

Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
Agenda
May 2, 2024 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Link to Attend:

meet.google.com/mxc-ussa-khm

Attendees: Christa Curtiss - CDOT She Her , Alex Khalifin, Angie Hainer - CDOT , Andrew Gingerich, Ann Rajewski, Becky Karasko, Ben Gellman - CDOT , Charity Markus, Chrissy Breit, Cody Hedges - CDOT , Cole Neder, Danell Ward, David Singer - CDOT , David Averill, David Johnson, Dawn Block, Deseri Scott - CDOT , Emily Crespin, Eva Wilson, Evan Pinkham, Gary Clark, George Gromke, Heather Pickering-Hilgers, Jan Rowe, Jerome Rouser, Jonathan Flint, Katherine Vlajcic, Kay Kelly - CDOT , Kenneth Mooney, Lan Rao, Michael Davies, Mike Ogborn, Paul Desrocher - CDOT , Robin Rocke - CDOT , Shilpa Kulkarni - CDOT , Zachary Tapp-Wilson - CDOT , Zia O'Neill - CDOT , Vince Rogalski (in room)

Welcome (Paul)

TRAC Administration (Paul)

- Bylaws
- Meeting schedule - Last Thursday of the month
 - *Vince Rogalski: Will the time be changing?*
 - *Paul: I don't think so, but I'm not certain*
 - *Vince: I may have a conflict depending on the time.*
 - *Paul: Okay. Other questions?*
 - *Ann Rajewski: As a non-operator, could I run for chair or vice-chair?*
 - *Paul: No, they must come from the list of required members*
 - *Ann: Can we change that? It hasn't always been this way, and I'd like the opportunity to run if it made sense.*
 - *Paul: We would need to get approval from Shoshana first, but I can talk to her about that*
 - *Ann: Great, thanks*
 - *Paul: Should we delay voting on bylaws based on this comment?*
 - *Mike Ogborn: We would have to amend them in July if we passed this and changed our minds*
 - *Alex: I think it makes sense to wait*
 - *Mike Ogborn: Motion to table the bylaws*
 - *David Averill: Second*
 - Vote held to table bylaws, none against, none abstain
 - *Paul: Tabled to July, I will provide an update from Shoshana then.*

Legislative Update

- Ann Rajewski: SB24-032 is in a good spot. Agencies will choose between Zero Fair or Youth Ride Free. The bill is also removing a cap on lodging taxes, and providing funds to study a statewide transit pass.
- *David Averill: We are looking forward to the potential removal of the lodging tax limit. We have a lot of visitors, so this would be a great help for supporting our service.*
- *Michael Davies, on HB24-1447: RTD board is opposed even after the reform. There is not a clear problem that this bill is solving. They claim it is a funding problem. The board also may go to the ballot this year to attempt to remove spending caps (debrucing), and this study of the board would lead right into the election.*
- *Lan Rao: Also on 1447, Do you know about section 18? Are we going to have to go through the MPOs for service changes?*
- *Michaels Davies: It is still in there, as far as I know.*
- *Lan: We are concerned that this additional requirement is unnecessary. Our Title VI Plan has a well defined service change process already.*
- *Paul: Good points. Other thoughts?*
- *Mlke Ogborn: HB 1030 is a freight safety bill that may affect transit. About blocked crossings, and violation fine levels.*
- *Jonathan Flint: On rail and coal transitions, do you know if the mountain rail lines will be operated by UP or Amtrak?*
- *David Singer: I will discuss more shortly, but e are looking at several alternatives, but we have yet to identify an operator.*
- *Paul: Don't forget, CASTA is coming up!*
- *Jon Flint: Do you need us to take official stances on the House Bill to help?*
- *Paul: Let me get back to you on that*
- *Alex K.: Is this meant to be informational only, or are there actions items?*
- *Paul: This it informational only*

Updates

- Digital Mobility Hub Project - Heather Pickering-Hilgers
 - *Paul: SB32 does reference a universal pass program, so we are hoping to have legislative support for this project*
 - *Eva Wilson: How far in advance will you be able to buy universal tickets?*
 - *Heather: We are still working out the details for the passes, but riders will be able to purchase individual tickets one month in advance, and are good for 90 days. Which can be controlled by the agency.*
 - *Eva: So it's not a timed ticket?*
 - *Heather: Correct, but agencies can decide to make the tickets specific to a seat/time/trip.*
 - *Ben: In addition to ticketed trips, we are also hoping to have the app support demand-response or paratransit trips, but that function is still being worked out.*

- Transit Connections Study - Jan Rowe
 - *Jonathan Flint: Access to medical services is also a crucial factor*
 - *Paul: We are at the beginning of this project, so we welcome and encourage feedback so that we can stay on track.*
- Passenger Rail Update - David Singer
 - *Michael Davies: You are definitely applying for the CRISI grant?*
 - *David Singer: Yes, we think it is important for the project. There are several grade crossings we want to look more into*
 - *Michael: Mostly PTC focussed?*
 - *David S.: Yeah, we're looking into cost-benefit analyses. Happy to talk more about this*
 - *David Johnson: What is the scope of the CRISI grant?*
 - *David S.: There are few buckets, R&D, feasibility planning, preliminary design and NEPA, and Capital.*
 - Moved on to Mountain Rail Discussion
 - No further questions

Future Discussion

- Timing Admin/Op + Capital Call for Projects
 - Efficiencies with 5339 Call
 - *Alex K.: I really appreciate the legislative updates*
 - *Lan Rao: I agree*
 - *Paul: Absolutely. Also, circling back to Alex's earlier question, a reminder that TRAC as a body does not lobby or take official positions on bills.*
 - *Andrew Gingrich: It was difficult to find the meeting invite. Can we make that more clear for the next meeting? Also, as far as the TCS, funding may be difficult to find for agencies because they are all funded differently. Is there a way to have that information available in one location?*
 - *(chat) David Averill: CASTA has previously talked about an agency directory*
 - *Jan: Our DTD started putting together those lists of Transit Agencies by TPR, we could definitely talk about making a resource available.*