



# SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

## Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

20581 US 160 W, Durango

- I. Introductions 9:00 a.m.
- II. Consent Agenda: 9:05 a.m.
  - 1. April 2019 Meeting Minutes
  - 2. Financial Report: January 2019 – April 2019 – Sara Trujillo
  - 3. Ratification of letter of support for US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project in Southwest Colorado
  - 4. Ratification of letter of support for US 550 Red Mountain Pass Access Improvement Project
  - 5. Ratification of letter of support for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area
  - 6. Ratification of letter of support for Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project
- III. CDOT Reports 9:10 a.m.
  - 1. Executive Director's goals for the Department of Transportation – Director Lew
  - 2. Completed Projects between the 2040 and 2045 RTPs - Julie Constan
  - 3. 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Development - Rebecca White
  - 4. Construction Update – Kevin Curry
- IV. Reports 11:30 a.m.
  - 1. April and May 2019 STAC Update – Amber Blake (pending available time)
  - 2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Sidney Zink (pending available time)
- V. Other Business 11:30 a.m.
  - 1. Transit Provider Updates (pending available time)
  - 2. Community Updates – Round Robin (pending available time)
- VI. Adjourn

Next meeting date: Thursday, August 8, 2019

Video/Phone Conference Info:

<https://zoom.us/j/109670693>

1-646-558-8656 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 109 670 693

PO Box 963, Durango, CO 81302  
970.779.4592  
[www.swccog.org](http://www.swccog.org)

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation  
Planning Commission  
Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.  
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO**

TPR Members in Attendance:

David Schanzenbaker – Town of Pagosa Springs  
Amber Blake – City of Durango  
Jim Candelaria – Montezuma County  
Doug McDonald - Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Ronnie Maez – Archuleta County (by phone)  
Clyde Church - La Plata County (by phone)  
Myron Baker – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (by phone)  
Phil Johnson - City of Cortez (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

Scott Wall – Archuleta County (by phone)  
Neala Krueger – New Mexico Department of Transportation (by phone)  
Andrew Montoya – Red Apple Transit (by phone)  
Meredith Greene – Nelson/Nygaard Consulting (by phone)  
Tom Taylor – Four Corners Economic Development  
Bill Frownfelter - Russell Engineering  
Sarah Dodson – City of Durango  
Matt Nesbitt – Southern Colorado Community Action Agency  
Debbie Condrey – Archuleta County  
Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner  
Shoshana Lew - Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)  
Rebecca White – Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)  
Carrie Tremblatt - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Michael King – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Julie Constan – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Mike McVaugh – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Tony Cady - Colorado Department of Transportation  
TJ Burr – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
Martina Pansze - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**I. Introductions**

**II. Remarks from CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew**

CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew and Rebecca White presented an overview of CDOT's upcoming planning and prioritization activities. Amber asked how the longer-term planning

would be addressed and if the multi-modal and other distinct plans would be undertaken during this process. Mike replied that the other distinct plans would be integrated in the larger plan. Director Lew added that the long-term plan will also be completed, although that would not be the primary focus. There was discussion about how to address needs versus eligible funding sources. There was discussion about the planned outreach throughout the state to obtain input on needs. Mike asked that input be sent to Jessica to forward to CDOT staff. There was discussion about ensuring the right projects are prioritized.

### **III. February 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**David Black motioned to approve the February 2019 meeting minutes, Ronnie Maez seconded, unanimously approved.**

#### **Financial Report: July 2018 - February 2019 – Sara Trujillo**

**Jim Candelaria motioned to approve the July 2018 – February 2019 Financial Report, David Black seconded, unanimously approved.**

### **IV. Reports**

#### **1. February and March 2019 STAC Update – Amber Blake**

Amber asked if the summaries are useful, the consensus was that they are useful. She added that she will also send out the presentations from the March meeting, the primary topic was the planning reset covered by Director Lew's presentation.

#### **2. Update on SB 1 Multimodal Options Fund Subcommittee – Amber Blake**

The subcommittee has met twice and will be making a recommendation to the Transportation Commission. The initial agreement is a 5% set aside for administration, they are looking at potential formulas to make distribution as equitable as possible. She assured the group that there is vocal representation from a couple rural areas. Mike asked if they have discussed hubs. Amber replied that this has not been addressed. Michael added that the intent is to address this later in the process. There was discussion about the importance of looking at the integration of state and local connections and projects.

#### **3. Transportation Commissioner Report – Sidny Zink**

Sidny mentioned that it has been an adjustment with the new Governor, Executive Director and various department heads. She mentioned proposed bills HB 1257 and HB 1258 to allow the state to keep funds in excess of the labor limit for education and transportation, although it is not necessarily expected to pass.

