



# SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

## Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

1101 East Second Avenue, Durango

- I. Introductions 9:00 a.m.
- II. Consent Agenda 9:05 a.m.
  - 1. December 2019 Meeting Minutes
  - 2. Financial Report: July 2019 – January 2020
- III. Reports 9:10 a.m.
  - 1. December 2019 and January, February 2020 STAC Update – Phil Johnson
  - 2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Sidney Zink
- IV. Discussion/Decision Items 9:15 a.m.
  - 1. Ratification of letter of support for INFRA US 160 Project – Jessica Laitsch
  - 2. MMOF/TAP Project Application Funding Decisions – Jessica Laitsch
  - 3. Approval of letter to Transportation Commission requesting match waiver or reduction for specific projects – Jessica Laitsch
  - 4. Southwest Regional Transportation Plan – Carrie Tremblatt
- V. CDOT Reports
  - 1. Construction Update – Kevin Curry (pending available time)
- VI. Other Business
  - 1. Updates – Round Robin (pending available time)
- VII. Adjourn

Next regular meeting date: Thursday, April 9, 2020

Video/Phone Conference Info:

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

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

295 Girard Street, Durango, CO 81303  
970.779.4592  
www.swccog.org

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation  
Planning Commission  
Thursday, December 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.  
1101 East Second Ave, Durango, CO**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Phil Johnson – City of Cortez  
David Black – Town of Bayfield  
David Schanzenbaker – Town of Pagosa Springs  
Keenan Ertel – Montezuma County  
Sarah Dodson – City of Durango  
Amber Blake – City of Durango  
Clyde Church – La Plata County  
Steve Garchar - Dolores County (by phone)  
Mark Garcia – Town of Ignacio (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

Jack Turner  
James Dietrich – Montezuma County  
Jim Horn - Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc  
Patrick Davis – Southwest Rides  
Martha Mason – Southwest Center for Independence (by phone)  
Matt Nesbitt – Southwest Colorado Community Action Agency (by phone)  
Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner  
Debbie Condrey – Archuleta County  
Elijah Henley - Central Federal Lands Highway Program (by phone)  
Kelly Leadbetter - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
Jenny Young - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Carrie Tremblatt – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Mike McVaugh - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Julie Constan - Colorado Department of Transportation  
TJ Burr - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Matt Muraro - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Kevin Curry – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

**I. Introductions**

**II. Consent Agenda:**

October 2019 Meeting Minutes  
Financial Report: July 2019 – November 2019

**David Black motioned to approve the October 2019 minutes, Sarah Dodson seconded, unanimously approved.**

**Keenan Ertel motioned to approve the financial report, Sarah Dodson seconded, unanimously approved.**

**III. Reports**

**1. October and November 2019 STAC Update – Amber Blake**

No report.

**2. Transportation Commissioner Report – Sidney Zink**

Sidny reported that there was discussion regarding the new Office of Innovative Mobility. There was discussion on the budget reconciliation for 2018. The TC passed a resolution to clarify the traction law, which was not being enforced in alignment with the law. Phil asked if there has been any discussion on getting another ballot question related to funding. Sidny replied there was discussion about why it didn't pass. Mike added that due to the time and cost invested by private citizens to coordinate a ballot question, the issue will now likely fall to the legislature to address.

**IV. Discussion/Decision Items:**

**1. Election of officers – Jessica Laitsch**

**Sarah Dodson nominated Phil Johnson as Chair in 2020. Keenan Ertel motioned that nominations cease, unanimously approved.**

**Debbie Condrey offered to serve as Vice Chair, unanimously approved.**

**2. Multi Modal Options Fund – Jessica Laitsch**

Jessica described the various decisions requested of the SWTPR in order for this application process to move forward. There was discussion about having the deadline and funding decisions as soon as possible. CDOT staff explained that funded projects would be managed by the appropriate division within CDOT and all funds must be spent by June, 2023. There was discussion about setting the deadline to match the TAP deadline of January 20, 2020. There was general consensus to allow match alleviation requests. There was a discussion to select a smaller committee, one representative from each county, to meet prior to the next meeting to review applications and prepare recommendations. Sarah Dodson, Jim Candelaria, and David Schanzenbaker were selected to serve on the committee, Jessica will request volunteers from Dolores and San Juan Counties.

