

## Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC) - Minutes

September 26, 2024 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### AGENDA

Welcome/Introductions (Ann Rajewski - Chair)

Attendees: Anne Rajewski, Charity Markus, David Averill, David Johnson, Deseri Scott, Kay Kelly, Erin Kelican, Eva Wilson, Glenn Krause, Jeff Dawson, JoAnn Mattson, Joellen Meyer, Julia Spiker, Brian P, Kelly Smith, Lan Rao, Jonathan Flint, Michael Davies, Robin, George Gromke, Alex Funderburg, Alex Khalfin, Carrie Tremblatt, Chrissy Breit, Scott Skinner, John Marcantonio, Shilpa Kulkarni, Christa Curtiss, Angie -CDOT, Celina Milner Leon, Danny Katz, Dawn Block

DTR Updates

- Admin/Operating/Mobility Management (Kay Kelly)

*Anne R: To confirm, you're moving money around so that in future years you're going to be able to provide a calendar year contract for admin and operating without having to worry about when the budgeting cycle happens at the federal level?*

*Kay K: Yes, because Congress is supposed to pass budget by October 1<sup>st</sup>, but that doesn't always happen, so we get these continuing resolutions that kind of parse the money out to us in small bits. So, we are planning for a worst-case scenario where we don't get the full apportionment until April or May, so we can be less concerned about when it comes through.*

*Anne R: That's so helpful, thank you.*

*Kay K: Kudos to the staff they were creative and the agencies that volunteered to be a lower priority.*

- CTE Planning Call for Projects (Kay Kelly)

*Lan R: I noticed on this year's call for project in terms of vehicle replacement that at the time of applying for next year's grants, the vehicle would have to have already met its useful life. Could we instead allow people to project out, for example, if we know that from the time we issue the PO to the time of receiving the vehicle, it can take 18 months. Is this something we're looking into for next year's call for projects?*

*Kay K: I'm not aware, can someone from the Capital program comment on this? We're just talking general capital purchases not necessarily ZEV.*

*David A: Yeah this has been a struggle with the bus deliveries being delayed. We've had to keep busses on the road that were costing us a lot in maintenance, so it does impact us at the local level.*

*Kay: I'll make sure the capital team reviews that and gets back to you with an answer.*

*Anne: I have two requests. First, is there someone from CDOT that will be attending the Zero-emission vehicle committee that could share the information on the rolling deadline for transition planning and how that process looks? Second, when you're collecting information about transition plans that have been completed, can you ask about how much it cost them? It would be helpful for other comparable sized agencies.*

*Kay: Yes, that's a great suggestion*

*Anne: Just send me any slides you want to add to my presentation*

*David J: Jason will be attending that meeting in Telluride*

- Vehicle Procurement Process Update (Kay Kelly)

*Anne: So, the solicitation is going out to the bus companies?*

*Kay: Yes, I believe so.*

*Anne: Did she give you a date for when it could be purchased off of? Or will it just be when these others run out?*

*Kay: I think that's the intention, that by the time our other contracts are up, the new one will be in place*

- Capital/CTE Awards Review (Shilpa Kulkarni)

*Anne R: About Laradon Hall, you are not able to fund it because it's a closed-door service, can the CTE fund that?*

*Shilpa: Laradon Hall and the DRC are both closed door agencies that qualify for 5310, but those funds are very limited and cannot be used to fully fund a project.*

*Kay K: Both of those agencies received CTE funding. CTE funded 28 vehicles, a facility project, and a charging project.*

- Legislative Funding Update (Kay Kelly)

- SB24-184
- SB24-230

*Michael: About SB230, has the CTE Board discussed any outreach to stakeholders and agencies for input into the development of that grant?*

*Kay K: Not yet, but it is on the list now that we have a funding stream.*

*Michael: I am concerned that this funding stream will not be reliable enough for the multi-year investments that are required to properly deliver transit operations. I would hope that a reliable formula is established.*

*Kay: I do know that funds for 230 are continuously appropriated, but 21-260 is annually appropriated, which we are trying to change. But thank you for mentioning that, we will keep that in mind.*

*Anne: We definitely want to make sure the funds are delivered in the best way to actually achieve the goals of the legislation.*

*Kay: We will definitely do outreach to be sure we are taking into account the needs of transit agencies.*

*David A: As a CTE board member, I expect we will have many conversations with grant partners. I will be pushing for that.*

- Bus Operations Update (George Gromke)
  - Transit Connections Study

*Danny K: How important are the lines on the map? Is this a political decision or just a presentation decision?*

*George: This is for organizing the Current State of Transit report, this is not tied to funding.*

*Danny: Transit is often siloed away from other CDOT organization. It may be better to stick to recognized CDOT organization, to make sure we aren't siloing ourselves, but I defer to the transit agencies here.*

*Johnathan: Could we do the map based on TPRs?*

*George: We have considered that, but we wanted to offer other options that are still consistent with other boundaries, like counties.*

*David A: I think if this is program-related, I would be more concerned, but if this is just for data organization, this is an interesting conversation.*

*Danny K: I would be more in line with TPRs over CDOT regions.*

*Kay K: This feedback is helpful, we know there's no perfect way to represent how people move in the state, but we welcome comments.*

*David A: Could we look at the statewide travel demand model and those travel sheds to understand how people are moving and use that for this decision.*

*George: That is true, it doesn't necessarily help us split up the state for this purpose.*

*Danny K: I70 is the main throughfare that connects communities and shouldn't be split up.*

*Kay K: Map 4 shows how we would split things based on travel sheds.*

*Danny: Map 4 makes the most sense to me*

- Passenger Rail Update - (Paul DesRocher/Alex Funderburg)
  - Mountain Rail

*Danny: How many winter park trips had Amtrak committed to this winter?*

*Alex F: It will be at a minimum what they've done in recent seasons, but we are hoping for some amount of expansion. Those talks are still ongoing.*

- Front Range Joint Service

*Chrissy B: The report on the FRPR/RTF joint service concept is due in 4 days. Also, we're planning to start public outreach about the alternatives analysis around December 2024.*

*Danny: I heard that the recent RTD study found that actual cost may be much lower than they expected to run rail service, do you know anything about this?*

*Michael D: Because BNSF owns the rail, they would be in charge of building it, so we are relying on their estimates. So yes, that has come in lower than expected, but inflation basically equalizes that.*

## Org Updates

*David J: We are hosting a ribbon cutting for a pedestrian crossing at a very busy intersection. There's going to be a complete separation of car and bike/pedestrian traffic. That will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*David A: SMART referred a ballot question to the voters for long term gondola operations funding. That would include \$1,000,000 a year for expansion of the bus system. And I want*

*to extend an invitation to everybody to join us for the CASTA conference here in a couple weeks.*

*Anne: We are still taking registrations for the CASTA conference.*

*Charity: Here in Southeastern Colorado, we've gone fare free on our transit, and seen an increase in ridership, which we are excited about.*

*Anne: With that, we are adjourned.*