



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of Innovative Mobility

MINUTES

Statewide Transit Pass Exploratory Committee - Meeting #1

November 18, 2024

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Virtual via Google Meet

Time	Agenda Item and Description	Presenter
1:30 - 1:35	Welcome	Kay Kelly, CDOT
1:35 - 1:50	Committee Member Introductions	All Committee Members
1:50 - 2:05	Overview of SB24-032 Methods to Increase the Use of Transit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorizes Committee• Outlines Topics for Committee Consideration• Establishes Deadlines and Deliverables	Kay Kelly, CDOT
2:05 - 2:15	Fares at RTD	Charlie Stanfield, RTD
2:15 - 2:25	The Lift	Chuck McCarthy, Town of Winter Park and Michael Koch, Compass Transit
2:25 - 2:35	COtransit	Suzanne Carulo, CDOT
2:35 - 2:55	Roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What transit fare collection structures/ methods does your agency use?• What are the benefits/challenges?	All Committee Members
2:55 - 3:00	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Kay Kelly, CDOT



Attendees:

X	Kay Kelly - CDOT	X	Adam Krom - Amtrak
X	Andy Cotton - Town of Breckenridge	X	Ben Gellman - CDOT
X	Charity Markus - SETran	X	Charlie Stanfield - RTD
X	Ean Tafoya - Green Latinos	X	Heather Pickering-Hilgers - CDOT
X	Jonathan Flint - Steamboat Springs	X	Karen Stewart - Transportation Commissioner for District 4
X	Ken Mooney - NECALG	X	Lan Rao - Colorado Springs
X	Suzanne Carulo - CDOT	X	Will Jones - City of Greeley
X	Michael Koch - Winter Park	X	Tim Hoover - CDOT
X	Ben Valdez - Pueblo		Emily Haddaway - CDOT
	Charles McCarthy - Winter Park		Jason White - RFTA
	Andrew Gingerich - Mesa County		Kaley Zeisel - Transfort

Notes

- Overview of SB24-032 Methods to Increase the Use of Transit (Kay Kelly)
 - The bill authorizes a committee created by CDOT to produce a proposal for the creation, implementation and administration of a statewide transit pass.
 - Deadlines
 - October 1, 2024 - Executive Director Shall Create a statewide transit pass exploratory committee - Completed
 - July 1, 2026 - Committee shall produce a viable proposal for the creation, implementation and administration of a statewide transit pass
 - January 1, 2028 - Implementing a statewide transit pass
 - Outlines Topics for committee consideration
 - Logistics of creating pass
 - Methods for determining price
 - Structure for selling pass including to individuals and employers for employees
 - Services that will be provided
 - Types offered including durations for residents and visitors
 - Opportunities for collaborations between transit agencies to increase use
 - Technologies that would need to be used



- Any laws (local, tribal, state, federal), rules or regulations that need to be considered
 - Impacts on current pass programs offered by transit agencies
 - Impacts of Section 20 of Article X of the state constitution
 - Proposal for the structure and composition of a permanent advisory board
 - Any other items the majority of the committee feels needs to be included
- The Committee would need to consult with
 - The Transit and Rail Advisory Committee
 - Transit agencies - presentation at CASTA Conference
 - Members of the public
- 16 required members
 - 3 reps from 5 largest transit agencies
 - Charlie Stanfield, RTD
 - Jason White, RTFA
 - Lan Rao, Mountain Metro
 - 8 reps from diverse group of transit agencies
 - Jonathan Flint, Steamboat Springs
 - Andy Cotton, Town of Breckenridge
 - Charity Markus, SE TRAN
 - Kenneth Mooney, NECALG
 - Will Jones, City of Greeley
 - Ben Valdez, City of Pueblo
 - Andrew Gingerich, Mesa County
 - Kaley Zeisel, Transfort
 - 1 rep from an entity of interest group involved in promotion, planning or development of passenger rail system
 - Adam Krom, Amtrak
 - 1 rep with a statewide perspective
 - Karen Stuart, CDOT Transportation Commissioner
 - 2 reps from CDOT
 - Ben Gellman, CDOT
 - Heather Pickering-Hilgers, CDOT
 - 1 rep from a DI Community
 - TBA Transit Advocate, Green Latinos
- Fares at RTD (Charlie Stanfield)
 - Split into regular fares (Standard and discount) and pass program
 - Discounts for seniors, individuals with disabilities, medicare recipients, and customers enrolled in LiVE.
 - Passes offered
 - Ecopass - employer negotiate contract with RTD for employees
 - College pass - Negotiated with colleges
 - Neighborhood Ecopass - HOA, apartment owner negotiated for residents
 - Places to pay
 - Fare boxes on buses
 - Ticket vending machine at stops



