

Southwest Transportation Planning Region Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 9:00 am

A. Introductions

Elected Representatives		Guests		
	Allison Baker	City of Durango Alt.	X Aaron Willis	CDOT
X	Andrea Phillips	Town of Pagosa Springs	X Bridgette McDougall	CDOT
	Brian Perkins	City of Cortez	X George Tripp	City of Cortez
	Chuck Stevens	La Plata County Alt.	X Heather Peterson	Region 9 Econ. Development
X	Clyde Church	La Plata County	X Helen Katich	Senator Hickenlooper's Office
	Derek Woodman	Archuleta County	X Jamie Grim	CDOT
X	Heather Alvarez	Town of Mancos Alt.	X Jennifer Allison	CDOT
	Jeremey Mickey	Town of Ignacio Alt.	X John Whitney	Senator Bennet's Office
	Jim Candelaria	Montezuma County	X Julie Constan	CDOT
X	Katie Sickles	Town of Bayfield	X Kevin Bruce	Archuleta County
	Ken Charles	Town of Dolores	X Laura Lewis Marchino	Region 9 Econ. Development
	Kent Lindsay	Montezuma County Alt.	X Phil von Hake	CDOT
X	Kevin Kissler	City of Cortez Alt.	X Scott Baker	City of Cortez
	Leigh Reeves	Town of Dolores Alt.	X Shak Powers	Region 9 Econ. Development
	Linda Yellowman	Dolores County Alt.	X Timothy Funk	CDOT
	Lucy Mulvihill	Town of Silverton	X TJ Burr	CDOT
X	Mark Garcia	Town of Ignacio	X Tony Cady	CDOT
X	Mary Eagle	Southern Ute Indian Tribe		
	Matt DeGuise	Town of Pagosa Springs		
X	Nicole Killian	Town of Bayfield Alt.		
	Pete Maisel	San Juan County		
	Richard Tokar	Town of Mancos		
	Roman Seibel	Southern Ute Indian Tribe Alt.		
	Ronnie Maez	Archuleta County Alt.		
X	Sarah Hill	City of Durango		
X	Steve Garchar	Dolores County		
	Todd Bove	Town of Silverton Alt.		
	Willy Tookey	San Juan County Alt.		

Sarah Hill called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Previous Meeting Minutes' approval

Motion from Clyde Church to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Heather Alvarez; Motion passed unanimously.

2. Financial Report approval
 - a. Working with CDOT on the Grant contract renewal to transfer to Grant to Region 9 instead of SWCCOG starting in July.

Motion from Heather Alvarez to approve the financial report as presented.

Second: Andrea Phillips; Motion passed unanimously.

C. Reports

1. STAC Update (*Detailed information was included in the packet*)
 - a. Held March and April meetings since last TPR meeting.
 - i. Presentations and updates from these meetings were included in the packet.
 - b. March had updates in the Safe House to School Program. There was approximately \$2M that was not awarded due to project eligibility issues. The undisbursed funds will be rolled into the next fund.
 - i. A Safe House to School Committee position will need to be filled. Heather Sloop resigning position.
 - c. STAC presented on Poor Interstate Pavement strategies and recommended to the Transportation Commission to approve a new method to address issues. Passed with majority vote.
 - d. Recommended adoption of 2024 Fiscal Budget
 - e. Fiber and Broadband Infrastructure Improvements
 - i. An overview was presented to STAC regarding CDOT's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Branch and the Branch's Fiber Optic.
2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia
 - a. Did not attend the March STAC meeting but much work completed on House Bill 1101 & last minutes changes to the language.
 - b. Broadband efforts continue to progress. CDOT held a workshop at the April meeting that detailed a new fee structure for ROW access.
 - c. Progress on Wolf Creek buildout for fiber into Pagosa Springs.
3. Legislative Update – Herman Stockinger
 - a. House Bill 1101 – Transportation
 - i. Bill provides Transit free rides during OZ season.
 - ii. Transit Committees must have a voting member on Transportation Planning Committees, which must be complete by September 2023.
 - iii. Bill has Amendment that requires CDOT to perform study on boundaries, which must be completed by November 2023, and then released to the Transportation Planning Committees.
 - iv. The TPR's do not have to put the recommended changes into effect unless they feel it is appropriate.
 - v. Bill has items that protect rural Colorado.
 - Cannot reduce the number of Rural TPRs.
 - Removes language to assess the equitable representation on STAC. (2/3 representation)
 - Require review of not just populations but lanes miles, truck miles traveled, etc.
 - Must have a public process and receive public input for recommendations.
 - b. Senate Bill 213 – Housing
 - i. No much to discuss at this meeting as its basis is housing and it has not been passed through its 1st committee yet.

