

## Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m., Thursday December 11, 2025

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Training Room, 20581

US-160, Durango, CO 81301

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89468420554>

Phone: 1 (719) 359-4580 Passcode: 89468420554

### Minutes-DRAFT

#### Attendance:

**SWTPR:** Andrew Milroy, Archuleta County; Sarah Hill, City of Durango; Mandy Brown, Southern Ute Tribe; Matt Salka, La Plata County; Barbara MacLauchlan, Transportation Commission Representative; Ian Roberson, City of Cortez; David Harris, Town of Pagosa Springs; Jim Candelaria, Montezuma County; Eric Steasny, Dolores County; Matthew Nyberg, Town of Bayfield; and Karl Johnson, Town of Pagosa Springs.

**CDOT:** John Masura, Tim Funk, Spencer York, Kevin Curry, Mandy Brown, Annie Altwarg, Emily Barden, Julie Constan, Bridgid McDougal, and Tony Cady

**Region 9:** Shak Powers, Allyson Barker, and Laura Lewis Marchino

**Public/Guests:** and Wyatt Bair, Senator Bennett's Office.

**Sarah Hill, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:13am**

#### A. Introductions

1. Noted: Tim Funk, attending remotely, unmuted but could not be heard due to technical issues.

#### B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes
2. Financial Report approval

**Upon a motion by David Harris (second by Matt Salka) to approve the meeting minutes from October 9, 2025 as well as the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously**

#### C. Public Comment

1. There was no public comment.

#### D. Reports

1. STAC Update
  - a. Meeting summary was included in the packet. No discussion or comments.
2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Barbara MacLauchlan

- a. Barbara noted that it has been an interesting year to join the Transportation commission given the finalization of 5-year and 10-year plans and that she is going to continue to do her best to represent the southwest region's interests.
- 3. Congressional Updates – Wyatt Bair
  - a. Congress passed bill three-year SRS authorization bill which provides funding for counties. The bill is one year retroactive applying to 2024-2026. FY24 payments are expected to reach counties in the next few months with fy25 payments in spring. Senator Benntt is working to authorize for longer periods of time not just every three years.

## E. Decision/Discussion Items

- 1. Adoption of the Southwest Regional Transit Plan – Spencer York & Emily Barden
  - a. Public comment period was in august, not many comments, so few changes since then. Updated readability and accessibility. Transit accessibility index measuring where the highest demand for transit infrastructure. There is public interest in new technology for transit, transit maintenance, and roads construction and maintenance. A survey of older adults with disabilities about how they use transit if they use transit was presented. SW CO has a broad range of responses regarding barriers to using public transportation. More people say service is not provided where they live compared to other regions. There is a increased use of public transportation for medical appointments and shopping/pharmacy trips. Many answers stayed consistent through past surveys. A list of regional transit providers and operating data, cost of operations, annual ridership, human services transportation providers, private transportation providers, regional coordination and financial snapshot was also presented. An overview of funding programs and activities was given along with implementation strategies and priority projects
  - b. **Discussion:** Question was asked regarding whether the plan is a document that will be updated annually or is it set in stone once passed. Answer, it is a living document but typically updated about every 5 years. Comment was made that the list of priority projects is a wish list of identifying needs, but they may not be completed in the next 5 years or funded as we hope for. Agencies leading the projects are applying for funds, but the list does not reflect what they have raised. Question was asked regarding whether the bicycle championships coming to Durango in 2027 with the event gaining national press and increased tourism have been factored into the transportation plan. Answer, that event is not mentioned in the current plan, but the need for improved public transportation in the area is reflected. Comment was made that while the projects in the plan have been identified over the last couple years but that it is believed that the championship will influence priorities of projects. Commentary was made that other TPR groups have approved the plan with stated caveats or amendments. Comments that there are several completed projects that are still on the priority projects list.
  - c. **Upon a motion by Sarah Hill (Second by Karl Johnson) to adopt the Southwest Regional Transit Plan with amendments that edits can be made to the document through the end of the year by the TPR Committee over email. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. Elect TAP Scoring Committee Representative – Annie Altwarg
  - a. Federal Grant programs continuing including safe routes to school, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and historic preservation

