



SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Colorado Department of Transportation
20581 US-160 W, Durango, CO

- | | | |
|------|--|------------|
| I. | Introductions | 9:00 a.m. |
| II. | Consent Agenda | 9:10 a.m. |
| | 1. February 2022 Meeting Minutes | |
| | 2. Financial Report: July 2021 – February 2022 | |
| III. | Reports | 9:15 a.m. |
| | 1. February, March 2022 STAC Update | |
| | 2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia | |
| | 3. Congressional updates | |
| | 4. MMOF Update | |
| IV. | Decision Items | 10:00 a.m. |
| | 1. SWTPR and SWCCOG Contract for Services – Jessica Laitsch | |
| | 2. Letter of support for La Plata County grant on behalf of CDOT | |
| V. | CDOT Reports | 10:20 a.m. |
| | 1. US550/160 Construction Video | |
| | 2. Construction Update - Kevin Curry | |
| | 3. Planning Update - Tony Cady, Kimberly Kinnison | |
| VI. | Other Business | 11:10 a.m. |
| | 1. Updates – Round Robin | |
| VII. | Adjourn | |

Next regular meeting date: Thursday, June 9, 2022

Video/Phone Conference Info:

<https://zoom.us>

Webinar ID: 516436015

Or by Telephone:

US: +1 669 900 6833, Webinar ID: 516 436 015

295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303
970.779.4592
www.swccog.org

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation
Planning Commission
Thursday, February 10, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.
Video/Phone Conference**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Katie Sickles – Town of Bayfield
Fred Brooks – Town of Mancos
Steve Garchar – Dolores County
Julie Bingham – Dolores County
Martin Schmidt – Town of Pagosa Springs
Sarah Hill – City of Durango
Mark Garcia – Transportation Commissioner, Town of Ignacio
Clyde Church – La Plata County
Laura Vanoni – Archuleta County
Ronnie Maez – Archuleta County
Andrea Phillips – Town of Pagosa Springs
Jim Candelaria – Montezuma County
Rich Landreth – City of Cortez

Others in Attendance:

Mike McVaugh – HGR engineering
Laura Lewis Marchino – Region 9
Patrick Davis – Southwest Rides
Jennifer Allison - Colorado Department of Transportation
Kevin Curry - Colorado Department of Transportation
Tony Cady - Colorado Department of Transportation
Julie Constan - Colorado Department of Transportation
Jamie Grim - Colorado Department of Transportation
Matt Muraro - Colorado Department of Transportation
Annelies Van Vonno - Colorado Department of Transportation
Audrey Dakan - Colorado Department of Transportation
George Gromke - Colorado Department of Transportation
John Whitney - Senator Bennet's Office
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. Consent Agenda:

December 2021 Meeting Minutes
Financial Report: July 2021 – December 2021

Martin Schmidt motioned to approve the December minutes, Steve Garchar seconded, unanimously approved.

There were no comments on the financial report.

III. Reports

1. January 2022 STAC Update – Sarah Hill

Sarah reported that there had been discussion on the 10-year plan and fiscal constraints, they will be voting on items at the next STAC meeting. There was discussion about certain interstates qualifying for rural paving. Clyde expressed concern that this may increase competition. Sarah replied there is a geographic equity formula that may be readdressed. Julie added that subsequent discussions have resulted in a shift of thinking regarding transit and interstate as rural paving.

2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Mark Garcia

Mark reported the 10-year plan funding is an item for discussion at the next meeting. At the meeting they discussed projects, received an update on the MMOF distribution formula, and received an update from the freight committee. He reported that he met with Julie and Bob Fifer to discuss CDOT's role in broadband to rural areas of the state. Steve mentioned he has been told that CDOT's requirements are cost prohibitive for use of right-of-way, he asked if this could be addressed. Mark will look into this. Jim reiterated that it will be important to look at making ROW less cost prohibitive. Julie will set up a meeting to discuss this, one aspect is that CDOT does have to comply with certain regulations related to compensation.

3. Congressional Updates

Jamie reported the Congress is working on a continuing resolution to extend the FY21 budget to avoid schedule conflicts. Updates related to IIJA are being released, she will send out FTA and FHWA resources. She added that the White House released a comprehensive grant guide book. CDOT will be preparing proposals for RAISE; she requested a heads up if anyone is planning to apply for a RAISE grant.

John reported the Appropriations Committee seems to have reached a deal, so the Congressionally Directed Funding may be able to move forward. John will put together various resources to send out to the group. He added that there will be a significant amount of funding in the near future, so encouraged the group to look at regional grant writing capacity and how it may be able to meet these needs, particularly the smaller agencies. Sarah mentioned that CDOT will be looking at developing resources to help with grant submissions; additionally, the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies provides transit grant writing support. Clyde asked if there is a breakdown of federal vs state. John replied that it depends on the types of funds. Jamie added that CDOT is preparing to send regular updates and suggested looking at the federal resource guide. John reiterated that they will be trying to keep everyone as updated as possible. He added that the Senator's Office is happy to consider letters of support for federal grants. Laura mentioned that Region 9 has hired a community grant writer. Sarah asked about the Congressionally Funded projects. John replied there has been some progress, so it is possible. He added that they intend to reopen the application process with refined direction on types of projects.

4. SWCCOG Staffing Updates – Jessica Laitsch

Jessica described the SWCCOG's staffing changes and coordination with Region 9.

IV. Election of Officers – Jessica Laitsch

Jessica described the purpose of the request.

Jim Candelaria nominated Sarah Hill as Chair, Sarah accepted, Mark Garcia seconded, Steve Garchar motioned for nominations to cease, Clyde Church seconded, unanimously approved.

Sarah Hill nominated Jim Candelaria as Vice Chair, Steve Garchar seconded, Jim accepted, unanimously approved.

