



# SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION

## Regular Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Friday, August 5, 2016

**Place:** Carnegie Building 1188 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Durango

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/109670693>

Or 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: June 3, 2016\***  
**Accept Financial Report: June 2016\***
- 9:10 III. Reports**
- 1. STAC updates**
    - a. June & July 2016 meetings:** Bentley Henderson & Kevin Hall
  - 2. Transportation Commissioner Report: Sidny Zink**
    - a. Telephone Town Hall**
- 10:00 IV. CDOT Reports:**
- 1. CDOT Updates: Michael King and Ed Archuleta**
    - a. Together We Go**
    - b. Development Plan**
    - c. Freight Plan**
    - d. Construction Update**
- 11:45 V. Other Business**
- 1. Transit Provider Updates**
  - 2. Community Updates –Round Robin (pending available time)**
- VII. Adjourn**

Next meeting date: October 7, 2016

*\*vote requested*

**Southwest Colorado Regional Transportation  
Planning Commission**

**Friday, June 3, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.**

La Plata County Administration Building, 1101 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  
Greg Schulte – Town of Pagosa Springs  
John Egan – Town of Pagosa Springs  
Jacob Garlick - Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Phillip Johnson – City of Cortez

Others in Attendance:

Matt Muraro – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Tony Cady – Colorado Department of Transportation  
Miriam Gillow-Wiles - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments  
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 9:10 a.m.

**I. Introductions**

**II. Accept Minutes: April 2016**

**Bentley Henderson motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Phillip Johnson seconded, unanimously approved.**

**Accept Financial Report: April 2016**

**Phillip Johnson motioned to accept the financial report as presented, Keenan Ertel seconded, unanimously approved.**

**III. Reports**

**1. STAC updates**

**a. April & May 2016 meetings: Kevin Hall**

Kevin reported on the following items:

- There was a roundtable discussion regarding lessons learned relative to the State Transportation Plan. The intent is to have ongoing discussions and feedback on the plan rather than waiting for the next planning process. Some feedback included finding ways to be more publically friendly and to have content more related to the daily lives of users, such as: asset management, processes for determining needs, technology, freight, data

and trends, minority and low-income effects on transportation, multi-modal, environmental analysis, performance measurements, economic vitality, and safety.

- Seeking feedback on the development program, the inventory of all the investment needs throughout the state. Matt Muraro elaborated that this list simply includes priority projects, they are not prioritized and there is no funding attached. Bentley Henderson asked how this affects the decision making process. Matt replied the decision making process has not yet been decided, this will assist when prioritized projects need to be identified quickly. Tony Cady added that they are working on a related tool to assist with regional prioritization based on specific criteria. Kevin mentioned that STAC would like to know what questions should be asked during the telephone town hall. Matt added that the telephone town hall is scheduled for July 13, there will be a campaign to publicize this and he will send out additional information.
- Discussion on a statewide travel model to allow the state to assess how changes impact the highway system. This is similar to local efforts already being undertaken. Matt added that this will involve significant information sharing.
- The bills to allow Tribal voting at STAC and an analysis of STAC were passed by the legislature. The major item from this session was the change of how STAC and TC operate, specifically STAC will serve in a more advisory capacity to the TC. Matt added that funding is a consistent source of contention. Kevin elaborated that there will be ongoing work to figure out how this will work and these discussions are occurring.
- There was an update on the alternative fuels program. He mentioned that there may be a compressed natural gas station planned for the region. Tony elaborated that the Energy Office had been working with 4CORE to begin efforts to set up stations, but they are no longer working together. Matt mentioned that 4CORE will have an event on alternative fuels on June 7. Greg Schulte added that Pagosa Springs has had discussions about an electrical charge station, but they do not have anything planned right now. Miriam mentioned that Mesa Verde has also discussed putting in an electric charge station. There was additional discussion about possible EV, CNG and propane stations throughout the region.
- STAC minutes and presentations are available online.

## **2. Legislation Update:** Jessica Laitsch

Written report.

### **III. CDOT Reports:**

#### **1. CDOT Updates:** Matt Muraro

Matt reported that CDOT will have a Bike to Work Day on June 22.

TAP applications will be due in August and there is a mandatory pre-application meeting required by July. Chris La May asked if this funding is 80/20. Matt replied it is.

Safe Routes to School projects were awarded, Durango and Pagosa Springs received funding for infrastructure projects and Archuleta County schools, Center and Durango received funding for non-infrastructure projects. He added that the next round will be due in December, will follow the same process and again there will be \$2 million for infrastructure and \$500,000 for non-infrastructure projects. Bentley asked if the available \$2 million is statewide. Matt replied it is.

