



# SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

## Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 1, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango

- I. Introductions 9:00 a.m.
  
- II. Consent Agenda:
  - 1. December 2017 Meeting Minutes
  - 2. Financial Report: January - December 2017
  
- III. Reports 9:15 a.m.
  - 1. December 2017 and January 2018 STAC Update - Bentley Henderson
  - 2. Transportation Commissioner Report - Sidney Zink
  
- IV. CDOT Reports 9:45 a.m.
  - 1. Construction Update
  - 2. Ballot Initiative Update - Tony Cady
  
- V. Other Business 10:45 a.m.
  - 1. Transit Provider Updates
  - 2. Community Updates – Round Robin (pending available time)
  
- VI. Adjourn

Next meeting date: Thursday, April 5, 2018

Video/Phone Conference Info:

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

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

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**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation  
Planning Commission  
Thursday, December 7, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.  
Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Phil Johnson – City of Cortez  
Bentley Henderson – Archuleta County  
Keenan Ertel – Montezuma County  
Chris La May - Town of Bayfield  
Amber Blake – City of Durango  
Fred Brooks – Town of Mancos  
Dan Naiman – Town of Ignacio (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

Bill Frownfelter - Russell Engineering  
Jim Horn - Russell Engineering  
Ann McCoy-Herold – Senator Gardner’s Office  
Kevin Cury - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Matt Muraro – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Mike McVaugh - Colorado Department of Transportation  
Michael King - Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)  
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
Dylan Lucas – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

**I. Introductions**

**II. Accept Minutes: October 2017 and Financial Report: Jan - August 2017**  
**Phil Johnson motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, Amber Blake seconded, unanimously approved.**

**III. Decision Agenda**  
**Election of 2018 Officers**

Keenan Ertel nominated Bentley Henderson to continue for another year as chair. Phil Johnson seconded. Phil Johnson nominated Keenan Ertel as vice chair, Dan Naiman seconded. Bentley Henderson nominated Amber Blake as vice chair, Chris La May seconded. Mike mentioned that typically nominees leave room while the Board votes. By a show of hands, the Board voted Kennan Ertel as vice chair.

#### **IV. Reports**

##### **1. October 2017 STAC Updates - Bentley Henderson**

Bentley reported that he was not in attendance at the October STAC meeting, and the November meeting will be held tomorrow.

##### **2. Letters of support for the US 550/US 160 Connection Fastlane Project and the US 160 North of Towaoc Passing Lane Project – Jessica Laitsch**

Bentley summarized that the first attached letter is for the US 550/US 160 Connection Fastlane Project. Kennan expressed concern about the diversion of funds from other projects to this one. Mike explained that they are only redirecting money from projects in La Plata County. He clarified that with RAMP they had been accelerating projects identified for future years, the spending for the region is over a year in advance, but due to current funding they had to stop doing that. Bentley asked if this compromises future funding. Mike replied that most projects are still planned to move forward. There was discussion about the changes to make this project possible. Keenan expressed concern that this project would negatively impact the entire region in the future. Mike replied that the Fastlane funding that made this project possible was a rare opportunity. He added that the delay to US 491 is because RAMP is ending. CDOT is working to ensure that this will not impact the rest of the region.

The second letter is support for the Towaoc Passing Lanes project, which has previously been discussed. Mike explained that this was a joint project with CDOT and there is a back-up funding source if the grant is not approved.

