



~Agenda~

For a Regular Meeting of the
Southwest Transit Coordinating Council

Friday 18 November, 2016

9:00 AM

Carnegie Building 1188 E 2nd Ave., Durango, CO 81301

***Video and phone conferencing will be available.

***Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: <https://www.zoom.us/j/510934526>

***Or join by phone: [+1 \(408\) 638-0968](tel:+14086380968) or [+1 \(646\) 558-8656](tel:+16465588656) (US Toll), Meeting ID: 510 934 526

- I. Introductions**
- II. September meeting minutes**
- III. Discussion Items**
 - a. Transit Council 2017 Plan
 - b. DOLA EIAF 9038 – Marketing campaign
- IV. Reports (if time allows)**
 - a. Transit Provider Updates
 - b. Human Service Provider Updates
 - c. Grant Updates

Southwest Transit Coordinating Council
29 September 2016
Carnegie Building, 1188 E. 2nd Ave., Durango, CO 81301

In Attendance:

Jason Armstrong-Southwest Center for Independence
Matt Nesbitt-Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Amber Blake-Durango Transit
Kent Harris-Durango Transit
Jennifer Hill-Durango Transit
Kalisha Crossland-San Juan Basic Health
Sheila Casey-La Plata County Senior Services
Peter Tregillus-Road Runner Transit
Debbie Herrera-Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Health Services (by phone)
Mary Holady-Montezuma County Senior Services (by phone)
Matt Muraro-CDOT (by phone)
Miriam Gillow-Wiles-Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Jessica Laitsch-Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Sara Trujillo-Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
Dennis Wegienek-Southwest Colorado Council of Governments

I. Introductions

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

II. May meeting minutes

Jessica asked if there were any comments or questions from the May 20, 2016 meeting minutes. There were no comments or questions.

III. Discussion Items

a. CDOT's 5310/5311 Distribution Methodology

Jessica reported that earlier this year CDOT announced the intent to make changes in 5310 and 5311 funding. Currently, CDOT is working to identify the methodology for fund distribution. The Council's goal is to provide input as to appropriate methodology that will benefit but not hinder progress in our region. Amber confirmed that CDOT is changing the process direction in which they use to define policy for allocating 5311 funds for rural fixed route and 5310 funds for operating with the reason being that more transit agencies are applying for funds and being denied as funds continue to be distributed to past grantees creating questions of fair and equitable distribution; however, if funds are distributed to more transit agencies, current grantees will receive less and struggle to keep their doors open. There has been talk of removing the 5310 funds entirely; however, if this happens, human service agencies will then apply for 5311 funds making those funds that much more diminished. Amber said currently there are 30 agencies that apply for funds from a \$7 million pot and 6 more agencies have been identified whom want to apply for service expansion into rural areas. CDOT is working to define fair and equitable as the policy framework is the first step. Peter said an issue is that no transit agency is like another; therefore needs will differ making a single formula difficult to comprise. Amber agreed and said STAC will be involved to ensure all members are informed and participating. After a policy and methodology are identified, the next step is transition. Amber highly suggested gathering Council comments now to provide feedback as soon as possible to CDOT. Jessica said Jeff Sanders who is running the process will

be presenting at the October 7 SWTPR meeting and suggested Council members join the conversation. Jessica also mentioned that there will be a timeline extension through 2017 with transition most likely happening in 2018. Peter asked with the methodology being criteria based, where should the Council start. Amber said the Council cannot think strictly from their specific agency perspective because that is not what CDOT is doing. Criteria need to tie into the statewide and regional plans with answers as to how current transit agency services meet the goals of those plans. The Council needs to define fair and equitable and come up with terms that would be useful for our region in definitions, for example does fair mean everyone gets money or does fair mean everyone gets the same amount of money. Another piece is performance measures-based allocation, is this fair? CDOT has to be careful to not discriminate against spread out counties. Much will depend on the willingness and ability of local governments to provide sustainable match for operating. There has been some sustainable funding but it has not grown in proportion to the demand. The Council needs to answer how this will tie into fair and equitable. Matt Muraro added that with new agencies, CDOT needs to consider if those agencies will last 5-10 years. It is fair to give those agencies a percent less of the funds until they have proved their suitability? Miriam said there is a small pot of funds with an ever growing need of those funds. This will not change, so the question is how to make the pot bigger. Last year the COG worked with the SWTPR to pass legislation. This is a good time to work with law makers on how important this issue is. Amber said CASTA is currently working to identify what the appropriate ballot language would be to resonate with voters. Miriam said there seems to be a need for education with local officials to understand ridership and needs. The COG can collate talking points. Peter said some officials understand but transit is not a priority. Jessica said as next steps she will distribute the statewide and regional transit plans, circulars, and solicit feedback on fair and equitable definitions and talking points to collate to ensure the conversation continues.