Tony reported that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's Bear Dance is today. Also today is the meeting with the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, which is being attended by the Lieutenant

Governor. Additionally, they will be signing a maintenance agreement. He described the history of road improvements in that area and the purpose of the maintenance agreement.

## **2. CDOT HQ Updates: Michael King**

### **3. Construction Project Update: Tony Cady**

- US 160 Wilson Gulch Road Extension – Kevin reported that everything on the original contract has been completed with the exception of the final overlay.
- US 160 W. Wildlife Crossing at Dry Creek – The first half of the box has been placed and they are now paving over it. There was general discussion on the reasons for the high cost of projects like this and how that creates challenges with taking on more projects like this, despite the needs.
- US 550 Cribwalls Phase II/III Project – Blasting is occurring right now near the top of Red Mountain Pass and there will be lane closures. There were timing limitations due to wildlife.
- US 491 Cortez to MCR 30 (CR M) – Summarized from written report.
- US 160 Mesa Verde Bridge Coating – Summarized from written report.
- SH 145 Chipseal West Fork North
- SH 145 north of Rico – Will tie in with a previous project on the other side of Lizardhead Pass.
- R5 US 24, SH 17, US 160 Priority Culverts – This project will be for lining or replacing corroded or damaged culverts.
- SH 184 Narraguinnep Canal 0-02-A Structure – This project is replacement of an old timber structure with a wider structure.
- US 160 McCabe Creek Pagosa – They are working on completing the design, currently doing demos. There have been issues with right-of-way acquisition, a number of properties will have to be condemned. Bentley asked why the project has been pushed back. Tony replied that the scope has grown and they are still looking for funds to complete the project. One major change to the project involved a wall that was intended to preserve one property, however this turned out to be impractical. Greg recommended that the project begin after tourist season.
- US 550 Durango Sidewalk Ramps – Ad to go out in July.
- US 550 Cribwall Repair MP 68.7 and 88.76 – Ad to go out in the fall.
- US 550 San Juan Line to Coal Bank Pass – Preconstruction meeting is today with construction to begin within a week or two.
- US 491 Surface Treatment – First of three projects that will ultimately end in Cahone.
- US 491 at County Road S – Identified on intersections prioritization study.
- They do not expect to hear anything on their grant applications until later in the summer. They submitted a FLAP application for passing lanes north of Towaoc and the Sunnyside gap. This is a competitive process and there is a lot of interest. Keenan asked about surface treatment to Cahone. Tony replied there are three projects that will ultimately end up there. Keenan mentioned that they will be looking for grant funding for the intersection of US 491 and CR BB. Greg asked if the east side of Wolf Creek Pass is listed. Tony replied that this is in the San Luis Valley region. There was discussion about conduit and fiber optic being laid on Wolf Creek Pass. John recommended changing the

terminology of the wildlife underpasses to help people recognize that this is for human safety and to prevent property damage in addition to protecting wildlife. Kevin pointed out that the 550/160 continuous flow intersection was landscaped with wildflowers, but due to weeds has been re-designed. There was discussion on median usage.

## **V. Other Business**

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

Kevin reported that the City of Durango is struggling to keep its transit system funded, although it is well utilized, and are looking at fee options.

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

Greg reported that south Eighth Street should be awarded next week, they received four bids. The Town of Pagosa Springs is getting easements in place for the Town-to-Lakes Trail. The town is partnering with the county on Trujillo Road. They were awarded a Safe Routes to School grant for north Eighth Street. They will not be putting in an EV station because they need to reconstruct a structurally compromised pedestrian bridge. Matt asked if they have considered TPA funding for this. Greg replied that they had not, but they do intend to apply for TAP funds for the Town-to-Lakes Trail. They are considering putting in a bridge at Fifth Street, they are currently doing traffic and economic impact studies.

Bentley reported that Archuleta County has a couple of reconstruction projects. They are working on rehabilitation on a bridge. They are wrapping up the Trujillo Road project. They submitted a FLAP grant application for the Piedra Road project. They are partnering with the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association on the trail system. He offered congratulations to Kevin on his promotion. Bentley will attend the STAC meeting at the end of the month if anyone has items to be reported.

Phil reported that the City of Cortez is working on water taps. They are relocating waterlines for the Lebanon Road realignment. They are connecting Cactus Street from US 160 to Third Street. They are wrapping up the Paradise Village project.

Keenan reported that Montezuma County is chip sealing 22 miles of county road, from CR 34 to CO 184, as this has become a highly used route. They received a \$1.2 million DOLA match grant for CR U. They will be doing an additional 6 miles of McElmo Canyon Road which is highly used and very dangerous.

