



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transit & Rail

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DATE: January 15, 2021
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
FROM: David Krutsinger, Division Director,
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SUBJECT: Connected Colorado Progress Updates

Purpose

This memo updates TRAC members on the progress of Connected Colorado since last July when TRAC approved a sub-committee for Connected Colorado

Action

Information only, no action requested

Background

1. CDOT introduced Connected Colorado projects to TRAC members in March 2020. The project aims to build a statewide, centralized digital 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 Connected Colorado will not be a mandatory system, and local transit agencies can elect to opt in or opt out.
3. The project has three phases:
 - Phase I (in process): Statewide GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification) 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 in order to provide real time highway operational information to transit agencies.
4. In July 2020, CDOT proposed 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. The proposal was approved by TRAC.

Details

1. Connected Colorado Advisory Committee kicked off in Oct 2020 with many stakeholder representatives across the state, including CASTA, CAST, I-70 Coalition, Town of Estes Park, SMART, MMT, RTD, GV Transit, GET, RFTA and Transit Plus.
2. The Advisory Committee concurred and supported the CDOT's proposal of initiating the Phase II (Digital Mobility Hub) with the transit service providers along I-70 corridor and Bustang West Line due to 1) strong ridership, 2) a large variety of rider types (day trippers, weekend users, tourists, regional commuters and corridor residents), and 3) diverse transit operators (small, medium and large; urban, rural and small urban).



3. Under the Advisory Committee’s suggestion and to better understand the Colorado landscape of transit mobility technical solutions, in November 2020 CDOT issued a statewide survey on Connected Colorado Digital Mobility Hub. Thirty-nine representatives of transit agencies across the state responded to the survey and provided comments on obstacles/barriers and possible objections. Many agencies interested being part of the system, especially if the obstacles/barriers can be successfully addressed.
4. CDOT is working closely with the advisory committee to finalize the survey report and is planning to send it out in January 2021, along with a FAQ document.
5. Connected Colorado Phase I - Statewide GTFS Project is going well as Trillium is working on GTFS Flex data creation for demand response services in Colorado. A centralized repository site has been created for Colorado GTFS data and future Flex data at gtfs.codot.gov
6. Connected Colorado has a new logo:



Next Steps

- Complete GTFS Flex Data creation;
- Coordinate and build upon efforts with the Bustang project that is integrating ticketing with the Regional Transportation District (RTD).
- Continue outreach activities, including further interviews with transit agencies along the I-70 corridor and presentations at I-70 Coalition, Statewide planning and MPO meetings, LCC/RCC meetings.
- Produce a Question & Answer (Q & A) document to provide centralized resource for project information.
- Once the partnerships are secured with one to three transit agencies, CDOT will work with these partners and the advisory committee on finalizing the Phase II scope of work and a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- Release RFP (Request for Proposal) to build the platform and select vendor(s)
- Continue to explore and apply to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding sources for innovative grants.