



## Southwest Transit Coordinating Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 17, 2020, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Video/Phone Conference – See connection details below

- I. Introductions
- II. Consent Agenda:
  - 1. July 2020 Meeting Minutes
- III. Discussion Items
  - 1. Open discussion
  - 2. Grant Coordination Discussion
- IV. Reports
  - 1. Transit Provider Updates
  - 2. Human Service Provider Updates
  - 3. Regional Coordination Updates

Video/Phone Conference Info:

<https://zoom.us/j/98886064474>

1-669-900-6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 988 8606 4474

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**Transit Council Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, July 16, 2020, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Webinar

In attendance:

Vicki Maestas – La Plata County

Julie Bingham - Dolores County

Sarah Dodson - City of Durango

Kalisha Crossland – San Juan Basin Health Department

Gordon South – Southwest Center for Independence

Ellen Stein – Community Connections

TJ Burr – Colorado Department of Transportation

Miriam Gillow-Wiles – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Jessica Laitsch - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

### **I. Introductions**

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

### **II. Consent Agenda**

1. May 2020 Meeting Minutes

There were no questions or comments.

### **III. Discussion Items**

Kalisha asked if the City of Durango has considered running a shuttle from Lake Nighthorse to Durango. Sarah replied that she had been approached about the idea, but at the time they didn't have the capacity. She added that the management of the lake is in discussions concerning possibly running shuttles with an existing vendor.

Sarah reported that Durango Transit has instituted a "no mask no ride" policy. They have generally had good compliance; it has been difficult for drivers to enforce and some people have caused problems. There are sneeze guards in place, new buses have come equipped with permanent sneeze guards. They are limiting capacity on buses and demand is beginning to increase. They are looking at how other agencies are handling increased demand and exploring other options for sanitizing buses.

Ellen reported that Community Connections had applied for funds to support their transportation program. She explained that they had participated in these meetings the past and were encouraged to again participate. Ellen asked if Southwest Rides will take Medicare participants. Gordon replied that they just reopened medical transportation, he is not aware of not accepting Medicare participants, he will follow up to get more information. Ellen asked if drivers for Durango Transit are providing masks. Sarah replied the drivers begin the day with masks available and restock as they are able to. Kalisha mentioned that the senior center is good about filling gaps. Vicki added that the majority of Southwest Rides ridership is Medicaid, which is currently going through a major program transition.

Vicki reported that the Durango-La Plata Senior Center is hoping to begin limited transportation later in the summer, including required masks, limited capacity, and installing sneeze guards. One issue is that one of their vehicles has cloth seats that will need to be re-upholstered. Sarah mentioned that the City has a cloth seat steamer they could use if they would like. Vicki asked how often seats are cleaned. Sarah replied that they steam clean after every shift.

Sarah asked if Kalisha has had any engagement on the Statewide Medicaid transition. Kalisha replied that there have been a number of changes at the health department, her division doesn't currently have active contracts with HCPF. There was discussion about Medicaid and Medicare benefits. Vicki mentioned that the NEMT broker for the State will be Intelliride, the client will contact the broker who will contact the providers.

Julie reported that Dolores County is seeing an increase in transports. They are working with Intelliride to provide NEMT rides. TJ asked if Julie has any feedback on working with Intelliride. Julie replied that one individual was helpful, the current person not so much. TJ asked when they are going live. Julie replied that they were scheduled for July 1, but only recently received the emails, so they are working to get everything done. TJ added that they are concerned about the rollout in rural areas. Julie described the concerns they have about scheduling. Sarah added that CASTA has been working to inform transit providers about the changes as providers hadn't been included through the process.

TJ reported that CARES Phase 2 funding will be coming out soon, there will be 0% match. There have been a few grant opportunities. CDOT recently finalized the call for 5310.

Sarah suggested working together to streamline 5310 applications next year. There was discussion about the value in continuing to expand opportunities for collaboration and the importance of regular ongoing discussions. There was discussion about funding for Southwest Rides' transportation services.

Sarah reported the Durango Transit is reviewing policies to ensure equal distribution of access to services. Ellen added that they anticipate transportation needs increasing for their program as it is so important to accessing services.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.