IV. CDOT Reports

1. Traffic and Safety Update – Jennifer Allison

Jennifer presented information on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project application process. Steve asked if Dolores County should be included in the shoulder study. Jennifer replied that only part of the list was included in the presentation. Julie added that it was looked at, but it was not identified as a top priority based upon crash data. Steve asked if they were looking at bicycle crashes. Julie replied they did.

2. Construction Update – Kevin Curry

- US 550 priority culverts – Completed.
- SH 172 at County Road 318 – Shut down for the winter.
- US 160 McCabe Creek Pagosa – Shut down for winter.
- US 550 Durango 9th to 12th – Most of the work is complete, there are some signals and pedestrian crossings. Work will begin again in the spring.
- US 160/SH 151 Wildlife Crossing Project – Shut down for the winter. They have had large wildlife using the crossing.
- US 550/160 Connection South Design – The structures are functional and they have begun work on the cut. They are working on large animal underpasses.
- US 160 Wolf Creek West Fiber – The traffic unit has identified a contractor and is working through the details.
- US 160 West of Pagosa – West of McCabe creek, planning to go to ad in a couple of weeks.
- US 550 and 30th Street – Will be added to the Durango 9th to 12th project.
- US 160 Four Corners to Aztec Creek – Scheduled for construction in spring of 2022.
- US 160 Bayfield – Yellow Jacket Cape Seal – Surface treatment currently planned for 2023, depending on costs may be delayed.
- US 172 Ignacio to Elmore's Corner – Planned for 2023.
- US 160 Mancos Pedestrian Improvements – Looking at ADA ramp improvement.
- US 160 & CR 225 94.04 Improvements – In design, tentatively scheduled for ad in 2023.
- US 160 Section 3 Priority Culverts – Scheduled for summer 2023, approximately 12 culverts have been identified.
- US 160 San Juan River Bridge Scour – They will be adding a second bridge to the project scope, planned construction in 2023.

Martin asked if the fencing for the animal overpass is complete. Kevin replied that there is a temporary barrier to prevent going over overpass which will require work. Tony added that the east and west end points are the termination points.

3. Update 10-Year Plan – Tony Cady

Annelies described the purpose for the 10-year plan update. Tony summarized the priority projects in the southwest region.

Steve asked if there are plans for the US550/160 intersection near the DoubleTree. Tony replied that they do not have plans to update that intersection, the recent changes seem to be working well.

Clyde mentioned that population has recently increased and expressed support for scenario 2. Jim expressed support for trying to leverage whatever is possible. Sarah added that all three projects ultimately need to be completed. Mark commended staff on the work.

Steve Garchar motioned for support of scenario 2, Clyde Church seconded, Laura Vanoni and Sarah Hill opposed, the motion was approved.

4. MMOF 2022 Application Process – Matt Muraro

Matt summarized the adopted MMOF allocations for the SWTPR, the guidance and application are under review. He suggested working on the application timeline for the region. Clyde asked about the level of funding in the most recent cycle. Matt replied that \$1,247,368 was awarded in the last cycle. Sarah asked about the deadline for the first year. Matt replied that funds must be obligated by December 2024, the expenditure deadline is December 2026.

VI. Other Business

1. Community Updates – Round Robin

Katie reported the Town of Bayfield is looking to move forward with an access permit for the east intersection of Bayfield Parkway/US 160, this would be a signaled intersection. They are working on several annexations on the east side of town and the Maverick is looking to move quickly.

Jim reported that Montezuma County is finalizing preliminary work for an off-highway bridge, rock demolition should begin soon. They met with Cortez City Council to discuss air service.

Mark reported the Town of Ignacio is wrapping up the Becker/Goddard intersection. He mentioned a special PBS program related to the US 160 project; a link will be sent out to the group.

Clyde reported that La Plata County changed the allocation of tax dollars to increase the share to Road and Bridge.

Steve reported that Dolores County is looking to readdress speeds at the intersection of Hwy 491 and CR 8.2. They have had wildlife strike issues which seem to be primarily freight related.

Martin reported the Town of Pagosa Springs is working on a number of projects along US 160. They are working on multiple grant applications. They are working on repaving roads to improve secondary roads.

Laura reported that Archuleta County is finalizing predesign for a bus terminal. They are working on a large number of projects and will be seeking grant funds.

Sarah reported that the City of Durango submitted a grant application to improve access on 32nd Street and CR 250, they were not successful in the last round. They have launched a downtown next steps program to look at alternatives along the main street downtown. They are moving forward with design for the Camino del Rio crossing.

The meeting ended at 11:26 a.m.

SWTPR Financials 7/1/2021-2/28/2022

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region

From: Jessica Laitsch

Date: April 14, 2022

Comments: A profit and loss report for the period July 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022 is attached.

The TPR grant runs on a state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). The attached P&L shows the current grant status. Because this is a reimbursement grant, the net income is showing in the negative as funds have been spent but not yet reimbursed.

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Profit and Loss
July 2021 - February 2022

	TOTAL
Income	
Grant Project Income	
CDOT Grants	
SWTPR Grant	1,771.88
Total CDOT Grants	1,771.88
Total Grant Project Income	1,771.88
Project Administration	
SWTPR	2,147.77
Total Project Administration	2,147.77
Total Income	\$3,919.65
GROSS PROFIT	\$3,919.65
Expenses	
Administrative Costs	
Operating Expenses	
Information Technology (IT)	
Software	89.05
Total Information Technology (IT)	89.05
Office Supplies	80.41
Professional Fees	
Audit	812.50
Total Professional Fees	812.50
Rent	700.00
Total Operating Expenses	1,681.96
Personnel Expense	
Insurance Expense	
Health	345.31
Worker's Compensation	32.46
Total Insurance Expense	377.77
Salary and Wages	2,048.07
457 Retirement	78.06
Car Allowance	7.80
Cell Phone Allowance	16.37
Payroll Processing Fee	8.00
Payroll Tax	165.52
Total Salary and Wages	2,323.82
Total Personnel Expense	2,701.59
Total Administrative Costs	4,383.55
Project Costs	
SWTPR Internet Connection	893.16
SWTPR Travel	1,131.72
Total Project Costs	2,024.88
Total Expenses	\$6,408.43
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -2,488.78
NET INCOME	\$ -2,488.78

STAC Summary – February, March

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: April 14, 2022

Comments: Below are some highlights from the February and March 2022 Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings. The draft minutes for the meetings are also attached.

