

SOUTHWEST COLORADO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: Friday, June 3, 2016

Place: La Plata Administration Building 1101 E 2nd Ave., Durango

Join by phone: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 109 670 693

Time: 9am to 12:00pm

AGENDA

- 9:00 I. Introductions (additions/changes to agenda)**
- II. Accept Minutes: April 15, 2016***
Accept Financial Report: April 2016*
- 9:10 III. Reports:**
1. STAC updates
 - a. April & May 2016 meetings: Kevin Hall
 2. Legislation Update: Jessica Laitsch
- 10:00 IV. CDOT Reports**
1. CDOT Updates: Matt Muraro
 2. CDOT HQ Updates: Michael King
 3. Construction Project Update: Ed Archuleta
- 11:30 V. Other Business**
1. Transit Provider Updates
 2. Community Updates –Round Robin (pending available time)
- VI. Adjourn**

Next meeting date: August 5, 2016

**vote requested*

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation
Planning Commission
Friday, April 15, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.
Carnegie Building 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Keenan Ertel – Montezuma County
Chris La May – Town of Bayfield
Kevin Hall - City of Durango
Bentley Henderson – Archuleta County
Rodney Class-Erickson - Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Brad Blake – La Plata County
Regina Whiteskunk – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Phillip Johnson – City of Cortez
Andrea Phillips – Town of Mancos (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

Muriel Eason (by phone)
Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner
Jim Horn - Russell Planning and Engineering
Michael King - Colorado Department of Transportation
Mike McVaugh - Colorado Department of Transportation
Matt Muraro – Colorado Department of Transportation
Mike Timlin - Colorado Department of Transportation
Ed Archuleta – Colorado Department of Transportation
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation
Nancy Shanks – Colorado Department of Transportation
Lisa Schwantes - Colorado Department of Transportation
Sara Trujillo – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Shannon Cramer - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. Accept Minutes: February 2016

Chris La May motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Keenan Ertel seconded, unanimously approved.

Accept Financial Report: March 2016

Chris La May motioned to accept the financial report as presented, Keenan Ertel seconded, unanimously approved.

Chair/Vice Chair Elections:

Chris La May nominated Kevin Hall as Chair, Phillip Johnson seconded, unanimously approved.

Rodney Class-Erickson nominated Bentley Henderson as Vice Chair, Chris La May seconded, unanimously approved.

III. CDOT Reports:

4. Construction Project Update: Ed Archuleta

- US 160 Wilson Gulch Road Extension – Mike McVaugh reported that the project is back under construction. Kevin added that the city had scaled back the scope of the project due to cost when it was originally bid. The remainder of the project is now budgeted, but will need to be bid out which will delay completion. The majority of the contracted work will be done within the next month or so, with the project to be completed by fall.
- US 160 W. Wildlife Crossing at Dry Creek – Ed reported that this project is underway and expected to be completed by August. He mentioned that work has been added to enhance the openness ratio.
- US 550 Cribwalls Phase II/III Project – There will be summer-long delays under signal control for this project.
- SH 172/151 Signalization – This project is underway.
- SH 145 Chipseal West Fork North – This is a 24 mile long double chip project which will begin in June. There will be delays for this project.
- SH 145 north of Rico – There will be delays, probably using pilot cars, and work is expected to begin in June.
- US 491 Cortez to MCR 30 (CR M) – This is one of the last intersection priority list projects from the previous list and includes adjusting and signalizing the intersection with Lebanon Road. This will be concrete pavement and work will be done by the same contractor that did previous concrete paving.
- US 160 Mesa Verde Bridge Coating – This project is painting of the Mesa Verde overpass. There will be some delays, traffic control and speed reduction.
- R5 US 24, SH 17, US 160 Priority Culverts – There will be minimal delays as most the work will be off the roadway.
- SH 184 Narraguinnep Canal 0-02-A Structure – This project will be in the fall after the water goes off and should go quickly.
- US 160 McCabe Creek Pagosa – The plan is to advertise in September. There is a plan review coming up.
- US 550 Durango Sidewalk Ramps – This is the current ADA endeavor in the region. The city is doing the right-of-way title research and CDOT is doing the survey and design. The design will include future projects to be completed as money becomes available. There was discussion regarding federal requirements to focus on ADA more effectively.
- US 491 Surface Treatment – This project will be done next year.

