



SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

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

- I. Introductions 9:00 a.m.
- II. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. October 2018 Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Financial Report: January – November 2018 – Sara Trujillo
- III. Decision Agenda: 9:05 a.m.
 - 1. Election of 2019 Officers – Jessica Laitsch
 - 2. Ratification of Letter of Support for US 550 Animas Crossing Project – Jessica Laitsch
- III. Reports: 9:15 a.m.
 - 1. October and November 2018 STAC Update – Amber Blake
- IV. CDOT Reports: 9:30 a.m.
 - 1. Construction Update – Kevin Curry
 - 2. Central 70 Project – Michael King
 - 3. Transportation Planning Toolkit #5: Implementation – Michael King
- V. Other Business: 11:00 a.m.
 - 1. Transit Provider Updates
 - 2. Community Updates – Round Robin (pending available time)
- VI. Adjourn

Next meeting date: Thursday, February 7, 2019

Video/Phone Conference Info:

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

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

PO Box 963, Durango, CO 81301
970.779.4592
www.swccog.org

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation
Planning Commission
Thursday, October 4, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.
Carnegie Building, 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango**

TPR Members in Attendance:

Greg Schulte – Archuleta County
Peter Jankowski – Archuleta County
David Schanzenbaker – Town of Pagosa Springs
Amber Blake – City of Durango
Brad Blake – La Plata County
Steve Garchar – Dolores County
Floyd Cook – Dolores County
Phil Johnson – City of Cortez
Chris La May – Town of Bayfield
Doug McDonald - Southern Ute Tribe (by phone)
Heather Alvarez – Town of Mancos (by phone)

Others in Attendance:

Sidny Zink – Transportation Commissioner
Matt Muraro - Colorado Department of Transportation
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation
Eric Richardson - Colorado Department of Transportation
Mike McVaugh - Colorado Department of Transportation
Michael King - Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)
Betsy Jacobsen - Colorado Department of Transportation (by phone)
Sara Trujillo - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch – Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. August 2018 Meeting Minutes

Phil Johnson motioned to approve the August 2018 meeting minutes, Brad Blake seconded, unanimously approved.

Financial Report: January - August 2018 – Sara Trujillo

Phil Johnson motioned to approve the January-August 2018 Financial Report, Brad Blake seconded, unanimously approved.

III. Reports

1. August and September 2018 STAC Updates – Amber Blake

Amber asked that members send her community updates monthly to share at STAC. She reported that there were updates on Propositions 109 and 110. She mentioned that the Smart Mobility Plan workshop would be held later in October. She reported that there was an update by the State Demographer. There was discussion about requesting the presentation locally. She mentioned that a new element in the long range plans will be active transportation. Tony added that active transportation will be differentiated from transit, there will be more information after the election. Amber reported that the Transportation Summit was held the prior week.

2. Transportation Commissioner – Sidney Zink

Sidney reported that there was a discussion about what the Commission can do with respect to the ballot, it was decided that commission members are able to take a position, although employees are not. The Commission approved a resolution in support of Proposition 110. She reported that she attended the Transportation Summit. She also attended the Colorado Forum meeting, this included pros and cons of various ballot issues.

V. CDOT Reports:

1. Construction Update – Tony Cady

- US 550 Riverside Snowshed Lighting – Updated lighting to LEDs. Mike McVaugh mentioned that they added sensors to modulate lighting.
- US 550 Striping and Mumble Strips – Work is ongoing. He added that mumble strips are quieter than rumble strips.
- US 160 Paving from SH 84 to Treasure Falls – Work will be complete in a couple weeks, this was a pavement reconstruction project.
- Wolf Creek Pass Phase I Signage – This is a result of a safety audit. Part of the signage will include information about what to expect for the upcoming section of road.
- US 160 Junction SH 172 to Bayfield Resurfacing – This was all nighttime work, which seems to have worked out well. Paving is complete, there is some remaining work on shoulders and guardrail.
- Durango Signal Replacement US 550 – This will impact traffic on North Main.
- SH 151 Priority Culverts – Replacing failing culverts, should be completed in mid-November.
- Region-wide Chain Stations – Updating lighting in a variety of locations. Mike McVaugh added that Region 5 has been very successful receiving freight funding.
- US 160 Rest Area Improvements – Parking and lighting at two rest areas to be updated.
- Region 5 Guardrail Replacement – This project will be re-advertised due to no bids.
- US 491 Ute Farms Ditch – Contributing to a Ute Mountain Ute project.
- US 160 Passing Lanes North of Towaoc – Alternating passing lanes with wider shoulders and water line replacement.
- US 160 Four Corners to Aztec Creek – This project may change is Proposition 110 is approved.
- US 550 Wall Failure – Replacement of two damaged cribwalls south of Ouray.

