



SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 2, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango

- I. Introductions 9:00 a.m.
- II. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. June 2018 Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Financial Report: January - June 2018 – Sara Trujillo
 - 3. 2019 Contributions – Sara Trujillo
 - 4. Ratify letter of support for US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project – Jessica Laitsch
- III. Decision Agenda 9:05 a.m.
 - 1. Election of Chair for remainder of 2018 – Bentley Henderson
- IV. Reports 9:15 a.m.
 - 1. June and July 2018 STAC Update - Bentley Henderson
 - 2. Transportation Commissioner Report - Sidney Zink
- V. CDOT Reports 9:30 a.m.
 - 1. Construction Update – Kevin Curry
 - 2. Current and Proposed Funding Update - Mike McVaugh
- VI. Discussion 10:15 a.m.
 - 1. Discuss anticipated local Capital Construction and Road & Bridge Improvement Projects
- VII. Other Business 11:00 a.m.
 - 1. Transit Provider Updates
 - 2. Community Updates – Round Robin (pending available time)
- VIII. Adjourn

Next meeting date: Thursday, October 4, 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, June 7, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.
Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Bentley Henderson – Archuleta County
Keenan Ertel – Montezuma County
Sarah Dodson – City of Durango
Floyd Cook – Dolores County
Chris La May – Town of Bayfield
David Schanzenbaker – Town of Pagosa Springs
Fred Brooks – Town of Mancos (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

Ann McCoy Herald – Senator Gardner’s Office
Matt Nesbitt - Southern Ute Community Action Programs
Peter Tregillus - Southern Ute Community Action Programs (by phone)
Debbie Condrey – Archuleta County
Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner
Lisa Streisfeld – Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)
Lily Lizarraga - Colorado Department of Transportation
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation
David Valentinelli - Colorado Department of Transportation
Mike McVaugh - Colorado Department of Transportation
Miriam Gillow-Wiles - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Dylan Lucas - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

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

I. Introductions

II. Accept Minutes: April 18 and Financial Report: Jan - April 2018

Keenan Ertel motioned to approve the minutes from April 2018, Chris La May seconded, unanimously approved.

Sarah Dodson motioned to approve the minutes from May 2018, Chris La May seconded, unanimously approved.

Sara asked if there are any questions on the financial report. Bentley mentioned that the funding ends soon. He asked if there will be money allocated for the next fiscal year. Sara replied yes.

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

III. Reports

1. April and May 2018 STAC Updates - Bentley Henderson

Bentley mentioned that Mike would describe the funding picture for CDOT. Mike McVaugh described CDOT's various sources of funding and the ways monies are spent. He explained that the needs exceed the available funding, this would remain the case even if a ballot question were to increase funding. He described the possible options being discussed for a ballot measure. If a ballot measure passes, the local agencies would benefit as well. Sidney added that they are seeking feedback from local agencies to see how they would use additional funding. Miriam asked about funding for transit and intelligent transportation systems. Mike replied that these are included in CDOT's portion. He added that the initiative has been a collaborative, state-wide effort. Bentley added that there was a multimodal transportation options fund established, a portion of this would go to benefit local agencies. Sarah asked if the capital estimate includes the transit capital list. Mike replied that the estimate only includes capital construction projects. Tony mentioned that the local agencies need to start working to identify their priority lists. Miriam asked if local agencies could include other types of projects such as transit or fiber. Bentley pointed out that the counties can adjust their allocation of the mill levy to the Road and Bridge fund as needed.

Mike mentioned that the 416 Fire is over 5,000 acres. He stated that the Type I team will be arriving and preparing to take over. Officials are expecting high winds today. He described the expected road closures and evacuations that may be necessary.

Bentley reported that much of the discussion at STAC has been related to funding issues. He mentioned that the BUILD discretionary grants are available. There have been a number of presentations regarding advanced technologies related to travel. Agencies are being encouraged to coordinate with CDOT when looking to apply for grants to avoid competition and increase opportunities for coordination. There was a presentation on CDOT's efforts to create a Transit Development List.

2. Transportation Commission – Sidney Zink

Sidney reported that the Transportation Commission held their road trip and it was quite successful. The next meeting will be held in the new CDOT headquarters building. The STIP is scheduled to be approved. Also, the federal money for the GAP project was approved.

