

Southwest Colorado Transit Coordinating Council

Meeting Summary

August 15, 2011, 9:00 am to 10:30am

Phone conference

Attendees, Laura Lewis Marchino (Region 9), Amber Blake (Durango Transit), Peter Tregillus (Roadrunner Transit), Becky Levy (Town of Mancos), Jason Armstrong (Community Connections), Martha Mason (Southwest Center for Independence), Karen Srebacic (Mountainside Concierge) Lorrie Smith (Ute Mountain Ute), Rik Opstelten (Easter Seals), Heather Wyatt (4-CORE), Nita Purkat (Dolores Senior Services) and John Egan (Archuleta County)

Jason Armstrong facilitated the meeting.

III. Review of June 27th meeting

The meeting summary was distributed to the group via email. John Egan made the motion and Amber seconded to approve the minutes. They were approved with all in favor.

IV. Organization Updates

Karen:

- Purchased a bigger vehicle that seats 7. Provides private transit services and is located in Silverton.
- Playing phone tag with Mercy Urgent care and Durango Mountain Resort.

Martha:

- Extremely busy.
- Having trouble helping clients with medical versus non medical transit and what is out there. Would like more information from providers.
- Also curious what folks know about Animas Transportation.

Peter:

- Has had a lot of driver turnover and not able to send people to the PASS training. Hard to keep substitute drivers.
- Working to complete a bus and radio purchase. He discussed the importance of being compatible with Durango T and possible future dispatch sharing.

Lorrie:

- In charge of 350 vehicles in Ute Mountain Ute fleet which provides broad transit service including 3 trips a day into Cortez, doctor appointments etc.
- They also travel to White Mesa, UT.
- Currently only serving tribal members but looking to expand.
- Also looking to combine their internal transit scheduling with other departments.
- Here to learn about what everyone else is doing and how can partner. Interested in talking with the different agencies.
- Tribal Council requested that she department become more involved in the Transit Council.

Amber:

- Talked about their fixed route and demand response services including opportunity bus and senior services.

- At capacity with two of their routes, up 30% on the trolley and up 16-20% on other routes.
- Applied for 8 different projects through 5309 discretionary funds, which include bus replacements, ADA, connectivity for pedestrians etc.
- Hope to purchase a lift.
- Would like to get more providers coming through the Transit center but understands that is hard for medical trips.
- Currently Durango Mountain Resort and Roadrunner utilize the Center.
- Will be losing Greyhound at the Transit center. They say the majority of riders are through riders and not in-state.

Rik:

- Announced a Sept. 27th webinar on strategies to keep motivated after Easter Seals ACTION training. More details will be distributed soon.

John:

- There is a need to get people from Archuleta to Durango and wondered if the Ute Mountain Ute services might be able to help and thought it was something to explore. He will follow up with Lorrie and was interested in being part of her meeting with Peter.
- Thanked Kent and Justin with Durango T for the great PASS training. Said he learned a lot.
- Archuleta is seeing a cutback in service due to fuel funding and trying to balance revenues.
- He was hoping to go to demand response but that is put on hold until at least the first of the year.
- Still looking at combining with senior transit and Dept. of Human Services...wrapping everyone into one transit program.
- Working on budgets.

Jason:

- Having trouble providing non-medical transportation.
- They pay a mileage stipend for staff that take clients to appointments and the like, but they are seeking additional resources as they are struggling to have funding for staff reimbursement.
- Peter and Jason discussed having clients use the Roadrunner. Jason said they are looking at doing some companion rides to get clients comfortable.
- Peter discussed New Freedom and that they can take folks door to door, senior lunches etc.
- Community Connections has a new director, Julie Dreyfuss who has approached La Plata County about assisting staff with transportation costs.
- Work with Montezuma transit but they can't fill the need. They need to get folks into Cortez for day services and need transport from the Mancos and Cortez nursing homes. Currently using private vehicles, or the one vehicle they have in Cortez, which restricts its availability.

Becky:

- Just listening to learn more and represent Mancos.

Heather:

- Works with Four Corners Office of Resource Efficiency (4-CORE) which in their Resource & Energy Action Plan (REAP) five county plan includes some deliverables on transit.
- Received a Climate Showcase grant.
- Very interested in whether there is a single contact point for transit.

V. Reports

a. Driver Trainings – Thirteen people attended the PASS training held last week. John said it was great and done with a power point and clicker voting system. Another training will be held in October, and Amber said to look at the CASTA announcements for more specifics. CASTA is willing to bring in a trainer if we have 15 people interested in a defensive driving class. From the group attendees it looked like seven attendees thus far. Please let Laura know if you are interested. They are also willing to train someone local. John Egan was interested in doing that. Laura will forward his name and get more specifics.

b. 211 Forms – Six providers submitted 211 forms on their Transit agencies. These will be put on the SW Connect website for resource and the 211 phone system in Grand Junction that serves our area. Laura said to contact her if you would like the forms or any additional information. She didn't want to keep pestering folks.

c. LCC Grant Application – CDOT has awarded the Regional Coordinating Council year 2 funds. Laura is waiting to get the actual scope of work and details. The grant will have some funding for travel and phone conferencing. This grant will be under the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments and they are planning to seek another AmeriCorps member through Region 9 and SUCAP.

d. Easter Seals ATCI

Survey – Lee Hager with SW Center for Independence has a draft survey. It will be distributed for comments, once additional information is added. Peter will provide a potential contact and Laura will follow up with Easter Seals

Talking Points – There were no changes to the proposed talking points resulting from the Easter Seals training.

Committee Update – There has been no action to date, but committee meeting on medical transit will follow the general meeting.

Website –The SWCCOG will have a transit page on their site.

VI. New Business

a. RideShare—An overview of the Ride Share program was given and request for potential host organizations. There was a lot of discussion and recognition of the importance. Heather was interested in taking the idea back to her office for input.

b. Google Transit – Peter was part of a pilot study to establish Google maps for transit routes in the State. The group was interested in learning more about doing something similar and the amount of data entry. Peter said it is for fixed route service and would need to be updated as routes change. Durango T is using the system and could provide more information too. Heather asked if an intern could enter data.

VII. Action

a. Easter Seals & RCC Action Plan – The final Action Plan was distributed for review. It includes the Easter Seals Accessible Transportation Plan and goals of the Regional Transit Coordinating Council. The group made a few edits but thought it was good.

b. Meeting Schedule -- **The next meeting proposed date will be in October, possibly before a SWCCOG meeting where the group can provide an update. Looking at Nov. 4 or Oct. 7th. Laura will let the group know.**

Peter encouraged everyone to sign up for the CASTA conference in Steamboat and for those interested, to go to the La Plata County website and look at the La Plata Comprehensive Plan chapter on transportation to see if you agree with the changes.

Jason asked if anyone would be willing to lead the next meeting. The idea is to rotate the person to lead the meeting and keep us on track. Peter volunteered.

VIII. Other

Joint Funding Opportunities – Jason asked the group if they were interested in joint funding opportunities. Peter mentioned looking at what projects are in the current State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and what might need to be added. This will be on the next agenda.

Committee meeting regarding medical transportation

Several folks remained on the phone and discussed moving forward with improving medical transportation. The survey was discussed and whether it needs to focus on transit providers and agencies. Suggestions included: San Juan Basin Health, Access health, churches, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, transit providers, schedulers in the doctor offices, senior centers, and human services. The draft survey will be sent out for review. Shelia Casey with La Plata Senior Services was suggested as well. Laura, Becky and Heather agreed to review the survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Minutes submitted by Laura Lewis Marchino