- ii. Requires a Strategic Growth Objective to look at growth through public process and comment. From a Transportation perspective, Statewide and Regional Plans must be aligned with these growth objectives, including the 10-year Plans.
- iii. From Grant perspective, the CDOT Grants that are provided to Local Governments must also be aligned with the growth objectives.

Questions/Discussions:

- **With Transit being more involved in STAC, what does that entail?**
 - **Transit Committee must have a voting member on TPR, not just an attendee.**
 - **The Amendment also requires a review of the Transit Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC) and how it interfaces with STAC; there is a STAC member that is also a member of TRAC.**
- **If Boundaries are aligned, will they be aligned with the Planning Management Regions?**
 - **Review of the boundaries for consistency between the COG and DOLA regions is being performed to create more consistency.**

4. Senator Bennet's Office – John Whitney

a. Bipartisan Bill

- i. Incredible effort was made on the Infrastructure Bill (passed with 69 Senate votes).
- ii. Colorado will receive \$3.7B in funding for highway projects, \$917M in public transportation, \$57M for Electric Vehicle charging and \$65B for Broadband.
- iii. \$1.9M for Durango Airport
- iv. Working on Raised Grants and getting supports letters.

b. Forests and Watershed was included in the Bill.

- i. \$55B for forests with more to be released.
- ii. Western watershed will receive \$8.3B.

5. Senator Hickenlooper's Office - Helen Katich

a. The Office is reviewing 500 grant applications for Congressional Discretionary Funding and will have the first set of project applications posted to the website in 2-3 weeks.

- i. Trying to push through the transportation, transit, and infrastructure projects.

b. EPA Regulations on Electric Vehicle

- i. Clean School Bus Program was funded last year; there is 1 clean bus within Region 9. RFP's for additional buses are expected between May and September.
- ii. There are infrastructure concerns regarding buildout. Hickenlooper's Office is working on the Big Wires Bill regarding this process.

c. Thanks to Shak and Laura with Region 9 for their work on the Middle Mile Grant for \$66M.

- i. Region 9 is waiting for a response from NTIA regarding the funding award but received Letters of Support from all the Congressional offices.

6. CDOT Congressional Update - Jamie Grim

a. CDOT is positioning for the Wildlife Crossings Grant.

b. Save Streets and Roads For All Program

- i. CDOT is not eligible, but Counties / Governments are eligible. This is regarding walkability, pedestrian, and safety items.

c. CDOT is working on an Alcohol and Impaired Driving Enforcement Bill which addresses driving high as well as drunk driving. It is on the House Floor for review currently.

- d. Reviewing Bill to increase fines on hills for Commercial Motor Vehicles due to drivers lack of ability to drive in snow, driving downhill at appropriate speeds and taking controls curves.
 - e. Still no EV charging at rest stations or within Federally funded lands with a vendor that would pay the cost, the service must be free which is a financial burden. Thus, until Congress can resolve the issue, CDOT is working with State vendors to use State owned parking areas.
7. MMOF projects with ARPA funding – Bridgett McDougall
- a. In 2022, both MMOF and RMS awarded projects with new ARPA Funds from the Treasury.
 - b. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 202, meaning they need to be encumbered into a phase for reimbursement.
 - c. Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026, meaning the Local Agency must have paid invoices by deadline.
 - d. Projects at Risk
 - i. Delivery Process for new applicants to the CDOT / Federal Project.
 - ii. Construction cost inflation and current bidding market.
 - iii. CDOT will put attention to these risk projects.
 - e. Mitigation to Loosing Funds – Contingency Plan
 - i. Create milestone schedule with set quality levels.
 - ii. Swap ARPA fund with State funds that can be used.

D. Decision/Discussion Items

1. TPR 101 - Tony Cady
- a. The presentation was included in the packet and focused on the role of the TPR, its members and the processes for making and amending plans.
 - b. The CDOT Transportation Planning Manual can be found here: [CDOT Planning Manual](#).

Questions:

- **Is there an informational cheatsheet for newly elected officials regarding project requests to CDOT?**
 - **CDOT has a new TPR representative packet available. Region 9 will coordinate with CDOT to provide these packets to the Governments/Representatives upon election.**
 - **Is there a status of all projects available?**
 - **There is a 10-year plan on the CDOT website that is tracked and reviewed. It was updated in 2023. However, with all the projects required and limited funding, the projects are typically consistent from year to year. There is also a 25-year plan but it does not get tracked.**
 - **List of projects that have been submitted. – No current list available.**
2. Ratify Letter of Support for US 160 Durango East Safety and Mobility Improvement Project
- a. Emailed a Letter of Support for this project.
- Motion from Clyde Church to approve Ratify the US 160 Letter as presented.**
Second: Steve Garcher; Motion passed unanimously.
3. Montezuma County Request for Paths to Mesa Verde MMOF Grant Extension
- a. Montezuma County will be requesting a 6-month extension of an IGA with CDOT. Bridgett McDougall has been working with Michael Snow on the 2020 MMOF Grants that were awarded by the TPR's and will expire June 2023. Per Bridgett McDougall email, Montezuma County was directed

to request an extension through the TPR, along with most recipients being directed to ask their TPR's for an extension.

