



## Southwest Transit Coordinating Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

Friday, September, 20 2019, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

295 Girard Street, Durango, CO

- I. Introductions
- II. Consent Agenda:
  - 1. May 2019 Meeting Minutes
- III. Discussion Items
  - 1. Goals and future projects
- IV. Reports
  - 1. Transit Provider Updates
  - 2. Human Service Provider Updates
  - 3. Regional Coordination 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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**Transit Council Meeting Minutes**  
Friday, May 17, 2019, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
295 Girard Street, Durango, CO

In attendance:

Jessica Laitsch: Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Martina Pansze: Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

Sarah Dodson: City of Durango

Kalisha Crossland: San Juan Basin Public Health

Vicky Maestas: La Plata County Senior Center

TJ Burr: CDOT Division of Transit and Rail

Debbie Condrey: Archuleta County

Meredith Greene: Nelson/Nygaard Consulting

Arvin Trujillo: Four Corners Economic Development

Andrew Montoya: Red Apple Transit, Farmington

Brodie Ayers: CDOT Division of Transit and Rail

Julie Bingham: Dolores County

Gabrielle Chavez: New Mexico Department of Transportation

### **I. Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

### **II. Presentation**

Meredith reported on the SWCCOG Four Corners Coordinated Transit Plan. Andrew asked about the study's outreach process to providers. Meredith described the process and added that the study is designed to be used by providers like Red Apple. Kalisha noted that the 211 website is lacking transportation links and suggested a partnership to add resources.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

1. March 2019 Meeting Minutes

Debbie noted that the March minutes incorrectly stated that Archuleta County ridership had doubled. It should read that the senior ridership rates had doubled.

### **IV. Reports**

1. Transit Provider Updates

Sarah reported that the City of Durango is seeking drivers. She reported that ridership is growing, especially Trolley ridership. The City of Durango partnered with the Farmer's Market to offer a punch pass system. Additionally, the new app system with additional pass options will go live this summer. A new partnership with Roadrunner Transit now also offers rides to the Tech Center on a Durango Transit pass.

Debbie said that Archuleta County has begun offering rides to Durango for seniors. Sarah suggested that they coordinate.

Vickie said that the Senior Center is in desperate need of a full-time bus driver and have been seeing a lack of applicants.

## 2. Human Service Provider Updates

## 3. Grant Updates

TJ reported that the funding call for 5310 and 5311 closed on Monday. He announced a funding opportunity through 5339(B). Sarah asked if the 5339 opportunity was a consolidated call, and TJ confirmed that it is.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

## Southwest Transit Council - 2016

### Vision and Purpose

Southwest Transit Vision: The Southwest Transit Council will provide coordination and support for transportation services that encourage transit travel among the region's residents, employees, and visitors.

Transit Council Purpose: To collaborate between social services, employers, educators, medical providers and transit to get regional support for present and future issues by recognizing grant opportunities and identifying needs of the region.

The group talked about this question: What is the purpose of this Council?

Answers:

- It's not just about accessing money. We coordinate between and hook up and link systems and services to become more efficient and avoid duplicating effort.
- Collaboration.
- Working to identify and then meet or address needs.
- Ongoing reporting of needs as they vary across each area.
- Linking our transportation systems together where possible (acknowledged that in our rural/vast area, this is very challenging).

### Long-term Goals

1. Adopt policies that encourage sustainable, transit-oriented development that maximize choices and incentives for reducing dependency on the private automobile.
2. Identify and explore funding opportunities to preserve existing transportation services, expand the transportation network, and share funding information with all transportation providers.
3. Consider regional bus service to boost commerce, tourism, and economic development.
4. Ensure mobility and access for seniors, people with disabilities, people on limited incomes, and other transit dependent populations.
5. Support existing and future transportation services with informational programs, outreach, and incentives.

## Goals for 2016

In support of goal #2 “Identify and explore funding opportunities to preserve existing transportation services, expand the transportation network, and share funding information with all transportation providers”:

#1 Seek and understand funding opportunities, and bring to the Council.

Strategies and actions:

- Utilize meetings and email to share grant and other funding opportunities.
- Share funding resources between members and also from the SWCCOG staff to the members.

In support of goal #4 “Ensure mobility and access for seniors, people with disabilities, people on limited incomes, and other transit dependent populations”:

#2 Increase access to employment, education, and medical opportunities (specifically for/with an emphasis toward)

Strategies and Actions:

- Determine opportunities for any project between transit systems
- Advocacy
- Increase resources for marketing our systems to users
- Link the Council to the TPR (see #5)
- Play a communication role about funding opportunities related to achieving this goal

Note: The group acknowledged the difficulty in opening up new transit with shrinking dollars to cover existing systems. However, that said, this remains a goal. The group agreed that reviewing the needs expressed by human service providers is an important step and that where possible, those needs could be considered by each individual member.

#3 Better engage human service agencies.

Strategies and Actions

- Revisit the list of human service needs each year.
- Add additional counties’ needs to the current list.

- Use the “take the table” to them concept in understanding what their needs are (i.e., go to their meetings). Also, use the following tools for seeking human service needs: surveys, 1:1 conversations, building relationships and meetings.

In support of all long-term goals through the creation of a more effective and efficient Transit Council:

#4 Be a center point and forum for: a) sharing knowledge and resources; b) collaborating; c) reporting on needs and problem solving around those needs; and d) bringing trainings to the region that will help each member better perform their functions and duties.

Strategies and Actions

- The SWTC will, through the help of SWCCOG staff, bring in 1-2 trainings in 2016. A priority is Medicaid billing.
- Everyone will report at each meeting what they are doing, needs, etc. Increase the concept of the Council being a forum.
- The members will share information that comes to them over email or in other ways.
- When possible, each member will share technical expertise with other members.

#5 When asked, the SWCCOG will be a voice at the policy level for transit, working with the TC members. (does this fall under goal #6?)

Strategies and Actions

- SWCCOG staff will summarize the TC meeting minutes and share with the TPR and visa-versa.
- The SWCCOG staff, when asked, will give the Council a voice in policy matters and will bring any opportunities to the TC members for consideration.

#6 Structure

- The group will meet quarterly and use email as necessary in-between meetings.
- The TC will elect a chair and vice-chair
- Create operating agreements (bylaws)

**Roles:**

Transit Council - content experts, sets the mission, vision, purpose and goals

SWCCOG staff - facilitators, day to day, project based, “linkers,” provide clerical and financial assistance and oversight, explore ways to build capacity

CDOT - serve in advisory capacity

**Measures of Success:**

The group discussed this question: The Transit Council will be successful if...

The answers:

- Goals are set and met.
- We leave the meeting with information, collaboration, training and other items that help members do their jobs and apply the knowledge and resources to each particular area, agency and community.
- Space is provided to have a conversation about regional transit.
- If it serves as a resource and knowledge center.
- We are able to say we are on a regional transit council for grant purposes.