John reported that Mountain Express Transit is putting up new bus stop signs to be compliant with CDOT standards. They are also scheduled to get some new vehicles. He commended CDOT on changes they have made, saying that they have been much easier to work with and very responsive. He reiterated that public transportation does not pay for itself and it is an ongoing struggle to figure out how to cut costs.

Chris reported that the Town of Bayfield is wrapping up a small street project. They hope to have two bridge replacement projects go out to bid, but are struggling with timing between wildlife and river flow concerns. There are a few issues on US 160, the first is engine brake mufflers, however since US 160 has not been annexed the Town does not have much authority. Tony discussed the possibility of placing signage. The other issue is a number of accidents at the intersection of CR 501 and US 160. Tony asked if this was included on the intersection priority request list. Chris replied that it was requested, but not included. He added that the Marshall believes most of the accidents are driver error.

Jacob reported that the new intersection is in place in Ignacio. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is working with CDOT, the county and the BIA for improvements on CR 517 which is a \$2.3 million project, currently there are some right-of-way issues. They are engaged in a housing development that will consist of 85 lots. They have allocated funding for safety guardrail improvements. They will be redoing the roadway near the cemetery. They are working on their long range transportation plan.

Kevin reported that the City of Durango has started a new section of the SMART 160 Trail in Grandview. Another project is developing roads to open up property between Walmart and Home Depot, they are looking at a special improvement district for this. They are also working on extending water down La Posta Road to Animas Air Park. There have been discussions about alternative management approaches for the Durango-La Plata Airport as it is not ideal as a city department. He discussed the potential ballot initiative for a new terminal and stressed that this ties in with the transportation system. They are working on the redevelopment of the US 550 corridor through the city and looking to cost share on this project.

Kevin asked what time the SWCCOG meeting begins. Miriam replied 1:30 p.m. Kevin asked if the meeting timing works for participants of both. Miriam replied that having time for lunch and meeting set up is useful. Kevin stated that this should be discussed if it ever becomes an issue.

## **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. The next meeting will be held August 5, 2016.

## Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

## Profit &amp; Loss

January through June 2016

	<u>Jan - Jun 16</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Dues Revenue	
SWTPR Dues	7,679.00
Total Dues Revenue	7,679.00
SWTPR CDOT Grant	22,100.00
Total Income	29,779.00
Gross Profit	29,779.00
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	
Internet Connection (AT&T)	64.19
Software	364.30
Total Internet Connectivity	428.49
Meetings	277.78
Office Equipment	1,412.52
Office Supplies	206.46
Professional Fees	
Audit	799.99
Misc.	12.12
Total Professional Fees	812.11
Salary and Wages	3,377.13
Travel	4,416.39
Total Expense	11,517.40
Net Ordinary Income	18,261.60
Net Income	<u><u>18,261.60</u></u>



## Bike Month

Colorado is a premier bicycling state. To celebrate bicycling for transportation, fun and health, Colorado has designated each June as Bike Month.

While there will be many events around the state throughout the month, the highlight of the month is Bike to Work Day when employees leave their cars at home and enjoy bicycling to work. The number of Bike to Work Day participants has risen steadily since 1995, and due to the popularity of bicycling in Colorado that trend is expected to continue this year. *...continued on page 2*

## EJMT Fire Suppression

On May 6, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently completed Eisenhower Johnson Memorial Tunnel Fire Suppression System. The event celebrated the completion of this important safety and asset protection system and was attended by Congressman Jared Polis, Transportation Commission Chairwoman Kathy Connell, Federal Highway Administration Division Director John Cater, and local dignitaries.



*Congressman Polis at Fire Suppression Opening*

Work on the \$25 million project began after the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment dedicated \$5 million in seed money through the Petroleum Cleanup and Redevelopment Fund. CDOT then secured a \$10 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant from the Federal Highway Administration. The remaining cost was covered through CDOT programs, including \$9 million from the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program, and \$1 million from the Funding Advancement for the Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) safety program.

Congressman Jared Polis was instrumental in gaining federal support for the project. At the May 6 event the Congressman stated that "The Eisenhower Tunnel fire suppression system will improve the safety of travelers," Polis added, "It will help reduce the closure times in traffic. And most importantly, it will save lives."



*2016 Bike Month Poster*



## New Director in SW Colorado

In April Mike McVaugh was named Regional Transportation Director for CDOT Region 5. McVaugh will lead the region's team of 320 employees who are responsible for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of a 15 county area in southwest and south central Colorado.

