



SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango

- I. Introductions 9:00 a.m.
- II. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- III. Reports 9:05 a.m.
 - 1. April and May 2017 STAC Updates - Bentley Henderson
 - 2. Transportation Commissioner Report - Sidney Zink
- IV. CDOT Reports 9:30 a.m.
 - 1. Construction Update - Ed Archuleta
 - 2. Transportation Planning Toolkit Introduction – Mike King
 - 3. Update regarding Rest Area Policy Webinar – Mike King
- V. Other Business 11:00 a.m.
 - 1. Transit Provider Updates
 - 2. Legislation Updates
 - 3. Community Updates – Round Robin (pending available time)
- VI. Adjourn

Next meeting date: Thursday, August 3, 2017

Video/Phone Conference Info:

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

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

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation
Planning Commission
Thursday, April 6, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.
Durango Recreation Center, 2700 Main Ave., Durango**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Phil Johnson – City of Cortez
Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs
Keenan Ertel – Montezuma County
Brad Blake – La Plata County
Bentley Henderson – Archuleta County
Amber Blake – City of Durango
Phillip Pappas - Town of Bayfield
Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos

Others in Attendance:

Raymond Mumford
Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner
Greg Stacy - Colorado Department of Transportation
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation
Mike McVaugh - Colorado Department of Transportation
Matt Muraro – Colorado Department of Transportation
Mike King - Colorado Department of Transportation
Matt Nesbitt – Southern Ute Community Action Programs
Dennis Wegienek – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. Accept Minutes: February 2017

Keenan Ertel motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Phil Johnson seconded, unanimously approved.

Accept Financial Report: February – March 2017

Amber Blake motioned to accept the financial report as presented, Keenan Ertel seconded, unanimously approved.

III. Reports

1. February and March 2017 STAC Updates - Bentley Henderson

- There was a decision regarding the I-70 project and they anticipate to have developer selection in the summer of 2017.

- There was a budget update regarding the Transportation Commission's contingency reserve fund, the Commission authorized the use of \$20 million of these funds for project design, asset management, maintenance/resurfacing and the Road X project
- Bentley summarized a couple of freight related projects in the region. Mike McVaugh added that the Freight Advisory Committee was looking at different ways to prioritize freight projects, so Region 5 worked to ensure they had at least one project that would meet each of the criteria. The result was that two projects in the region will be recommended to the Transportation Commission. Greg Schulte asked what safety improvements they would make to the west side of Wolf Creek Pass. Mike replied that he would have staff send a summary of the improvements.
- There was a presentation on the Traffic Incident Management Program. There was discussion about various incidents and related to incidents on state highways.
- There were updates on the proposed federal budget and potential impacts that may result.
- There was discussion about HB 17-1242.
- There was a presentation on the bicycle and pedestrian programs. Additionally, CDOT has purchased a program that people use to track usage on trails so they can get better data on usage.

2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Sidney Zink

- Sidney mentioned that she was in Washington D.C. to speak with a number of state representatives and both senators. There was discussion on the proposed infrastructure funding.
- The Commission has had a number of workshops on FTA 5311 funding.
- There has been extensive discussion on HB 1242.
- The proposed bill to increase fines for texting while driving seems to be gaining traction.
- The Commission approved additional snow and ice funding for Region 5. Mike McVaugh added that expenditures were higher than expected because early in the year Region 5 received between 150-220% of average snowfall.
- She summarized that HB 1242 would add significant funding for transportation, however it would mean that most SB 228 and FASTER funding would immediately go away which could significantly impact currently planned projects. Mike elaborated how this could potentially impact rural regions. He distributed a summary of funding under the bill. Amber described the anticipated impact to local communities. She added that there is not sufficient staff at the Division of Transit and Rail to distribute the multimodal funding. Mike added that there have been discussions about including fiber expansion as an element of multimodal. There was discussion about the TPR sending a letter addressing these issues.

Greg motioned to direct staff to craft a letter to representatives and Senate Transportation Committee outlining our concerns about the reduction of the FASTER funding, and that we need to include projects that are identified for the SWTPR and suggest that they consider a different implementation schedule in addition to the fact that we believe increasing broadband access

should be considered as multimodal. Amber suggested including the administration of the multimodal options account in the same fashion as the local HUTF distribution. Greg accepted the amended motion. Amber seconded. Unanimously approved.