#### **4. SWCCOG Four Corners Coordinated Transit Plan – Meredith Greene**

Meredith presented an overview of the Coordinated Transit Plan. Debbie asked about liability with volunteer drivers. There was discussion about how to limit liability with volunteer drivers, such as having a private organization run the program, recognizing that municipal and grant funded programs would have liability issues.

#### **5. SWCCOG Cortez/Durango Transit Service Report (written report)**

## **V. CDOT Reports:**

### **1. Construction Update – Kevin Curry**

- SH 151 Priority Culvert – Replaced two failing culverts.
- US 160 Wolf Creek Pass Phase 1 Signs – Waiting for electrical connection.
- Region Wide Chain Stations – Expected summer, 2019.
- Durango Signal Replacement US 550 - 32nd, 22nd, & 17th – Carry over from 2018, scheduled to be complete by Memorial Day.
- Guardrail Replacement / Upgrades West – West of Wolf Creek Pass, ongoing.
- US 550/160 Pedestrian Sidewalk Ramps – Scheduled to be complete by end of May.
- US 160/550 Durango Signal Ops – Ongoing.
- US 491 and CR S/CR BB Intersection – Work has begun, expected to be completed in the fall.
- US 160 Mesa Verde Chipseal – Awarded, expected to begin next month.
- Region 5 Chain Station Improvements – Various locations, expected to begin work in September.
- US 160 Passing Lanes North of Towaoc – Includes TIGER grant, expected to begin within two weeks.
- US 160 Pagosa Signals Pinon Hot Springs Lewis – Expect to go to ad in June.
- Tape & Pavement Markings – Expect to go to ad in July.
- Bridge Preventative Maintenance – Includes several locations.
- US 491 Ute Farms Ditch – Working with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.
- US 160 Rest Area Improvements – Expected to begin in the summer pending resolution of issues with the BLM.
- US 160 Priority Culvert – Includes four culverts scheduled to go to ad later in the month.
- US 550/160 Connection South Design – Working on negotiations on right of way.
- US 550 Wall Failures – Scheduled for completion in 2020.
- US 160 San Juan River Bridge Scour – Located at four corners.
- Working on avalanche control on Wolf Creek Pass.

There was discussion about the impacts from the heavy winter.

### **2. Funding Opportunities - Matt Muraro**

Matt reported that a notice of funding opportunity was issued for 2020 rural and small urban funds for mobility management projects, the deadline is May 13. He reported that there is also a call from the Federal Lands Access Program for facilities adjacent to federal lands, particularly federal recreation sites. Mike and Julie reported that CDOT received a grant for freight related projects.

## **IV. Discussion Items:**

### **1. Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs Resolutions expressing support for the McCabe Creek Culvert Project**

Jessica explained that Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs had submitted resolutions regarding McCabe Creek. Mike explained that CDOT is short approximately \$5 million for the project, however it is a high priority for when funding can be identified. He explained some of the challenges and continuing discussions related to the project. Ronnie asked about the priority of

this project. Mike replied that it is identified as a priority on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. There was discussion about possible funding sources that could be used.

## **VI. Other Business**

### **1. Transit Provider Updates**

Debbie reported that Archuleta County has doubled their senior ridership.

Matt reported that Road Runner is looking at schedules and funding and still dealing with snow.

Sarah reported that the City of Durango is renewing their annual contract with Road Runner. In March served more trolley rides than ever for the same period. They will be purchasing five replacement vehicles.

TJ Burr introduced himself.

Carrie Tremblatt introduced herself, she will be new Region 5 liaison.

### **2. Community Updates – Round Robin**

Ronnie introduced the new Archuleta County Manager, Scott Wall. They are working on the jail.

## **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 13, 2019.

# SWTPR Financials as of 5/31/2019

To: SWTPR Board of Directors  
From: Sara Trujillo  
Date: 10 June 2019

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Comments: Please see the attached P&L.

The TPR grant runs on a state fiscal year July 1 to June 30. The attached P&L is dated 7/1/2018 to 2/28/2019 to show 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. A reimbursement request for January - March 2019 will be submitted April 2019; therefore, that reimbursement income will show in later financials.

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## Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

## Profit &amp; Loss

06/10/19

July 2018 through May 2019

Accrual Basis

	<u>Jul '18 - May 19</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
CDOT Grants	
SWTPR Grant	15,194.04
Total CDOT Grants	<u>15,194.04</u>
Total Income	<u>15,194.04</u>
Gross Profit	15,194.04
Expense	
Conference Fee	1,015.40
Information Technology (IT)	
Software	179.33
Total Information Technology (IT)	179.33
Internet Connectivity	
Internet Connection (AT&T)	47.69
Total Internet Connectivity	47.69
Office Supplies	46.05
Professional Development	597.70
Professional Fees	
Audit	381.25
Legal	14.40
Total Professional Fees	395.65
Rent	332.82
Salary and Wages	6,735.04
Travel	6,330.51
Total Expense	<u>15,680.19</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-486.15</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-486.15</u></u>

# Memo – Letter of Support

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region  
From: Jessica Laitsch  
Date: 10 June, 2019

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Comments: The SWTPR was asked to send a letter of support for a US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project. The letter was sent on 3 June, 2019 and the SWTPR is being asked to ratify it. The letter is attached.