#### **V. CDOT Reports:**

##### **1. Construction Update – Kevin Cury**

- US 550 Cribwall Repair – Completed, the project turned out well.
- SH 84 Priority Culvert – Completed within the last week or two.
- US 491 Surface Treatment – Recently completed.
- US 550 Durango Signal Replacement – 32<sup>nd</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> – Will be going to ad soon.
- US 160 SH 84 to Treasure Falls Surface Treatment – Waiting to go to ad.
- US 160 Jct 172 to Bayfield Resurfacing – Looking to address some major cracking.
- US 160 Wolf Creek Pass Phase 1 Signs – Large overhead sign and concrete barriers to be installed, looking to reduce the frequency and severity of large truck crashes.
- Bentley asked what is on the horizon. Mike mentioned that they would need to design a section of US 160 if there is a ballot measure. Mesa Verde Chipseal is delayed as it was identified for future monies. Realignment of culverts on US 160 in Montezuma County. Signal replacements in Durango. ADA curb ramps in Dolores. Bridge replacement at Agate Creek on US 50 on Monarch Pass.

##### **1. Development List Update for SB267 and Ballot - Kevin Cury and Matt Muraro**

Matt explained that this will be presented at STAC tomorrow. One of the questions will be whether the Transportation Commission should adopt a draft ballot list. Amber asked what the ballot question would include. Matt replied that they don't know, but likely a sales tax. Keenan asked who is lobbying for this. Matt replied it sounds like it is the Denver Metro District. Mike added also the construction industry. Mike mentioned that Region 5 did not have enough

identified on the development list to receive its equitable share, so they moved all Tier II projects to Tier I. Bentley asked how the monies would be distributed across the state. Matt replied that the metrics would still need to be determined, Region 5 would advocate for lane miles to be a factor. Bentley asked if the other regions in the State would also be likely to move projects up in prioritization. Mike replied that all regions would be looking at a proposed maximum allocation. Region 5 was far below the proposed allocation, so the projects were reprioritized in order to hit that level, although the allocation level may ultimately change. Keenan asked if these projects would be locked in if the ballot issue passes. Mike replied that he does not know if there will be an opportunity to change the identified projects. Keenan pointed out that there is \$220 million identified in La Plata County. Mike replied that \$100 million of this is the US 550/160 Connection project. Matt added that there needs to be discussion about which projects would be removed if necessary. Bentley asked about potential impacts if funding from other sources comes through. Mike replied that this list only represents what is included on the ballot list, if SB 267 remains then the cost for the US 550/160 Connection would be freed up for other projects. Amber suggested that the ballot language should clarify that the percentages stay the same in the event other funding becomes available for specific projects. Chris asked if this would supplement HUTF. CDOT staff will check on this. There was discussion about the potential benefits and risks of including projects identified under SB 267 on the ballot question. Mike explained that the State is committed to ensure the US 550/160 Connection project moves forward and have indicated an openness to using alternative funding sources. Mike added that CDOT staff would like to start working to identify future projects. CDOT staff asked if the group would like to move forward with this list. There was general consensus to move forward. Staff will seek input for potential future projects. Matt asked if the list should combine SB 267 with the ballot list or should they be separated. Matt asked what formula they should recommend. There was consensus that lane miles and the Regional Priority Program (RPP) formula would be preferred. Matt asked if there should be funding set aside to address specific program areas. Bentley expressed support for the local funding. Amber expressed support for bike, pedestrian and transit. Matt asked if there should be any changes to the list and which projects should be first considered to be removed from the list. Mike explained that CDOT wants to ensure there is geographic equity. Bentley asked for clarification that the group supports this list, supports a combined ballot and SB 267 list, and the RPP formula. Chris clarified that the preferred option is distribution by lane miles, and as a fallback the RPP formula. Mike added that staff will begin seeking suggestions for future long-range projects.

## **2. US550/160 Connection Project - Mike McVaugh**

Addressed in previous discussion.

## **VI. Other Business**

### **1. Transit Provider Updates**

Amber reported that the City of Durango Transit will be significantly reducing service beginning in April.

Bentley reported that Archuleta County benefitted from the modified distribution of FTA 5311 funding. This will allow them to provide more service, specifically to the senior population.

## **2. Community Updates – Round Robin**

Phil reported that Cortez will be going out to bid for the downtown corridor safety project. They are also out to bid for water and sewer improvements.