- US 550 Cribwall Repair – Staff determined there was too much risk in the late fall considering cold weather, the project will go to bid in the fall to begin in April 2017.
- US 491 at County Road S – The project is underway, there will be an update at the next meeting.
- CR 318 and SH 172 – CDOT would like to speak with the Southern Ute Tribe about this project.
- They will surface treat Coalbank Pass from the county line to the summit.

1. **CDOT Updates:** Matt Muraro

Matt stated that there are a number of funding opportunities, including the Transportation Alternatives Program, Federal Lands Access Program, TIGER, and Safe Routes to School.

The applications for Safe Routes are being prioritized by CDOT staff with awards to be made mid-March.

TAP applications are due August 1, and they will be requesting pre-scoping meetings and site visits to be completed by mid-July. Kevin asked for an explanation of the selection of awards. Matt replied that TAP is a federal program with a 20% match required, they are doing call for fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020; the fiscal year begins in July. He described the eligibility criteria and how they are scored. Bentley asked what the average award is. Matt replied the range is from \$50,000-\$1 million. Kevin asked if there has been a preference for spreading out the monies or if this is strictly based on the merits of the projects. Matt replied that it is a competitive process, but there was a compromise to keep funding on a regional level. Rodney mentioned that the tribe is in the process of approving the Tribal Traffic Safety Plan, which will open up availability of funds. Chris asked for clarification whether there would be funding available following this call. Matt replied that the funding is a three year call that will become available in 2017; there will not be another call the following year. He added that the funding will be consistent over the three years. Kevin mentioned that looking three years out is challenging.

Matt reported that the FLAP applications will be similar, there will be a four year call for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. This will follow the same process as the last round, with some clarifications, and all projects will need a federal lands management agency sponsor. Eligible projects include engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, reconstruction, transportation planning, and research of Federal lands access transportation facilities. Past projects have included roadway reconstruction, pavement rehabilitation, bridge repair and reconstruction, and transit facilities. The annual allocation is \$17.8 million and the match is 17.21%. Prioritized projects are those which the grantor does the construction. Jim Horn asked for an example of a local project. Matt replied that projects have included the Piedra Road project in Archuleta County, US 491 near Towaoc, and Red Mountain Pass. He added that the purpose of the projects is to improve access to federal facilities and the applicant needs to be a government agency that owns the system. Phillip asked if the Mesa Verde Trail could be eligible. Matt replied this could be a possibility in the next round. Bentley asked when the application deadline is. Matt replied that applications are due May 21. Kevin asked why the trail may be eligible in the next round, but not the current one. Matt replied that the project is not yet far enough along. Bentley asked for clarification whether this will be an annual cycle or if this call is the last for the next four years. Matt replied it is the latter. There was discussion about anticipated projects throughout the region. Matt added that there is a three member review committee and the criteria they will be using.

The deadline for the TIGER program is April 29, this is an annual program and CDOT is not submitting an application for the region this year.

CDOT has requested that the TPR provide letters of support for two FLAP projects: passing lanes north of Towaoc and US 550 south including the gap and Sunnyside. They also requested a letter of support for the Fastlane grant. Tony Cady described that this was an opportunity resulting from the FAST Act and that it is focused on freight movement. He summarized the status of the grant application for the US 550 projects. Mike McVaugh added that the interchange project is at a stage they can begin to apply for funding. Kevin added that he signed a letter on behalf of the TPR in support of these funds which, while not the typical process, he felt comfortable doing this time. CDOT staff explained there was limited lead time on these grants. Bentley asked for clarification that item number two is a ratification. Kevin asked if the group would like to close out this issue at this time.

Phillip Johnson motioned to ratify the letter of support, Bentley Henderson seconded, unanimously approved.

Tony described the request for a letter of support for the FLAP application, and that the motion would be to have a letter drafted and signed. Bentley asked for opinions about supporting a FLAP grant for an Archuleta County Piedra Road project. Kevin asked if anyone else in the region is applying and whether it is appropriate to support these. Mike replied that it should be fine to support everyone in the region. There was discussion about drafting letters and whether there are other applications. There was general consensus to have support letters for FLAP applications approved by email, information about specific projects should be sent to COG staff in advance to allow processing time.

