***Southwest Transportation Planning Region Meeting Minutes***

***Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 9:00 am***

# Introductions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Elected Representatives** | | | **Guests** | | |
| X | Kevin Kissler | City of Cortez Alt. | X | Kevin Bruce | Archuleta County |
| X | Sarah Hill | City of Durango | X | Jamie Grim | CDOT |
| X | Steve Garchar | Dolores County | **X** | Jennifer Allison | CDOT |
| X | Clyde Church | La Plata County | X | Julie Constan | CDOT |
| **X** | Jim Candelaria | Montezuma County | X | Timothy Funk | CDOT |
| X | Katie Sickles | Town of Bayfield | X | TJ Burr | CDOT |
| X | Richard Tokar | Town of Mancos | X | Tony Cady | CDOT |
| X | Veronica Medina | Archuleta County | X | Scott Baker | City of Cortez |
| X | Nicole Pieterse | Town of Rico Guest | X | Alisa Schultz | Dolores County |
| X | Bernadette Cuthair | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe | X | Laura Lewis Marchino | Region 9 EDD |
|  |  |  | **X** | Lisa Pool | Senator Hickenlooper’s Office |
| X | Phil Von Hake | CDOT | X | Patrick Davis | SW Transit Coordinating Council- SW Rides |
| X | Lucy Mulvihill | Town of Silverton/San Juan County | X | Ian Robertson | City of Cortez |
| X | Brendan Adams | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe | X | Melissa Lewis | CDOT |
| X | Tony Marusiak | CDOT | X | Mike McVaugh | HDR |
|  |  |  | X | Mike Torres | Archuleta County |

**Sarah Hill called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.**

# Consent Agenda

## Approval of minutes from August 10, 2023

## ***Meeting Discussion:***

* ***Hill noted that she was able to attend the July meeting and wanted the minutes adjusted to reflect that.***

**Motion from Sarah Hill to approve all minutes as presented.**

**Second: Kevin Kissler; Motion passed unanimously.**

## Financial Report approval. Financials through Sept. 30,2023 were provided for review.

**Motion from Clyde Church to approve the financial report as presented.**

**Second: Kevin Kissler; Motion passed unanimously.**

# Reports

## STAC Update – Presented by Sarah Hill and Jim Candeleria

### Several TPR governance considerations were noted related to term limits, rotations of chair and vice chair, how STAC chair and vice chair might rotate between rural and urban, having a STAC member or other transit representative as a STAC member, and other changes to ensure one jurisdiction does not have more than one representative on the STAC.

### There are a lot of new transportation commissioners.

### Air travel in and out of DIA continues to be a struggle.

## Transportation Commissioner Report – Laura Marchino-Lewis presented Mark Garcia’s notes as Garcia was not present.

## The September Transportation Commission meeting welcomed 6 new commissioners who are new appointees from Governor Polis.

## CDOT staff detailed proposed expenditures for approximately $170M in reappropriated funding received from the FHA. These funds are from projects throughout the US that didn't expend their funding. These expenditures will be discussed again during the upcoming October TC meeting.

## TPR boundary discussions continued with an update on continued work by CDOT staff and TPR's around the state.

## Congressional Updates

## Jamie Grim – The big focus with Congress right now is that there is no speaker for the House. The government will not close down for at least a little while longer. The TPR study boundary is updating the planning rules; the study is due by November 30th. The STAC will review the study in November before the study going to the TC. One notable recommendation is to combine SE and South Central TPRs. There is a push to get some universal cohesion with certain bylaws like how many people are needed to hit quorum, that there shouldn’t be two representatives from the same county on STAC, and to educate new TPR elected officials. The Fare Free Grant program is anticipated to continue.

## Bernadette Cuthair – Wanted and received confirmation that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will be able to apply and access STAC funding to help explore capitol fleet expansion. Noted that there are a number of other funding sources that they can apply for as well.

## Lisa Pool – Also noted that there is no Speaker for the House. The CDOT director paid a visit to DC and had many conversations with the Senator’s office regarding budgets.

