

Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 9, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Training Room, 20581 US-160, Durango, CO 81301

Minutes

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Heather Alvarez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Attendees: Warren Brown, Archuleta Commissioner; Tim Funk, CDOT; Julie Constan, CDOT; Brendon Adams, Ute Mountain Ute; Heather Alvarez, Town of Mancos; Matt Salka, La Plata County; Tony Cady, CDOT; Spencer York, CDOT; Karl Johnson, City of Cortez; Emily Barden, CDOT; Mark Garcia, Town of Ignacio; Ian Robson, City of Cortez; Andrew Mylroie, Archuleta County; Bridgid McDougal, CDOT; Jim Candelaria, Montezuma Commissioner; Sarah Hill, Durango Vice Chair; John Masura, CDOT; and Keith Dunning, Durango Transit.

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

Guests: Kristin Dallison, Bayfield Citizen; Lisa Pool, Senator Hickenlooper's office; Wyatt Bair, Senator Bennet's Office; Karen Fuhr, consultant; Mike McVaugh, HDR consultant.

B. Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of August 20, 2025 Minutes**
2. **Financial Report approval-**

Motion made by Jim Candelaria and seconded by Warren Brown to approve the consent agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

- a. No public comments were made.

D. Reports

1. **STAC Update -- Heather Alvarez**

October meeting was cancelled. November meeting is in person on November 6, 2025, 8:30 am-12 pm at CDOT.

2. **Transportation Commissioner Report -- Mark Garcia**

Notes: no update as Mark Garcia is no longer the Commissioner. Barbara McLachlan, the new Commissioner, could not attend.

3. **Congressional Updates ---Lisa Pool & Wyatt Bair**

Lisa Pool: Government is shutdown, Senator Hickenlooper spoke at a press conference on Tuesday to express frustration over lack of cooperation between parties to come to the table and end the shutdown. Highlights included:

- DOT grants- some awards consistent with White House infrastructure priorities such as the emergency relief program for the Hwy 141 bridges in Dolores; but there are many funding freezes, slower review times due to shut down and budget cuts.
- Surface transportation programs: looking to extend using bipartisan infrastructure laws, program set to expire September 2026.
- Senator Hickenlooper’s office remains open through shutdown through limited capacity to support Coloradans and assist with case work.

Wyatt Bair:

Senator Bennet voted against the budget as he believes in protecting access to healthcare, the office reached out and ran a survey about the effects on people in Colorado. Some citizens will see nearly 1000% increase in monthly healthcare costs, particularly among the elderly if the current budget is approved.

Comments & Discussion: No discussion or comments.

E. Decision/Discussion Items

1. Adoption of the 2050 Southwest Regional Transportation Plan – Spencer York

Notes: Asked for motion to vote to adopt the Southwest TPR 2050 regional transportation Plan.

Comments & Discussion: no comments or discussion

Motion to adopt the transportation plan by Jim Candelaria, and Seconded by Mark Garcia, Motion passed unanimously.

2. 10-Year Plan Update – Tim Funk

New Project added to plan: Bridge replacement over Animas River 550 MP 3.5 north of New Mexico border. Anticipated Poor Rating with next official inspection. Opportunity to leverage strategic funds to obtain federal Bridge Investment program (BIP) Grant. Total project cost of \$61 million, about \$12 million CDOT Funds and federal grant hoping for \$49 million and \$1 million from the strategic funds.

Revised: Bus service between Pagosa Springs and Durango, funding is now only allowed for capital investments; was considered impractical to add a stop for Bustang because it would have to be very early in the morning (approx. 5 am); two vans are considered enough to make this happen with partnership with a local transit provider.

Complete list of 10-year (FY27-36) plan projects include:

- Pagosa Springs’ Main Street Reconstruction and Multimodal Improvements
- US 160 East of Fort Garland Safety and Wildlife Mitigation
- Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements at CO 291 and US 50
- Bus Service between Pagosa Springs and Durango
- Poncha Springs Crossroads Welcome Center
- Regional Transit Service between Montrose and Telluride
- Outrider Stop Improvements Crested Butte to Denver Route