III. CDOT Reports:

1. Construction Update - Tony Cady

- US 550/160 PCCP Diamond Grinding Phase I – The project is going well, this has been integrated with Durango’s ADA project.
- SH 145 MP 76.05 Wall Failure – Preparing to begin work.
- Chipseal SH 145 – This will extend the usable life.
- US 491 Cortez to MCR 30 (CR M) – The larger project has been designed all the way from Cortez to Cahone, and they are working on sections piece by piece. Construction will begin in May.
- SH 41 Surface Treatment US 160 to Utah – This is a double chip project, they are preparing to begin work.
- US 550 Cribwall Repair MP 68.7 and 68.76 – The failing walls will be replaced with updated, similar walls.
- US 160 Wolf Creek Fiber Optic RAMP 16 – This will establish fiber from the tunnel to Southfork. Mike added that the State is putting in fiber from Denver to Walsenburg and this will be step to connecting this area to Walsenburg. Bentley asked if there is capacity for local users. Mike replied it may be possible in the future.
- R5 Region Wide Striping, Rumble Strip and WC RSA Phase 1 – They are looking at targeted locations, this will probably happen near the end of the tourism season.
- SH 84 MP 14.67 Priority Culverts - Construction will be this fall.
- US 160 Wolf Creek Pass Phase 1 Signs – This was discussed during the freight discussion.
- US 491 at County Road S and CR BB – These were on the priority list.

2. Avalanche Mitigation Presentation - Raymond T. Mumford

Ray Mumford, a former CDOT avalanche control worker, gave a presentation with an overview of the history of avalanche mitigation efforts in Colorado.

3. ADA Partnerships - Tony Cady

Tony described the current replacement plan for ADA ramps. They are looking for partnership projects with local governments. CDOT will be seeking feedback on what the priorities should be. Greg asked if CDOT could send out a list of the ramps in each community. Tony replied that they could send a data file to see where the ramps are.

4. Regional Surface Treatment Plan – Tony Cady

Tony explained that Ed planned to provide an overview and that if anyone has input to contact staff. Mike provided an overview of how the plan is determined. There was general discussion on spending in the southwest region.

V. Other Business

1. Transit Provider Updates

Bentley explained that the STAC approved the FTA 5311 funding distribution policy. Sidny added that the TC has had a number of workshops on the FTA 5311 issue and there has been discussion on the significant changes facing a number of communities. Amber added that the Division of Transit and Rail will hold a town hall on April 11. Durango is still looking at significant cuts, but the State is working to have a transparent process and continues to look at other options to increase the amount of funding available overall. She described some of the challenges related to determining the distribution of this funding. Matt asked about HB 1242 currently just identified to fund expansion rather than operational needs. Amber agreed that this is concerning as there is currently not enough funding for existing systems. Bentley elaborated that the intent for looking at the distribution for FTA 5311 was to ensure all agencies receive funding. Amber mentioned that one option is to move forward for 2018 while continuing to scrutinize the distribution. She added that the FTA 5310 issue is another separate but related issue. There was discussion about the changes in funding to various transit agencies.

2. Legislative Updates

Addressed earlier in the meeting.

3. Community Updates – Round Robin

Andrea commended CDOT staff on their efforts on the recently approved Access Control Plan for the 160 corridor through Mancos. She reported that Mancos will soon be bidding a main street bridge project. They are also preparing to kick-off efforts on a pedestrian crossing.

Phil reported that Cortez will be hosting the Colorado Downtown Streets Workshop on April 18.

Keenan reported that Montezuma County accepted bid to pave CR CC from US 491 which will include some additional items such as drainage.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 1, 2017.



Legislative Update

As we enter the month of April two important transportation related measures are working through the process at the state capitol related to automated vehicles and transportation funding.

SB17-213 Automated Driving Systems, is a first step towards defining future autonomous vehicle policy. Because these vehicles in the future will be travelling over city and county lines, the bill makes this issue of statewide concern, with the state taking the lead in determining future



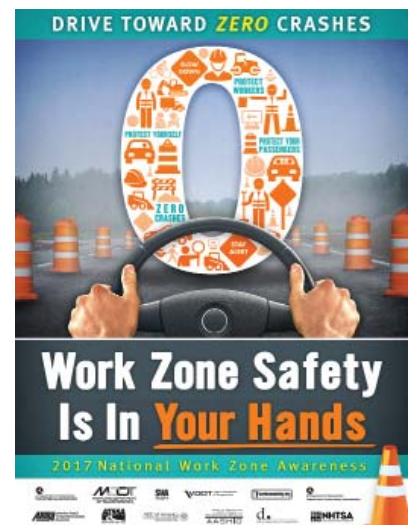
policy for autonomous vehicles. As companies develop these vehicles, those that are unable to comply with all the local, state and federal traffic laws must get approval from CDOT and the State Patrol. If companies do not work with the state or continue testing without an approval, the State Patrol may impound the vehicles or issue a traffic citation. Approval for testing depends on a variety of factors, such as the level of automation, the vehicle's safety record, the amount of prior testing and any federal certifications issued. CDOT will report the number of approvals and tests

annually to the legislature. The bill has passed both the Senate and the House and is now back in the Senate for a vote that will either send the bill to the Governor or to a Conference Committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate passed versions of the bill.

