

Southwest Transportation Planning Region Meeting Minutes

*Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 9:00 am
Hybrid Meeting – In person and Zoom
Colorado Department of Transportation
20581 US-160 West, Durango, CO*

A. Introductions

X Don Royce	City of Cortez	X Mike Torres	Archuleta County
X Kevin Kissler	Guest	X Andrew Mylorie	Archuleta County
X Sarah Hill	City of Durango	X Jennifer Allison	CDOT
X Phil Von Hake	CDOT	X Timothy Funk	CDOT
X Clyde Church	La Plata County	X John Masura	CDOT
X David Harris	Town of Pagosa Springs	X Jamie Grim	CDOT
X Karl Johnson	Pagosa Springs	X Spencer York	CDOT
X Mark Garcia	Town of Ignacio	x Sarah Moore	Guest
X Heather Alvarez	Town of Mancos Alt.	X Tony Cady	CDOT
X Stephen Mead	Town of Silverton	x Matthew Gallegos	Town of Bayfield
X Mike McVaugh	Guest	X Laura Lewis Marchino	Region 9 EDD
X Keith Dunning	Transit Council Rep.	X Julie Constan	CDOT
X Ian Roberson	City of Cortez	X Riley Scott	Congressman Jeff Hurd's Office
X Chauncey McCarthy	Town of Rico	X George Gromke	CDOT
X Shak Powers	Region 9 EDD	X Marissa Gaughan	CDOT
X Elizabeth Heine	Region 9 EDD	X Michael Snow	CDOT
X Annie Altwarg	CDOT		

Heather Alvarez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. It was noted that SWTPR missed a public notice for this meeting and thus will be a work session with any votes happening at a later date via email. Per the SWTPR bylaws, email voting is allowed.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2025 Approval
2. Financial Report Approval
 - Total Revenue: \$9,249.84
 - Total Expenditures: \$12,669.26
 - Net Revenue Over Expenditures: \$(3,419.42)
 - There was a question as to why the financials were negative. This is due to CDOT funds being a reimbursement requested quarterly.

The consent agenda will be approved at a later date via an email vote.

C. Public Comment – None

D. Reports

1. STAC Update – Sarah Hill

The minutes from the most recent STAC meeting were provided to the SWTPR. No verbal update for the STAC update occurred.

2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia

- January 5th is the date for the tele town hall for the state transportation plan for District 8.
- The state has continued to struggle with their deficit. They may dip into MMOF funds.
- Mark Garcia' transportation seat is up in June and he is not planning to continue. He implored our region to have a representative.

3. Congressional Updates – Riley Scott and Jamie Grim

- Congressman Jeff Hurd's office is currently soliciting transportation projects for the Resurfacing Transportation Act. They are being funded through the highway trust fund. Hurd's office is asking for top priority projects to be sent in from our region. They need the project outline, how much it will cost, what category it would go under, and a contact. The deadline for submissions is April 18th. The level of detail for the project write up should be a short 1-2 page summary. If more information is needed, a follow up will happen.
- Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) will happen and if a company is a nonprofit, they can get added to a list to receive the proper form to apply for the CDS.
- If certain projects aren't on the SWTPR priority list, they will most likely wind up on the Resurfacing Transportation Act.
- The GOP passed a budget blueprint April 10 for Fiscal Year 2026 which will start October 1, 2025.

E. Decision/Discussion Items

1. Rural RTP Development Scheduled Meeting #4– Transportation Priorities – Spencer York

a. Review Draft Regional Transportation Plan

- A brief recap was provided on how the SWTPR got to this meeting's priorities.
- The top projects for the draft 2025 priority list are unfinished projects that have been on our list for a while. The top 5 projects are: 1303: US 160 Intelligent Transportation Systems Infrastructure, 1334: US 160 Elmore's Corner East to Dry Creek, 2087: Intersection Improvements at US 160 and CR 30.1 (Phil's World), 1338: US 160 Dry Creek Passing and Mobility Improvements, and 2089: Wildlife Mitigation on US 160 between Cortez and Durango.
- For the transit projects listed, it was recommended to scratch Bustang off of the title of the project names and add essential bus service instead. The goal being that it doesn't matter who provides the bus service, as long as it gets provided like in listed project 2523.
- Project 1058 should not have proposed outrider service in parenthesis.
- Projects 6-14 of the Draft 2050 Priority List were briefly reviewed. It was noted that additional descriptions for the projects would be helpful.

