



Southwest Transit Coordinating Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Video/Phone Conference – See connection details below

- I. Introductions
- II. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. November 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

295 Girard Street, Ste B, Durango, CO 81303
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Transit Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 19, 2020, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Webinar

In attendance:

Sarah Hill – City of Durango
Jennifer Morris – Montezuma County
Laura Vanoni – Archuleta County
Patrick Davis - Southwest Rides
Ellen Stein - Community Connections
Gordon South – Southwest Center for Independence
Kalisha Crossland – San Juan Basin Health Department
Vicki Maestas – La Plata County
Julie Bingham – Dolores County
Susan Hakanson – Durango Adult Education Center
TJ Burr – Colorado Department of Transportation
Matt Muraro - Colorado Department of Transportation
Jessica Laitsch - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Consent Agenda

1. September 2020 Meeting Minutes
There were no questions or comments.

III. Discussion Items

Jessica described efforts to develop summaries of services available in the region. The group offered feedback such as enhanced visuals.

Ellen asked if the City of Durango has fliers for the upcoming virtual townhalls. Sarah will follow-up.

Sarah reported that the City of Durango will maintain 50% capacity limits based on the Governor's guidance on COVID. They have invested in supplies to promote social distancing and increase sanitation. They have seen a 38% reduction in ridership for the year, they have an overflow bus running to pick up riders who would otherwise be left behind. The Walmart stop move was effective last week, the new stop is at the southwest corner of the building and they are preparing to make some improvements. Walmart will allow drop-offs in front of the building. They have two virtual Transit Townhalls scheduled in December.

Laura reported that she recently started with Archuleta County. They are working on a feasibility study for connectivity with Durango, a programmatic study for a transit center, then will be working on a transit center. They are looking into bus shelters using their CARES funding. They are working to become a provider through Intelliride. Ellen asked about the connectivity project. Laura replied that they are looking at service between Pagosa Springs and Durango due to a high level of need for transportation between these communities. Sarah mentioned that Durango has agreements with other providers for passes and facilities, and suggested they discuss possible options. Laura described her background.

Ellen reported that Community Connections received CDOT funding. She asked what happens if funds are unspent. TJ replied that generally unspent funds expire. She reported that they are running many of their services online and not currently transporting individuals. She added that they are planning an online fundraiser.

Patrick reported that Southwest Rides received grant to help provide free rides to medical appointments. They will be looking into a program to transport veterans to Farmington so they can get to Albuquerque. TJ asked about interstate transit into New Mexico. Sarah replied that there are exemptions such as for employment commuting. They have created a new fundraising committee. Jennifer asked if Intelliride has contacted them for Medicaid trips in Durango. Patrick replied that they are exempted from the program and Intelliride has not reached out to them for providing rides. Jennifer reported that there have been significant challenges with booking rides through Intelliride. Julie added that they are experiencing the same issues. Patrick added that people have been denied medical trips to Albuquerque and told they need to go to Grant Junction or Denver instead. There was discussion about the challenges communicating with Intelliride. Laura suggested contacting the Policy Specialist at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. There was discussion about setting up meeting with Mr. Dwyer and the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies to discuss these issues. There was discussion about putting together a survey for clients.

Vicki reported the Durango/La Plata County Senior Center transportation is temporarily suspended. They are delivering over 1000 meals on wheels per week. She commended Southwest Rides and the City of Durango on continuing to meet the current needs.

Jennifer reported that Montezuma County is slowly declining due to losing medical rides. They are seeing more Covid cases. They delivering meals on wheels for the senior center.

Susan reported that the Durango Adult Education Center's students rely on transportation. Sarah mentioned that Durango used to do a transit pass program for students. Susan stated that vouchers would be very helpful. Sarah mentioned that they are rolling out mobile ticketing to allow for more pass options.

Jennifer mentioned that she would like to establish a fixed route, and suggested initiating discussions and coordination to include a halfway point to Durango and ultimately a connection to Durango.

Kalisha reported that the Prevention and Population Health Division of the San Juan Basin Health Department is seeing caseloads decreasing as it is hard to engage remotely. They received funding for a Covid care coordinator.

TJ mentioned that he can help if any new grant awardees need help setting up their grant. CDOT is busy with managing various funding streams.

There was discussion about setting up a time to meet with HCPF about Intelliride in December.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Special Transit Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Webinar

In attendance:

Sarah Hill – City of Durango

Julie Bingham – Dolores County

Jennifer Morris – Montezuma County

Laura Vanoni – Archuleta County

Vicki Maestas – La Plata County

Kalisha Crossland – San Juan Basin Health Department

Patrick Davis – Southwest Rides

Martha Mason – Southwest Center for Independence

Kelsey Bell - Southwest Center for Independence

Molly Tompkins – Colorado Department of Transportation

TJ Burr – Colorado Department of Transportation

Ryan Dwyer – Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Ann Rajawski – Colorado Association of Transit Agencies

The meeting began at 9:03 a.m.

Martha and Jennifer described specific challenges their riders have faced since the NEMT brokerage rolled out in the region. Jennifer, Julie, and Patrick described challenges the providers are experiencing. Kelsey described specific challenges that clients are dealing with. Ryan described the situation from the perspective of HCPF. There was discussion about providers providing regular reports. Ann explained that similar challenges are being seen around the state and suggested she and Ryan discuss possible strategies to address the challenges.

Ended at 9:59 a.m.