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## SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

13 June, 2019

Attn: Honorable Chairman Christine Sage  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
356 Ouray Drive  
P.O. Box 737  
Ignacio, CO 81137

RE: Support for the US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project in Southwest Colorado

Dear Honorable Chairman Christine Sage,

On behalf of the Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR), I am pleased to write this letter of support for the US Highway 160 (US 160) Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project. The three primary economic sectors in the region; agriculture, energy development, and tourism, rely heavily on an efficient and well-connected transportation system. US 160 is an important route as it is the only east-west highway in southern Colorado. It is a corridor that connects 305 miles of southern Colorado from east to west, with Interstate 25 to the east and Interstate 40 to the west, via US 89 in Arizona. Travelers to and from Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado rely on this highway to access southern Colorado and the Four Corners region. There are no other paved roads which are viable, alternative detour routes due to the remote location and mountainous topography, therefore the resiliency of the overall highway system is dependent on this corridor.

For these reasons, the SWTPR has designated US 160 as a Regional Priority Corridor in the most recent 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. US 160 is also a designated Colorado State Highway Freight Corridor and a Hazmat Route due to its importance in regional commerce. This project has been planned and prioritized by the SWTPR, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Colorado Transportation Commission to maintain this corridor in a state of good repair.

The US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project is important to the region because US 160 directly bisects a critical migratory pathway for both deer and elk, creating a considerable concern for both the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The corridor has a significant and consistent crash pattern of wild animal collisions, representing 62.2% of all crashes. As well as being an important resource to the state of Colorado, mule deer and elk are both culturally and socially important to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

This project was developed in partnership with the SUIT and CPW to mitigate both the critical safety concern, and to allow for highway permeability and habitat connectivity. The proposed project improvements will address geometric and operational deficiencies of the roadway, while also prioritizing highway permeability for wildlife. Highway permeability will be addressed with a combination of mitigation measures including wildlife fencing, overpass and underpasses. Well-placed, context-

sensitive wildlife mitigation measures are proven highly effective at both reducing wildlife vehicle crashes and fostering healthy wildlife populations. Recent projects in the region that implemented similar measures have seen a 70-80% decrease in wildlife crashes. This project will not only increase motorist's safety by reducing the number of wildlife vehicle collisions and enhance habitat connectivity for declining mule deer and elk populations in Southwest Colorado, it will improve regional mobility by enhancing a passing lane.

In summary, the SWTPR fully supports this BUILD Grant application to improve the Tribal and regional economy, mobility, safety, and overall community in Southwest Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Blake', written in a cursive style.

Amber Blake  
Southwest Transportation Planning Region Chair

# Memo – Letter of Support

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region  
From: Jessica Laitsch  
Date: 10 June, 2019

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Comments: The SWTPR was asked to send a letter of support for a US 550 Red Mountain Pass Access Improvement Project. The letter was sent on 3 June, 2019 and the SWTPR is being asked to ratify it. The letter is attached.

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## SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

5 June, 2019

Mike McVaugh  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
Region 5, Regional Transportation Director  
3803 N. Main Avenue  
Suite 306  
Durango, CO 81301

RE: Support for the US 550 Red Mountain Pass Access Improvement Project

Dear Mr. McVaugh,

The Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) strongly endorses the US 550 Red Mountain Pass Access Improvement Project for the Federal Lands Access Program. This segment of US 550 is identified in both the Southwest Regional Transportation Plan and the Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Plan as a Regional Priority Corridor.

US 550 is the transportation backbone for north-south travel in western Colorado and provides access to numerous federal recreational lands. Recreation and outdoor activities are a key component of the area's economy and lifestyle. In La Plata County alone, 18% of jobs are part of the tourism industry with an estimated 5,918 jobs attributed to tourism, which is estimated to produce \$165,552,000 in total job income for the tourism industry in the County.

Safety improvements are needed on this narrow two lane highway with minimal to no shoulders. Project improvements consist of work to improve recreational access to USFS lands surrounding Red Mountain Pass off of US Highway 550. The scope of work includes safety and mobility improvements through rockfall mitigation and cribwall replacements. Trailhead parking areas will also be improved along with the installation of road closure gates which are used during avalanche mitigation work. This project will involve partnerships with San Juan and Ouray Counties with support from San Juan and Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

In summary, the SWTPR fully supports this project as it will improve the regional economy, mobility, safety, and overall community in southwest Colorado.

