

# Southwest Colorado Transit Coordinating Council

January 27, 2012 Minutes

## Attendees:

John Egan

John Ehmann

Krystian Boreyko

Laura Lewis Marchino

Martha Mason

Peter Tregillus

Amber Blake

Betty Bewley

Nita Purkat

Jason Armstrong

Mitchell Toms

Mark Sprick

Heather Wyatt

Amanda Saunders

Noelle Melchizedek

## Call to Order / Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30am by meeting facilitator John Egan. Introductions were made by those present and on the phone. There were no requests for additions / changes to the agenda. The October 21, 2011 Meeting minutes were accepted as presented without discussion.

## Organization Updates:

Updates were given about the work of Council members' organizations. Among the information offered:

- Amber Blake gave a status report on Durango's Multi-Modal Transportation Plan and detailed some of the recent enhancements made under it. Even though the plan's final approval is several months away, they are implementing changes as they are able to develop funding. One example is improved accessibility at Brookside Park. A new staff person has been hired to help with these efforts and transit training sessions will be a priority, working through employers.
- Peter Tregillus spoke about Road Runner's Aztec service which primarily expands transit opportunities to employment in both Ignacio and Aztec. The recent cut back in Road Runner's mid-day route was necessitated by budget cuts from the Town of Bayfield and primarily impacts seniors and person with disabilities getting to town for shopping or medical appointments and not having to wait all day for a return trip. He also mentioned the upcoming CASTA spring conference, a group for which he is an officer, and encouraged people to consider attending. Background discussions about trying to replace Greyhound regional service were also mentioned.
- Noelle Melchizedek explained her role as the state consultant to Coordinating Councils. Information was distribution about TransitPlus, the firm she works for. She is also a LCC coordinator for Jefferson County. She would like to attend one of our meetings in the future. We will try to select a time when it would provide the most benefit.
- Mark Sprick offer his assistance to anyone seeking grant information, technical support or general advice about working with CDOT.

- Marth Mason has not yet heard back on the outcome of her recent grant request to the National Center on Senior Transportation which would provide support for ride vouchers.
- Mitchell Toms noted that Cortez Cab is starting service. Several possibilities were mentioned to take advantage of this new transit option including for medical transportation (both local and to Durango) and possibly to transport workers to an EPA mine reclamation project north of Dolores.
- Heather Wyatt and Amanda Saunders with 4Core want to be involved because of transit is a part of the Resource and Energy Plan. They are willing to help in a variety of ways including pursuit of joint funding opportunities.
- John Egan will provide more information about Mountain Express during his presentation scheduled for later in the meeting.
- Krystian Boreyko indicated he was pleased that the Council was continuing its discussions and was hopeful for further progress with the addition of John Ehmann as the new staff resource.
- John Ehmann reported about his efforts to date to learn about the Council's past activity and to update the Action Plan and to begin to work on advancing those priorities. These efforts are done in the context of his general administrative duties for the COG and his assistance with certain aspects of the SCAN telecommunication project.
- Several Council members joined the conference call after this section of the meeting and did not make organization updates at this time.

## Reports:

a. **LCC grant:** Laura Lewis Marchino reported that we are seeking clarification about the reporting schedule. The grant gives us some flexibility to fund expenses, including helping folks attend trainings (such as CASTA, SWATA, etc.)

b. **Easter Seals ATCI Phone Conference Update:** John Ehmann reported that he and Laura did the 6 month update about the Council with Krystian. We reviewed the Action Plan, which was updated to reflect current thinking about the implementation timetable. He mentioned focusing on what is feasible and indicated he liked Easter Seals being part of a larger group effort. Krystian noted the Council's extensive contact list as a strength and reinforced his availability to assist as requested. John intends to make use of the resources at the Easter Seals site and the offer of assistance from Krystian. We will schedule another call at 9 months.

c: **Action Plan Update:** John Ehmann indicated that he had updated the action plan (mailed out with the meeting materials) and wanted Council feedback as to whether the changes were acceptable. John Egan suggested that we not rush this or spend a large amount of time on it right now and suggested that Council members

review it and provide any comments at the next meeting. The group agreed. One of the action items is advocacy. It was mentioned that we need to give attention to advocacy for persons needing transit.

d. **Archuleta County / Mountain Express service changes:** John Egan described the service adjustments to be implemented for Mountain Express. The plan was prepared with a consultant's input. Though they weren't acted upon immediately, John brought them back to the Board of Commissioners later and they were approved. The plan involves routing thru checkpoints. A vehicle was obtained. The Archuleta County senior bus service will continue but under the auspices of Mountain Express. John Egan shared a copy of his new bus schedule and asked for comments. John Ehmann wished John Egan well with the changes and looks forward to an update on the implementation in the future. This was scheduled as a presentation to provide an example of implemented change and heightened coordination.