HB 1242, New Transportation Infrastructure Funding, is a substantive approach at funding transportation for the next twenty years. The changes instituted by the legislation are predicated on approval of a ballot measure in November, 2017.cont on page 2

Work Zone Safety

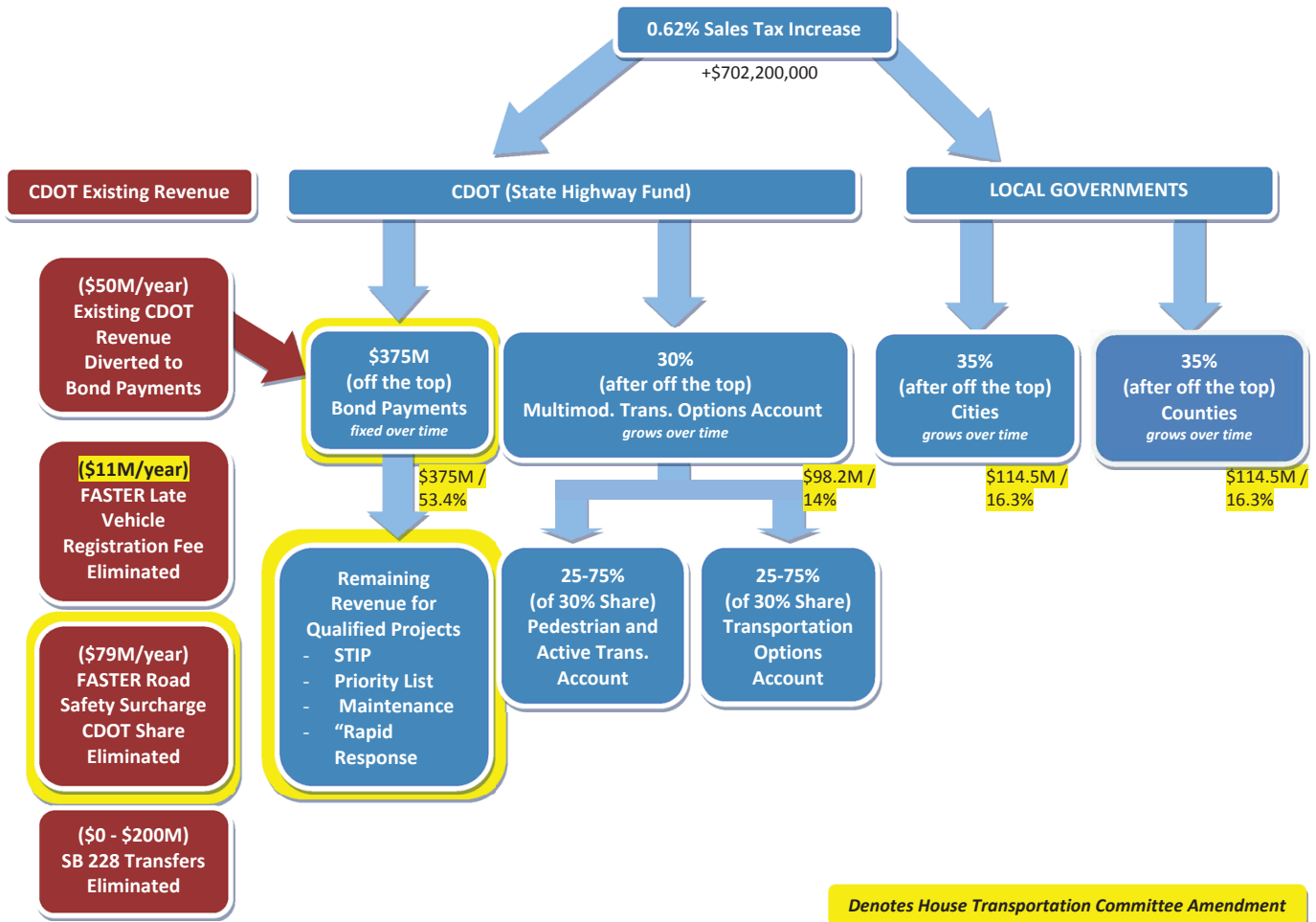
National Work Zone Safety Awareness events are sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and are held in April of each year to bring national attention to keeping motorists and those working on our roadways safe in work zones. This year's theme is, "Work Zone Safety Is in Your Hands." In the 2017 National Work Zone Safety Poster, you see two hands gripping a steering wheel as a vehicle steers carefully between barrels. It's a very clear image for motorists, to pay more attention and keep their eyes on the road. Each year, approximately 600 people are killed and more than 35,000 are injured in work zone crashes. One work zone fatality occurs nationwide every 15 hours, and four out of five work zone fatalities are motorists.