- b. Some projects didn't ask for an extension, but CDOT is trying to get ahead of the expirations. Michael Snow will be issuing extension letters (if granted) but to do so, the Local Agency needs to request an extension and get approval from their TPR. That documentation will be sent to Michael and any extensions will be sent out.
- c. Essentially, Michael wants the TPR's to be involved with the extensions as they were the Grant awarders. Michael has said that TPR Meeting Minutes work for approval or even an email back to Montezuma County if granted.

Questions/Discussions:

- **Most of the private property Right-of-Way issues have been resolved.**
- **Consultants are preparing the final design work for final review in August and Grant closeout in September.**
- **The Extension will need to be approved by the TPR and then the vote will be disseminated.**
- **Most extensions are being requested for project funds from 2020.**
- **The Local Agencies need to be held accountable for scheduling and quality planning since the funds continue to be extended and more projects are at risk of losing funding.**
- **There is a concern that all the Funds are being used for construction in 2026, which means the funds would have to be extended again, which is concerning for project delivery.**

Motion from Katie Sickles to approve the MMOF Grant Extension as presented.

Second: Kevin Kissler ; Motion passed unanimously.

4. Town of Bayfield Intersection of Highway 160 and East Bayfield Parkway signalized intersection discussion.
 - a. The Town of Bayfield is moving forward with the US Highway 160/East Bayfield Parkway new signalized intersection project. The Bayfield Board of Trustees asked Town Staff to take the lead on this project. Town staff contracted with SEH Engineering and submitted an Access Permit Application to CDOT in 2022.
 - b. Town staff needs funding and recently applied for Congressionally Directed Spending Funding from Senator Michael Bennet, Senator John Hickenlooper, and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert. The Town of Bayfield received Letters of Support from CDOT and the La Plata County Commissioners to apply for this funding.
 - c. The La Plata County Commissioners have also given the Town of Bayfield a Letter of Support addressed to the Southwest TPR to move this project to the TPR's 10-year funded project list.

Questions/Discussions:

- **This will improve access for commercial properties, high-density housing areas, and to the Intermediary school for buses.**
- **The project is already on the 2045 TPR Project list but unfunded.**
- **The Congressional Funding was submitted and CDOT is supporting the project, so it appears to be moving forward.**
- **Total project is \$3.8M with Developers and other participating in cost.**
- **Project cannot be moved to the 10-year plan unless another project is removed; however, the project list is locked.**
- **Cannot install a round-about due to right-of way space restrictions.**

5. Roadrunner Transportation - notice of change of the use of Award #02819 MMOF
 - a. Roadrunner Transportation/ SoCoCAA had a meeting with T.J. Burr to discuss Award #020819. This MMOF Award will expire at the end of April. There are \$19K in funds remaining that Roadrunner does not want to forfeit. The original Award was for operational purposes, which did not get utilized due to COVID funding available. The award was re-purposed in April of 2021 for a repeater and radios for transit buses and routes.
 - b. Roadrunner gave notice for a change of use of Award #02819 MMOF again. The change will be from purchasing a repeater to purchasing a snowplow for building maintenance at the new facility.
 - c. The original scope of work for this award was generic and a notification to SWTPR would be sufficient to allow the change.
 - d. CDOT approves the funding change and Roadrunner is requesting SWTPR approval as well.

Questions/Discussions:

- **What procedure needs to be followed for the Award funding change?**
 - CDOT is not sure if Roadrunner only needs to request change from TPR or if more is required.
 - It would be better to vote and approve if needed, than to not have the vote on record.
- **If already purchased, are there restrictions in using the funding for items that have already been purchased?**
 - Snowplow has not been purchased. The radios and repeaters have been purchased and received.

Motion from Mark Garcia to approve Roadrunner's request for change of use for the 2020 MMOF Award.

Second: Clyde Church; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Dolores County – request traffic study of Highway 491
 - a. Dolores County is requesting a traffic study on Highway 491 to identify the commercial truck traffic.