- b. Federal transportation bill will end in September 2026 so the vote is delayed until midyear. This funding divided between the cdot regions.
  - c. Seeking volunteer review committee member:  
CDOT review committee includes CDOT experts in transit and active transportation ad regional representative. These roles are assigned to review applications. Representatives are trained. Avoiding conflicts of interest. Commitment to 2-3 meetings.
  - d. **Discussion:** Question regarding whether the review process is the same as in past years. Answer, it is slightly different but not much change. Question about whether is was an immediate call for volunteers for the review committee. Answer, yes, and they will need to be able to participate next fall. Comment that the process should ensure any representative might not have an application of their own going into the review. Question regarding how soon does TPR need to have volunteers confirmed? Answer, it can wait for the next meeting. Comments were made that inquiries could be made to some people out to gauge interest until the February meeting given that this is very early to decide and that the role will be active in almost a year
3. 10-Year Plan Update – Tim Funk
- a. Strategic plan was shared in the last meeting, CDOT is giving updates until it is approved which is currently anticipated in February or march. Service between Pagosa to Durango remains on the list of projects at this time. Likely to become funding assistance to a local provider to create and maintain the service. Material changes in project lists since last meeting. Some projects are seeing an increase in cost and adjustment of allocated regional funds.
4. Reminder of Upcoming Election of Officers at the February SWTPR meeting
5. Discuss amending bylaws to allow for quarterly meetings during non-planning years – CDOT staff
- a. A suggestion has been made to move TPR meetings to quarterly now that 10-year plan has been largely finalized. This change would require an amendment to the bylaws at our meeting in our February meeting. Could amend to be more flexible to when more or less meetings are needed
  - b. **Discussion:** Comment was made that reducing meetings sounds like a good idea but many state meetings are quarterly so it will be important to make sure meetings do not overlap. Other committee members agreed that quarterly meetings would be beneficial. If adopted, the quarterly meeting schedule would Start in February and take place every three months which would offset from calendar quarterly meetings by the state. Comments made that meeting less often may help with confirming a quorum of members faster.

## F. CDOT Reports

1. Construction Update - Kevin Curry
- Kevin reviewed several projects recently completed, upcoming, and planned for the future. In addition, several pictures were shared of the completed US550 wall and deer creek rock fall.
- a. **Recently completed:**
    - i. **US 550/160 Connection South Design- Build- 22420:** This project focused on the US 550 connection to US 160 in La Plata County. The connection realigned US 550 directly into the existing US 160 interchange, eliminating the current US 550 Farmington Hill and improving roadway geometry. The project also included wildlife highway mitigation features, including small and large mammal underpasses. Construction began in August 2020. All work is complete. Project is waiting acceptance.

- ii. **R5 Culvert CIPP Repairs- 26580**: This project took place at multiple culvert locations through the Region. These culverts were 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 began on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and was completed in late November.
- iii. **US 550 Wall MP 56.7 & Deer Creek Rockfall MP 59.3- 24605**: This project took place on US 550 from approximate MP 56 – MP 60, in San Juan County. Work included a wall replacement at MP 56.7 and rockfall mitigation at MP 59.3. This project began on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and was completed in early November.
- iv. **SH 151 Rural Road Surface Treatment- 24936**: This project took place on SH 151 in Archuleta County from MP 12.8 to MP 26. This section of roadway received a surface treatment and select culverts were rehabbed or replaced. Additional work included new guardrail and striping. This project began in February 2025 and was completed in mid-November.