Legislative Updatecont from page 1

The ballot question would ask voters to approve a sales tax increase that raises approximately \$700M/year for transportation. CDOT would receive \$375M of that funding to issue up to \$3.5B bonds for infrastructure projects around the state.

HB 17-1242 as of 4/5/17



Any additional funding above the bond debt payments would go to maintenance, disaster contingency and other priorities. Local governments would get 70% of the remaining funds, after CDOT's portion is transferred, and the remaining 30% would go to a multi-modal transportation grant process. These multi-modal funds would be used for grant matching funds for local governments to use. The House sponsors heard plenty of testimony on the bill in the Transportation Committee and on the House floor where legislators debated the bill for hours. The next stop is in the Senate, where the debate and testimony is expected to be as, comprehensive, as it was in the House.

For more information on state legislative issues contact CDOT Legislative Liaison Andy Karsian at Andy.karsian@state.co.us.



Federal Funding

The federal government has been operating on a series of Continuing Resolutions since October 2016. Congress and the President have come to an agreement on an appropriations package for FY 2017, which will fund Federal programs through September 30, 2017. The spending bill fully honors the FY 2017 FAST Act funding levels for Highway Trust Fund programs which translate to \$43B for federal-aid highways and \$9.7B for mass transit. TIGER grants are funded at \$500M and Amtrak is fully funded. The Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program fully funds all current "Full Funding Grant Agreement" (FFGA) transit projects, including \$150M for the RTD Eagle Line.

The agreement includes an \$857M rescission of unobligated contract authority as a budgetary offset to other spending areas. We preliminarily estimate the rescission to impact the Colorado Department of Transportation by about \$11.7M. Most likely, the biggest Federal fund types to be reduced by this rescission will be both the National Freight and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality programs as they carry the largest unobligated balances proportional to their allocations.

Other transportation programs in the bill include:

TIGER Grants \$500M - Equal to the FY2016 enacted level, for TIGER grants.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) \$43.2B: Continues to allow unused earmarks to be repurposed for transportation projects that can be built today.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) \$16.4B: Will provide full funding for all air traffic controllers, and other support personnel. The bill fully funds the Contract Towers program and also provides more than \$1B in the FAA Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen) to ease future congestion and reduce delays.cont on page 2

5311 Formula

Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 funds are an important source of funds allocated, currently, to thirty rural general public transportation agencies and non-profit organizations across the state for annual transit operations.

In response to an increasing demand for federal operating funds, the Colorado Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Colorado Association of Statewide Transit Agencies, formed a 5311 Subcommittee of the Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC) in October 2016 to assist in developing a new distribution methodology to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of Section 5311 operating funds to all eligible recipients. As a result of the Subcommittee deliberations and recommendations the Colorado Transportation Commission (TC) approved a revised 5311 distribution process for 2018; with future years subject to further TC revision if needed.

For more information on the 5311 program please contact Jeff Sanders CDOT Division of Transit & Rail at (303) 757-9771.

Federal Funding

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Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) \$1.85B: This is \$173M above FY2016. The bill includes \$98M in rail grants to support the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC), rail infrastructure improvements, and passenger rail service. The bill also has \$258M to support rail safety programs.

