



Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) Meeting

9:00 a.m., Thursday, August 20, 2025

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)

Training Room, 20581 US-160, Durango, Colorado 81301

Minutes

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Heather Alvarez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Andrew Mylorie, Archuleta County; Sarah Hill, City of Durango; Annie Altwarg, CDOT; Timothy Funk, CDOT; David Harris, Town of Pagosa Springs; Spencer York, CDOT; Mark Garcia, Town of Ignacio; Heather Alvarez, Town of Mancos; Tony Cady, CDOT-R5; Stephen Mead, Town of Silverton; Adair Christensen, CDT R5; Ian Roberson, City of Cortez; Keith Dunning, RTC; Warren Brown, Archuleta County; Kent Lindsay, Montezuma County; Jason Armstrong, City of Cortez; Wyatt Bair, Senator Bennett; Kevin Curry, CDOT; and Matt Salka, La Plata County; Hope Scheppelman, candidate for the 3rd Congressional District; Rebekah Huehnel, 4CORE; Jenny Hill, 4CORE; Chris Cottrell, 4CORE; Kristen; and Karen Fuhr, Muller & Sharin.

Region 9 Staff: Laura Lewis Marchino, Executive Director; Shak Powers, Regional Programs Manager; and Jennifer Sierra, Office Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of June 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Financial Report Approval

Start of new grant: \$6526.87

Upon a motion by Sarah Hill (second by Mark Garcia) to approve the June 12, 2025 minutes as well as the financial report as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

4Core, in partnership with CALSTART and Clean Colorado, is using DLE funding to support capacity building, needs assessments, and grant pairing in several Colorado communities, including Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, Saguache, and hope to extend to Mancos, and Cortez.

REPORTS

STAC Update – Meeting summary was included in the packet. No discussion or comments.

Transportation Commissioner Update – Mark Garcia

Outgoing Commissioner Mark Garcia was acknowledged for his dedication and service. There was no report this month. Transportation Week will be observed on the third Thursday of the month. The team has been unable to connect with incoming Commissioner Barbara McClachlan, who is transitioning into

the District 8 role is attending state transportation meeting. Laura Marchino and Mark Garcia have a meeting scheduled with her next week and will provide an update to the group.

Legislative Updates – Wyatt Bair

Federal Department of Transportation reached out regarding highway policies, noting that the current authorization under the Jobs Act is set to expire in 2026 and is seeking reauthorization. They will continue to stay in touch and track developments. Immigration rules affecting DOT funds remain on hold due to a court order, and updates will be monitored.

For Housing and Urban Development, any project proposals should be submitted to Wyatt. The outreach timeline has not yet been determined, but a budget fill and potential expansion project are anticipated. Staff will remain in contact or reach out to their office as needed.

DECISION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

2050 Colorado Statewide and Regional Transportation and Transit Plans Update – Spencer York

At the next TPR meeting, members will be voting on the 2050 Colorado statewide and regional transportation plans. The group reviewed the UPIR transportation plan website and were shown how to access the various planned projects, including the Southwest plan. A public comment form is available.

No comments or questions were made during the meeting.

10 Year Plan Draft – Tim Funk

State SOT strategic funding supports the 10-year (SWTPR) transportation plan in addition to the annual base allocation of approximately \$60–80M for Region 9. In the absence of this additional funding, many of the identified projects may not be completed. The 10-year plan is required to be finalized by the end of the calendar year, with public comments reviewed prior to submission of the final plan. Project starts are anticipated in late 2025 or early 2026. The original 2019–2027 prioritized plan has now been updated through 2031 and beyond to address revenue shortfalls.

The 10-year plan requirements (PD14) emphasize safety first, followed by addressing the worst-first conditions and, lastly, transportation choice. The primary focus remains on safety improvements. Equity across the three TPRs was also reviewed to ensure fair distribution of resources. In total, \$225M is available, with \$69M allocated for the first four years and \$103M for the remaining years. Bustang Capital funds were also discussed, which are strategic in nature and not tied to out services. Concerns were noted that Region 5 has seen less benefit from these funds compared to others.

Several project adjustments were reviewed, including the removal of three projects in exchange for adding new ones. Among the additions, the Dry Creek project was highlighted as 20% eligible for federal grant funding, with 7.8% supported by the state. Looking ahead to FY 2031–2036, major projects include \$10.3M in paving work east of Dolores, a \$6M wildlife crossing project east of Cortez (with federal grant match applications due in the spring), resurfacing on Highway 151 near the railroad section, and resurfacing the SW Colorado Manauh Business Loop. The Alamosa Transit Center was also moved up in the San Luis Valley. Conversely, the ITS project on Highway 160 was removed, as the \$10M budgeted would have had limited impact. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of keeping broadband on the list.

