

Southwest Transportation Planning Region Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 9:00 am

A. Introductions

Elected Representatives		Guests	
	Derek Woodman Archuleta County	X	Kevin Bruce Archuleta County
	Ronnie Maez Archuleta County Alt.	X	Kevin Pogue Archuleta County
	Brian Peckins City of Cortez	X	Jamie Grimm CDOT
X	Kevin Kissler City of Cortez Alt.	X	Crystal Soderman CDOT
X	Sarah Hill City of Durango	X	Jennifer Allison CDOT
	Allison Baker City of Durango Alt.	X	Julie Constan CDOT
X	Steve Garchar Dolores County	X	Kevin Curry CDOT
	Linda Yellowman Dolores County Alt.	X	Timothy Funk CDOT
X	Clyde Church La Plata County	X	Phil von Hake CDOT
	Chuck Stevens La Plata County Alt.	X	Melissa English CDOT
X	Jim Candelaria Montezuma County	X	TJ Burr CDOT
	Kent Lindsay Montezuma County Alt.	X	Erin Brown City of Cortez
	Pete Maisel San Juan County	X	Laura Lewis Marchino Region 9 EDD
	Willy Tookey San Juan County Alt.	X	Shak Powers Region 9 EDD
	Mary Eagle Southern Ute Indian Tribe	X	Heather Peterson Region 9 EDD
	Roman Seibel Southern Ute Indian Tribe Alt.		
X	Katie Sickles Town of Bayfield		
	Nicole Killian Town of Bayfield Alt.		
X	Ken Charles Town of Dolores		
	Leigh Reeves Town of Dolores Alt.		
X	Mark Garcia Town of Ignacio		
	Jeremy Mickey Town of Ignacio Alt.		
	Heather Alvarez Town of Mancos Alt.		
X	Richard Tokar Town of Mancos		
	Andrea Phillips Town of Pagosa Springs		
	Matt DeGuise Town of Pagosa Springs		
X	Lucy Mulvihill Town of Silverton		
	Todd Bove Town of Silverton Alt.		

Sarah Hill called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Previous Meeting Minutes' approval

Motion from Kevin Kissler to approve all minutes as presented.

Second: Jim Candelaria; Motion passed unanimously.

2. Financial Report approval

Motion from Jim Candelaria to approve all minutes and the financial report as presented.

Second: Kevin Bruce; Motion passed unanimously.

C. Reports

1. STAC Update – Sarah Hill
 - a. The September, October and November meetings will be held in person.
 - b. At the May meeting, the Division of Transit and Rail gave an update on the status of the transit contracts. They are backlogged with many agencies having to lay off staff due to unexecuted contracts. The issues are being addressed.
 - c. The distribution formulas for the funding sources for the 10-year plan were discussed at the May and June meetings.
 - d. House Bill 1101 had multiple discussions with legislative updates from Jamie Grimm.
 - e. The full STAC meeting minutes were provided in the packet.
2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia
 - a. The last TC meeting had discussion regarding additional funding for repairs to State highways due to damage over the winter months.
 - b. Working on Broadband Right-of-Way fees and formed a Special Committee for Transportation Commissioners to work with CDOT Staff on that fee. There is a draft fee proposed for consideration to review at the June meeting.
 - c. There are several TC Members that are resigning from the commission so new appointments will be occurring in the next few months.
3. Legislative Update – Jamie Grim
 - a. The Legislative report is available if requested. The State Legislature session closed in May with the Housing Bill being removed at the last minute as it was not able to be finalized.
 - i. The local governments lobbied against the Land Use House Bill SB23-213.
 - b. A Congressional debt ceiling deal was reached last between Biden and House GOP.
 - i. There could be an impact on transportation funding as there will be a pullback on CIRSA funding, which was a COVID stimulus. We were able to obligate those funds to projects in process to keep those funds protected.
 - ii. The Debt deal also made changes to the NEPA Act and a redline copy of those changes is available upon request.
4. Congressional Updates - Helen Katich
 - a. Attending Rural Philanthropy Days at the La Plata County Fairgrounds.
 - b. Could be available to present to the areas once the NEPA updates are finalized. Senator Hickenlooper is working on an Inter-regional Transmission Bill which has permitting updates.
 - c. Notice of funding opened for the Clean School Bus program. The last funding opportunity did not benefit Colorado due to the formula funding unable to meet the need and desires of the potential participant.
 - i. Worked with EPA to account for application processing. There are priority areas in Colorado, but they do not include SW Colorado, however SW Colorado can for the Clean School Bus Program funding even though we are not in a priority area.
 - d. Working with OEDIT Team for regional information sessions on bill funding for infrastructure. Senator Hickenlooper and Bennet's offices are putting together an overview for impacted areas. There will be 2 regional sessions: June 13th and the 2nd meeting at the end of June. They will be online webinars and each entity will present.