V. CDOT Reports:

1. State Transportation Demand Management Plan - Lisa Streisfeld

Lisa presented information regarding the Transportation Demand Management Plan. Bentley asked how the estimated cost of delays is determined. Lisa replied that there is a value identified for a person's time per hour in a vehicle, this in addition to the difference between actual flow versus free flow of traffic and the number of vehicles allows them to quantify the

economic impact of traffic delays. She described various alternative transportation modes and the related cost and vehicle miles saved resulting from available alternative options. Bentley asked if there is a timeframe to provide feedback. Lisa replied that ideally she would like feedback by the end of the month, but later is acceptable.

2. Construction Update – David Valentinelli

- Dolores SH 145 Sidewalk RAMP Project – Ongoing.
- US 160 SH 84 to Treasure Falls Surface Treatment – Have begun the ground anchors, guardrail and bridge components.
- US 550 Riverside Snowshed Lighting – Anticipated completion in July.
- Wolf Creek Pass Phase I Signage – Ongoing, anticipated completion in September.
- US 550 Striping and Mumble Strips – Ongoing.
- SH 172 Surface Treatment – Scheduled to begin in July.
- Region-wide Chain Stations – Specific to Red Mountain Pass.
- Durango Signal Replacement – Scheduled to go to bid in July.
- Region 5 Guardrail Replacement – Scheduled to go to bid in June with construction in September.
- SH 151 Priority Culverts – Includes shoulder widening and guardrail.
- US 550/169 Connection - Letters of interest to go out in November, the Request for Qualifications in December, and the RFPs in the spring.

3. Planning Toolkit Presentation (Planning) - Lily Lizarraga

Lily stated that she is covering for Mike King. She explained that the planning toolkit is to ensure everyone is on the same page with respect to transportation planning. She presented information about the various elements to consider when beginning the planning process.

4. Planning Toolkit Presentation (Funding) - Lily Lizarraga

Lily presented information regarding the current revenue streams for CDOT. Bentley asked whether the assumption that a doubling of vehicle miles traveled is correlated with doubled population has proven to be true. Lily replied that she could follow up with the source of the numbers. Debbie asked about the history of the gas tax. There was discussion about how the gas tax is a fixed amount per gallon which has not been adjusted for inflation and is further impacted by higher fuel efficiency vehicles. There was discussion about alternative fee options. Keenan mentioned previous discussions of a tire tax, which would include all wheeled vehicles.

VI. Other Business

1. Transit Provider Updates

Debbie reported that Archuleta County is growing ridership.

Sarah reported that they are about a month into service reductions, there may be more changes as they move forward. There have been impacts with the train not running. CDOT has been helpful with the upcoming grant application. The partnership with Roadrunner is going well, they have been providing rides to Mercy Medical Center.

Matt reported that the partnership with Durango and serving the hospital is going well. They will be seeking funding increases from local entities. The intercity service will become Bustang

Outrider. Bentley asked if there is a plan for public outreach when the change is finalized. Matt replied that SUCAP will update their own website.

Jessica reported that the SWCCOG is working on a Four Corners Transportation Plan, the next step will be to coordinate with existing regional meetings for scheduling stakeholder meetings.

2. Community Updates – Round Robin

Bentley reported that Archuleta County is preparing to begin three major reconstruction projects, the most significant is a portion of Piedra Road. They are also working on dust mitigation.

Chris reported that the Town of Bayfield has primarily been working on issues related to water and marijuana. There is one transportation project to begin in July. Also, the school district will be putting in a roundabout. Sidney asked about the major project happening the area. Chris replied that there is work being done on the La Plata-Archuleta Water Project.

Floyd reported that Dolores County is having trouble obtaining magnesium chloride. They will be seeking a grant to chipseal County Road R. There was a fire and the County is making efforts to prevent future fires.

David reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs is repaving sidewalks near the hot springs to enhance pedestrian access. The Town will also be undertaking a road survey. Bentley asked if there is still funding available for non-project specific studies. Tony replied the funding that had been used for these planning projects was significantly reduced.

Kennan reported that the Montezuma County Road Department remained busy throughout the winter. They have been undertaking asphalt overlays on a couple county roads which have been cost effective and significantly beneficial. They are negotiating with the Forest Service on Groundhog Road, the County plans to chipseal their portion of it. He added that magnesium chloride has been difficult to obtain. This has been the driest five month period on record which is impacting irrigation and grazing.

Fred reported that the Town of Mancos has postponed their bridge project, this will move construction out of tourist season.