February:

State and Federal Legislation report
Transportation Funding 101
10-Year Plan and Fiscal Constraint
Electric Vehicle Grant Opportunities

March:

State and Federal Legislation report
Draft Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Policy Overview
Update on Transit Projects for 10-Year Plan
Transportation Demand Management Grant Program Overview
Rest Area Update
Cottonwood Pass Overview

For more information about STAC, visit:
<https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/planning-partners/stac.html>

Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)—Meeting Minutes

Recording: <https://youtu.be/IRYShe1BH9g>

Location: Virtual

Date/Time: February 11, 2022; 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Chair: Vince Rogalski, Gunnison Valley TPR

Attendance:

Denver Area:	Tammy Maurer, Ron Papsdorf	San Luis Valley:	Vern Heersink
Central Front Range:	Dick Elsner	South Central:	Aaron Lopez
Eastern:	Scott Weaver, Chris Richardson	Southeast:	Ron Cook
Grand Valley:	Dana Brosig, Rachel Peterson	Southwest:	Sarah Hill
Gunnison Valley:	Vince Rogalski, Roger Rash	Upper Front Range:	Scott James, Elizabeth Relford
Intermountain:	Bentley Henderson	Southern Ute Tribe:	Doug McDonald
North Front Range:	Kristin Stephens, Becky Karasko	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe:	None
Northwest:	Heather Sloop	FHWA:	John Cater
Pikes Peak Area:	John Liosatos, Holly Williams	FTA:	Kristin Kenyon
Pueblo Area:	Chris Wiseman, John Adams		

Highlights and Action Items

- 1) Introductions and STAC Minutes – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair – [Video link 00:07:37](#)
 - Action: Motion by Holly Williams to approve the January 14, 2022 STAC meeting minutes, seconded by Dick Elsner. The minutes were approved unanimously without changes or additions.
- 2) CDOT Update on Current Events – Herman Stockinger, CDOT Executive Director – [Video link 00:14:11](#)
 - The new Clean Transit Enterprise and Non-Attainment Enterprise had their first meetings.
 - CDOT will have a draft of the greenhouse gas (GHG) policy directive ready for review in March.
 - Jessica Myklebust is the new CDOT Region 1 Transportation Director.

STAC Discussion

 - CDOT is looking at options for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) to present their own mitigation measures for GHG Rule compliance.
- 3) Transportation Commission (TC) Report – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair – [Video link 00:21:10](#)
 - TC discussed planned work on the Eisenhower Johnson Memorial Tunnel and Floyd Hill.
 - TC learned that the launch for the Pegasus shuttle will be delayed until April due to supply chain delays.
 - TC discussed CDOT’s plan to expand freight parking in the Town of Bennett.
- 4) Transportation Planning Region (TPR) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Representative and Federal Partners Reports – [Video link 00:28:50](#)
 - TPRs/MPOs reported on 10-Year Plan updates, GHG Rule discussions, ongoing and planned construction projects, transportation plans and studies, air quality standards, safety targets, performance measures, staff changes, and Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) preparations.
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Federal guidance and state allocations have been released for the National Electric Vehicle Initiative (NEVI), Bridge Formula Program, and National Roadway Safety Strategy.
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA): The distribution of transit formula funding is on the FTA website.
- 5) Legislative Report – Andy Karsian, CDOT Office of Policy and Government Relations (OPGR); Jamie Grim, CDOT OPGR – [Video link 00:57:14](#)

- The federal government will be operating on a continuing resolution through March 11th, after which they will be working on an omnibus bill to secure funding through fiscal year 2023. CDOT is therefore operating under Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act levels for some of the base program and CDOT's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding is not at its full level.
- The notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant came out two weeks ago. STAC members can contact CDOT for letters of support or for information on connecting with federal partners.
- State bills: Senate Bill 22-16 to reconfigure the Transportation Commission, died in committee. House Bill 22- 1074 on mountain express lane safety, passed in the Transportation Committee. Senate Bill 22- 74 for an alternative delivery contracting procurement process, did not pass.
- Next week the state will deliberate on five bills of interest to CDOT: 1. The Idaho Stop bill, 2. A bill regarding automated identification for traffic safety enforcement cameras, 3. Senate Bill 48 on dispute resolution board oversight, 4. A bill relating to a new permitting process for laying down fiber in CDOT rights of way, 5. A bill relating to CDOT's budget plan.

STAC Discussion

- STAC members were concerned about the Idaho Stop bill that would allow cyclists to go through intersections after making a quick traffic check. CDOT is trying to remove signaled intersections from the bill and trying to make some other amendments to improve safety.
- 6) Transportation Funding 101 – Rebecca White, Director, CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD); Aaron Willis, Manager, CDOT Statewide and Regional Planning Section; Marissa Gaughan, Manager, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch – [Video link 01:20:32](#)
- CDOT's funding is from: federal programs (50% of CDOT funding), the Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF, 34%), the Bridge Enterprise (9%), and a number of other smaller sources.
 - Staff reviewed notable federal programs: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternatives Program (TA), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), National Highway Freight Program (NHFP), National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Carbon Reduction Program, Bridge Formula Program, Risk/Resiliency Formula Program, and Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program.
 - Staff presented notable state programs: Senate Bill 267, SB 260 HUTF, SB 260 MMOF, and Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act (FASTER).
 - Staff also presented the four enterprises: Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise, Colorado Transportation Investment Office (formerly known as the High Performance Transportation Enterprise [HPTE]), SB 260 Clean Transit Enterprise, and SB 260 Non-Attainment Enterprise.
 - Staff also reviewed the Regional Priority Program (RPP) and its distribution formula.