# Decision/Discussion Items

## Resolution 2023-01 extending 23709 24004 Bayfield SUP Improvements

# Meeting Discussion:

# Bayfield representative believes that they have plans to move forward with advertisement in the next few weeks for the project funded by the MMOF.

# It was confirmed that the project can be extended one more year.

# If for some reason the project couldn’t be extended, the money would go back to the region and would need to get used in the same duration. Discussion surrounding what that would look like should it come to it.

**Motion from Clyde Church to approve Resolution 2023-01 as presented.**

**Second: Kevin Kissler ; Motion passed unanimously.**

# CDOT Reports

## Construction Update – Tony M, represented Kevin Curry

## US 160 McCabe Creek Pagosa – 19263

## This project is located on US 160 at approximate MP 143, near downtown Pagosa Springs in Archuleta County. This project replaced aged metal culverts with new precast concrete box culverts. Additionally, riprap lined drainage improvements were installed to establish a new downstream channel, allowing for better drainage along the road. Other work included updating the guardrail and bridge rail, erosion control, sidewalk work, and fencing along the corridor. Construction was completed on June 27, 2023.

## US 172 Ignacio to Elmore’s Corner – 24092

## This project is located on SH 172 at approximate MP 8.3 to 24.5, from Ignacio to the Elmore’s Corner intersection of SH 172 and US 160. The work will include a 16.2-mile surface treatment along with ADA ramp improvements in the Town of Ignacio. Construction began on March 20th, 2023 with a tentative end date in November 2023. Recently, a new culvert was completed.

## US-160 Signals at SH 145 and Chestnut Street - 24772 – This project is located on US 160 in the City of Cortez, in Montezuma County. The project will consist of signal improvements at the intersection of US 160 and SH 145, as well as the intersection of US 160 and Chestnut Street. Work will include the replacement of old existing traffic signals, poles and electronics. This project began on May 1st, 2023 and is currently on hold while additional equipment is delivered. The new completion date is fall/winter 2023.

## US-160 West of Pagosa MP 135-144 ST - 23505 – This surface treatment project is located on US 160 in the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP 135 to 144. Work will include a 1" surface treatment leveling course and a 1.5" SMA overlay as well as a 2.5" mill and fill at intersection locations with curb and gutter construction. Additional work includes culvert and guardrail replacement and re- striping. Paving operations will take place at night. This project began on May 15, 2023 and has an estimated completion date in November 2023.

## US-160 Section 3 Priority Culverts - 23191 – This project will be located on US 160, starting in Montezuma County, at approximate MP 47, and continuing East to several locations up to a culvert on Wolf Creek Pass. A number of Priority culverts will be repaired or replaced. This project began on May 15, 2023, and has an estimated completion date in November 2023. there are a number of culverts that needed to be repaired. They have 7/9 repaired.

## US 160 – Wolf Creek West Fiber - 22107 – This project will take place on US 160 Wolf Creek Pass from approximate MP 153- 168, within Archuleta and Mineral Counties. Conduit, fiber optic cables and manholes will be installed on the western side of Wolf Creek Pass, from the summit down to Pagosa Springs. The project will also install ITS devices such as variable speed limits tied to friction sensors, a downhill truck warning system for the west side of the pass, and additional cameras. Due to contractor issues, this project was on hold for a period of time. The second season of construction started in May 2023 and is anticipated to be complete in fall 2024.

## Us 550 MP 81 & 89 Bluepoint Avalanche Mitigation - 23623 – This project is located on US 550 at approximate MP 81- 89 in Ouray County. This avalanche mitigation project will install a Gasex avalanche system on a known avalanche slide, Bluepoint and an Obelex system on the Mother Cline slide. The installation of these systems will allow maintenance crews to trigger avalanches remotely when needed. This project began on July 10, 2023 and had an anticipation completion date of September 2023; current end completion of project is estimated at the end of October.

## US 550/160 Connection South Design-Build-22420 - 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 will include wildlife highway mitigation features which will reduce animal-vehicle collisions. Both bridge structures are now constructed. Additional current work includes the continuation of deer fence installation, wildlife underpass work, drainage work and further construction on the Grandview side of the project. Construction began in August 2020 and now has an estimated completion date in spring of 2024.

