



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transit & Rail

2829 W. Howard Place 4th Floor
Denver, CO 80204

DATE: July 10, 2020
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
FROM: David Krutsinger, Division Director,
Qing Lin, Transit Programming Unit Manager
SUBJECT: Connected Colorado Advisory Committee

Purpose

This memo requests the establishment of a Connected Colorado Advisory Committee as a sub-committee under TRAC for the Connected Colorado Project. Subcommittees are usually comprised of a few TRAC members, and then filled-out with additional relevant and knowledgeable participants beyond TRAC.

Action

CDOT is looking for comments and suggestions from TRAC.

Background

1. CDOT introduced Connected Colorado projects to TRAC members in March 2020. The project aims to build a statewide, centralized platform that provides General Transit Feed specification (GTFS) data, trip planning, dispatching, and online ticketing in real time for Colorado transit providers especially rural providers), in-state passengers and out-of-state visitors.
2. The project has three phases:
 - Phase I (in process): Statewide GTFS project, creating and posting all Colorado transit providers' GTFS information into Google Transit for fixed route and demand response service bus routes and schedules;
 - Phase II: Develop a Colorado rural digital mobility hub, providing integrated scheduling, reservations and online ticketing through a centralized platform for all operators and travelers that offers access to information needed to travel seamlessly using multiple transit operators;
 - Phase III (future phase): Integration with Colorado's urban transit systems, other transportation modes and CDOT traffic systems.
3. In May 2020, CDOT submitted an application to FTA applying Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) funds for Connected Colorado Phase II - Colorado Rural Digital Mobility Hub. The FTA project selections are expected to be announced in the later of the year.
4. CDOT is in the process of further developing a Project Management Plan, including a Stakeholder Involvement Plan, and a Data Management Plan for the project.
5. In order to effectively manage this complex statewide project, CDOT proposed two oversight structures:
 - a) Advisory Committee, a channel for solicitation of inputs from various external stakeholders.
 - b) Steering Committee, an interdisciplinary CDOT team for project management and oversight of the detailed aspects of the projects and vendors. The steering committee will be made up of multiple cross-functional CDOT groups such as: Office of Innovative Mobility (OIM), Division of Transit and Rail (DTR), Office of Information Technology (OIT), Chief Data Office (CDO), and Accounting Department (including Business Office and Procurement Office).

Details

Connected Colorado's core features strong partnerships. It is a project that cannot be developed in a vacuum; by definition it will require the cooperation and partnership of numerous organizations.

The Connected Colorado Advisory Committee will be established in recognition of the fact that some organizations will want the opportunity to submit input and be apprised of progress but would not want to commit to ongoing or on-site committee meetings. The committee will usually conduct meetings online, but in some cases CDOT might conduct separate meetings with some of these partners to gather input.

The organizations that would be included in this committee would be the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA), Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST), Rocky Mountain National Park, the Town of Estes Park, the I-70 Coalition, at least two transit agencies, and at least two commercial shuttle operators (since there is no formal trade association for these businesses).

CDOT proposes to start the advisory committee as a sub-committee under TRAC, in an effort to easily communicate with the TRAC members and keep TRAC informed on the progress and decision making.

Next Steps

Once the Connected Colorado advisory committee is formed, CDOT will be able to draw upon experience from organizations and transit agencies and the committee will begin to provide advice and comments on at least the following, but not limited to only these, topics:

- Obstacles/barriers and possible objections some agencies might have because they have their own systems, or other State/Regional agencies are leading different solution developments.
- Pros/cons of our "starting place": breadth and depth appropriate, interim products are tangible and usable.
- Project Management Plan and Data Management Plan
- RFP developments: rationale and schedule for procuring outside-of-CDOT assistance
- Other as identified through this group