Keenan reported that Montezuma County is working on the budget, they have made cuts to significantly reduce a \$2 million shortfall. They are looking at asphalt rather than chipseal on a number of roads. The county population is growing, for example there were 225% more septic permits than expected. Mike mentioned the Denver Post article on growth in Colorado that showed by 2050 Colorado Springs would have a higher population than Denver, and that the counties in the Southwest TPR are expected to grow dramatically.

Fred reported that Mancos is working on their bridge project. He mentioned that it is pre-fabricated, but there will be traffic impacts. Mike mentioned that they should coordinate on a traffic control plan and any necessary signage.

Chris reported that Bayfield has completed their bridge project.

Amber reported that Durango will partner with La Plata County on a grant for CR 219 and 220 that connects with the US 550/160 Connection. The City is out to RFP for the road diet project on College and East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues. They are moving forward on the Roosa Avenue project and the Needham connect project.

Bentley reported that Archuleta County is wrapping up their budget. They are looking at an aggressive construction year in 2018, including the Piedra Road project from the south with the middle to be addressed in the future. There are issues in downtown Pagosa Springs on US 160. There was a ballot question to fund a Sheriff's detention and administration building that was rejected. Mike mentioned that where Piedra Road connects with US 160 is a bottleneck, improving this connection may be a potential future Tier II project.

Keenan asked if CDOT still has the original plans for the port of entry reconstruction project up to Cortez. Mike replied that he would check into this.

Dan reported that Ignacio would like to submit some Tier II projects for the development list. They have completed their Capital Improvement Plan and are looking to accomplish some items. They will need to work with CDOT on some wayfinding.

Michael King announced that the Colorado Department of Natural Resources would be hosting a symposium on local government climate and resiliency action and coordination. He is helping develop a clean transportation track, there would also be tracks about economic vitality, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, forestry, and hazard mitigation. He will send a link with the registration information.

## **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 1, 2018.

## Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

## Profit &amp; Loss

01/30/18

January through December 2017

Accrual Basis

	<u>Jan - Dec 17</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
CDOT Grants	
SWTPR Grant	21,681.23
Total CDOT Grants	21,681.23
Dues Revenue	
SWTPR Contributions	7,607.00
Total Dues Revenue	7,607.00
Total Income	29,288.23
Gross Profit	29,288.23
Expense	
Information Technology (IT)	
Software	120.03
Total Information Technology (IT)	120.03
Insurance Expense	
General Liability	275.12
Worker's Compensation	208.50
Total Insurance Expense	483.62
Internet Connectivity	
Internet Connection (AT&T)	59.30
Total Internet Connectivity	59.30
Meetings	620.85
Office Equipment	38.40
Office Supplies	153.58
Professional Development	14.00
Professional Fees	
Accounting Software	43.99
Audit	499.99
Legal	64.80
Total Professional Fees	608.78
Rent	15.00
Salary and Wages	5,099.95
Travel	13,482.19
Total Expense	20,695.70
Net Ordinary Income	8,592.53
Net Income	<u><u>8,592.53</u></u>



# INTERCHANGE

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## Legislative Look

There will be some very interesting conversations around transportation during the 2018 legislative session. As lawmakers prepare to meet in January we have broken down the transportation-related issues that we know legislators will be looking at when they meet for the 2nd Regular Session of the 71st General Assembly.

**Funding:** Transportation funding will be first and foremost again this year. Already, there are plenty of conversations swirling about how to fund Colorado's roads and bridges. Many legislators are calling for dedicated general funds to be used annually for transportation bonds. Their argument is that no general fund money is dedicated directly to transportation projects and it should be a priority for the state budget. Other legislators advocate that there must be a voter-approved dedicated tax increase to pay for roads, as this is the only way to ensure a stable and secure funding source for state infrastructure needs.



*Staircase at Colorado State Capitol*

**Hands-Free:** Traffic safety will also be a major topic of debate next session. Building off of last session's success in raising fines for distracted driving, a bill to be introduced in 2018 will ask that all drivers use hands-free devices if using a phone while driving such as a vehicle's Bluetooth capabilities, or some kind of similar hands-free device.