## SH 151 Culvert Replacement MP 28.51 - 25737 –This emergency project is located on SH 151 at MP 28.51 in Archuleta County, south of Chimney Rock. Heavy spring runoff has caused damage to the existing culverts. The flood damaged CMP will be replaced with twin CBCs to better accommodate high water levels. Construction has started and is expected to be completed in November of 2023. Noted issues with trying to get emergency services through and discussions surrounding the plan on how to get them through the construction.

## Us 160 Section 3 Chipseals – 24954 - This project is a combination of 2 surface treatment projects on US 160. One is located on US 160 from Mancos Hill, Eastbound to Durango in Montezuma and La Plata Counties, approximate MP 61-81. The second location will be on US 160, at approximate MP 102.7 to 117, in-between Bayfield and Piedra. Work will include a chipseal, fog coat, the addition of rumble strips and new pavement markings at select locations. This project is scheduled for Ad in Fall 2023 with construction tentatively anticipated for spring 2024. We will have to make a decision soon on what we want to build and when we want to build it. Noted that there is 10 times the need for funding than funds actually available.

## US 160 San Juan River MP 0.8 & Aztec – 20685 - This project is located on US 160 at the Colorado/ New Mexico state line, approximate MP 0. The project will provide scour protection for the San Juan River Bridge which will help contain the increase in runoff. Improvements to a second bridge at Aztec Creek have also been added to the project scope. The Ad date is scheduled for fall 2023 with start of construction tentatively anticipated for January 2024.

## US 160 Pagosa Reconstruct – 21919 - This project is located on US 160 through the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP 142- 144, in Archuleta County. The current scope includes improvements to US 160 Between 10th and 1st Streets. An overlay and restriping is planned 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 project is scheduled for Ad in fall 2023 with construction tentatively planned for spring 2024.

## US 160 & CR 225 MP 94.04 Improvements – 23001 - This project will be located on US 160 at the intersection of CR 225, at approximate MP 94.05, east of Durango. An intersection study was performed here to evaluate safer, alternative options for the design of this intersection. The results of this study were analyzed, and the project is in final review. This project schedule was pushed out to align with Grant funding opportunities. The Ad date is tentative for fall 2025.

## US 160D Mancos Pedestrian Improvements - 24618 – CDOT is planning on the construction of ADA ramp improvements along US 160D in the Town of Mancos. The design is expected to be complete and shelved in 2023, awaiting construction funding. Currently working with the town on Grant opportunities. The town got a TAP grant to help support construction fees and won has over the match to increase the scope of the project to get more ramps and rails in Mancos.

# Other Business

## Updates – Round Robin

### City of Durango, Presented by Sarah Hill

#### Funding to improve curb ramps, ADA accessible sidewalks, etc. is being surveyed.

#### They are combining the MMOF project with the larger road diet project to try to get bidders.

#### Camino Crossing update – the underpass is still in the works for the design based on final Fire Dept. layout.

#### Midtown project – Seeking community feedback for 3rd, Florida, and 15th (malfunction junction). There is a focus group coming up with recommendations for it.

#### Durango Transit is launching a micro-transit program called Duran-GO! That will provide door-to-door (like Uber) program running 8pm-12am, 7 days a week.

#### The last month or so has had three serious pedestrian collisions. Ongoing conversations on safety solutions. Possible solution is making Animas View Drive a one-way.

#### Moving forward with contracting to purchase a new fleet in conjunction with Archuleta County.

#### There was a 22% increase in ridership with the Fare Free program during the summer. They plan to implement it next summer as well.

### City of Cortez, Presented by Kevin Kissler, Ian Roberton, Scott Baker

#### Recent grant funding has given the city initial corridor planning to decrease road fatalities.

#### Safe Routes to School project currently going on with CDOT, but noted that one school was recently closed down due to asbestos in their building.

#### The culvert under Denny Lake is a current project that they are working on with CDOT drainage. Expecting additional drainage projects in the foreseeable future.

