry

### US 550 MP 81 & 89 Bluepoint Avalanche Mitigation- 23623

This project was located on US 550 at approximate MP 81- 89 in Ouray County. This avalanche

mitigation project installed a Gasex avalanche system on a known avalanche slide, Bluepoint and an

Obelex system on the Mother Cline slide. The installation of these systems will allow maintenance

crews to trigger avalanches remotely when needed. This project began on July 10, 2023 and was completed in November. Tests were conducted.

### SH 151 Culvert Replacement MP 28.51- 25737

This emergency project was located on SH 151 at MP 28.51 in Archuleta County, south of Chimney

Rock. Heavy spring runoff caused damage to the existing culverts. The flood damaged CMP was

replaced with twin CBCs to better accommodate high water levels. This project was completed in November.

### US 172 Ignacio to Elmore’s Corner- 24092

This project is located on SH 172 at approximate MP 8.3 to 24.5, from Ignacio to the Elmore’s Corner

intersection of SH 172 and US 160. The work will include a 16.2-mile surface treatment along with

ADA ramp improvements in the Town of Ignacio. Construction began on March 20th, 2023 and should be completed in December.

### US 160 Signals at SH 145 & Chestnut Street- 24772

This project is located on US 160 in the City of Cortez, in Montezuma County. The project will consist

of signal improvements at the intersection of US 160 and SH 145, as well as the intersection of US 160 and Chestnut Street. Work will include the replacement of old existing traffic signals, poles and electronics. This project began on May 1st, 2023 and should be completed in December.

### US 160 West of Pagosa MP 135- 144 ST- 23505

This surface treatment project is located on US 160 in the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP

135 to 144. Work will include a 1" surface treatment leveling course and a 1.5" SMA overlay as well as

a 2.5" mill and fill at intersection locations with curb and gutter construction. Additional work includes

culvert and guardrail replacement and re- striping. Paving operations will take place at night. This project began on May 15, 2023 and should be completed in December, weather depending.

### US 160 Section 3 Priority Culverts- 23191

This project will be located on US 160, starting in Montezuma County, at approximate MP 47, and

continuing East to several locations up to a culvert on Wolf Creek Pass. A number of Priority culverts

will be repaired or replaced. This project began on May 15, 2023, and should be completed in December, weather depending.

### US 160 Wolf Creek West Fiber- 22107

This project will take place on US 160 Wolf Creek Pass from approximate MP 153- 168, within

Archuleta and Mineral Counties. Conduit, fiber optic cables and manholes will be installed on the

western side of Wolf Creek Pass, from the summit down to Pagosa Springs. The project will also

install ITS devices such as variable speed limits tied to friction sensors, a downhill truck warning

system for the west side of the pass, and additional cameras. Due to contractor issues, this project

was on hold for a period of time. The second season of construction started in May 2023 and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2024.

### US 550/160 Connection South Design- Build- 22420

This project is focused on the US 550 connection to US 160 in La Plata County. The connection will

realign US 550 directly into the existing US 160 interchange, eliminating the steep and windy grade

of the current US 550 Farmington Hill and improving roadway geometry. The project will include

wildlife highway mitigation features which will reduce animal-vehicle collisions. Both bridge structures are now constructed. Additional current work includes the continuation of deer fence installation, wildlife underpass work, drainage work and further construction on the Grandview side of the project. Construction began in August 2020 and now has an estimated completion date in spring of 2024.

### US 160 Section 3 Chipseals- 24954

This project is a combination of 2 surface treatment projects on US 160. One is located on US 160

from Mancos Hill, Eastbound to Durango in Montezuma and La Plata Counties, approximate MP 61-

81. The second location will be on US 160, at approximate MP 102.7 to 117, in-between Bayfield and

Piedra. Work will include a chipseal, fog coat, the addition of rumble strips and new pavement markings at select locations. This project is scheduled for Ad in November 2023 with construction tentatively anticipated for spring 2024.

### US 160 San Juan River MP 0.8 & Aztec- 20685

This project is located on US 160 at the Colorado/ New Mexico state line, approximate MP 0. The

project will provide scour protection for the San Juan River Bridge which will help contain the increase in runoff. Improvements to a second bridge at Aztec Creek have also been added to the project scope. This project has been awarded with start of construction tentatively anticipated for January 2024.