Questions/Discussions:

- **Need to determine volume of trucks and traffic on Highway 491.**
- **CDOT has an OTIS database that has all that information.**

E. CDOT Reports

1. Construction Update – Tony Cady
 - a. Current project updates were provided in the packet.

Questions/Discussions:

- **Highway 151 is closed indefinitely due to road erosion. Two 12' culverts and road are deteriorating from the high snow melt and water flow from the creek. Once flows subside, the integrity of the road can be determined, and repairs will begin.**
- **Wolf Creek West Fiber project is a year behind schedule. The Contractor is planning to start construction May 1st. CDOT and Acadian are finalizing agreements for fiber.**
- **Procurement of the signals for the US 160 at SH 145 and Chestnut Street has been difficult.**
- **There has been multiple snow and mud slides on Highway 550 and County Road 145.**
- **What is the status of the Grants for Elmer's Corner / US 160 East?**
 - Grants were submitted in February and have not heard back on approval.
 - The feedback session with the last application was that the Grant was nicely done.

F. Other Business

1. Updates – Round Robin

- a. Town of Pagosa Springs – Andrea Phillips
 - i. McCabe Creek is still underway, high-water flows are being watched
 - ii. Have \$1M in maintenance budget that is being used for chip-sealing, slurry-seal and mill-overlay projects.
 - iii. The pedestrian bridge contract should be approved April 20th.
 - iv. The 1st Street crosswalk construction will begin shortly.
 - v. Working with Archuleta County and CDOT on an Access Control Plan and Secondary Road Network update.
- b. City of Cortez – Kevin Kissler
 - i. Working with the TPR to get lists updated.
 - ii. City has 6 culverts with issues in the CDOT ROWs, so far the roads are still functional and the City has prepared for high water flows. They will reach out to CDOT for repairs.
 - iii. Coordinating with CDOT on the stop light repair.
 - iv. Continued work on 491 de-evolution and reviewing the possibility of adding capacity to the width due to pedestrian traffic.
 - v. Applying for Grant funding for the proposed infrastructure projects.
 - 1) Received Safe Street for All planning Grant, still working with State on contract.
 - 2) Received Safe Routes to School Grant, will allow rehabilitation of 2nd Street corridor.
- c. La Plata County – Clyde Church
 - i. County blasted 2 large boulders that fell onto La Posta Road.
 - ii. County is working through budgets and has \$145M in backlog, thus new construction projects are unable to be reviewed.
 - 1) There are multiple projects for road re-paving / chip-sealing which will incorporate employees.
 - 2) Emergency Management team is touring the County and responding to numerous calls.
 - 3) Requests are increasing from County Residents to have County Roads paved instead of dirt.
- d. Town of Ignacio – Mark Garcia
 - i. CDOT is replacing the handicap ramps and culverts in Town for the mill and overlay project.
 - ii. Reached out to the businesses and residents to ask if they would be interested in replacing the old sewer access prior to the mill and overlay project, over 2 dozen residents requested replacement.
- e. Town of Bayfield – Katie Sickles
 - i. KLJ plans have not been submitted for the Bayfield project.
 - ii. Town is in design phase for the revitalization on Main Street on the East Gateway project.
 - iii. Released RFP for the pedestrian crossing on Highway 160, would like to have an underpass.
- f. City of Durango – Sarah Hill
 - i. Senate Bill 267 Funding for North Main Transit Capital Project. The bid was significantly more than the budget.
 - ii. Delays with DTR and Transit Operating Grants. 2023 Admin Operating Grants are not contracted yet.

- iii. The Main Street underpass project needs additional site plan information from the Fire Protection District.
- g. Dolores County – Steve Garcher
 - i. There are 9 County Roads have been flooded with water; River Road to the Dove Creek Pumps is closed due to erosion.
 - ii. Predicting record-breaking rafting season with flows at 50 cfs from McFee with side canyons running at 70 cfs near Slick Rock.
- 2. Region 9 Update
 - a. Safe Streets for All Grant funding is still open for Local Jurisdictions, except for CDOT who is not eligible. Region 9 can help with the processing requirements.
 - b. CDOT’S project list and the 2045 plan - both available at www.cdot.gov. The full list of projects can be found here: https://www.codot.gov/programs/yourtransportationpriorities/assets/project-lists/appendix-b_sw-project-list_052920.pdf
 - c. The complete SWTPR 2045 Plan can be found here: https://www.codot.gov/programs/yourtransportationpriorities/assets/regional-transportation-plans/sw-rtp_public-review-draft_050120.pdf. This information was also sent out on February 13th.
 - d. SWTPR Representatives and Alternates List was attached to the packet.
 - e. Tony Cady requested a Letter of Support from the SWTPR for the US 160 Durango East Safety and Mobility Improvement Project. There were no objections, and the letter was sent. This decision can be ratified at the April meeting.
- 3. Next Meeting: June 8, 2023.

G. Adjourn

Motion from Kevin Kissler to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 am.
Second: Clyde Church; Motion passed unanimously.