**David Black motioned to have the named volunteers, plus volunteers from Dolores and San Juan Counties, to review the projects, Keenan Ertel seconded, unanimously approved.**

There was discussion about the level of input requested from CDOT staff to help vet the projects, the consensus was to have CDOT staff review for feasibility and eligibility, and then the committee will develop funding recommendations. There was discussion about when the decision would be submitted to the SWTPR. There was discussion about whether this would be a one-time funding decision or if there would be future opportunities, it is assumed that there will be one approval process, with the possibility of future funding if there is excess funding or specific projects fall through. There was discussion about what funds are eligible for match.

**David Black motioned to allow match waiver requests, request local CDOT staff to review the applications, and to set the application deadline for January 20, 2020 to match the TAP process; David Schanzenbaker second, unanimously approved.**

### **3. Southwest Regional Transportation Plan – Carrie Tremblatt**

Carrie described the public process that CDOT has undertaken for the planning process. She explained that the purpose of this meeting is for the TPR to prioritize identified projects in the region. There was discussion about projects identified as safety projects. The group used sticker dots to identify highest priorities, with remote participants invited to email their priorities. Carrie, Kelly and Jenny led the group through various specific categories and points for consideration when prioritizing projects.

Elijah Henley presented an overview of the Central Federal Lands program.

Kelly and Jenny summarized the highest prioritized projects: McCabe Creek culvert; Pagosa Springs transportation center; US 160 Multi-use Paths to Mesa Verde; US 160 Pagosa reconstruction; Signalize US 160/SH 84 intersection; Pagosa to Durango Outrider; Durango to Dove Creek Outrider; Widening SH 145 from CR L to CR M; US 160 and CR 30.1 intersection at Phil's World; US 160 Main Street Pagosa. There was discussion about combining the fiber projects, as those would likely rise to the top, and ensuring a potential transit route between Durango and Cortez is identified as equally important as a route between Pagosa Springs and Durango. Tony mentioned that a number of major projects that were previously identified were not prioritized here. David suggested that since there is significant focus on certain projects they weren't seen as needing extra attention. Phil added that the US 550 corridor has already been consistently identified as a high priority. Sarah suggested comparing a list of projects in progress against the priority list. Matt mentioned that the planning prioritization will inform the 10-year project list. There was consensus to continue the meeting to Friday.

## **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Friday, December 13, 2019.

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation  
Planning Commission  
Friday, December 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.  
20581 US 160 W, Durango, CO**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Phil Johnson – City of Cortez  
Keenan Ertel – Montezuma County  
Clyde Church – La Plata County  
Debbie Condrey – Archuleta County  
Sarah Dodson – City of Durango

Others in Attendance:

Gordon South – Southwest Center for Independence  
Martin Schmidt – Town of Pagosa Springs (by phone)  
James Dickhoff – Town of Pagosa Springs (by phone)  
Jim Horn - Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc  
Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner  
Kelly Leadbetter - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
Jenny Young - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig  
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Carrie Tremblatt – Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)  
TJ Burr – Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)  
Matt Muraro - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Kevin Curry – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

**I. Introductions**

**II. CDOT Reports:**

**1. Construction Update – Kevin Curry**

US 491 CR S Intersection – Complete  
West US160 to Highbridge Tape and Pavement Markings – Was a short project  
US 160 Priority Culverts – Complete  
US 160 Passing Lanes North of Towaoc – Grading and concrete work remaining, hoping to be complete by the end of the month  
FY 19 Bridge Preventative Maintenance – Hope to be done by the end of the month  
R5 Chain Station Improvements – Improved lighting, signage and striping, expected to begin in April  
US 160 Rest Area Improvements – In the process of awarding the project  
US 160 Pagosa Signals Pinion Hot Springs – Awarded, scheduled for April, some night work expected

US 550 Wall Repairs – Currently under ad  
US 550/160 Connection South Design – This project is on track  
Hawkins Signal and Curb Ramps Cortez – Planned to go to ad in March  
US 160 Wolf Creek West Fiber – In the design phase, scheduled to go to ad in 2020  
R5 SH 184 Priority – They have added three more culverts  
US 160/SH 151 Wildlife Crossing Project – Will include the first animal overpass in the region  
US 160 Towaoc to Cortez Chipseal – Tentatively scheduled to go to ad in April  
US 160 McCabe Creek Pagosa – Was recently funding, working to revive plans, hoping to go to ad in June  
SH 145 Mill and Fill – Will include paving through Towns of Dolores and Rico  
US 160 West and Cortez PCCP Diamond Grind – Planned to go to ad in the fall of 2020  
US 160 N-10-V South Fork Scour – Mitigation project  
US 160 San Juan Bridge Scour – Has been on hold, seeking funding

### **III. Discussion/Decision Items**

#### **1. Southwest Regional Transportation Plan**

Jenny and Tony summarized the analysis they had compiled since the meeting on December 12. CDOT staff presented recommendations for adjusting the prioritization of projects. There was discussion about how the group would like to establish the priority of projects throughout the region. There was discussion about how to ensure lower priority and lower cost projects could be prioritized over other projects if a well-suited source of funding becomes available.