Miriam reported that National Association of Regional Councils appointed her as the rural chair to the Transportation Committee.

Tony reiterated that it would be useful for local agencies to coordinate with CDOT on their upcoming projects because there is the potential to get more competitive bids if there are a number of projects in a given region.

Chris asked if Safe Routes to School funding is upcoming. Tony replied that the next funding call should be in two years.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 2, 2018.

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Profit & Loss

January through June 2018

	<u>Jan - Jun 18</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
CDOT Grants	
SWTPR Grant	8,753.06
Total CDOT Grants	8,753.06
Dues Revenue	
SWTPR Contributions	6,842.00
Total Dues Revenue	6,842.00
Total Income	15,595.06
Gross Profit	15,595.06
Expense	
Conference Fee	647.70
Information Technology (IT)	
Software	23.00
Total Information Technology (IT)	23.00
Internet Connectivity	
Internet Connection (AT&T)	29.03
Total Internet Connectivity	29.03
Meetings	30.66
Office Supplies	77.11
Salary and Wages	3,464.08
Travel	9,013.74
Total Expense	13,285.32
Net Ordinary Income	2,309.74
Net Income	<u><u>2,309.74</u></u>

2019 Contributions

To: SWTPR
From: Sara Trujillo
Date: 2 August 2018

Comments: While CDOT provides annual funding to support the SWTPR, local contributions help cover costs that exceed available CDOT funds or expenses that are not eligible for this funding. Annual contributions help provide supplies and staff for SWTPR meetings, travel for local representatives of the SWTPR to Denver for the monthly STAC meetings, and resources to support our region with respect to statewide appropriations and legislation that impacts rural areas.

The 2019 annual contributions will remain the same as 2018. Contribution letters will be emailed August 2018 to help communities prepare their 2019 budgets.

Memo – Letter of Support

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 27 July, 2017

Comments: The SWTPR was asked to send a letter of support for a US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project. The letter was sent on 12 July, 2018 and the SWTPR is being asked to ratify it. The letter is attached.



SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

12 July, 2018

Attn: Honorable Chairman Christine Sage
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
356 Ouray Drive
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137

RE: Support for the US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project in Southwest Colorado.

Dear Honorable Chairman Christine Sage,

On behalf of the Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR), I am pleased to write this letter of support for the US Highway 160 (US 160) Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project. The three primary economic sectors in the region; agriculture, energy development, and tourism, rely heavily on an efficient and well-connected transportation system. US 160 is an important route as it is the only east-west highway in southern Colorado. It is a corridor that connects 305 miles of southern Colorado from east to west, with Interstate 25 to the east and Interstate 40 to the west, via US 89 in Arizona. Travelers to and from Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado rely on this highway to access southern Colorado and the Four Corners region. There are no other paved roads which are viable, alternative detour routes due to the remote location and mountainous topography, therefore the resiliency of the overall highway system is dependent on this corridor.

For these reasons, the SWTPR has designated US 160 as a Regional Priority Corridor in the most recent 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. US 160 is also a designated Colorado State Highway Freight Corridor and a Hazmat Route due to its importance in regional commerce. This project has been planned and prioritized by the SWTPR, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Colorado Transportation Commission to maintain this corridor in a state of good repair.

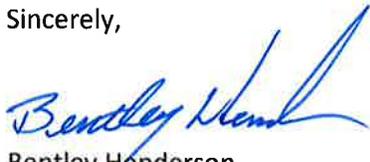
The US Highway 160 Habitat Connectivity Partnership Project is important to the region because US 160 directly bisects a critical migratory pathway for both deer and elk, creating a considerable concern for both the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The corridor has a significant and consistent crash pattern of wild animal collisions, representing 62.2% of all crashes. As well as being an important resource to the state of Colorado, mule deer and elk are both culturally and socially important to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

This project was developed in partnership with the SUIT and CPW to mitigate both the critical safety concern, and to allow for highway permeability and habitat connectivity. The proposed project improvements will address geometric and operational deficiencies of the roadway, while also prioritizing highway permeability for wildlife. Highway permeability will be addressed with a combination of mitigation measures including wildlife fencing, overpass and underpasses. Well-placed, context-

sensitive wildlife mitigation measures are proven highly effective at both reducing wildlife vehicle crashes and fostering healthy wildlife populations. Recent projects in the region that implemented similar measures have seen a 70-80% decrease in wildlife crashes. This project will not only increase motorist's safety by reducing the number of wildlife vehicle collisions and enhance habitat connectivity for declining mule deer and elk populations in Southwest Colorado, it will improve regional mobility by enhancing a passing lane.