STAC Discussion

- There was a request to consider ways to increase RPP program funding.
- 7) 10-Year Plan and Fiscal Constraint – Rebecca White, Director, CDOT Division of Transportation Development – [Video link 02:06:39](#)
- Action: CDOT is reviewing how Non-Attainment Enterprise funds are counted toward regional equity for the 10-Year Plan. Holly Williams recommended that equity considerations for the 10-Year Plan exclude the Non-Attainment Enterprise. This was supported by Kristin Stephens, and there was no opposition among STAC members. Vince Rogalski will take the recommendation to TC. Rebecca White to provide Scott James with SB 21-260 requirements for representation on the Non-Attainment Enterprise board.
 - CDOT has accepted feedback to maintain the 10% transit set-aside and will work with regions to develop a multimodal system. Staff presented two options for how to distribute the 10% set-aside, using the MMOF distribution formula or the RPP midpoint formula.

- The rural pavement program will maintain its focus on non-interstate roads and will not expand to include rural interstates.

STAC Discussion

- Multiple STAC members were concerned about including Non-Attainment funds, which are geographically constrained, in the regional equity distribution for the 10-Year Plan.
 - The Upper Front Range TPR is concerned about not having representation on the Non-Attainment Enterprise board. SB 21-260 dictates the board's representation requirements.
 - Some STAC members were in favor of the 10% transit set-aside and others were not.
 - For the 10% transit set-aside, DRCOG proposed that half of the set-aside be distributed according to the RPP midpoint formula and the other half be distributed using the MMOF formula. The other MPOs/TPRs were in favor of just using the RPP midpoint formula.
 - FHWA shared that rural interstates will eventually require maintenance to meet federal standards.
- 8) Electric Vehicle Grant Opportunities – Michael King, Assistant Director, CDOT Electrification and Energy –

[Video link 02:57:29](#)

- Staff presented on electric vehicle (EV) registrations in the state, EV projected growth, and automaker commitments to EV.
- Staff presented on state programs for installing fast chargers: Charge Ahead Colorado Grant Program, DC Fast-Charging Corridor Grant, DC Fast-Charging Plaza Grant.
- The primary funding source for the state programs was the Volkswagen settlement, but that is depleted. There is state funding for electrification through SB 21-260: the Community Access Enterprise, the Clean Fleet Enterprise, and a clean transit enterprise.
- Staff also presented on federal funding through IIJA. Colorado will receive approximately \$57 million for National Vehicle Electric Infrastructure (NVEI). There is also discretionary competitive funding under a Corridor Grant Program and a Community Grant Program. States must submit an EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan to a new Joint Office of Energy and Transportation by August 1, 2022.

STAC Discussion

- There are still federal and state tax rebates for the purchase of electric vehicles.
 - The state's Clean Fleet Enterprise has funding for electric school buses. There is also potential federal and state funding under review.
- 9) STAC Business – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair – [Video link 03:22:44](#)
- The next STAC meeting is on March 11, 2022.

Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)—Meeting Minutes

Recording: <https://youtu.be/IIDXPYrBMlg>

Location: Virtual and in-person at CDOT Headquarters, 2829 W. Howard Pl., Denver, CO 80204

Date/Time: March 11, 2022; 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Chair: Vince Rogalski, Gunnison Valley TPR

Attendance:

Denver Area:	Tammy Maurer, Ron Papsdorf	San Luis Valley:	Keith Baker, Vern Heersink
Central Front Range:	Dick Elsner	South Central:	Lourae King, John Galusha
Eastern:	Scott Weaver, Chris Richardson	Southeast:	Ron Cook
Grand Valley:	Dana Brosig, Rachel Peterson	Southwest:	Sarah Hill
Gunnison Valley:	Vince Rogalski	Upper Front Range:	Scott James
Intermountain:	Bentley Henderson	Southern Ute Tribe:	None
North Front Range:	Kristin Stephens, Suzette Mallette	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe:	None
Northwest:	Heather Sloop	FHWA:	John Cater
Pikes Peak Area:	Danielle Miller, John Liosatos	FTA:	Kristin Kenyon
Pueblo Area:	Chris Wiseman, John Adams		

Highlights and Action Items

- 1) Introductions and STAC Minutes – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair – [Video link 00:03:55](#)
 - Action: Motion by Scott James to approve the February 11, 2022 STAC meeting minutes, seconded by Dick Elsner. The minutes were approved unanimously without changes or additions.
- 2) CDOT Update on Current Events – Herman Stockinger, CDOT Executive Director; John Lorme, CDOT Director, Division of Maintenance and Operations – [Video link 00:08:49](#)
 - CDOT is working on federal grant applications for a project at US-6 and Wadsworth Boulevard and three mobility hubs on the western slope.
 - Staff presented on the intense conditions of snow plowing and safety concerns for drivers.
- 3) Transportation Commission (TC) Report – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair – [Video link 00:22:20](#)
 - Regarding the 10-Year Plan update, TC agreed to use the Regional Priority Program (RPP) midpoint formula and to keep the 10% transit set-aside.
 - TC discussed investment in Cottonwood Pass as an alternative detour route for closures on I-70.
- 4) STAC Member and Federal Partners Reports – [Video link 00:23:47](#)
 - Transportation Planning Region (TPR) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) representatives reported on construction projects, Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) preparations, safety targets, transportation demand projects, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments, service cuts due to driver shortages, staffing updates, 10-Year Plan updates, road closures, project awards, and maintenance projects.
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): States should gear up for the federal infrastructure bill rollout.
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA): FY2022 discretionary funding for the Low or No Emission Program and the Buses and Bus Facilities Program has been announced.
- 5) Legislative Report – Andy Karsian and Jamie Grim, CDOT Office of Policy and Government Relations (OPGR) – [Video link 00:43:50](#)
 - Action: CDOT staff to provide Heather Sloop with a list of the proposed safety stop bill amendments.
 - The omnibus spending bill is going to President Biden for signing and will provide funding through September 30, 2022. Staff reviewed the funding provided by the bill.