Jenny summarized the components to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan. There was discussion about what summary elements to include in the plan, the consensus was to include freight tourism, tribal lands and innovative mobility in the plan. Jenny and CDOT staff summarized the next steps in the planning process.

### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 9, 2020.

# SWTPR Financials 7/1/2019-1/31/2020

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region

From: Jessica Laitsch

Date: 9 March, 2020

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Comments: A profit and loss report for the period July 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020 is attached.

The TPR grant runs on a state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). The attached P&L shows 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.

# Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

## PROFIT AND LOSS

July 2019 - January 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
Grant Project Income	
CDOT Grants	
SWTPR Grant	2,755.77
<b>Total CDOT Grants</b>	<b>2,755.77</b>
<b>Total Grant Project Income</b>	<b>2,755.77</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,755.77</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$2,755.77</b>
Expenses	
Administrative Costs	
Operating Expenses	
Consulting	389.99
Office Supplies	166.47
Professional Fees	
Audit	381.25
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>381.25</b>
Rent	700.00
Travel	989.11
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,626.82</b>
Personnel Expense	
Salary and Wages	3,905.57
<b>Total Personnel Expense</b>	<b>3,905.57</b>
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>6,532.39</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,532.39</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -3,776.62</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -3,776.62</b>





# SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

20 February, 2020

Attn: Honorable Elaine Chao  
Office of the Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the US Highway 160 Four Corners Mobility and Safety Improvement Partnership Project in Southwest Colorado.

Dear Honorable Elaine Chao,

The Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR) is located in the far southwest region of the state of Colorado. The SWTPR is pleased to write this letter of support for the US Highway 160 (US 160) Four Corners Mobility and Safety Improvement Partnership Project. This portion of US 160 is located in rural southwestern Colorado and 8-miles of the project are within the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe (UMUT) boundary. The UMUT have developed a partnership with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) to construct this mobility and safety improvement project. CDOT and NMDOT prioritized this project for funding, although full funding is difficult to obtain due to program funding restrictions and the overall limited resources. This project is a priority for the UMUT and other local residents, along with state and federal agencies, who are concerned with freight mobility and highway safety.

The nine-mile project improves the safety for commercial and passenger traffic between Colorado and New Mexico; maintains the state of good repair and resiliency of aging infrastructure; improves the quality of life for the traveling public and the residents of UMUT lands; supports the economic development of the regional agriculture and tourism industries; and supports the UMUT, CDOT, and NMDOT transportation goals. This project stems from a deeply collaborative process between the three partners who are committed to the improvement of the transportation network in the Four Corners Region. To increase safety along the corridor, this project will add a northbound and southbound passing lane, widen shoulders to four feet, replace and upgrade guardrails, and address geometric and operational deficiencies. In addition, the asphalt will be upgraded and a 5-inch overlay will be added. Application of innovative technology through the use of an overhead variable message sign is also part of the project.

In summary, The SWTPR fully supports this project to improve the Tribal and regional economy, mobility, safety, and overall community in southwest Colorado.

Sincerely,

Philip F. Johnson  
Southwest Transportation Planning Region Chair



### 22193 US 160 MP 0-8 Scope Options for Grant



#### Legend

- MILEPOINTS
- Passing Lanes
- Project Limits MP 0- 8

Existing Width Surface Treatment with 4 foot shoulders (5 inch HMA, 6-inch CL 6, 14-inch CL 2) and 2 mile alternating passing lane, to also include NM widening and rail, ITS device and Bridge scour repairs. 8- 12 inch Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) of existing mat; 5 inch HMA overlay; Upgrade existing guardrail.

End Project Limits

NB Passing Lane MP 5.5-6.5

SB Passing Lane MP 3.5- 4.5

New Mexico Scope:  
FDR surface treatment,  
4 ft shoulders & guardrail  
MP 0 to NM-597

San Juan River bridge  
scour remediation

Begin Project Limits

Overhead cantilever  
VMS board at MP 0.