In summary, the SWTPR fully supports this BUILD Grant application to improve the Tribal and regional economy, mobility, safety, and overall community in Southwest Colorado.

Sincerely,



Bentley Henderson
Southwest Transportation Planning Region Chair

Election of Chair

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 27 July, 2018

Comments: Bentley Henderson will be resigning as Chair of the SWTPR effective August 2018. This will require a vote for a new Chair. The by-laws of the SWTPR state that “the officers shall be elected by vote at a regularly scheduled TPR meeting to serve a term of one year or until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin upon adjournment of the regular meeting during which the election took place. Officers may be elected to successive one year terms as voted on by the representatives.”



Senate Bill 18-001 Signed

It has been less than a month since the dramatic finish to the 71st General Assembly, and the buzz around the final days of the session continues. As the clock wound down on the 120-day session, the legislature tackled policy issues such as education funding, PERA, marijuana regulations, and, of course, transportation funding. Transportation advocates continue to cheer the bipartisan Senate Bill 18-001 (SB-1) which passed at the end of the assembly.



Governor Hickenlooper signs SB-1

SB-1 transfers \$495 million from the general fund to state and local transportation projects. State highways receive \$346.5 million and local governments \$25 million. An additional \$150 million will transfer in 2019, with the state receiving \$105 million and locals getting \$28.5 million. Both years also include a transfer to multi modal programs as well, with 85% of this funding going to local governments and 15% for state transit projects. SB-1 protects the first payment of SB-267 funding from last year (\$380 million), which in addition to the new transfers gives the state highway system a much needed infusion of funding.

The remainder of the bill details a complex scenario of outcomes stemming from possible ballot measures in the November, 2018 election. For more information about CDOT Legislative issues contact Andy Karsian, CDOT Legislative Liaison at Andy.Karsian@state.co.us.

INFRA Grants for I-25 and I-70

Colorado has been awarded \$90 million from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program by the U.S. Department of Transportation. El Paso County received \$65 million that will go toward improvements to the I-25 South Gap project in Douglas and El Paso counties. CDOT also received \$25 million that will help fund a shoulder Express Lane on Interstate 70 Westbound in Clear Creek County.

Construction on the I-25 Gap project is planned to begin in late spring or summer 2019. The \$25 million INFRA grant completes the \$80 million in funding needed to build the project.

The I-70 shoulder Express Lanes is on track to begin construction by late summer of this year. The \$65 million INFRA grant completes the \$350 million funding needed to build the project.

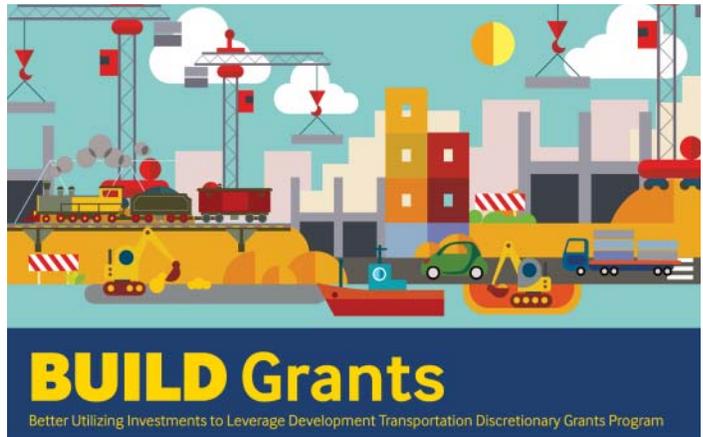
"Senators Bennet, Gardner and the rest of the Congressional Delegation stepped up to ensure that Colorado received awards for two critical transportation projects,"

*Mike Lewis,
Executive Director of CDOT*

For more information on INFRA Grants contact Aaron Greco, CDOT Local Liaison at Aaron.Greco@state.co.us

TIGER Gets New Stripes

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has dedicated nearly \$5.6 billion for nine rounds of National Infrastructure Investments Discretionary Grants to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact. The program previously known as TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) will now be known as the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the nation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.