Sidney asked about monitoring. Mike replied that there are formal inspections every year or two, but if workers see anything they immediately notify the office. He explained emergency funding for unexpected issues.

2. Proposition 109 and 110 Funding Update - Mike McVaugh

Mike reviewed the distribution of bonding and/or additional funding in the event either Proposition 109 or 110 pass. Amber mentioned that the gas tax is decreasing due to increased fuel efficiency, but this is a sales tax and as such is expected to increase over time. Mike added that CDOT is trying to be conservative on the estimates of future revenues. Chris asked for clarification that the law would go in effect July 1. Mike replied yes. Mike described the use of additional monies, in general Proposition 109 would help CDOT, while Proposition 110 would help everyone. Amber asked what would happen if both pass. Mike replied that the state courts would need to determine if there are conflicts and how to resolve such conflicts. Tony added that Proposition 109 would end SB 267 while Proposition 110 would not.

Mike presented information summarizing the reduction in gas tax despite increased population. He provided an overview of the sources of CDOT's funding; the ballot measures would not solve CDOT's funding problems, but would help. If neither proposition passes, the legislature has committed to bring forward a referendum. He explained that because gas tax is per gallon, gas tax collections have remained flat although vehicle miles traveled have approximately doubled. There was discussion about the state of roads in various states compared to their funding sources. Mike reviewed statistics related to fatalities on roads across the state.

Mike described the selection of projects identified for each proposition. Greg asked if the portion identified in Proposition 110 for multimodal would be allocated proportionally or set up as a statewide pot of available funding. Mike replied that some funding would be set aside for specific, large multimodal projects; the distribution of the remainder would be identified later. David asked if the bonding would come from the general fund. Mike replied that if Proposition 109 passes there is a concern about the budget impacts of paying the debt service. Mike and Sidny will be presenting this information to the communities throughout Region 5. Chris mentioned that the Town of Bayfield adopted resolutions related to the two propositions. Brad added that La Plata County would be considering similar resolutions. Mike added that CDOT has a lot of information is anyone needs anything.

2. Safe Routes to School Grant Opportunity - Matt Muraro

Matt explained that there are Safe Routes to School grants available for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. He added that they will be switching to two year cycles and described the eligibility requirements. He asked applicants to work with him before submitting.

3. CDOT Bike and Pedestrian Planning – Betsy Jacobsen

Betsy summarized that she has been asked to give updates on bicycle and pedestrian plans throughout the state. The state currently has a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan, they will be looking to separate these into different plans which will include planned projects. Matt added that if any localities have bicycle related projects it will be important to pass these along for inclusion. Greg asked if off system projects should be included, there was discussion about including any possible projects. Amber asked if there would be local stakeholder groups for this process. Betsy replied that they would likely establish a stakeholder group representing interests throughout the state, likely a combination of remote and on-site visits. Phil asked if

these would include local match. Matt replied that it would depend on the specific project and funding availability.

4. Transportation Planning Toolkit Module 4: Project Selection – Michael King

Michael presented information about the project selection step for the transportation planning process.

VI. Other Business

1. Transit Provider Updates

Amber reported that Durango Transit is running reduced services and they received a grant for replacement buses in 2019. They have added another trolley because they were unable to remain on the original reduced schedule. The CASTA conference is being held this week. Sidney asked if there is any news on SUCAP. Amber replied that Peter sent out a request for increased funding for them to continue service.

2. Community Updates – Round Robin

Phil reported that the City of Cortez have been working on medians, the project has become quite contentious. He hopes they will be able to address ADA ramps in the near future. The City is working through the budget process.