- The number one ranked item is getting the ITS infrastructure from Pagosa Springs all of the way to Durango. This would be especially helpful for Ignacio to pull into the loop and get redundancy.
 - To make it on to the 10 year plan, projects need to hit three main purposes: fix our roads, safety, and improve transportation choices. SWTPR will not get as much money for the 10 year plan as we did in previous plans. There most likely won't be money for new projects for the next four years.
 - Project 1334 is most likely fully funded.
 - For the congressionally dedicated funding, SWTPR would most likely send the updated Draft 2050 Priority List.
- b. Vote to approve Draft Regional Transportation
- Vote moved to email.
- c. SW 2050 Regional Transportation Plan – Draft
- Comments on this draft are due April 24th. There is a shared Google Sheet that was provided for folks to make comments or they can email Spencer York directly. The comments that were made will be provided to the SWTPR at the June meeting.
 - Comments are open to public feedback July 16-August 15 2025; if there are many similar and multiple feedback comments from the public, changes to the plan may be considered.
 - An overview of the draft was presented for discussion.
 - The bicycling and walking section take data from Strava. It was noted that it's not comprehensive.
 - Noted that SWTPR should incorporate group feedback before June. It was decided that the feedback would take place in June and the vote to approve the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan at the August meeting.
 - An appendix of the plan is the Transit Plan Draft; a brief overview was provided by George Gromke from CDOT. This draft also is asking for comments and edits on a google doc or emailed to Spencer York and Emily Barden. It was noted that the Regional Transit Council should have this presented to them as well.

2. Future of MMOF Discussion – Michael Snow

- Colorado has a \$1.5 Billion dollar deficit for the 2026 FY Budget. The MMOF is being targeted by the State Legislature for spending cuts. There is the anticipation that awards through 2025 can be kept, but many will see delays in funding. The budget right now is uncertain.
- It was advised to make any award decisions because the SWTPR would have to reevaluate decisions depending on what the budget looks like. As it currently stands, four of our region's projects will be affected.
- Interest earnings on MMOF funds stay with MMOF and will get distributed to local municipalities and 15% to CDOT. The reconciliation period will be from 2019.
- Recommended to table any voting until June due to many unknowns. By June, numbers should be available for what has been awarded and what will be available.
- Recommended that members in our region should reach out to their electeds about how important MMOF funding is seeing as the legislature has continued to cut it.
- The SWTPR isn't spending the money immediately since contracting the work takes time.

- There were four applications presented for MMOF funding. The highest ranked project was from Silverton to revitalize historic Blair Street. The 2nd highest ranked project was the night micro transit program in Durango. The third highest scoring project was the pass to Mesa Verde in Montezuma. The subcommittee decided to fund the first two projects fully and give whatever is leftover to Montezuma. Now, the funding is uncertain.
- Noted that the Revitalizing Main Street Program will end by July, but there will be one more award made with applications being due April 30.

F. CDOT Reports

1. Construction Update – Tim Funk

- SH 151 Rural Road Surface Treatment- 24936

Budget: \$10 million

Funding Type: RRST

Awarded: Kilgore Companies, LLC

This project will take place on SH 151 in Archuleta County from MP 12.8 to MP 26. This section of roadway will receive a surface treatment and select culverts will be rehabbed or replaced. Additional work includes new guardrail and striping. This project began in February 2025 and should be completed by fall 2025.

- US 160 Pagosa Reconstruct- 21919

Budget: \$24 million

Funding Type: Priority

Awarded: W.W. Clyde & Co.

This project is located on US 160 through the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP 140- 145, in Archuleta County. The current scope includes improvements to US 160 Between 10th and 1st Streets. An overlay and restriping will occur 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 two-season project began on March 24, 2025 with an anticipated completion date in fall 2026.

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

Budget: \$112 million (estimated total cost)

Funding Type: FASTER/ SB 267/ SUR/ RPP

Awarded: Lawrence Construction Co.

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 also includes wildlife highway mitigation features, including small and large mammal underpasses, which will reduce animal-vehicle collisions. The Farmington Hill section of US 550 is now closed and traffic has shifted onto the new alignment. Construction began in August 2020. Final punch list items remain and should be fully completed by late spring 2025.

- US 160D Mancos Pedestrian Improvements- 24618

Budget: \$3 million

Funding Type: ADA, Local Agency

Awarded: Morton Electric, Inc.