- At the state level, the legislature is reviewing bills relating to alternative transportation options for employees, the bicycle safety stop, wildlife crossings, laying fiber in the CDOT right of way, and air quality.
- The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) long bill is coming out. CDOT has funding authorization requests for Revitalizing Main Streets (RMS), Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF), Burnham Yard, and impaired driving pass-through dollars.

STAC Discussion

- Regarding the safety stop bill, Senator Winter is open to conversing with CDOT about amendments. CDOT and Bicycle Colorado agreed to continue working together, regardless of the outcome of the bill.
- 6) Draft GHG Mitigation Policy Overview – Theresa Takushi, CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD) – [Video link 01:00:53](#)
- Action: CDOT to provide STAC members with a list of the Interagency Consulting Team members and the most current mitigation calculations. CDOT will bring a definition of “regionally significant projects” to STAC next month.
 - CDOT has formed a state Interagency Consulting Team (IACT) to look at the definition for “regionally significant project.”
 - CDOT is working on a GHG mitigation policy directive. The policy directive will be a high level document in order to remain relevant for the 30-year lifespan of the GHG Rule. It will define “regionally significant project” from the GHG Rule, define the processes for establishing and scoring mitigation measures, and define mitigation action plan and status report.
 - CDOT is also working on a procedural directive that will be approved by CDOT’s executive director. The procedural directive will provide more detailed information such as the list of specific GHG mitigation measures, the methodology for quantifying and scoring measures, how to incorporate disproportionately impacted communities, and detailed modeling calculations. The procedural directive can be updated as modeling methodologies improve.

STAC Discussion

- Some STAC members continue to be concerned about how rural areas will be impacted by the Rule.
 - The list of mitigation measures will be given to STAC once CDOT has finished compiling and refining it.
 - Some STAC members were interested in a cost-benefit analysis of the mitigation measures.
- 7) Update on Transit Projects for the 10-Year Plan – Amber Blake, Director, Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) – [Video link 02:02:34](#)
- Action: CDOT will discuss with Scott James the idea of counting reduced funding as a GHG credit.
 - Revenue for the Bustang family of services is less than expenditures. To address this, CDOT is looking to deduct operations and maintenance from the 10% transit set-aside of the 10-Year Plan. This will remedy the deficit, allow for expansion of the service, and cover operation and maintenance of mobility hubs.

STAC Discussion

- Some STAC members were concerned about CDOT redirecting funds from the 10% transit set-aside to operations and maintenance. This would decrease the amount of funding for local projects. There were requests for CDOT to refrain from expanding Bustang services and to find operation and maintenance funds elsewhere.
- The funds under discussion are MMOF funds that were specifically set aside for the state. CDOT put these funds into the 10-Year Plan but is now trying to reclaim the funds for operations and maintenance. CDOT has very limited transit operation dollars and using the MMOF dollars is the only option.
- There was a suggestion that the money taken from TPRs/MPOs portion in the Plan be considered a GHG credit.

- There was a question about the trade-off, from a GHG perspective, of using this money for Bustang versus reducing local funding.
- 8) Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Grant Program Overview – Kay Kelly, Chief, Office of Innovative Mobility – [Video link 03:08:33](#)
- Agenda item tabled due to lack of time.
- 9) Rest Area Update – Hope Wright, CDOT Building/Rest Area Asset Manager – [Video link 03:08:33](#)
- Agenda item tabled due to lack of time.
- 10) Cottonwood Pass Overview – Steve Harelson, CDOT Chief Engineer – [Video link 03:09:22](#)
- Three to four times a decade, I-70 through Glenwood Canyon experiences significant closures due to natural hazards. The shortest alternate route is Cottonwood Pass in Garfield and Eagle counties.
 - Staff summarized the discussions with the counties, design challenges, and legal ownership challenges.
- STAC Discussion
- Process concerns were raised regarding the TC’s decision to grant \$1 million to the project.
- 11) STAC Business – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair – [Video link 03:21:40](#)
- Action: The next meeting will start earlier, at 8:30 AM.
 - The next meeting is on April 15, 2022.
- STAC Discussion
- There was a suggestion to put TPR reports at the end of the agenda.

Transportation Legislation Update

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region

From: Jessica Laitsch

Date: April 14, 2022

Comments: Attached is a summary of various bills related to transportation issues that have been introduced in the Colorado General Assembly in the 2022 general session.

SWCCOG 2022 Legislative Summary - State

Bill No	Short Title	Subject	Summary	Sponsors	Recent Action	Action Date	Position	Result	Staff Comments
SB22-083	Broadband Provider's Use Of Public Rights-of-way	Broadband, Transportation	Creates an exception for a broadband provider's use of the public rights-of-way to the requirements for public-private initiative agreements that CDOT enters into with a telecommunications provider	Coram, Catlin	Governor signed	7-Apr-2022		Passed	CCI supports
HB22-1028	Statewide Regulation Of Controlled Intersections	Transportation	Establishes statewide that a person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may make a safety stop, rather than a full stop, under certain circumstances. The amended statute would supersede any conflicting local ordinance or resolution.	Gray, Hooton, Winter	Sent to Governor	8-Apr-2022		Passed	CML opposes, CCI opposes
HB22-1046	Local Designation Of Over-snow Use Only Highways	Transportation	Authorizes a local government to designate all or a portion of a highway under its jurisdiction for over-snow use only when snow-packed conditions exist on the highway or for a designated continuous seasonal period for which the local government determines that snow-packed conditions are likely to exist on the highway.	McLachlan, Catlin, Winter	Sent to Governor	4-Apr-2022		Passed	CCI supports
SB22-175	Mobile Electronic Devices And Motor Vehicle Driving	Transportation	Concerning the use of mobile electronic devices when driving a motor vehicle.	Hansen, Fields	Refer amended to Senate Committee of the Whole	12-Apr-2022			
SB22-180	Programs To Reduce Ozone Through Increased Transit	Transportation	Creates ozone season transit grant program in the Colorado energy office	Winter, Hinrichsen, Gray, Bacon	Refer amended to Senate Committee of the Whole	12-Apr-2022			
SB22-016	Modifying Department Of Transportation Governance	Transportation	Modifying the number of members of and manner in which members are selected for the Transportation Commission and requiring the Transportation Commission to select the executive director of the Department of Transportation.	Scott	Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy Postpone Indefinitely	8-Feb-2022		Failed	CML opposes

