


Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
Agenda
January 23, 2024, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Meeting Held Via GoogleMeet

 DRAFT Jan 2025 TRAC Slides

January 2024 TRAC Meeting Agenda and Notes

- Welcome/Introductions (Ann Rajewski - Chair)

- DTR/CDOT Updates
 - FTA Recipient Information Request (Paul)
 - Training for CDOT staff to begin in February
 - State Management Review will take place and report will be issued with results
 - National Price Agreement Update (Shilpa)
 - Solicitation is for Vans, Minivans and large buses and includes zero emission options for each.
 - Solicitation was published in December and will close in May with anticipated award in May/June 2025.
 - In the meantime, our grantees can order from WA or CO price agreements
 - **David** - Have ordered off both CO and WA price agreements with good success
 - **Jonathan** - National Price Agreement will help with adding volume
 - **Danny** - When will we know whether NASPO is a success? Are vehicles ordered individually or with a group?
 - **Paul** - we should know after the first round, about on year
 - **Shilpa** - both individual and group order options available
 - Call for Projects Schedule and Contracting Update (Paul)
 - Call for Projects:
 - Call for Projects is currently open for A/O/MM and CTE Planning
 - Award announcements expected in approximately March with grant execution in approximately June
 - The Consolidated Call for Capital Projects (CCCP) is likely to occur in Fall 2025
 - CTE Capital Call for projects also likely to occur in Fall 2025
 - Contracting:
 - 2024 5310 Op/MM and 2024 5311 A/O contracts are completed (except for one 5310 project that has 5310 that has some additional SB228 funds)

- Next up are 2025 5311 A/O, 2024 CCCP and 2024 CTE Planning awards (expected by 3/31)
- Transit Connections Study (George)
 - Current State of Transit report is drafted, currently working on the gaps analysis
 - **Gary** - Is outreach occurring in the TPRs?
 - **George** - yes, we are going to TPR meetings and coordinating with TPRs
 - **Danny** - Who is responsible for regional bus service? Will CDOT or a local entity take on the identified regional gaps?
 - **George** - Trying to be consistent with how we define regional/interregional service based on definitions. TCS will identify gaps and needs. Many of the interregional gaps would likely fall to Bustang Family of Services.
 - **Paul** - Bustang network is designed to connect regions and TCS recommendations will focus here. TCS will not be making recommendations for service within a particular transit agency territory as those decisions are made within the agency.
 - **Jonathan** - Are there considerations for passes that include multiple providers?
 - **Paul** - We have a COtransit app project underway to integrate trip planning and ticketing between Bustang and its transit partners.
 - **Kay** - Statewide Transit Pass Exploratory Committee - Working to create recommendations over the next eighteen (18) months.
 - **Ann** - Would like an update at TRAC from CO Transit and Statewide Transit Pass Exploratory Committee
- Passenger Rail Update - (Maux)
 - FRPR
 - Service Development Plan in progress. Shows full buildout of the project of 10 round trips
 - Submitted Alternatives Analysis (AA) to FRA for review. Expected approval in March
 - Next focus area is on stations and station areas within the FRPR District/Local Govs and negotiating with BNSF to develop Use Agreements to operate along the line
 - Joint Service report due by Mar 1.
 - CRISI Grant work has already begun
 - Mountain Rail
 - Working to restore passenger rail along Union Pacific (UP) alignment.
 - Phase 1 considers Denver to Grand County to Granby. Phase 2 considers Local service Craig to Oak Creek. Phase 3 considers Long pattern from Denver to Criaig
 - No federal funding necessary to complete Phase 1 of the project.

- **Ann** - CASTA hosted a workshop to determine how local transit districts can better connect to the FRPR stations.
 - **Maux** to follow up with Ann to discuss further
- **Danny** - Is ridership amplified when local transit connections are stronger?
 - **Maux** - land use around stations impacts ridership projections along with fare amounts
 - **Paul** - As we do service development plans (SDPs) for FRPR and Mountain Rail, they are tied to state's strategic goals for land use, housing, workforce housing
- SB24-230 Implementation Update (Craig)
 - Craig is the new CTE Director and started in December
 - SB24-230 established an Oil and Gas Production Fee to fund transit and rail and created 3 new programs - a formula grant program, a competitive grant program and a rail funding program
 - The legislation provides broad guidance, but the CTE Board will be working through the details in coming months with implementation starting in January 2026
 - Program and policy development work for the formula program will be the first focus of the Board and there are several work streams within that task. We plan to do townhall meetings to solicit stakeholder feedback as the program is developed.
 - **Michael** - When will a Call for Projects occur?
 - **Craig** - Will need to develop formula programs before defining when a call for projects will occur for the competitive program. The CTE Board will need to weigh in on specific timing.
 - As we are looking at transit data for SB230 implementation, we are seeing an opportunity to create a Colorado-specific transit database to both help with the information needed to support the SB230 formula work and more broadly tell the story about transit in Colorado. NTD data doesn't capture all of this information and doesn't capture any data for agencies that don't report into NTD.
 - **David** - the last time CDOT did a major survey of transit providers might have been 10 years ago and it was hard to even find all the human service providers to survey them. It's a big topic and probably overdue to look at it again.
 - **Danny** - Yes, we should collect this data. It will help us tell the transit story to the public and understand what is and isn't working.
 - **Paul** - Colorado is rumored to have the largest rural transit network in the U.S., but the data to substantiate this is hard to find. This database could be very useful.
 - **Ann** - TRAC could organize a subcommittee to help with SB230 information gathering.

- Legislative Update (Emily and Jamie)
 - State Updates
 - Still fairly quiet at the capitol on transportation related issues
 - Tracking some bills from TLRC
 - Paratransit bill - concerns about statewide representation on the committee, timelines for delivering the final report and funding to organize the effort in a challenging budget year
 - Vulnerable Road Users - trying to find a workable solution on the source of funding
 - TPR Bill - would allow the TC to create a 16th TPR, if desired
 - Federal Update (Jamie)
 - It has been an interesting week at the national level
 - An executive order was issued on Monday that shut down all funds from IIJA (which included most of our base program funding from formula funding). This was fixed yesterday. Funds from discretionary programs like NEVI are on hold until further notice. No word on how this impacts FTA programs yet.
 - Jeff Hurd was appointed to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and is the first Colorado rep on this committee in a long time.
 - **Lan** - do we know about impacts to Title VI or DBE programs?
 - Jamie can follow up.
 - **Ann** - do we know about impacts to 5339? Colorado gets a lot of funds from this?
 - **Jamie** - it's an established program so it may not be as at-risk as the new programs established under the Biden administration, but we don't have a lot of info yet.

Adjourn - 2:57 p.m.