## 2. Current/upcoming:

- i. **US 160 Pagosa Reconstruct- 21919**: This project is located on US 160 through the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP 139- 145, in Archuleta County. The scope includes improvements to US 160 Between 10th and 1st Streets including an overlay and restriping, with concrete reconstruction in certain locations. 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.
- ii. **US 160 Signals at Mildred & Harris Cortez- 25009** 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 has been awarded with construction planned for Spring 2026.
- iii. **R5 Regionwide Culvert Repairs- 26234**: This project will take place on numerous highways throughout region 5. Multiple culverts will either be replaced or repaired. Work will also include paving and guardrail. This project went to Ad in November 2025 with construction planned for Spring 2026.
- iv. **US 160 High Bridge to Elmore’s Surface Treatment- 24662**: This project will take place on US 160, from approximately MP 85.5 to MP 92, in Durango. This section of roadway will receive surface treatment. The High Bridge will receive milling and an overlay. Additional work includes guardrail replacement and pavement markings. This project went to Ad in November 2025 with construction starting in Spring 2026.
- v. **CO 3 Resurfacing- 26759**: This project will take place on SH 3 in Durango, La Plata County. The scope includes a surface treatment from approximate MP 0 – 2.6, and proposed installation of 3 minor culverts. Additional work includes concrete panel repair in US 160. This project is scheduled to go to Ad in CY 2026 with construction tentative for 2027.
- vi. **R5 Chain Stations US 491 & US 160- 26763**: This project will take place at 3 locations within Montezuma, Dolores, and La Plata Counties. Chain station will be constructed on US 491B MP 40.53, and MP 69.22. Another will be constructed on US160A at MP 77.81. The Ad date is tentative for fall 2026 with construction planned in 2027.

- vii. **US 160 Elmore's Corner to CR 225- 20980**: 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.

### 3. Planned

- i. **Dolores; Pave; SH 141 MP 0-1=Spring 2026**
- ii. **Dolores; Pave; US 491 MP 61-62=Spring 2026**
- iii. **San Juan; Chip; US 550 MP 66-70= Spring 2026**

**Discussion:** Comments were made that the local teams did a great job managing the project and traffic needs during the rockfall maintenance on 550.

### G. Maintenance Report – John Masura

1. Stated that snow removal and keeping the roads safe is priority throughout the winter season. However, there are some crack sealing projects planned over the season to complete between winter storms.

### H. Grant Update – Tony Cady

- 1.

### I. Other Business

1. Updates – Round Robin
  - a. Sarah Hill, City of Durango: TAP grant project and environmental reviews were a little delayed due to the government shutdown and are now looking at January or February to go to bid. This makes for a short window before the TAP grant's time to use expires. Request was made for any known contractors to reach out to about the bidding. College & 8<sup>th</sup> approaching seasonal closure to be picked up in the spring. North Main ADA improvement is just working through 'right of way' acquisitions. Designs are being finalized for the Camino crossing project. Project kickoff is expected in February.
  - b. Jim Candelaria, Montezuma County: Commented thanks to CDOT for good outreach to counties. Permit has been finalized for 184 County Road project and set to go to bid in January or February.
  - c. Mandy Brown, Southern Ute Tribe: No updates.
  - d. Ian Roberson, City of Cortez: Finalizing designs for safe routes to school project to go to bid in spring and generally preparing for winter.
  - e. Matthew Nyberg, Bayfield: No updates.
  - f. Karl Johnson, Town of Pagosa Springs: Update on main street project: replaced to date 33 sanitary sewer services and about 125 feet of mainline sewer to stay ahead of paving project.

- g. Eric Stiasny, Dolores County- no updates except commending CDOT's work.
- h. Andrew Milroy, Archuleta County: ED charters and bus bays being installed at the new transit facility with electric vehicles coming in spring. CDOT has been great through projects and accommodating transit.
- i. Matt Salka, La Plata County: the Passing of 1-A is expected to generate \$19 million for La Plata County with which the county budget was approved. Will be moving \$8.7 million into the road and bridge projects. Anything over 50k from that amount needs to be approved by commissioner and will be very public process with what the money from 1-A is being spent on. Given that about 40% of voters were against the bill the goal is to increase transparency.
- j. Shak Powers, Region 9 EDD: Jim Candelaria was recently recognized by the Colorado Counties, Inc. for exceptional service with a Distinguished Service Award
- k. Barbara MacLauchlan, Transportation Commission: Comment that the chair of Colorado's senate transportation committee died suddenly in an auto accident right before Thanksgiving and expressed condolences for the family.

## **J. Adjourn**

**Sarah Hill, vice chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.**