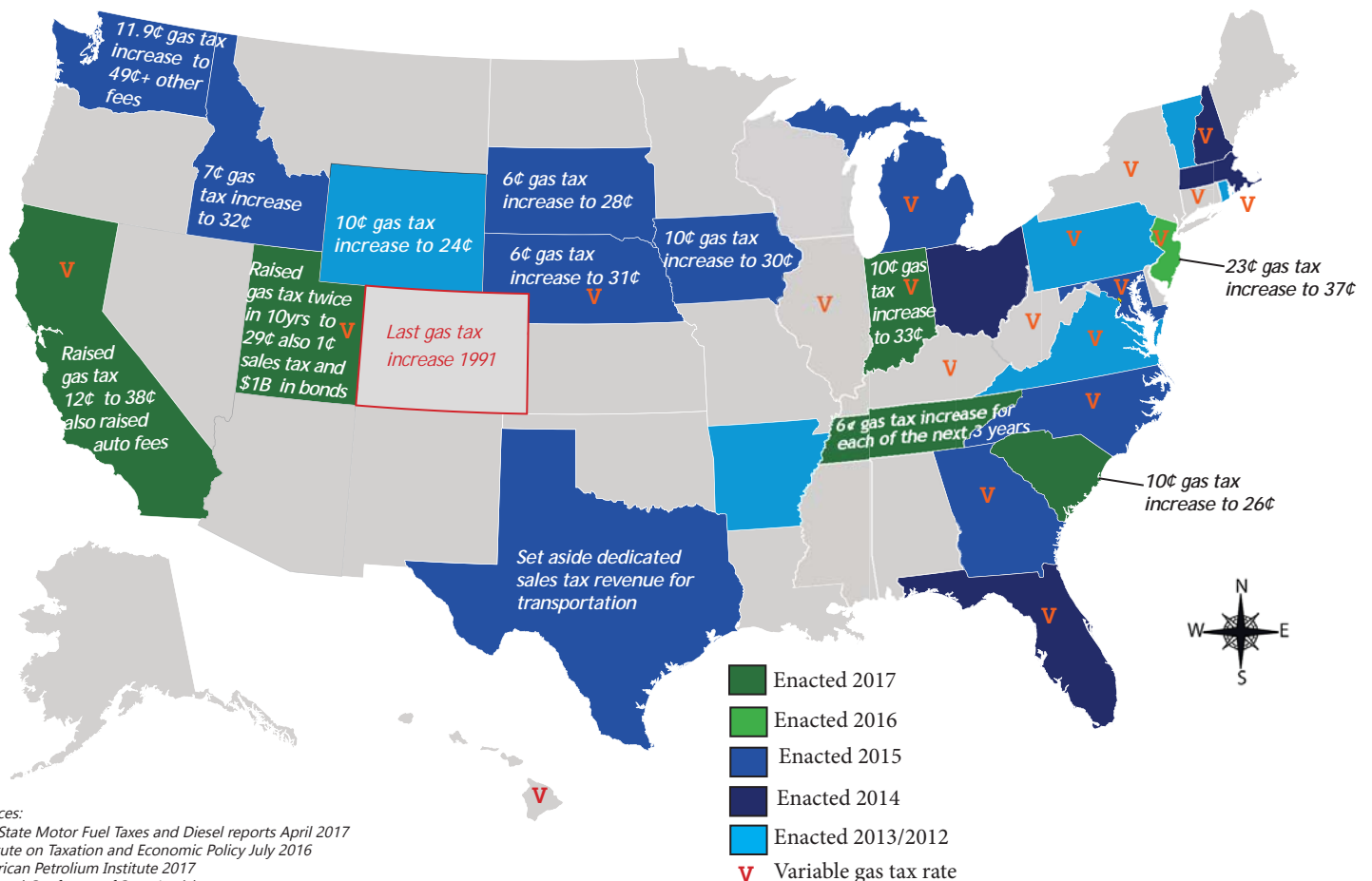
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) \$12.4B: Includes \$9.7B for transit formula grants from the Highway Trust Fund and \$2.4B for Capital Investment Grants (“New Starts”), fully funding all current “Full Funding Grant Agreement” (FFGA) projects (including \$150M for the RTD Eagle Line), as well as supporting new projects anticipated to receive FFGA awards. Funding is also provided for the Expedited Delivery Pilot Program which promotes public-private partnerships for local transit projects.

For more info on Federal issues contact Ron Papsdorf CDOT Federal Liaison at 303-757-9105.

Transportation Funding Increases

States around the nation have been taking steps to enhance and improve their transportation systems. Here are some examples of other states that have passed measures to bring in more dollars to keep their state moving. Twenty states have variable rate gas taxes that adjust based on gas prices, inflation, fuel efficiency or a combination of these factors.

In Colorado our last gas tax increase was in 1991. Currently Colorado charges 22 cents/gal.



Sources:
 API State Motor Fuel Taxes and Diesel reports April 2017
 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy July 2016
 American Petroleum Institute 2017
 National Conference of State Legislatures