MMOF Update

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: April 14, 2022

Comments: The Southwest Region Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) call for projects was announced on March 1, 2022.

The schedule for project applications and award decisions is:

- Friday, April 8, 2022 - Deadline for applicant consultation with CDOT
- Monday, May 9, 2022 - Project applications submitted electronically to info@swccog.org
- Thursday, June 9, 2022 - SWTPR decision on project requests

The recommended project minimum for infrastructure projects is \$300,000 total project cost. The grant award minimum for transit and planning projects is \$25,000.

Program related materials are available on the Local MMOF Program webpage at: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/grants/mmof-local>

SWTPR – SWCCOG Contract

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region

From: Jessica Laitsch

Date: April 14, 2022

Comments: The Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG) has been providing administrative and fiscal management for the SWTPR including to manage state funding for the SWTPR. The existing contract has expired and as such needs to be updated. An updated contract is attached.

**AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN
SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMISSION**

THIS Agreement for services (“Agreement”) is entered into with an effective date of April _____, 2022, by and between the SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, (hereinafter referred to as the “SWCCOG”) whose address is 295 Girard Street, Ste B, Durango, Colorado, 81303, and the SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMISSION, whose address is 295 Girard Street, Ste B, Durango, Colorado, 81303 (hereinafter referred to as the “SWRTPC”) (collectively, the “Parties”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 18 of Article XIV of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. §29-1-203 allow Colorado local governments to cooperate or contract with one another to provide any function, service or facility lawfully authorized to each local government; and

WHEREAS, the SWRTPC is in need of administrative support as set forth in Attachment A, whereby SWCCOG would provide SWRTPC with financial oversight services, meeting support services, and assistance in the administration of CDOT’s Rural Planning Work Program; and

WHEREAS, it is the mutual desire of the Parties to set forth their understanding and agreement, in writing, with respect to said obligations:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions and obligations herein set forth herein, the Parties hereby mutually agree as follows:

1. Role of the Parties. Under the terms of this agreement, as an independent contractor for SWRTPC, SWCCOG will provide financial oversight to the SWRTPC, provide meeting support, and administer the CDOT Rural Planning Work Program as set forth in Attachment A. SWCCOG is an independent contractor, not an employee of the SWRTPC. SWCCOG is free to provide services to others and is not required to work exclusively for SWRTPC. Compensation provided under this agreement is set at a contract rate for the scope of work and not set as a salary.

2. Responsibilities as Fiscal Agent. The SWCCOG shall be the fiscal agent in administering the CDOT Purchase Order and shall receive from CDOT all funds provided by CDOT and shall receive from SWRTPC all member contributions. The SWCCOG shall submit all necessary Purchase Order documents to CDOT as required.

3. Responsible Administrator. The Parties agree that Laura Lewis Marchino, contracted oversight for SWCCOG, or designee, shall be designated as the Responsible Administrator to carry out certain responsibilities under this Agreement.

4. SWCCOG Responsibilities:

a. The SWCCOG, as fiscal agent, agrees to accept and administer the CDOT payments, including the payments for PO 411028856, future CDOT Purchase Orders, and SWRTPC member contributions.

b. SWCCOG will perform the scope of work set forth in Attachment A.

5. SWRTPC's Responsibilities:

a. The SWRTPC agrees to work with the Responsible Administrator to ensure that the scope of work can be performed by SWCCOG.

b. SWRTPC agrees that it shall designate a Chair and Vice Chair to serve as a Project Representative, who shall have the responsibility to coordinate with the SWCCOG on implementation of the scope of work defined in Attachment A. SWRTPC shall promptly advise SWCCOG of any changes in the Project Representative.

c. Assist SWCCOG in collection of contributions and see that CDOT funds are paid directly to the SWCCOG.

6. Financial Management. The SWCCOG will adhere to the applicable financial management rules and policies of the Purchase Order and the State of Colorado throughout the term of this contract. SWCCOG will charge SWRTPC and promptly pay itself from the funds it administers at hourly rates that compensate SWCCOG for its employee time spent performing SWRTPC services (i.e. cost share of salary, benefits, other employer payments such as unemployment insurance and employer payroll taxes for the SWCCOG employees time spent on SWRTPC matters, which amount shall be calculated into an hourly rate for each SWCCOG employee that performs services on behalf of SWRTPC) plus reimbursement of SWCCOG out of pocket (non-overhead) expenses incurred on behalf of SWRTPC to be reimbursed at SWCCOG's actual cost paid out on behalf of SWRTPC.

7. Term of Agreement. Unless sooner terminated as provided herein, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for three years from the effective date of this agreement.

8. Modification and Changes. The Agreement may not be modified in any manner unless the modification is agreed to in writing by all Parties to this Agreement.

9. Contract Termination. If CDOT Purchase Order is terminated for any reason, the SWCCOG may terminate this Agreement and shall provide written notice of termination of this agreement to the SWRTPC. This Agreement may also be terminated at any time by mutual and written agreement of the Parties. Either party may also terminate this contract

upon 90 days written notice to the other. It is also understood and agreed that SWCCOG's performance herein is subject to the annual appropriation of funds by its governing body.