## VI. **Old Business:**

a. **Defensive Driver Training:** John Ehmann spoke with Sue Fletcher and Mary Holaday before the meeting and they indicated the class was held and was well attended. Nita Purkat said she sent several drivers and was pleased the class was held nearby. The Council indicated an interest in scheduling PASS and Defensive Driver Training again later in the year, as part of a regular schedule. John Ehmann will check with CASTA / Durango transit about making such future arrangements. He will also follow-up with Sue Fletcher about trainer costs associated with the Defensive Driver Training.

b. **Google transit information:** Peter Tregillus explained that the transit information project is no longer supported directly by Google but instead is now offered by another company for a substantial fee. It doesn't seem likely that we will pursue it further.

c. **COG website:** [www.swccog.org](http://www.swccog.org) The Council's minutes, meeting notice and upcoming agenda are available there and a regional transit guide will be added in the near future. Any suggestions of other material to add to it would be welcome.

d. **PUC meeting:** Laura and John Egan were in attendance and said the meeting was useful in highlighting community concerns about the availability of transportation options. Senator Ellen Roberts brought in Ron Jacks with the PUC to answer questions about PUC licensing. In rural areas, a private provider can have a monopoly. There are many types of licenses, which were explained. Many questions were answered in regards to geographic coverage and what defined appropriate service. There were other questions about how the rules can be changed and are they still relevant. For example, Durango is a tourist community and having one private provider based on the full-time population doesn't take into account the number of visitors and the full scale of demand. At the time of this meeting there was a private provider in Montezuma county with a PUC license but no service being provided. There was someone interested in providing that service and Cortez Cab was issued an emergency license shortly afterwards.

## VI. New Business

### a. Working together in 2012:

#### i. As a Council

#### ii. Identify your own cooperation / coordination goals and partners

The goal was to identify which action plan items Council members considered priorities and to identify opportunities to pursue cooperation / coordination with specific partners. The Council will re-visit the topic next meeting as part of the discussion of the Action Plan updates.

- b. **Medical transportation survey:** John Ehmann asked for clarification about what information Council members feel they need on the topic. In the discussion several issues were identified including the authorization process for taking clients to a doctor beyond the nearest available one. Nita Purkat will share this information with Betty Bewley. The option of using a broker was mentioned. Transit training is an important aspect of medical transportation.
- c. **Get ready for next round of grant opportunities:** John Ehmann noted that grant season was approaching and asked members to let us know about their grant plans, questions and any interest in collaboration. He is happy to provide letters of support and provided one to Martha Mason in support of the Southwest Center for Independence's grant application the National Center on Senior Transportation.
- d. **Contact list update and outreach:** The group was asked to share any changes in contact information or help identify any other organizations that should be contacted and included on the Council's materials distribution list. John Ehmann mentioned that he was engaged in phone and email outreach to agencies already involved as well others not yet actively involved, including the Salvation Army, the Tribes and veteran representatives.
- e. **Regional Transit brochure:** A Regional Transit brochure is planned to go on the net and in hard copy. The plan is to prepare a basic version including a brief description of available service and phone and internet contact information. Once the basic version is completed then the goal will be to enhance it with further detail and perhaps graphic design. The online and hard copy brochures will be reviewed by the Council. Heather and Amanda from 4Core expressed willingness to host the same information or more detail on the 4Core website as well. Organizations will be encouraged to link to this information and / or directly link to other transit providers relevant to their clients.
- f. **Next meeting agenda and time:** The group will look to meet again in March. A doodle calendar survey will be distributed later to help finalize a time.
- g. **Updates to SWCCOG & TPR:** The Transit Coordinating Council shares its minutes with the COG and TPR. It can also make a written report or request the opportunity to make a presentation if it feels there is a reason to, such as

before funding applications. The Council will re-visit the option of whether to make any such a request later this spring or summer.

#### **VII . Announcements.**

- Bicycling grant and bicycling facility design training opportunities were briefly mentioned.
- Laura Lewis Marchino explained that the Coordinating Council would be able to offer mileage reimbursements for those attending from outside Durango if they were not being reimbursed by their own organization. Reimbursement requests were distributed as requested.

**VIII. Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 am.

Minutes submitted by John Ehmann