**CDOT Legislative Agenda Items:** CDOT will be running three department bills as well. One bill clarifies that CDOT will be able to use data collected from vehicle to infrastructure projects in the future. There exists statutory language that prohibits state agencies from using electronic devices (i.e. cell phones) as location devices without a warrant. This bill does not change that protection but clarifies that when connected vehicles are on the road, they are not included in the definition of electronic devices.

*...continued on page 2*

## The Heat Is On This Holiday Season

From November 17-27, during the Thanksgiving holiday period, law enforcement officers arrested 613 drivers in Colorado for impaired driving, an increase from the 522 drivers arrested during the same period last year. As we begin the busy holiday season, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to stay safe and to drive sober. The Highway Safety Office at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) provides funding to Colorado law enforcement for impaired driving enforcement, education and awareness campaigns. The Heat Is On campaign runs throughout the year with 14 specific, high-visibility impaired driving enforcement periods centered on national holidays and large public events. Enforcement periods can include sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and additional law enforcement on duty dedicated to impaired driving enforcement. More details about the campaign, including impaired driving enforcement plans, arrest totals, and safety tips can be found at [HeatIsOnColorado.com](http://HeatIsOnColorado.com).

## Legislative Look *...continued from page 1*

Another two-part bill the department will pursue asks the legislature to allow real estate appraisers to participate in the waiver valuation process for acquiring right of ways under \$25,000. This process is a less expensive, more efficient valuation process. The second part of this bill will raise the waiver valuation limit to the federal level of \$25,000 when CDOT disposes of ROWs.

The third bill CDOT would like is permission to continue an award by review program. This program allows CDOT to award contracts that received less than three bids. The original bill creating the program included a repeal date, and the current bill will take that away allowing the program to continue indefinitely.

For more information on legislative matters contact Andy Karsian, CDOT Legislative Liaison at (303-757-9703).

## Project Successes

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has recently completed a couple major projects on-time and on-budget.

The reconstructed I-25 Cimarron interchange in Colorado Springs has created an improved highway alignment for better traffic flow, as well as improved ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes, and shoulders. The project reconstructed wider bridges over I-25 and enhanced sight distances. A new connection between 8th Street and US 24 now provides up to 40% improvement in traffic capacity, and better bike/ped trail connections and aesthetic enhancements were added. This is the largest project since the completion of the COSMIX project (reconstruction of I-25 thru the heart of Colorado Springs) in 2007, a decade ago.



*The new Cimarron interchange*



*Grand Ave Bridge  
Ribbon Cutting*

The Grand Avenue Bridge in Glenwood Springs is the largest infrastructure project on the Western Slope in 25 years and replaced a 64-year-old bridge over the interstate, the Colorado River, and Union Pacific Railroad tracks. A substantial detour that started in August and was completed 2 weeks ahead of schedule much to the relief of the local community, who turned up 3,000 strong for the ribbon cutting in early November. Funding for the bridge was accelerated due to FASTER funding. The \$125 M bridge replacement project also provide several multi-modal improvements including the new and improved pedestrian bridge that connects the south downtown core to to the north historic hot springs district as well as a pedestrian tunnel that provides a safe route through the north side of town at the main Glenwood Springs exit from the I-70 interchange.



## Get To Know Michael Lewis

Michael P. Lewis has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), where he leads the department in planning for and addressing Colorado's transportation needs. Mr. Lewis oversees 3,300 employees statewide and an annual budget of approximately \$1.4 billion, guiding an organization committed to becoming the best DOT in the country for its customers. Before this role, he served as CDOT's Deputy Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer since May 2015. Before coming to Colorado, Michael was the Director of Rhode Island's DOT and board member of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority and Rhode Island Public Rail Corporation from March 2008-February 2015. Before his appointments in Rhode Island, he served as the Director of Boston's Central Artery Tunnel Project (The Big Dig) from April 2000 until project completion in 2007. Mike is a past President of the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and is a member of the National Academy of Construction (NAC).