Floyd reported that Dolores County completed the Pioneer Center parking lot and walking path, but they will need to make further improvements to prevent falls.

Chris reported that the Town of Bayfield is working on the budget. They are working on the transportation route to the new school and the east intersection. Mike added that the intersection is moving through the process, but it needs to be approved by every department in Region 5.

Amber reported that the City of Durango is working to approve use of City property for staging for a CDOT project. They agreed on a panel swap and will be signing an IGA with CDOT for long term maintenance. They will be executing a contract with La Plata County for the US 550/160 intersection. They are waiting on the budget pending the ballot question. David asked about the Durango ballot question, Amber replied that it is a combined 5.4 mill and 0.55 sales tax for streets and public safety.

David reported that the Town of Pagosa Springs will focus on maintenance in 2019. He detained the ballot questions being presented in Archuleta County.

Doug reported that the Southern Ute Tribe is wrapping up various projects, including striping and crosswalk development. They received a NOFO from the BIA for a Nationally Significant Federal Lands Grant. Mike mentioned that CDOT will be looking to explore a partnership with the Tribe. There was discussion about how to manage details for a partnership.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 6, 2018.

1:40 PM

12/03/18

Accrual Basis

Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Profit & Loss

January through November 2018

	<u>Jan - Nov 18</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
CDOT Grants	
SWTPR Grant	20,559.57
Total CDOT Grants	<u>20,559.57</u>
Total Income	<u>20,559.57</u>
Gross Profit	20,559.57
Expense	
Conference Fee	1,135.40
Information Technology (IT)	
Software	23.00
Total Information Technology (IT)	23.00
Internet Connectivity	
Internet Connection (AT&T)	50.04
Total Internet Connectivity	50.04
Office Supplies	102.80
Professional Fees	
Legal	14.40
Total Professional Fees	14.40
Rent	12.00
Salary and Wages	6,160.64
Travel	10,927.58
Total Expense	<u>18,425.86</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>2,133.71</u>
Net Income	<u><u>2,133.71</u></u>

Election of 2019 Officers

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 30 November, 2018

Comments: 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” and that elections shall be held at the last meeting of every year. The offices to be voted on are the Chair and Vice-chair.

Memo – Letter of Support

To: SW Colorado Transportation Planning Region
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 30 November, 2018

Comments: The SWTPR was asked to send a letter of support for a US Highway 550 Animas Crossing Project. The letter was submitted to CDOT on 20 November, 2018 and the SWTPR is being asked to ratify it. The letter is attached.



SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

20 November, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support for the US Highway 550 - Animas Crossing Project in Southwest Colorado

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Southwest Transportation Planning Region (SWTPR), I am pleased to write this letter of support for the US 550 Animas Crossing Project. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) will support and sponsor the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to submit an application for funding to the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Grant. The project will complete improvements on a final segment of US 550—the only direct, continuous, north-south route in western Colorado and a primary access point to the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Lands. The five mile project in rural southwestern Colorado improves the safety for commercial and passenger traffic between Colorado and New Mexico; maintains aging infrastructure; improves the quality of life for residents and visitors; supports the economic development of the regional agriculture and tourism industries and the national energy resources in the San Juan Basin (one of the West's largest oil and gas reserves); and supports the region's transportation goals.

The region will greatly benefit from the reconstruction of this roadway including the improvement of insufficient shoulders; repair of a structurally deficient bridge and addition of a parallel bridge for two travel lanes; placement of new pavement; and construction of safer intersections with county roads. The project will also construct larger and improved wildlife crossings, which will reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle crashes and improve wildlife connectivity in this part of the state.

This particular segment of US 550 has experienced regular closures due to significant rockfall on a 0.2-mile segment since the highway was originally constructed. Large sandstone blocks tumble onto US 550, creating dangerous conditions for drivers; expensive repairs for CDOT maintenance; and lengthy delays for commuters, recreationalists, freight carriers, and others.

The SWTPR supports the application to the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Grant for the US 550 Animas Crossing Project due to the positive impacts the project will have on the economy, mobility, and safety in southwestern Colorado.

Sincerely,

Amber Blake

Southwest Transportation Planning Region Chair