D. Decision/Discussion Items

1. TPR Boundary Study Update – Jamie Grim
 - a. The TPR Boundary Study updates were provided in the packet.
 - b. They are making progress, building maps, and researching background information.
 - c. HB 23-1101 was signed into law by Governor Polis on April 28th. This Bill has 2 impactful provisions.
 - i. Requires TPR's to appoint a Transit Representative as a voting member to the Board.
 - ii. Requires CDOT to complete a TPR Boundary study since the boundaries have not been reviewed for 30 years.
 - iii. The Bill also increased the flexibility for the Fare Free August program.
 - d. The key points to the study includes:
 - i. It mandates that the number of rural TPRs cannot be reduced. There are currently 10 rural TPRs and 5 urban MPOs.
 - ii. It outlines additional criteria for the study at the recommendation of stakeholders in rural Colorado, such as lane miles, freight traffic, and truck vehicle miles traveled.
 - iii. It organizes the stakeholder process and allows opportunity for public comment across the state.
 - iv. While the Transportation Commission may consider any recommendations the TPRs make in the study, the authority to change TPR boundaries remains with the Transportation Commission and not with the TPR Committees.
 - e. There are various TPR Committee structures throughout Colorado and CDOT would like to move towards standardization throughout the State.
 - i. Going to release survey into community regards public comments on their TPR performance in each region.

Meeting Discussion

- ***There is no standardization throughout the State. Are there existing guidelines from State on TPR by-laws, membership, and standardization.***
 - ***Regarding guidelines - Yes, in 1993 there was an IGA template that the regions signed but some regions changed language to combine administrative requirements with other governmental entities. For the most part, the language was very similar.***
 - ***In 2017, Regions were encouraged to review the IGA's again and for the most part, the language was very similar throughout also.***
- ***By-laws are not required by State Statute but are important in terms of process. Would like to create a by-law template for Regions as a guide.***
 - ***Region 9 has the IGA and by-laws for our Region, approved in 2017. Shak will resend to governments.***
- ***For information gathering for the Study, feedback can be provided directly to Jamie Grimm.***
 - ***Submit Survey questions that TPR thinks are helpful.***
 - ***Will distribute information once survey is complete.***

2. Letters of Support (LOS) – Laura Lewis Marchino
 - a. Critical Wildlife Crossing Application LOS
 - i. Tony Cady asked for a Letter of Support from Region 9 for the Critical Wildlife Crossing Application. Region 9 requested that the TPR provide a Letter of Support also.
Motion from Katie Sickles to approve a Letter of Support as presented.

Second: _____ Jim Candelaria _____; Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Community Connections LOS for 5310 Funding
 - i. Community Connections seeks a continuation of support from the Colorado Department of Transportation through the FTA 5310 program to operate its 2023 transportation program serving approximately 75 Montezuma and La Plata County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who have no other transportation options within the cities of Durango and Cortez.

Meeting Discussion

- ***TPR had previously sent offers to all entities requesting 5130 Funds to provide a Letter of Support.***
- ***TPR should support all entities requesting 5310 Funding, not just Community Connections.***
- ***Provide a Statement of Coordination with each request to show the combined effort within the 5310 spending.***
- ***Will get a consolidated request for 5310 at the Transit level.***
- ***These would be separate letters for each entity but include consistent language in each letter showing the consolidated effort.***
- ***Will email the applicable entities for open requests for LOS with deadline requirements.***
- ***La Plata County is also willing to provide an LOS to these entities.***

E. CDOT Reports

1. Construction Update - Kevin Curry
 - a. 4 Corners / Aztec Creek Project
 - i. Construction complete. The walk-thru was completed in May. The project worked out well for both CDOT and New Mexico.
 - b. Signal at SH 145 & Chestnut Street
 - i. Waiting for poles to arrive. The project is shut down until the poles come arrive.
 - c. US 160 West of Pagosa Springs Surface Treatment
 - i. Work started 3 weeks ago. The crew is milling and paving at night and are on schedule for completion by Fall.
 - d. 160 Culverts
 - i. Work is underway; the Contractor is outside of Bayfield and has converted 3 culverts.
 - ii. Most of the culvert work is lining to extend the life. Lining provides a smooth interior and very little size reduction. Some culverts will be full replacements.
 - iii. Life expectancy is 15 years with repairs.
 - e. US 172 to Elmer's Corner Surface Treatment
 - i. Work has been underway for a month and the Contractor is wrapping up the ramp work in Ignacio.
 - ii. Irrigation culverts were completed for water flow. There is still 1 box culvert that needs to be installed by Fall.
 - iii. Paving starts next week and CDOT requested the Contractor to start in Ignacio and head towards Elmer's Corner, but the Contractor has begun paving in the opposite direction of the request. Starting in either direction could be problematic.
 - (a) There is high traffic to the airport in July, thus paving at Elmer's first could be challenging.