- Salida Transit Capital Improvements
- Outrider Stop Improvements Alamosa to Pueblo Route
- Durango Transit Capital Improvements
- Outrider Improvements Durango to Grand Junction Route, GVTPR
- Outrider Improvements Durango to Grand Junction Route, SWTPR
- Buena Vista Park-n-Ride and Intermodal Facility Adoption of 10 year plan expected in December 2025
- US 160 Elmore's Corner East
- 550 shoulder improvements and wildlife fencing and underpass between Uncompahgre River and Colona
- Multimodal Improvements on CO 145
- US 285 Multimodal Improvements in Saguache
- CO 15 West of La Jara
- CO 136 East of La Jara CO 371 between CO 15 and CO 368
- US 160: Dry Creek Passing and Mobility Improvements
- US 550 P-05-G Bridge Replacement
- US 285 Safety and Mobility Improvements between Center and Saguache
- US 24 Intersection Improvements at Steele in Buena Vista
- 370 Resurfacing and Safety Improvements
- CO 145 Dolores East
- US 50 Corridor Improvements in Poncha Springs
- US 160 Multimodal Improvements in Alamosa
- Wildlife Mitigation on US 160 between Cortez and Mancos
- Intersection Improvements at US 160 and Pike Avenue
- Intersection Improvements at US 160 and CR 30.1 (Phil's World)
- CO 159 Stateline to Culebra Creek South of San Luis
- CO 151 Resurfacing MP 26-34 \$10,400,000 Mancos Business Loop Resurfacing
- Illium Intersection at 145 - MP 74.1 (south side)

Comments & Discussion: Question was asked regarding when in the 10 year plan is the Hwy 550 bridge planned for. Answer was first four years. Question was asked whether the extra 1 million from the strategic funds had come from the money taken from fiber work in Archuleta; Answer no that money had already been reallocated. Question, has Roadrunner Transit been contacted regarding the regional transit project between Durango and Pagosa Springs; Answer yes that avenue is being investigated; Comment that La Plata has had to cut funds and that it might take a collaboration between La Plata, Archuleta, and Roadrunner to make the project happen.

Perhaps Transit Council Meeting to be called in the future. Question about why Archuleta Transit Center plan was included on first 10 year plan but it is completed. Answer, it is completed but demonstrating it is still a high priority. Question about transit funding reallocation from Durango; Answer the funds are going to improving a welcome center and transit center for Poncha Valley.

3. **Adopt YouTube Policy Amendment – Shak Powers**

Requested Motion to adopt a policy that SWTPR regular meetings will be recorded and later posted to YouTube as a courtesy to the public and SWTPR members, with commenting disabled, beginning with the December 2025 meeting. The approved minutes will remain the sole official record.

Comments & Discussion: Thought on that this is good move for transparency with public.

Motioned to adopt by Warren Brown, seconded by Matt Salka, motion passed unanimously

F. **CDOT Reports**

1. **Construction Update - Tim Funk**

Mancos pedestrian improvement to create sidewalks is complete. This project took place along US 160 in the Town of Mancos, from approximately MP .8 to 1.58. Sidewalks and ADA ramps were improved. Improvements were also made at the intersection of Main Street and Bauer Street. This project began on May 5th and was accepted at the end of August.

R5 region wide striping. This striping took place on various highways throughout Region 5. Fresh paint was applied over existing striping and pavement markings on both asphalt and concrete pavement types, preserving the reflectivity of the markings. Work began in May 2025 and is now complete.

A List of Current projects were reviewed:

R5 Culvert CIPP Repairs: Will take place at multiple culvert locations through the Region. These culverts will be 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 16th, 2025 and should be completed in late Fall 2025. There are two locations within the SWTPR: • US 160, MP 63.26 • SH 172, MP 12.55

US550 Wall MP 56.7 & Deer Creek MP 59.3: This project will take place on US 550 from approximate MP 56 – MP 60, in San Juan County. Work will include a wall replacement at MP 56.7. Rockfall mitigation will take place at MP 59.3. This project began in May and should be completed this Fall.

SH 151 Rural Road Surface Treatment: This project takes place on SH 151 in Archuleta County from MP 12.8 to MP 26. This section of roadway will receive a surface treatment and select culverts will be rehabbed or replaced. Additional work includes new guardrail and striping. This project began in February 2025 and should be completed by fall 2025. 10-year plan for surface treatment from La Plata to Archuleta line -to be done this season

- G. US 160 Pagosa Reconstruct:** This project is located on US 160 through the Town of Pagosa Springs, approximate MP 140- 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.

Upcoming projects:

US 160 Signals at Mildred & Harris Cortez: 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 is scheduled to go to Ad in October 2025 with construction planned for Spring 2026.