Chris La May motioned to authorize the Chair to sign and execute any letters of support for FLAP applications submitted by any member of the Southwest TPR, Phillip Johnson seconded. Kevin asked if these letters should be sent to the entire group. There was discussion about having letters submitted by May 6 to allow time for comments. **Unanimously approved.**

2. SWP/RTP Lessons Learned: Michael King

Michael King presented an overview of the lessons learned during the transportation plan development process. He asked whether the plan included the appropriate level of detail or if more information was needed. Kevin replied that CDOT staff and the consultants were very attentive to ensure there was good information available. Mike pointed out that the organization is increasingly data driven. Michael asked if the plan has been a useful tool and if it is being used. Regina Whiteskunk replied that the plan has helped the tribe identify useful data for strengthening their positions. Phillip echoed the good interaction with CDOT and added that this helped improve public opinion of CDOT. Kevin mentioned that the plan is helpful when writing grant applications. Bentley added that it is helpful knowing the region's input is going into the larger plan. Kevin added that it is helpful to have an established plan for the region when discussing issues with other regions. Rodney commented that the level of collaboration was great.

Michael asked what parts of the process were best and worst. Chris replied that he thought the process was very successful. Sidney Zink added that the process was fun and the participation was great. Matt mentioned that this year they tried a web based statewide plan. Mike added that this approach is being adopted by other organizations. Tony added that the telephone town halls were well received. Michael mentioned that the telephone town halls have only recently been used, and there may be newer technology by the time of the next update.

Michael asked if there are any missing elements that should have been addressed. Chris asked if they are using social media. Michael replied that they did use social media, and as technology changes they will try to keep up. Nancy Shanks described some of the challenges in increasing interest through social media and suggested using an intern to set up uniform sites for all TPRs. Phillip pointed out the value in having information available online. Regina mentioned that the tribes are seeing a shift to a more vocal and technologically savvy group and expressed a desire to have continued collaboration with the tribes. Michael closed by asking that further comments be submitted to him after the meeting or online.

3. CDOT Rural Regional Bus Network: Michael King

Mike Timlin presented information on the Division of Transit and Rail and the Bustang service. There was discussion about why 5311 funding is funded competitively. Kevin asked how full the buses tend to run. Mike replied that SUCAP's Grand Junction route has been averaging 18 people per day. Bentley asked for clarification that the SUCAP schedules are determined by schedules in Grand Junction. Mike replied this is correct, to make a meaningful connection they must accommodate existing schedules. Bentley asked if they are looking at an Alamosa to Walsenburg route. Mike replied that there is a recognized need from Alamosa to Walsenburg to Aurora, particularly once the VA hospital is built. In closing he asked for feedback on scheduling, fares, and the division in general.

Kevin asked about the cost-benefit and how funding for this impacts other CDOT priorities. Mike replied that these funds are dedicated to transit only. Kevin asked if this impacts local transit providers. Mike replied no, funding comes from funds that have historically been used for intercity bus services. Rodney mentioned that transit used to be more abundant and if this is a cyclic process. Mike replied that this seems to be the case, there have been a number of transit agencies created in the past few years, however one shortfall is service in rural areas. There was a question about the cost from Denver to Glenwood Springs. Mike replied that it is up to \$28 one way. Mike added that the number of days per week to provide service is an important question. Kevin asked what Peter with SUCAP thinks about this. Mike replied that SUCAP runs 7 days per week. There was discussion about what the transit providers want and that CDOT has been seeking feedback from the transit providers. Mike asked for opinions about branding. Rodney asked about the cost and the anticipated benefits. Mike replied that one of the policy questions is whether to drop fares to increase ridership or to try to increase fare box recovery. Mike McVaugh suggested developing a single website for all of the agencies to be connected to. Mike Timlin mentioned that Bustang has a smartphone app. Nancy expressed that "verbing" is helpful for branding.