- (b) There are paving restrictions during the school year so ending at Elmer's Corner is also infeasible.
- f. Wolf Creek Fiber Installation
 - i. Contractor is working again and being proactive in progress to meet schedule.
 - ii. Contractor would like to complete the project this year after delays last year.
- g. McCabe Creek Culverts
 - i. The walk-thru was completed on Tuesday. There are many punch list items that need to be completed.
 - ii. The culvert box and other major work is complete, including painting.
 - iii. Completion by June 19th is expected.
- h. US 550/160 Connection
 - i. The Contractor is currently paving the Southbound lanes.
 - ii. The retaining walls and wildlife passes are under construction.
 - iii. Expect completion in April 2024 and transition US 550 to the new alignment in 2023.
- i. US 160 Chipseal
 - i. Will advertise the project this Fall for a 2024 construction start date.
- j. San Juan River Bridge
 - i. Doing scour mitigation in bridge to help contain runoff.
 - ii. This is basically a riprap installation project.
- k. US 160 Pagosa Springs Reconstruction
 - i. The project converts the asphalt through town to concrete pavement.
 - ii. This Includes the pedestrian crossing and sidewalks.
 - iii. Will advertise the project this fall for a 2024 construction start date.
- l. US 160 & CR 225 Improvements
 - i. No change. Construction to begin in 2025.
- m. US 160 Mancos Pedestrian Improvements
 - i. Ramp improvement is in the planning phase. Construction funding is not available yet.
- n. County Road 151
 - i. Failed culvert system which qualifies as a major structure and was rated poor.
 - ii. Design is in progress with 80% design review next week. Procurement package is finished from Engineer.
 - iii. CDOT will replace the two 12' box sections and purchase the new culverts in parallel with the Contractors' Bid in July.
 - iv. Meeting with Property Owners for possession and use permits.
 - v. Flows have decreased and the road is open with decreased speeds.
- o. Hwy 17 Sinkhole
 - i. Emergency project; not in TPR Region but CDOT working on issue.
- p. CR 145 Rock Mitigation
 - i. Geo Hazard team just met with the consultant to identify spots of hazards for monitor or scaling work.
 - ii. Waiting for a prioritized list of items to be addressed.

F. Other Business

1. Updates – Round Robin

- a. Town Dolores – Ken Charles
 - i. Met with CDOT regarding flooding. There are some choke points for water flow from the North to South side of the highway getting to the river. Will continue to discuss issues with CDOT.
 - (a) Undersized pipelines are adding to the issues.
 - (b) The CDOT Hydrologist will be looking at issues and will reach out this Fall for next steps.
- b. City of Cortez – Kevin Kissler
 - i. Active Grants
 - (a) Revitalize main street and creating scope of work.
 - (b) Raised Planning Grant, Safe Streets All
 - ii. TPR Items
 - (a) Culverts 160, if approved could align with Wildlife Crossing project application.
 - (b) Frontage Road 491, surface improvements and devolution is on hold.
 - (c) Would like to get \$40M on TPR agenda over next 10-20 years so when the USDOT RAISE Discretionary Grant applications are submitted, the request is already on the TPR's project list.
 - (d) Reviewing funding per capital for Montezuma County
 - i. Using some Grant money and internal funds for the following:
 - (a) Montezuma has slightly higher fatality rates
 - (b) Using street light data along with Police Dept. to determine the most dangerous intersections.
 - (c) Improving traffic counting and safety program analysis to provide better data.
 - ii. Current Projects
 - (a) US 160 Traffic light – small issues with the adjustments of the bulbs for better visibility.
 - (b) Would like to partner regarding the municipal airport; airport might need to be moved due to current runaway pavement crowning.
 - The Region needs more air freight transportation so possible partnering could be available using this path.
 - (c) Using some of the SRPS Grant for pedestrian crossings.
- c. Archuleta County – Kevin Bruce
 - i. The transportation facility is out for bid.
 - ii. Waiting for the transfer of property from CDOT for the Park-n-Ride.
 - iii. Finalizing road projects regarding paving, culverts and drainage.
 - iv. Aggressive road maintenance scheduled for the summer.
 - v. Trying to shift from dirt County Roads to more paved roads.
- d. Dolores County – Steve Garchar
 - i. Dollar General getting ready to open.
 - ii. Fiber project – burying more lines, thought would be overhead.
 - (a) Can CDOT use the buried lines for monitoring traffic. – CDOT will not use the lines either way but will look into as most of the lines should be going overhead.
 - (b) Maintain transmission line from Dove Creek to Cross Canyon which is going underground.