### La Plata County, Presented by Clyde Church

#### Working on fiber easement charges with the hopes to lessen the charges as a region moving forward.

#### Big shift in road maintenance this past year. There will be additional work down on some county roads that have been deteriorating due to weather damage.

#### A new bike path North of Durango in Hermosa is in the works. There are some easement issues, and this project may take 3-5 years.

#### Seeing an increase in E-Bike use in the area.

#### Looking at making carrier neutral networks easier and finishing loops to reduce redundancies.

### Town of Bayfield, Presented by Katie Sickles

#### Main Street Program will start next week. The Town appreciated CDOT’s grant funding assistance with that.

#### Noted that the construction on 160 outside of their town is going smoothly.

#### Happy that Resolution 2023-01 was passed and is hoping to begin advertising soon.

### Archuleta County, Presented by Veronica Medina, Kevin Bruce, and Mike Torres

#### Finished up some road maintenance projects like CR 600 which is now open and pinstriped.

#### Looking at doing a culvert replacement in North Pagosa Springs. This will be a pretty big project including 160 ft of 6ft diameter culverts.

#### Wanting to do striping starting in early November and complete it before snow starts on roads that have been under construction.

#### They are looking at buying a temporary bridge soon and getting it open before winter.

#### The transit facility switched contractors last week and construction will start next spring.

#### They are looking for a road and bridge manager (experience ideal).

#### Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Presented by Bernadette Cuthair and Brendon Adams

#### Brendon Adams is a new representative of the Ute Mountain Tribe, has been working with the tribe for over a decade. Adams looks forward to his role working with TPR.

#### They are concentrating this year on UMU 201 Anneth Rd: 23.4 miles. They are looking into doing preliminary surveys in hopes of obtaining future grant money.

#### Main Road in UMU 202 has ongoing maintenance.

#### Town of Silverton, Presented by Lucy Mulvihill

#### Working with an EV charging company out of Denver that brought a proposal to bring in 4 EV fast chargers.

#### Received a TAP grant from CDOT to get ADA accessible sidewalks on one of their main streets.

#### SW Transit Coordinating Council, Presented by Patrick Davis

#### This was Davis’s first TPR meeting representing the SW Transit Coordinating Council as he was just voted in in September.

#### CDOT Grant has come through for SW Rides as well as a few other funding sources.

#### SW Rides is expanding into Silverton and giving local transportation to folks to the grocery store.

## Region 9 Update, Presented by Laura Lewis-Marchino

#### Region 9 received an ICAM grant through the COG that was applied for in 2021 and found out that is was awarded this past summer. Region 9 is giving the grant funds of $351,000 to CDOT to go toward their mobility hub initiatives.

#### Noted that elections will happen in February for TPR.

#### Pagosa Springs has a new manager, David Harris; he will most likely be joining TPR moving forward.

#### Region 9 and CDOT have entered into a no-cost contract for the fiber going over Wolf Creek.

#### CDOT UPDATE – Phil von Hake

#### Nick Farber left the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) - Piper Darlington will serve as the interim CTIO Director. https://www.codot.gov/programs/ctio

#### The new Division of Transit and Rail Director is Paul DesRocher, from RTD. <https://www.codot.gov/programs/transitandrail>

#### Erik Sabina is the new Deputy DTD Director.

#### Multimodal Planning Branch is hiring for 2 positions: Full-Time Transportation Planning Position; perfect for someone who is entry to mid-level who enjoys working in a team environment and is a good communicator-- the rest is trainable! <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado/jobs/4229266/transportation-planning-specialist-ii-or-iii> Part-Time Strategic Communications Position - Perfect for someone creative who can help bring the planning work of CDOT to life through engaging visual communications, eye-catching slide decks, reports and infographics. Looking for someone with InDesign / graphic design experience. <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado/jobs/4218559/transportation-planning-specialist-ii-or-iii-strategic-communications-planning>

## Next Meeting: December 14th, 2023

# Adjourn

**Sarah Hill adjourned the meeting at 10:54 AM**