On April 20, USDOT announced the application process for the BUILD Transportation Grants. BUILD is largely similar to previous TIGER grant rounds. Applications are due by July 19, 2018 and grant awards will be made by December 18, 2018. For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act. At least 30 percent of funds awarded to projects located in rural areas.

“BUILD Transportation grants will help communities revitalize their surface transportation systems while also increasing support for rural areas to ensure that every region of our country benefits,” said USDOT Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental protection, state of good repair, innovation, partnership, and additional non-Federal revenue for future transportation infrastructure investments.

To reflect the Administration’s Infrastructure Initiative, DOT intends to award a greater share of BUILD Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas that align well with the selection criteria than to such projects in urban areas. The notice highlights rural needs in several of the evaluation criteria, including support for rural broadband deployment where it is part of an eligible transportation project.



Increased emphasis on projects located in rural areas



\$1.5 billion ready for projects with a significant local or regional impact



Apply by July 19, 2018



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For more information on BUILD visit <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about> or for questions, please contact Herman Stockinger at herman.stockinger@state.co.us or Tim Kirby at timothy.kirby@state.co.us.



Senate Bill 18-001 Begins Flowing

Senate Bill (SB) 18-001 provides new funding for state and local transportation systems. The new legislation includes a variety of possible funding scenarios dependent upon different external factors.

On July 1, SB-18-001 allowed for the transfer of \$495M for state and local transportation projects statewide. This is divided 70% to the state, 15% to local governments and 15% to a new Multimodal Fund (MMF). The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will receive \$346.5M and locals/MMF \$74.25M each. The local money is split 50/50 between cities and counties and will be distributed via the local government Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) distribution formula. All the multimodal funding passes through CDOT. Local governments receive 85% of it and CDOT receives 15% for statewide multimodal projects. The multimodal funds may be used for transit projects, operating expenses or studies.



On July 1, 2019, another SB-001 transfer of \$150M will occur. Of this, CDOT receives \$105M, and local governments receive \$22.5M, split 50/50 between counties and cities. The MMF also receives \$22.5M, split 85% to local government transit projects and 15% to the state for CDOT transit programs.

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Traffic Safety Champions

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) recently recognized 32 individual law enforcement officers and 19 agencies as Traffic Safety Champions. The recognition focused on law enforcement efforts to reduce impaired driving and increase the use of seat belts. Agencies received recognition for their work on distracted driving, speed, and child passenger safety. A Traffic Safety Champion is an individual that shows outstanding support for impaired driving or occupant protection enforcement, from work done during the established enforcement periods throughout the year.

Individuals from the Colorado State Patrol, Sheriff Offices, and Police Departments received awards. In 2016, seat belts saved an estimated 200 lives in Colorado. An additional 60 lives would be saved if all unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants involved in fatal crashes used proper restraints. Three high visibility enforcement periods take place each year in Colorado. For more information about seat belt safety and enforcement citation numbers, visit SeatBeltsColorado.com and to see the full list of those recognized visit [this link](#).

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SB18-001 ...cont from page 1

SB-001 protects the first of four possible payments of SB-267 funding, amounting to \$380M. The state needs to repay this funding, with CDOT contributing a maximum of \$28.5M the first year and \$10.1M for the following nineteen years. These funds are split 90% to roads and 10% to state transit projects.

SB-001 also describes some future funding scenarios based on possible 2018 election outcomes. Two measures may be on the November ballot: one (Initiative #167) relies on general funds to pay for transportation bonds, and the other (Initiative #153) asks for a \$0.62 sales tax increase for state and local projects.

If Initiative #167 passes, then SB267 transfers will be rescinded (except the first 2018 transfer) since the General Fund will be forced to pay for long term bond debt payments from Initiative #167. If passed, CDOT would bond \$3.5 billion for transportation projects and the state will pay debt service of approximately \$260 million per year for 20 years.

If Initiative #153 passes, the sales tax revenue will pay for the bond debt payments. The FY 19 and FY 20 General fund transfers under SB-001 will continue, and years 2-4 of SB 267 will be restored. The general fund transfers an additional \$50M annually for 20 years to the state highway fund to use for the SB 267 debt payments, as well.

If neither initiative passes in 2018, then the legislature will refer the SB-001 ballot measure to the 2019 election, asking voters to approve \$2.3B in bonds for state and local projects. This funding would be split 85% to roads and 15% to multimodal uses.

For more information about CDOT Legislative issues contact Andy Karsian, CDOT Legislative Liaison at Andy.Karsian@state.co.us.