- iii. Anxiously waiting for traffic count on CR 491, fatalities and traffic issues need to be addressed.
- e. Town of Ignacio – Mark Garcia
 - i. Clean Transit Enterprise Board issued the 1st round of Grants for 0 emission Transit Grants. Grants are due July 21st.
 - ii. Next round of funding for Capital Improvements will open in July.
 - iii. Working on 151 improvements and CDOT is working on handicap ramps.
 - iv. Replacing sewer lines to residents prior to paving; there were more than 2 dozen requests.
- f. Town of Bayfield – Katie Sickles
 - i. Approached by American West for culvert replacements and want to use Bayfield Parkway as detour for traffic off Hwy 160. Construction starts on Aug. 15th, using Hwy 160 the work will take 9 weeks, if they use Bayfield Parkway, it will take 2 weeks.
 - (a) Asking contractor to delay due to other various events occurring in the same timeframe.
 - (b) Date set by endangered species located in the area.
 - (c) CDOT was unaware of the detour request.
 - (d) CDOT does not recommend using town roads.
 - (e) CDOT will contact Contractor for discussion.
 - ii. Town will be location for USDA 'SHOP' (Supporting Hometown Opportunity Projects) event – July 19th at Town Hall. Some items to be discussed are:
 - (a) Building high speed internet
 - (b) Supporting public community facilities
- g. CDOT – Phil von Hake
 - i. Division of Transportation is interviewing for a Planning Liaison position based in Region 3 or Region 5.
- h. City of Durango – Sarah Hill
 - i. MOF Grant for construction is out for bid; third time to bid since there were no bids received previously.
 - ii. US 550 transit stop project is moving forward. SEH Engineering is starting to design and will design the entire corridor.
 - iii. Camino crossings underpass is on hold while they coordinate with the Fire Protection District.
 - iv. Mid-town Safety project is being coordinated with CDOT on traffic study.
 - v. The City is reviewing budget and prioritizing Capital Improvements Projects and North Main Access Control Plan for 2024.
 - vi. Multi-modal Transportation Plan is going to Council for adoption on June 20th.
 - vii. Offering free transit all summer (June, July, and August). The buses are at full capacity and cannot pickup all riders.
- i. Montezuma – Jim Candelaria
 - i. Most road repairs have been completed.
 - ii. Working to replace the Alkali Creek Bridge using the CDOT 'Off Roadway' bridge funds for the project. County Road N is closed until the project is complete. Traffic is diverted to Road P.
 - iii. CDOT will revisit culvert site at CR 491.
 - iv. Will begin chip sealing on County Roads for next month.

2. Region 9 Update

a. Transit

- i. Bill 1102 – transit providers must elect a voting representative beginning in September for the TPR Committee. Transit providers will elect the representative at July meeting.

- (a) State will be hosting Transit Town Halls around the State. Durango's Town Hall will be held June 22nd.

- Brian Metzler, who is coordinating the Town Hall Meetings for the State said the meetings may be placed on hold due to staffing changes and updates.

ii. Fiber

- (a) The CDOT memo has been released for the proposed Middle Mile Fees. For the Region 9 Middle Mile route, the fees appear to be \$0.33/ft/yr which is approximately \$300k annually.

- Might not be able to use NTIA funds due to the \$300k annually as our Region cannot sustain that cost with an open access network.
 - This fee really prohibits rural CO. TPR region can still provide comments regarding these cost requirements and comments can be posted on the CDOT website. Public comments will be heard at the Transportation Commission next week.
 - Creates challenges to provide BB to rural CO.
 - If fee is cost prohibitive then other routes will be taken, then NTIA funding will not be viable for our Region.
 - Also cost prohibitive for private industry as payment mostly goes towards infrastructure buildout. The private industry will have challenges re-cooping these costs from their customer.

- (b) The Transportation Commission will be briefed on June 14th. The conversation will be streamed live via YouTube.

- (c) Region 9 applied for CHFA funding for the Transit Council to help establish their GPFS data.

3. Next Meeting: August 10, 2023 at 9:00 am

G. Adjourn 10:50 am