



## Southwest Transit Coordinating Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

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

- I. Introductions
- II. Consent Agenda:
  - 1. November 2017 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Discussion Items
  - 1. City of Durango Transit update – Sarah Dodson
  - 2. Transit and Rail Advisory Subcommittee FTA 5311 Funding Distribution update – Sarah Dodson
  - 3. Non-emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) updates – Kalisha Crossland
- V. Reports
  - 1. Transit Provider Updates
  - 2. Human Service Provider Updates
  - 3. Grant Updates

Video/Phone Conference Info:

<https://www.zoom.us/j/510934526>

1-646-558-8656 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 510 934 526

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**Southwest Transit Coordinating Council – Meeting Minutes**  
**17 November 2017**  
**Carnegie Building, 1188 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Durango, CO 81301**

In Attendance:

Sarah Dodson – City of Durango

Kent Harris – City of Durango

Angel Tracy - Southwest Center for Independence Southwest Rides

Jason Armstrong - Southwest Center for Independence Southwest Rides

Kalisha Crossland – San Juan Basin Health Department

Jessica Laitsch-Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Dylan Lucas– Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

**I. Introductions**

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

**II. Consent Agenda**

1. September 2017 meeting minutes

No comments.

**III. Discussion Items**

1. Southwest Center for Independence - Southwest Rides Program Update

Angel reported that they have been working hard to increase ridership, including ads on transit buses, the Veteran’s Day parade, and hiring a marketing consultant. Since July they have expanded from three rides to the food bank to full vans every Thursday. They have a day full of scheduled rides scheduled on Monday due to the upcoming holiday. She explained that the bus can carry ten people with no wheelchairs or five people with one wheelchair present and they will hold three people plus one wheelchair.

Angel reported that they received a second van which has the Southwest Rides logo on it and a part time swing driver has been hired to expand service times. Jason mentioned that they are trying to figure out how to include volunteer drivers, one issue they have encountered is the upfront cost of training the drivers. Angel added that they will be working with the Adaptive Sports Association and the Disabled American Veterans organization to try to identify available drivers.

They reported that they will need PUC approval prior to providing Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation, and the program had been set program up to allow changes as necessary. They also spoke with the representative in Denver who indicated that splitting rides between counties would be possible, the organizations would have to agree on a meeting point then split the billed trip cost based on the amount of time the person is in the vehicle. This may be a feasible option for some providers, the transfers just need to happen between Medicaid providers. There was general discussion about a possible ride splitting program. Jason asked if the SWCCOG could facilitate coordination of a ride sharing program.

There was discussion about non-medical group outing management. Jason says the program wants to stay focused on original intent. They are more inclined to start doing things that Medicaid wouldn’t pay for, including pharmacy and support groups.

There was general discussion about Opportunity Bus routes, commercial driver's licenses, and how Southwest Rides handles scheduling for holidays. One strategy is identifying how medical providers handle holiday schedules so they can coordinate accordingly.

## 2. City of Durango Transit Update

Sarah reported that Durango was hit hard by the reallocation of 5311 funds, this will cut their operating budget in half. The City Council directed staff to engage in a public process rather than just making cuts from data. One significant change will be cutting service to Mercy Medical Center and Three Springs, service will end at Walmart. They will be working with various organizations to ensure needs continue to be met. They expect to discuss route options with City Council in December with changes to be implemented in April.

There was general discussion about PASS training opportunities and potential options for setting up other opportunities for drivers in the region. There was general discussion about medical versus non-medical Medicaid trips, specifically how they are being used and how trips should be billed.

Jason asks if the Council had made a decision about the requested letter of support. Jessica replied that she had not received responses from the group and the letter was due at the end of October. She added that the group is very informal and a formal action may not be appropriate, however there were letters of support sent from individual entities.

## **IV. Reports**

### 1. Human Service Provider Updates

Kalisha reported that there are more providers in Archuleta County and Durango that now accept Medicaid. She described impacts of changes related to Medicaid. There is general discussion about Medicaid in the region.

Jason mentioned that they are talking about expanding their case-coordination team services, this could be a starting point for Home and Community Based Services.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.