10. Integration. This Agreement, together with its exhibits is intended as the complete integration of all understandings between the Parties. No prior or contemporaneous addition, deletion or modification hereto shall have any force or effect whatsoever.

11. Severability. To the extent that this Agreement may be executed and performance of the obligations of the Parties may be accomplished within the intent of the Agreement, the terms of this Agreement are severable, and should any term or provision hereof be declared invalid or become inoperative for any reason, such invalidity or failure shall not affect the validity of any other term or provision hereof.

12. Waiver. The waiver of any breach of a term, provision or requirement hereof shall not be construed as a waiver of any other term, provision or requirement or any subsequent breach of the same term, provision or requirement.

13. Assignment. Neither the SWCCOG nor the SWRTPC may assign their right or duties under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party. No subcontract or transfer of this Agreement shall in any case release the SWCCOG or the SWRTPC of their responsibilities under this Agreement.

14. Third Party Beneficiaries. The enforcement of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and all rights and actions relating to such enforcement shall be strictly reserved to the SWCCOG and the SWRTPC. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall give or allow any claims or right of action whatsoever by any third person. It is the express intention of the SWCCOG and the SWRTPC that any such person or entity, other than the SWCCOG or the SWRTPC, receiving services or benefits under this Agreement shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

15. Governmental immunity. By executing this Agreement the parties do not waive any immunity or limitations of liability contained in the Governmental Immunity Act.

16. Enforcement. Any dispute concerning the performance or interpretation of the agreement which cannot be resolved by the designated points of contact shall be referred to the party's governing board. If the matter is not resolved within 45 days after referral, either party may file legal action. Any litigation will be filed in District Court of La Plata County.

17. No Special Damages. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, neither party shall be liable for any damages for loss of profits, loss of revenues, loss of goodwill, loss of anticipated savings, loss of data or cost of purchasing, replacement services, or any indirect, incidental, special, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages arising out of its performance or failure to perform under this agreement. Additionally, any damages against SWCCOG shall be capped at the amount of funds that SWCCOG has received from the SWRTPC during the fiscal year in which such liability or damage accrued.

18. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall constitute one original Agreement.

19. Signatory Authority. Each person signing this Agreement in a representative capacity, expressly represents the signatory has the subject party's authority to so sign and that the subject party will be bound by the signatory's execution of this Agreement. Each party expressly represents that except as to the approval specifically required by this Agreement; such party does not require any third party's consent to enter into this Agreement.

Sarah Hill, Chair, Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Commission Date

Andrea Phillips, Chair, Southwest Colorado Council of Governments Date

Attachment A- Scope of Work

The scope of work for the SWCCOG –SWRTPC Agreement Includes:

1. **Financial Oversight:**
 - Maintain accounts, budgets, and accounting and provide information on Financials at all Commission meetings.
 - Invoice area governments for annual member contributions.

2. **Meeting support:**
 - Maintain files, minutes, and lists of members of Commission per Memorandums of Agreement among local governments.
 - Follow up on any reasonable request for information made by Commission members.
 - Assist the Chair of Transportation Planning Commission in arranging meetings and distributing agendas and information for Commission packets.
 - Assist the Chair and Commission as requested in carrying out special projects.
 - Attend meetings as requested to represent the Chair of Planning Commission in a professional manner.
 - Facilitate relationships and communication between all participants in the Commission, Transit and other related committees.
 - Provide an annual contact list of members and alternates to the Commission.

3. **Administration of CDOT Rural Planning Work Program:**
 - Administer all Purchase Orders/CDOT contracts, meet financial and reporting deadlines, and other requirements.
 - Assist in their preparation, correspondence with the appropriate agency or program representatives, and documentation.
 - Proactively seek new Purchase Order or program opportunities with Commission recommendation.
 - Maintain, update, and publish the Regional Transportation Plan in cooperation with CDOT.
 - Reimburse SWRTPC members travel to SWRTPC meetings and CDOT STAC meeting as requested.
 - Other duties as assigned.

Letter of Support Request

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region

From: Jessica Laitsch

Date: April 14, 2022

Comments: CDOT has requested assistance from La Plata County to submit a grant application for improvements to US Highway 160 between Elmore's Corner and Dry Creek. They are requesting a letter of support for this proposal. A letter with additional details of this request is attached.



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Region 5

Region Director's Office
3803 N. Main Avenue, Suite 306
Durango, CO 81301-4034

Chuck Stevens
La Plata County Manager
1101 E 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

March 29, 2022

Dear Mr. Stevens,

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is requesting the assistance of La Plata County to submit two grant applications that are being solicited as part of the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country and increase connectivity in rural areas. Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) have been issued for both Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and Rural Surface Transportation Programs, and the US 160 Elmore's to Dry Creek Project is eligible for both programs. CDOT is recommending applications to both programs. CDOT and La Plata County have a history of submitting applications on similar projects, when CDOT Headquarters has higher priorities in other parts of the state, but the Region still has significant needs. This strategy provides the opportunity for more grant dollars to be awarded as a whole to the state of Colorado. As on past projects, CDOT will prepare the applications, and administer any awarded grant funds. CDOT is not asking La Plata County for a grant match at this point in time.

Below is a summary of the US 160 Elmore's to Dry Creek project that we would like to submit for the grant opportunities.

CDOT Region 5 is currently initiating the design process to address safety concerns and noticeable congestion issues on US 160, east of Durango. The subject project includes a 7.6-mile long segment of the highway extending from the east side of the intersection at State Highway (SH) 172 (Elmore's Corner) to the east side of County Road (CR) 223 intersection (Dry Creek). This project will extend from Mile Post 91.4 to 99.