IV. Reports

5. Transportation Commissioner Report: Sidny Zink

Sidny reported that at the March meeting the TC approved the budget that went to the governor. There was a good discussion on the federal legislation and what opportunities there could be, including the US 550/160 interchange. She mentioned that she heard a presentation from the Utah DOT and their efforts to try to reduce the perceived conflict between transit and transportation. Other elements they discussed related to transportation are economic development, challenges working with the legislature, communication of challenges and benefits in ways that resonate, and possible funding sources. Bentley asked about the status of I-70. Sidny replied that there are ongoing challenges, but the work must be done and the commission is in support. She added that Representative J. Paul Brown has worked very hard on transportation issues and understands the importance of these issues. Brad Blake asked if Utah passed a tax increase for transportation. Mike replied that the Utah legislature can set the tax

rate and there tends to be significant support due to the tangible benefits from improved infrastructure following the Olympics. Brad asked if there will be a sales tax increase question on the ballot. Sidny replied that it looks very likely there will be. Kevin mentioned that ¾ cent is the high end. There was continued discussion on gas taxes.

1. STAC updates

a. February & March 2016 meetings: Kevin Hall

Kevin reported there was a presentation related to a traffic incident management program to coordinate a unified response system to get accidents off the road faster in order to reduce the number of incidents and injuries. The freight advisory committee has been moving to be more industry oriented and they have been making overall progress. Progress on the I-70 viaduct has been happening quickly. The draft STIP is posted online and they are taking input. There was a bike/ped update regarding projects around the state.

2. TPR Letter of Support for CDOT Region 5 US 550 Corridor: Kevin Hall

Vote made earlier in meeting.

3. TPR letter of support for the US 160 Passing Lanes North of Towaoc Project for the Federal Lands Access Program: Matt Muraro

Vote made earlier in meeting.

4. Legislation Update: Jessica Laitsch

Jessica Laitsch summarized the status of various transportation related legislative items.

V. Other Business

1. Transit Provider Updates

Sara Trujillo asked on behalf of Muriel Eason if the byway wayfinding signage has been installed along the state highways and if the extra signs have been dropped at the Archuleta County CDOT yard. Mike replied the county is supposed to install those.

2. Community Updates –Round Robin (pending available time)

Kevin recognized Mike McVaugh as the new Regional Transportation Director. He also thanked Nancy for her efforts and congratulations on her retirement and introduced Lisa Schwantes as the new Communications Manager.

The next meeting will be held June 3, 2016.

Phillip mentioned that the passing lane ahead signs are helpful. Mike explained the benefits of doing this and changes for consistency in the signage that are happening.

Nancy announced an upcoming open roads event for CDOT if anyone would like to include informational materials.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Profit & Loss

January through April 2016

	<u>Jan - Apr 16</u>
Income	
Dues Revenue	
SWTPR Dues	7,679.00
Total Dues Revenue	7,679.00
SWTPR CDOT Grant	9,050.50
Total Income	16,729.50
Gross Profit	16,729.50
Expense	
Advertising and Promotion	10.49
Employee/Board Appreciation	104.03
Insurance Expense	
General Liability	262.75
Worker's Compensation	209.25
Total Insurance Expense	472.00
Internet Connectivity	
Software	296.00
Internet Connectivity - Other	42.80
Total Internet Connectivity	338.80
Meetings	194.03
Office Equipment	800.00
Office Supplies	206.46
Professional Fees	
Audit Fees	500.00
Professional Fees - Other	12.12
Total Professional Fees	512.12
Salary and Wages	2,648.21
Travel Expense	3,244.43
Total Expense	8,530.57
Net Income	<u>8,198.93</u>

Legislative Update

To: SWTPR
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 3 June 2016

Comments: Below is the final status of the following bills in the 2016 legislative session:

SB16-011 – Terminate the use FASTER fees for transit:
Postponed indefinitely in House committee

HB16-1018 – Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee Procedures:
Signed by Governor

HB16-1031 – Modify Transportation Commission Membership (authorization of a study):
Sent to Governor

HB16-1169 – Allow Tribes to Vote at Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee:
Staff and Ute Mountain Ute Councilwoman Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk testified to the Senate Committee on Transportation on March 22. Signed by Governor.

Transit Report

To: SWTPR
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 3 June 2016

Comments: Transit:

SWCCOG staff attended the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies spring conference from May 10-13.

The Transit Council met on Friday, May 20. The discussion included:

- Criteria for participation in the transit marketing project supported by the COG's DOLA Energy Impact Assistance grant. This criteria is that agencies must be a) CDOT partner transit agencies and b) either a member organization of the SWCCOG or an agency that receives funding from at least one SWCCOG member organization.
- Further discussion on Google Transit.

The next Transit Council meeting will be held Friday, July 15, 2016 at 9 at the Carnegie Building.