This project will take place along US 160D in the Town of Mancos, from approximate MP .8 to 1.58. Sidewalk and ADA ramp improvements will take place. Improvements will also be made to the intersection of Main Street and Bauer Street. This project has been awarded with construction tentative for early May 2025.

- US 550 Wall MP 56.7 & Rockfall MP 59.3- 24605

Budget: \$5 million

Funding Type: Structures; Rockfall

Awarded: Meyers & Sons Construction, LLC

This project will take place on US 550 from approximate MP 56 – MP 60, in San Juan County. Work will include a wall replacement at MP 56.7. Rockfall mitigation will take place at MP 59.3. This project has been awarded with construction tentative for May 2025.

- R5 Regionwide Striping 2025- 26804

Budget: \$2 million

Funding Type: MTCE

Awarded: Streamline Markings

This striping project will take place on various highways throughout Region 5. The project will help preserve the reflectivity of highway markings by adding fresh paint over existing striping and pavement markings on both asphalt and concrete pavement types. Work is tentative to begin in April or May 2025, with completion in summer 2025.

- R5 Culvert CIPP Repairs- 26580

Budget: \$3 million

Funding Type: Structures

Ad Date: April 2025

This project will take place at multiple culvert locations through the Region. These culverts will be repaired using Cured-in-Place Pipe Lining (CIPP) technology. This type of work is used to rehabilitate damaged pipelines without having to dig or trench. This project is scheduled to go to Ad in April 2025.

- US 160 Signals at Mildred & Harris Cortez- 25009

Budget: \$2 million

Funding Type: Traffic; Signals

Ad Date: September 2025

This project will take place on US 160 from approximate MP 38 – 39.2 in Cortez. Work will take place at the intersection of US 160 and Harrison Street, and the intersection of US 160 and Mildred Road. The scope of work includes signal replacement and upgrading the existing signal infrastructure. This project is scheduled to go to Ad in September 2025 with construction planned for Spring 2026.

- US 160 High Bridge to Elmore's Surface Treatment- 24662

Budget: \$10 million

Funding Type: Surface Treatment

Ad Date: November 2025

This project will take place on US 160, from approximately MP 85.5 to MP 92, in Durango. This section of roadway will receive resurfacing treatment. The High Bridge will receive milling and an overlay.

Additional work includes guardrail replacement and pavement markings. This project is scheduled to go to Ad in November 2025 with construction starting in Spring 2026.

- US 160 Elmore's Corner to CR 225- 20980

Budget: \$100 M

Funding Type: SB267, RPP, INFRA Grant

Ad Date: CY 2026

This project will be located on US 160 beginning at the Elmore's Corner Intersection, continuing east to Gem Village. The scope of work includes widening Elmore's East to 5 lanes, bridge replacement at the Florida River, alternating passing lanes through the valley and the construction of wildlife crossing structures. A roundabout may be constructed at the CR 225 intersection. This section of US 160 recently received an INFRA grant of \$60 million and combined with the Region's match will become a corridor project. Region 5 has determined that it will be a Design Build project delivery method to be used to construct the improvements.

2. Maintenance Report – John Masura

- SH 141 MP 4-5.5 in Dolores County, repave, planned for Spring 2025
- SH 141 MP 7-8.5 in Dolores and San Miguel County, repaved, planned for Spring 2025
- US84 MP 11.1-16 in Archuleta County, Chip Seal planned for Spring 2025
- SH 140 MP 1-6.8 in La Plata, clip seal, planned in Spring 2025
- US 550 MP 50-53 in San Juan, chip seal, in Spring 2025
- There will be some culvert replacements on Highway 41.

3. Grant Update

a. Revitalizing Main Streets (RMS)

- Currently Open for Small Multimodal & Economic Resiliency
- Max \$250K per project; Min \$10K
- Closes 4/30/25
- Program proposed for elimination starting FY26

b. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

- Next call anticipated in spring 2026.

c. Safe Routes to School (SRS)

- Next Grant Period to open Summer 2026

d. Federal Opportunities

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning & Demonstration, closes 8/29/24

4. Planning Update– Tim Funk

- Provided previously in meeting.

5. DTR Update

None

G. Other Business

1. Updates – Round Robin

H. No updates presented due to time constraints.

1. Next Meeting: April 10, 2025

I. Adjourn

Motion from Sarah Hill to adjourn the meeting at 11:31am. Seconded: Clyde Church. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes provided by Elizabeth Heine

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