

# Southwest Colorado Transit Coordinating Council

## Meeting Summary

Oct. 21, 2011, 9:30 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), Rik Opstelten (Easter Seals), Heather Wyatt (4-CORE), Mitchell Toms (Montezuma Community Economic Development Assoc.), Betty Bewley (La Plata County Human Services), Mark Sprick (CDOT), and John Egan (Archuleta County). My apologies if you were inadvertently missed.*

**Peter Tregillus facilitated the meeting.**

### **III. Review of August 15th meeting**

The meeting summary was distributed to the group via email. There were no changes to the agenda.

### **IV. Organization Updates**

Amber:

- Durango will be receiving 5309 funds (state of good repair) totaling \$200K for an accessibility project connecting two neighborhoods to Brookside Park.
- Seen ½ million riders for the year.
- Running at capacity with the Trolley and need to look at funding an additional trolley or leaving folks behind.
- Receiving 5316 money to hire a multi-modal manager in January
- Received 5310 funds for two buses and also looking at FASTER money for this year and submitting an additional application.
- Currently undergoing a multi-modal planning process and hiring a consultant.
- Can go on their website and join their Momentum e-newsletter.

John:

- Archuleta County is applying for FASTER money for two new vehicles.
- John says they hope to have their new demand response program in place in the New Year to be more efficient, and hopefully cheaper.
- Suggested Durango T have a “familiar tour” for students who might use public transportation. Amber replied that once the mobility manager is in place, they will focus on youth training. She mentioned youth from Animas High have been disrespectful to drivers.

Laura:

- Region 9 has updated economic and demographic data on their website [www.scan.org](http://www.scan.org). Included are income levels, job sectors and even a section on transportation.

Jason:

- Community Connections is scaling back efforts due to funding cuts.
- Received a \$50K grant from CDOT for a new bus to use in Cortez.
- They are looking to contract with grant writers and asked that to forward anyone you might know about. Laura has a person that she will forward.
- Laura recommended Jason look at the FASTER funding.

Heather:

- 4-CORE is always willing to partner on grants and can forward grants that they hear of to appropriate groups.
- Waiting for more information from the Governor's Energy Office on what they are expecting in the future.

Betty:

- La Plata Human Services is now utilizing Animas Transportation for 30-40 Medi caid clients. They are happy with the services. The price is comparable to Durango Transportation, but they do not charge a wait time for appointments.
- Peter mentioned that the Roadrunner can provide services in the Ignacio area. He will send New Freedom brochures to Betty.
- There was discussion about seeing the senior buses going outside the Durango City limits. Betty recommended talking with Sheila Casey as she would love alternatives to help her budget. There was discussion that Sheila had been contacted to involve in this effort.

Peter:

- The Aztec run has been going on for a couple of months and they are looking to expand.
- Looking at a 5309 allocation and some FASTER funds in 2013.
- Hearing that transit will see a 30% reduction in federal funding.

Mark:

- Serves as the "customer service representative for Regions 2 and 5. He encouraged anyone needing information or the "right person to talk to" to contact him.
- He is in the new CDOT Transit and Rail Division and is a grant generalist to the region rather than just working on a certain grant type.
- He asked if the group had any questions about the FASTER funding applications that are due at the end of the month. There is both regional and state-wide money available.

## V. Reports

**a. LCC Application** – The scope of work was emailed to the Transit participants. It has been approved and we are now just waiting for the contract from CDOT. The AmeriCorps member will be taking a lead with this scope of work.

**b. Easter Seals Phone Conference** – A three month check-in with Easter Seals occurred in September to report on progress. They liked the combined action plan, and the collaborative regional driver trainings. We discussed that Conor leaving has put the efforts behind schedule and that we were seeking a new AmeriCorps member. We also have begun seeking survey samples from area groups to address medical transportation. Most are broader ridership surveys.

**c. SUCAP awarded Small Transit System of the year – Kudos** to Peter and everyone at Roadrunner for the recognition. Peter joked that it was a survival award.

## VI. Old Business

**a. Driver Training**—Another PASS training was held October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Amber will find out from Kent Harris about how many attended. She heard it was full, and that it went well. Laura will follow up with Colorado Association of State Transit Agencies (CASTA) about the defensive driving class. They said they could bring in a trainer if we had about 15 people. That was right before the CASTA conference, so it may have gotten overlooked.

**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 will send links to the group and send out more information.

**c. Website** – The SWCCOG website is up and running and there is a transit page on it at [www.swccog.org](http://www.swccog.org). Laura asked for everyone to look at the page and see what other information they might like included to be usefull. Minutes and the transit action plan have been uploaded to the site.

## **VII. New Business**

**a. AmeriCorps** – Three AmeriCorps candidates were interviewed after a review of applications. An offer has been made to one who happens to have transit experience. We should know next week.

**b. PUC meeting** – State Senator Ellen Roberts has helped to organize a meeting with the Public Utilities Commission. Ron Jack and another member will be in Durango on October 27<sup>th</sup> to talk about private transit provider licensing and regulations. Both La Plata and Montezuma County are having problems with having a sole PUC licensee and want more information. The meeting will be from 8:30am to 10:30am at the Durango Recreation Center. All interested persons are welcome.

**c. Meeting schedule** – The group thought the week of December 12<sup>th</sup> would be best for a next meeting. John Egan agreed to facilitate. Laura will send out dates and ask for preferences.

**d. Draft survey** -- As requested at the last meeting, Laura has been outreaching other transit agencies and getting copies of different rider surveys. Easter Seals has been helpful as well. Working to combine these surveys will be done once the AmeriCorps person is on-board but if anyone is interested in taking a lead, please let Laura know. Betty said that transit to Medicaid dental appointments is a huge need. There are no providers in La Plata County.

**e. SW Colorado Council of Governments** – With the LCC grant now under the SWCCOG, and the SWCCOG listing transportation as a priority, Laura asked if the group would like to provide an update of what they are working on to the SWCCOG. The group thought it was a good idea but no decision was made. Presenting in December is an option.

### **Other**

**FASTER applications** – Peter referred the group to the information email regarding FASTER. Laura read from the guidelines that includes both public and private transit providers. It also includes enhancement type and capital projects. Peter mentioned that this match can be leveraged with federal dollars too.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36am.  
Minutes submitted by Laura Lewis Marchino