R5 regionwide Culvert repairs: Will take place on numerous highways throughout region 5. Multiple culverts will either be replaced or repaired. Work will also include paving and guardrail. The Ad date for this project is November 2025 with construction planned for Spring 2026. Culvert locations are: - US 550- MP 28.71 - US 160- MP 47.81, MP 57.72, MP 64, MP 117.12, MP 194.42 - US 285- MP 7.08, MP 7.29, MP 53.28, MP 85.5 - SH 184- MP 18.24 - SH 172- MP 3.4, MP 4.36 - SH 151- MP 2.72, MP 4.32 - SH 41- MP 5.08, MP 8.64 - SH 17- MP 10.46, MP 15.02

US160 High Bridge to Elmore’s Surface Treatment: Will take place on US 160, from approximate MP 85.5 to MP 92, in Durango. This section of roadway will receive a surface treatment. The High Bridge will receive milling and an overlay. Additional work includes guardrail replacement and pavement markings. This project is scheduled to go to Ad in November 2025 with construction starting in Spring 2026.

US 160 Elmore’s Corner to CR 225: 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.

Comments & Discussion: A question was asked about the coordination of the Wolf Creek pass overlay project- Answer the project is expected to complete this Fall.

1. Maintenance Report – John Masura

An update on upcoming maintenance projects was provided.

- SH 141 MP 0-1 in Dolores- Spring 2026
- US 491 MP 61-62 in Dolores- Spring 2026
- US 550 MP 66-70 in San Juan County- Spring 2026
- US 550 MP 43.9-44.2 in La Plata was completed Summer 2025
- SH 140 MP 21.7-23.3 in La Plata was completed Summer 2025

- SH 84 MP 17.1-17.3 in Archuleta was completed Summer 2025
- SH 84 MP 21.6-21.8 in Archuleta was completed Summer 2025
- SH 84 MP 25.7-26 in Archuleta was completed Summer 2025
- SH 151 MP 31.8-32.8 in Archuleta was completed Summer 2025

Also did a patch by memorial rock in Dolores Valley, and emergency repair on dam to address water drainage issues. Other projects are shifting north for remaining paving season.

Comments & Discussion: Crews are on standby to help with the heavy rain expected this weekend. Question about moving modular housing project to Silverton; Scheduled for tomorrow. Commissioner Brown acknowledged the maintenance crew, praising their work to help with water drainage and on 160 project.

2. Grant Update – Tony Cady

Revitalizing Main streets-last call was in August; we consider this project under funding hiatus, but a project was awarded in Ignacio this year. MMOF have expected funds through FY29 no cuts currently known to this program; TAP next anticipated call opens in early 2026; SRS next grant period is August 26.

Comments & Discussion: Off Systems Bridge grants are due November 6th. Region 5 had no applicants for OSB last year, so Region 5 received no money, and this program tries to distribute funds equally across the state. Comment was made to encourage grant applications to this program.

H. Other Business

1. Updates – Round Robin

- a. Mark Garcia- Ignacio- No update.
- b. Brendon Adams- Ute Mountain Ute-No update.
- c. Sarah Hill-Durango- College/8th street project, funded through HCIP, FASTER and couple different MMOF programs. Construction wrapping up for the season and will finish next year. Completed most of the concrete work for curb ramps and sidewalks on College Drive. RUSA connect project, funded through TAP, is going for bid this autumn. North Main ADA improvements are getting close to final design and right of way acquisitions, planned 2027 construction; Also are seeking grant funding from Safe Streets for All programs.
- d. Jim Candelaria-Montezuma- Finished with engineering firm to evaluate parking lots looking to work on that next year.
- e. Ian Robson-City of Cortez- Planning maintenance and plowing and SRS program of 7th street corridor
- f. Matt Salka- La Plata-Budget must cut \$13 million. Including two road projects, CR 501 around Vallecito Reservoir and paving 141. No capital road projects next year only patching. Looking to have to lay off staff due to budget constraints.
- g. Warren Brown-Archuleta- CDOT project to open 2nd Street, 3 months of wine walks downtown well attended; road projects south Pagosa and meadows high traffic; repaved

vista boulevard. Looking forward, the focus will be on gravel roads, paving projects to continue next year to cover more residents.

h. Keith Dunning-Transit-No update.

I. Adjourn

Mark Garcia made the motion to adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 10:22 am. Motion passed unanimously.