b. Intercity Bus Update

Peter distributed a trips and ridership report. A study began July 2014 with the goal of growing ridership continuously. Overall, comparing last calendar year through end of August/mid-September, there was a 20%-20.5% increase. Services include connecting folks in the region that come south on an intercity bus then connects into the state transit system with Bustange, Greyhound, or Amtrak. Folks in Telluride have expressed interest in figuring out how to get people in the northern part of the region to Grand Junction for long enough periods of time to do business. The Statewide Committee is developing a plan that affects us and future regional transportation. Matt Nesbit said the tribe is leasing a Bustange bus to help get through winter. Matt reported an issue is that Cummins requires certified mechanics with the closest being in Farmington. This is a must to prevent voided warranties. Peter also mentioned the issue with a warm place to store diesel exhaust fluid.

c. DoLA EIAF 9038 – Marketing campaign

Jessica sent out information on marketing to the agencies it applies to. There was not further discussion.

IV. Reports (if time allows)

a. Transit Provider Updates

Peter reported that the Senior Center took delivery of an MV1.

Jennifer reported that the final multi modal meeting is tonight for public input at Durango Brewing Company and is in the final stages of the draft plan wrap up.

b. Human Service Provider Updates

Shelia reported that La Plata County Senior Services recently received 2 new vehicles, a 13 passenger bus and a wheel chair accessible minivan. They have 2 full-time drivers and are barely able to keep it going with the demand. The agency shares concern about the growing needs of our community. A lot has to do with very little housing within city limits creating a huge area to serve outside of Durango Transit and Road Runner service areas. The agency intends to do a planning grant in 2017 to look at long range plans.

Jason reported on seeing a need coming up for transportation as they just procured an 89 passenger F350 Hightop and had a lift installed. This vehicle is currently being used internally; however, Jason would like to talk to folks about on-demand type services. In addition, there is talk about Southwest Center for Independence becoming a Medicaid transportation provider. A consideration is the future demand to get 5310 funds for another bus. Jason requested any advice on pit falls. Jessica offered to send Jason information on billing to give an overview of what they will look at. Jennifer said keeping up with federal compliance is a large workload. Kalisha provided much advice and suggested Jason remain in contact with other human service providers throughout the process. Jason asked if there is PASS (Passenger Service and Safety) training offered in the area. Ken said not anytime soon unless the COG wants to do one for the area. Sheila said her agency would like to participate as well.

Kalisha reported that SJBH is working with Archuleta County, Durango, and Animas Transportation to get patients to and from Denver for medical. They are testing the billing as if falls into a different category of Medicare that qualifies for different benefits. There is a huge demand for non-medical transportation. Current barriers include access to health care issues, clients not living on a transit lines, and income and health. Jason said they have issues with nursing home transition and folks having access to the things they need within the first 30 days. Sheila said there is a large lack of capacity as no one wants to spend money on staff, and unless an agency receives 5311 funds, this becomes a huge challenge, especially with 20% of La Plata County being over 60.

c. Grant Updates

There were no grant updates.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am

Memo – Transit Council 2017

To: Regional Transit Council
From: Jessica Laitsch
Date: 15 November, 2016

Comments: Coordination for the Regional Transit Council has been funded by FTA regional coordinating council seed funds through CDOT. Participation in this program is limited to two years, leaving the SWCCOG without funding to staff the Transit Council in 2017. We are seeking feedback regarding how the Transit Council would like to proceed.

The SWCCOG was awarded FTA 5304 funds for regional transit planning. The transit providers will be included in this planning process, we will have more details about this plan at the meeting.