A DOLA-funded grant for a fiber link running from Pagosa to Durango via Highway 151 toward Arboles. Is underway while the fiber project will proceed, additional funding for cameras and related equipment has not yet been identified. Shak also called attention to middle-mile fiber projects. Outstanding issues remain under review, including worst-first priorities, funding gaps, and incomplete projects. A discussion of adding a Pagosa bus stop determined it is currently not feasible, as it would require \$2.7M in local match to secure the \$2.7M in capital-only funds. However, this project remains listed for Region 5. Finally, some regional funds remain dedicated but unspent.

YouTube Proposal – Shak Powers

Since meeting recordings are not posted until they are approved at the following meeting. After staff proposed that each meeting they may be referenced alongside live streams hosted on YouTube. A vote on this matter was proposed to take place at the October meeting.

Comments & Discussion:

- Preference expressed for establishing a policy rather than amending the bylaws.
- Concern noted about technology handling and ensuring transparency.
- Direction was given to draft a policy amendment (not a bylaw change) allowing recordings to be posted but not requiring live streaming.
- Wording change from “will” to “may” was recommended, with comments disabled on recordings.

CDOT REPORTS

Construction Update - Kevin Curry

Kevin reviewed several current and upcoming transportation projects. The Highway 160 and 172 projects have reached completion, as have the pedestrian improvements along Highway 160 in Mancos. On US 550 toward Silverton, at Coal Bank Pass, crews are addressing major rockfall hazards. Work includes replacing a crib wall and adding a guardrail to help anchor the slope. Region 5 is dividing this effort into two phases, concentrating on the higher mountain passes while also completing striping work in the lower elevations.

Other projects encompass resurfacing work on Highway 151, as well as a significant reconstruction initiative on Highway 160 in Pagosa. The Pagosa project is expected to require about 97 working days and is currently focused on utility relocations. As a two-season job, it will also replace both the water line and the thermal line.

Looking ahead, new signals are planned for Highway 160 in Cortez, with construction expected to begin in the spring. Highway 160 near Elmore’s will undergo surface treatment and ramp joint repairs in spring 2026, scheduled as a night paving job. Another significant project on Highway 160 from Elmore’s to 225 is estimated at \$60M, with the possibility of adding work on Dry Creek, though that has not yet been confirmed.

It was suggested that the group track upcoming projects to allow for the possibility of partnering on shared contracts with a contractor.

Maintenance Report – Tim Funk

Several small projects were identified. Maintenance projects must be \$150K or less, while larger projects go through the standard process for planning and bid requests. Current work includes paving on Dove Creek 491 and a chip seal on US 550, covering four miles from Highway 160 to south of Silverton, with a budget of \$250K. Recently completed projects were also reviewed.

Grant Update – Tony Cady

The Wildlife grant has a 180-day public comment requirement. Details are still to be determined, but information is available on the CDOT grants webpage. Clean Transportation is also listed on the page. For questions, contact Tim, Tony, or the appropriate staff member. In 2026 there will be another call for Transportation Access Program, it was asked to consider who could fund similar projects and be ready to apply.

DTR Update – TJ Burr – no update given

Other Business

Updates – Round Robin

- Stephen Mead, Town of Silverton - Affordable Housing Update: Over the last six months, efforts to advance an affordable housing project have faced challenges due to timing. As part of broader revitalization efforts, a project plan has been developed, with the board scheduled to vote on September 8th to determine the selected partner for the project and the allocation of MMOF funds. Thanked CDOT for making allowances to move in modular units via the highway.
- Andrew Mylorie, City of Cortez – Received a letter from the members of the public stating that the non-express letter drivers are doing well.
- David Harris - Pagosa projects are still going strong. Seems that businesses are doing well and road work has been going well.
- Matt Salka, La Plata County – He is engaging as a new board member. Thanks to CDOT on the 10-year plan. Getting ready for Elmore’s corner work to begin.
- Sarah Hill, City of Durango – CDOT is currently working on College and 8th which is under construction. Concrete will be poured and then road reconstruction can begin and next year there will be a signal put in. Bids for construction start in October. North main improvement at the transit stops are beginning working with right away easements.
- Warren Brown, Archuleta - thanked CDOT on for the work on HWY 160. He appreciates the partnership. He would also like to get more engaged with TPR in the next year.
- Mark Garcia, Ignacio- The revitalization Main Street grant approved. It will include special easement permit and finish up some work needed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2025 at 9 a.m.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Mark Garcia (second by Sarah Hill) to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**