McVaugh has been with CDOT for 25 years, serving in several diverse areas including survey, design, materials testing, and construction. Since 2003 McVaugh served as the Region 5 Traffic Engineer.



Mike McVaugh

McVaugh says he believes he has inherited a strong team of the employees within Region 5, which consistently leads the state in service performance. "I value the dedication of our southwest crew. My initial goal and vision is to build upon that commitment and ensure each and every employee can say: We're proud of the work we do; we are 'CDOT proud'."

A native of Colorado, McVaugh is a graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in civil engineering. McVaugh replaces former Regional Transportation Director Kerrie Neet who recently retired. Join us in congratulating Mike on his new post.

For the final CDOT  
Legislative Memo of  
the 2016 Session of the  
General Assembly  
click this [link](#)

## Bike Month ....cont from page 1

To help you encourage and promote safe bicycling to co-workers, friends, and family, the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Bicycle and Pedestrian Program provides free materials for use by cities, counties, business or other organizations. The Bicycle/Pedestrian and Byways Section provides numerous materials to encourage and to help people safely enjoy bicycling in Colorado.

- **2016 Bike Month Poster** -- designed by artist Lauren Memarian, this year's poster is a whimsical depiction of people bicycling to work, while still bringing in attributes of the Colorado lifestyle.
- **Colorado Bicycling Manual** -- includes the official rules for road and trail use for bicyclists and walkers in Colorado. Chapters for all ages on commuting, traffic rules, skill building, equipment, accessories, safety, etc.
- **Colorado Bicycling and Scenic Byways map** -- State road map for bicyclists. Includes approximate shoulder width and traffic volumes.
- **Rules of the Road & Trail Wallet Cards** -- Plastic card the size of a business card. This is a quick reference for rules related to bicycling, walking and driving.

Click on this [link](#) to download an ordering form and a complete list of all available materials. The form includes instructions on how to return it to CDOT once you have filled in your requests.



## Reaching Out Together

In early June the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) launched Together We Go, a series of conversations with the public. Together We Go is an on-going conversation about transportation with the citizens of Colorado. It allows people across the state to take a look at what CDOT is doing to make sure we're all moving together in the right direction.

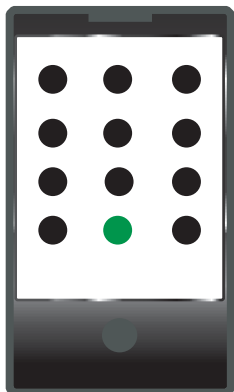
The program consists of a combination of:

- telephone town halls.
- face-to-face meetings over the summer.
- ongoing online and social media interaction.



## TOGETHER WE GO

The Together We Go effort also gives CDOT the opportunity to report on progress, determine if adjustments are needed, discuss new CDOT initiatives and innovations, and the current funding situation.

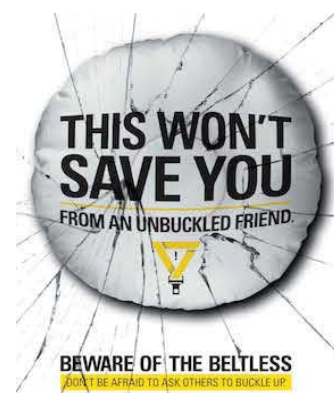


Nine Telephone Town Halls are being held over the course of seven weeks in June and July. The conference calls provide the public a forum to ask questions and give input about a variety of transportation issues. Residents in all 64 counties will be called at random through an automated system and invited to take part in their regional town hall. The interactive calls will reach out to approximately 350,000 people statewide.

Statewide Telephone Town Halls will be the first component for the Together We Go effort. See more information at our Together We go website <http://coloradotransportationmatters.com/together-we-go/>

## Beware of the Beltless

Unbuckled automobile passengers increase the risk of a driver being hurt or killed in an accident by 40%. In an effort to increase public awareness of this issue the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) started the Beware of the Beltless safety campaign. In 2015, Colorado saw an alarming spike in traffic fatalities, totaling 545 fatalities compared to 488 in 2014, an 11.7% increase. Colorado is one of few states without a primary seat belt law. This new campaign will be deployed in Denver, Jefferson, Weld, Pueblo, Adams and El Paso counties. These counties were chosen based on a combination of low seat belt use and a high rate of unbuckled fatalities. 32 partner organizations are working with CDOT on this campaign representing a variety of sectors, including healthcare, transportation, law enforcement, military, community organizations and some of the largest employers in the targeted counties. For more information visit <https://www.codot.gov/safety/seatbelts-carseats/year-of-the-seat-belt>



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