US 160 is a national highway system route and is the only principal east-west highway traversing the entire southern portion of the state of Colorado that serves the Four Corners Region. This vital link to the transportation system provides for the transport of people, goods,



and services through the state and serves as a local and regional highway for the city of Durango and the town of Bayfield.

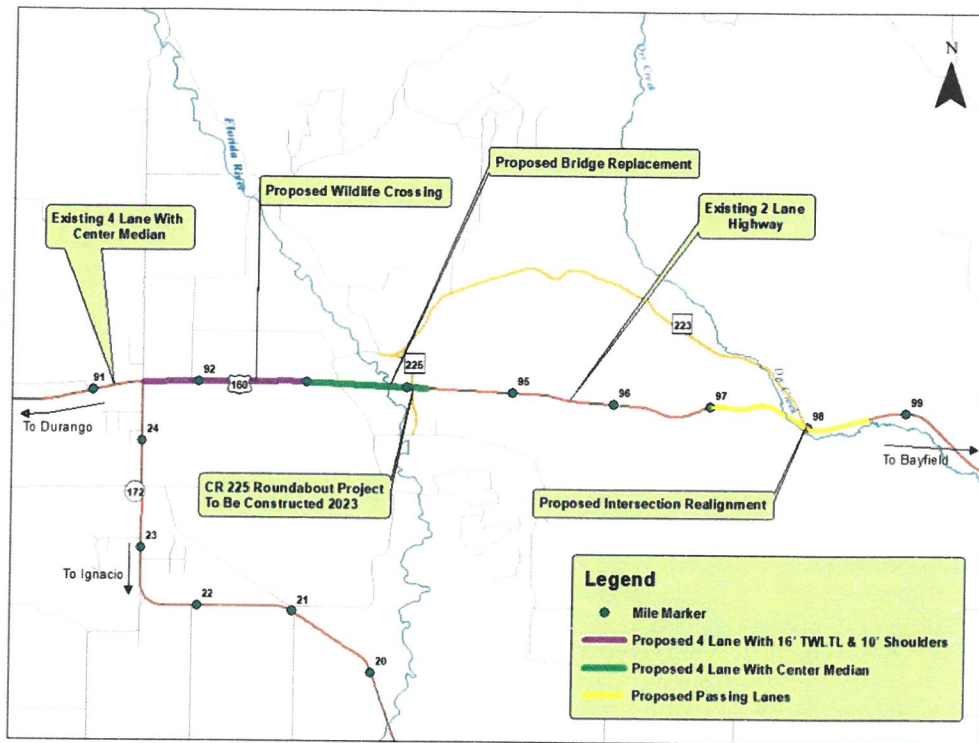
Highway improvements were made to the existing US 160 in La Plata County in the 1950s and 1960s. At that time, the population of La Plata County was less than 20,000 residents. Since then, the population has more than doubled (56,221 in 2019), and tourist activity has increased exponentially. As a result, traffic volumes along the US 160 project corridor have dramatically increased, and traffic volumes in the region have increased by 50% in the summer months with the influx of tourists. The high traffic volumes have contributed to this highway segment having a Level of Safety Service of 4, which is the highest crash ranking and indicates a high potential for crash reduction. The Town of Bayfield is also seeing a housing explosion, including 520 newly approved residential units, with the majority of services being provided in Durango.

The average daily traffic through the project area is approximately 15,000 vehicles per day and is expected to increase by 30% by 2040. While US 160 provides two through lanes in each direction just east of the Elmore's Corner intersection, it then narrows to a single through lane configuration in each direction, with narrow to non-existent shoulders throughout the rest of the corridor. Additionally, residential development has greatly increased within the project area, which has increased congestion on the two-lane road. Entering and exiting US Highway 160 is difficult and has led to increased rear-end and turning movement crashes caused by drivers attempting to make turns at the 18 access points present within a 2.5 mile stretch of highway within the project limits. In addition to the mobility impacts of turning vehicles and high rate of rear-end crashes, there is a high number of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions along the corridor. The project area is also in dire need of additional passing lanes to improve transit and freight mobility, which would benefit the overall operation of the highway.

To address the significant safety concerns, and allow for increased mobility throughout the project area, the project will include:

- Expansion of 2.5 miles of two-lane highway to a new a four-lane facility. This new four-lane facility will be constructed from Elmore's Corner to the intersection of CR 225.
- Construction of a continuous 1.5-mile long two-way left turn lane which will reduce rear-end crashes by 38%. The turn lane will be constructed from Elmore's Corner east across the Florida Mesa.
- Widening the bridge over the Florida River to accommodate a four-lane facility.
- Construction of a Round-A-Bout at the US 160 and CR 225 intersection.
- Alternating passing lanes for 5 miles to provide for additional safe passing opportunities.
- Construction of five wildlife underpasses and deer fencing to prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- Widened shoulders to improve vehicle recovery.
- Access improvements at County Road Intersections.





The current funding plan is identified below. CDOT has secured \$49 million in SB 260, Bridge Enterprise, and Safety funds to cover the improvements identified as US 160 Elmore's East, Florida River Bridge, and US 160 / CR 225 Intersection Improvements. The Grant request of \$57 million would fund the improvements from the intersection of CR 225 through Dry Creek.

US 160 Elmore's to Dry Creek Project Components	Estimated Cost
US 160 Elmore's East - Corridor Improvements	\$ 37,000,000
Florida River - Bridge Replacement	\$ 4,000,000
US 160/CR225 - Intersection Improvements	\$ 7,800,000
US 160 Dry Creek - Corridor Improvements	\$ 57,000,000
US 160 Highway Improvements Total:	\$ 105,800,000

The above funding scenario would provide a 46% match for the grant request, which meets the requirements for both the INFRA Grant and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant.



Thank you for considering this request for La Plata County to submit two grant applications on CDOT's behalf. CDOT is hopeful that La Plata County will be willing to build on the successful partnership we've developed on past projects. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Julie Constan
CDOT Region 5 Transportation Director