*Michael P Lewis*

Join us in congratulating Michael on his new appointment.

## The 101 on 267

During the 2017 legislative session, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 17-267 (SB 267). SB 267 addresses multiple policy areas including the hospital provider fee, K-12 education, TABOR spending caps, the senior property tax exemption, and last but not least, provides some new funding for highway infrastructure projects with a 10% set aside for transit. The bill authorizes the State Treasurer to issue \$2 billion worth of certificates of participation (COPs) for transportation projects and capital construction for higher education buildings. The state will sell \$2B worth of COPs and use the proceeds in the first four years for roads and buildings. The Colorado Department Of Transportation (CDOT) and the state will pay back the COPs over the next 20 years.

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## Roadway Fatalities On The Rise

Roadway deaths in Colorado were up in 2017 to 615 compared to 608 in 2016.

Preliminary data shows an increase in deaths from crashes involving impairment and people not being properly restrained with seat belts.

The top counties for fatalities in 2017 were: El Paso County (67), Adams County (60), Weld County (55) and Denver County (44).

## 267 *...continued from page 1*

SB 267 is anticipated to provide approximately \$1.88 billion to CDOT over four years, beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19. Proceeds to CDOT are for projects identified as Tier 1 in the 10-Year Development Program Plan, and at least 10% of the proceeds must be set aside for transit projects. The bill further requires at least 25% of CDOT's proceeds be applied to projects in counties with a population of 50,000 or less, as of July 2015. The initial recommendations for SB 267 total \$811,670,000 of the \$792 million available for highway projects in the first two years of SB 267 funding.

- US 50: Little Blue Canyon - \$9,500,000
- US 550/160: Connection - \$54,400,000
- I-25 South: Colorado Springs - Denver - \$250,000,000 (plus \$8,000,000 transit)
- I-25 North: SH 402 - SH 56 (Segment 6) - \$200,000,000 (plus \$10,000,000 transit)
- I-70 Westbound: Peak Period Shoulder Lanes - \$80,000,000 (plus \$5,000,000 transit)
- SH 13: Reconstruction - \$60,000,000
- US 160: Towaoc Passing Lanes - \$9,000,000
- US 50: West of Pueblo - \$35,520,000
- SH 9: Frisco North - \$10,250,000
- I-70 Eastern Plains: Failing Pavement - \$55,000,000
- Statewide: ADA Improvements - \$25,000,000

Some of these preliminary allocations have been made contingent on securing Federal grant funds. Once CDOT knows the results of those grant requests, the Transportation Commission may re-evaluate these assignments. Also, when the State Treasurer has completed the work of issuing the first two years of COPs, the Transportation Commission will work to identify the next priority projects for funding in the subsequent two years of SB 267 funds.

For more information on SB 267 funding contact Ron Papsdorf, CDOT Deputy Director of Policy & Government Relations at (303)-757-9105.

## Bustang Expansion

On Tuesday, January 2nd CDOT expanded Bustang to serve communities in the Arkansas Valley along U.S. 50 between Lamar and Pueblo. Outrider will provide reliable and convenient regional bus service. Each 38 seat coach is equipped with restrooms, bike racks, free Wi-Fi (where available), power outlets and USB ports and the buses are handicap accessible. Outrider service will run once a day in each direction Monday through Friday. Other stops along the route include Fort Lyons, Las Animas, La Junta, Swink, Rocky Ford, Manzanola and Fowler. CDOT anticipates extending the Colorado Springs service to Pueblo later in 2018. Outrider is expected to expand its services in summer 2018 (tentative) between Alamosa and Pueblo, Gunnison and Denver, and Durango and Grand Junction. More information can be found on [www.ridebustang.com](http://www.ridebustang.com)