### US 160 Pagosa Reconstruct- 21919

This project is located on US 160 through the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP 142- 144, in

Archuleta County. The current scope includes improvements to US 160 Between 10th and 1st Streets.

An overlay and restriping is planned from 10th Street to the west side of 8th Street with concrete

reconstruction continuing from west of 8th Street to the east side of 3rd Street. Additional work will

include ADA upgrades to curb ramps and sidewalks at select intersections throughout the project

limits and drainage improvements. This project is scheduled for Ad in December 2023 with construction tentatively planned for spring 2024.

### US 160 & CR 225 MP 94.04 Improvements- 23001

This project will be located on US 160 at the intersection of CR 225, at approximate MP 94.05, east

of Durango. An intersection study was performed here to evaluate safer, alternative options for the

design of this intersection. The results of this study were analyzed, and the project is in final review. This project schedule was pushed out to align with Grant funding opportunities. The Ad date is tentative for fall 2025.

### US 160D Mancos Pedestrian Improvements- 24618

### CDOT is planning on the construction of ADA ramp improvements along US 160D in the Town of Mancos. The project is in design and has an anticipated Ad date of Fall 2024.

### ***Meeting Discussion:***

### ***Many of the culverts that are being replaced were built in the 60’s and have outlived their life. SWTPR submitted requests for hundreds of culverts that need replacement, but we will only be able to fix around 60 with the money that was provided***

### ***The life expectancy of the box culverts will last longer than a metal culvert, but it depends on the corrosivity of the soil around the culvert***

### ***$1.5 Million is given per year to address these failing culverts***

### ***It’s hard to predict what future problems and projects will happen, but for example this past spring there were multiple sink holes that needed emergency repairs***

**Other Business**

## Updates – Round Robin

### Town of Pagosa Springs, David Harris

#### No updates

### City of Cortez, Kevin Kissler

#### Still working with CDOT on the Safe Rides to School Grant. Next summer there will be construction on crosswalks on 491, maybe not until 2025. They are moving forward with the raised planning grant and are working with CDOT on that as well.

### La Plata County, Clyde Church

#### La Plata County had some priorities shift due to roads deteriorating. There was a lot of chip sealing this past year. Seasonally, there are plows out and things are moving smoothly. Three more operators are being added to the road and bridge department.

### Town of Dolores, Paul Ruud

#### Nothing noted.

### Town of Bayfield, Katie Sickles

#### The culvert on 160 got completed along with some light tree work. They are revitalizing Main street and the contractor is buttoning up some areas, but they are having difficulty acquiring iron grates. They have been doing culvert relining for the past two years and are taking a break for a year before resuming in 2025. The shared use project is about ready for advertising so they can get that project completed in the summer of 2024

#### Dolores County, Steve Garcher

#### The County roads are about as good as they can get. Garcher had questions regarding certain project statuses and was referred Tony Cady for post meeting conversation.

### Archuleta County, Mike Torres

#### Road crews are out doing maintenance following up with complaints that residents are having. A culvert project was just completed North of Pagosa Springs; it was an emergency project due to a road collapsing. The temporary bridge at the Pagosa junction site was completed on November 9th. The budget should be dispersed net week.

### CDOT, Tim Funk

#### MMOF next round will be discussed later in the afternoon on 12.14.23. The national highway freight program is likely going to be having a call for applications presumably in February. Revitalizing Main Street Grants will have the next due date for applications on February 28, 2024.

### Ignacio, Mark Garcia

#### The new handicaps ramped through town are great. The new roads still need painting, but it’s nice work and the town is happy that’s it’s completed.

#### Ute Mountain Ute, Brendan Adams

#### There is current construction on a 20–22 mile gravel road that extends from the casino to the highway. The goal is to get it paved. They are also hoping to get shoulders cleaned up on highways. There is an upcoming Summit in Flagstaff that Ute Mountain Ute wants to attend; Adams invited others in the community to join him.

#### Regional Transit Collaborating Committee, Patrick Davies

#### Davies recently was trained up by Shak to represent the Regional Transit Committee.

## Next Meeting: February 8th, 2024

# Adjourn

**Shak Powers adjourned the meeting at 10:52am due to the absence of both the chair and vice chair.**

**Minutes provided by Elizabeth Heine**