Sincerely,

Amber Blake  
Southwest Transportation Planning Region Chair

# Memo – Letter of Support

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region  
From: Jessica Laitsch  
Date: 10 June, 2019

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Comments: The City of Durango requested the SWTPR to send a letter of support for a Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area Project. The Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area Project consists of safety and mobility improvements for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians including roadway and parking mobility improvements as well as a pedestrian trail. Below are some specific details:

- Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area opened to the public in 2018 and the initial year of recreation brought 48,078 visitors to the region
- Picnic areas and a swim beach are being added and by 2021, the estimated number of visitors will increase by 100,000 people
- The project scope includes pulverizing the existing road base material, increasing the road base material profile to 12", install geofabric and 4" of asphalt on a .8 mile long 24' wide Park roadway and adjacent overflow parking lot. The increased base profile is to alleviate expansive soils. A crusher fines separated path that connects lake amenities to the public road right-of-way and entry station is also proposed.
- The total estimated project cost is \$4,650,000.

The letter was sent on 3 June, 2019 and the SWTPR is being asked to ratify it. The letter is attached.

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## SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

5 June, 2019

Colorado FLAP Programming Decision Committee  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Ste 380B  
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Support for Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area

Dear Members of the Colorado FLAP Programming Decision Committee,

The Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) supports the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area Project for the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program.

The Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area is located 1.5 miles from downtown Durango. The recreation area opened to the public in 2018 as part of the newest reservoir in the State of Colorado. A 2010 Report on the Economic Impact of Recreation Use determined that at full build-out Lake Nighthorse would stimulate a total of \$12,718,000 annually in total economic output in La Plata County, with an estimated increase of 100,000 visitors per year.

The Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area Project consists of safety and mobility improvements for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians including roadway and parking mobility improvements as well as a pedestrian trail. Improving the safety and accessibility of recreation areas is critically important for the region's residents and visitors.

Due to the anticipated economic benefits and the necessary safety and mobility improvements, the SWTPR supports the Lake Nighthorse Recreation Area Project.

Sincerely,

Amber Blake  
Southwest Transportation Planning Region Chair

# Memo – Letter of Support

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region  
From: Jessica Laitsch  
Date: 10 June, 2019

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Comments: La Plata County requested the SWTPR to send a letter of support for a Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project. The Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project consists of road and trail improvements near Vallecito Lake. Below are some specific details:

- Double pin chip seal, guardrail, and drainage improvements to 2.1 miles of County Road 501 from end of pavement to Elk Point
- Site improvements including paving for various recreation access areas, Sawmill Point, Angler's Wharf, Nature Education Center
- Improved walking trails
- Rebuild of slumping areas of County Road 501 on west side of lake
- Wayfinding pavilion / RV turnabout below the Dam
- The estimated project cost is \$2,500,000 with a local match of in-kind services not to exceed \$450,000
- Working with representatives from the USDA Forest Service San Juan National Forest, Bureau of Reclamation, Pine River Irrigation District (PRID), and the Vallecito Lake Chamber of Commerce to develop a grant application that will help fulfill a distinct need in the Vallecito Lake area

The letter was sent on 5 June, 2019 and the SWTPR is being asked to ratify it. The letter is attached.

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## SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

5 June, 2019

Colorado FLAP Programming Decision Committee  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Ste 380B  
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Support for Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project

Dear Members of the Colorado FLAP Programming Decision Committee,

The Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) supports the Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project for the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program.

Vallecito Lake is located in La Plata County, approximately 18 miles from downtown Durango. The area boasts many recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, boating, snowmobiling, ATV riding, horseback riding and access to the Weminuche Wilderness. The Vallecito Dam was completed in 1941 and the area has been heavily reliant on recreation and tourism since that time. However, the Vallecito Lake region has not fully recovered from the 2002 Missionary Ridge Fire and many lodging operations of the 1980s and 90s are no longer renting to vacationers. This grant opportunity has the potential to help enhance the vitality of the Vallecito Lake community and improve safe access to a large area of federal lands.

The Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project includes double pin chip seal, guardrail, and drainage improvements to 2.1 miles of County Road 501 from end of pavement to Elk Point, site improvements including paving for various recreation access areas: Sawmill Point, Angler's Wharf and the Nature Education Center. Also included in the project are improved walking trails, the rebuild of slumping areas of County Road 501 on west side of lake and a wayfinding pavilion and RV turnabout below the Dam. These projects were identified to enhance and encourage access to Federal Lands including into the Weminuche Wilderness Area, Middle Mountain including a large number of specific trails designated for all terrain vehicle (ATV) travel, Vallecito Creek Trail and other popular access points.

Due to the anticipated economic benefits and the essential safety improvements, the SWTPR supports the Vallecito Lake Recreational District Project.

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson  
Southwest Transportation Planning Region Vice Chair