- Sales outlets at key stations and King Soopers stores
 - Looking into rolling out more features at these outlets in coming years
 - Myride online account
 - Current vendor is Masabi - contract runs through spring 2026, acting as a payment processor. RTD gets funds after a small fee and credit card fee is taken out.
 - Complicated - many groups involved to handle different parts, need meetings regularly to coordinate.
- The Lift (Michael Koch)
 - The Lift is Fare free
 - When launching service Winter Park presented 2% sales tax to pay for the transit system.
 - Since it's a resort community it was an easy sell since visitors are largely supporting systems.
 - Makes getting on buses easier since you don't have to worry about collecting money.
 - Visitors tend to pay more through sales tax than they would on bus tickets.
 - Fare recovery is a small portion of the budget. Current staff of 1 so fare free keeps administration low (housing and pay of staff are issues in mountain towns)
 - Worked with Amtrak - platform at Winter Park Resort and Fraser - The Lift is the throughway service from these locations. They "sell" tickets to track ridership but they have no charge.
 - Have IGAs - With Granby and Fraser to support interoperability of systems. These change with increase or decrease of service.
- CoTransit (Suzanne Carulo)
 - Purpose - build a state wide centralized platform for trip planning and universal ticketing.
 - Phase 1 - Included building GTFS feeds for agencies across Colorado. These include both fixed and on demand routes. Vendor: Trillium
 - Phase 2 - MVP prototype App and Website - Includes trip planning, ticketing throughout state and AVLs installed in buses to monitor bus locations in real time
 - 4 Pilot Projects
 - Bustang
 - All Points Transit
 - The Lift
 - Clear Creek
 - Phase 3 will add more agencies and features
 - Fares will be collected with credit cards through the app and website.
- Round Table
 - Charity Markus - Currently, they run on a \$1 or \$1.50 per ride depending on ridership and agency. Other fares are based on how far the rider is on the transit. These fares are mixed with other funding. They have many issues with first and last mile connections. They lose a lot of ridership outside of free fare times. Fares cover most of the expenses. Would love to see a state wide pass. Fares are provided through a fare box with cash and riders can purchase bus passes.



- Will Jones - Greeley - Vendor: Genfare - \$1.50 fare for single rides plus different types of passes (monthly, weekly). Greeley is shifting to looking at mobility as a whole including first mile and last mile connections and micromobility with a focus looking beyond transit. Examples: Tripco, Odin pass - passes for micromobility, transit, uber, etc all in one pass.
 - Kay - The committee can explore mobility wallets
- Lan Rao - Colorado Springs - Operates similar to RTD but doesn't offer employer or neighborhood passes. Awarded a CDOT OIM Grant to complete a fare study with the goals of making fare structure easier for people, understanding the best transfer system, and providing many different types of fares and passes. Using Masabi (App) and fare box collection to collect fares. Fare Box Recovery is an issue (10% farebox recovery post covid, 17% precovid) Fare collection will it be looked at? Collecting fares is expensive. Fare collection will need to be looked at along with the best way to increase transit use.
- Jonathan Flint - Steamboat Springs - They are fare free for local ridership with the same benefits as The Lift highlighted. It incentivised the younger generation to utilize the transit system, get used to riding the bus and continue as they age. Regional - collect a fare but keep it as low as possible to get ridership. Challenge - They've been very successful which leads to issues getting staff, equipment, and funding to help with capacity issues. Would like to note that you only get one chance to get it to work for a rider. If they have a bad experience, they don't tend to come back.
- Adam Krom - Amtrak - Notices intercity customers need first and last mile. They've surveyed riders to see how they get to the stations if others would like to see those results. In California, Amtrak has a partnership with the state where the state helps pay the agencies so intercity rail tickets can transfer to mass transit for first and last mile day tickets. Germany has a national German pass which is a federal program sold through national railway that covers all transit except express city to city trains. Challenge with this: More riders on local trains than the express (Overcrowding). With this being so popular, traditional passes by agencies weren't being sold so federal needs to back fill gaps with the local agencies' funding. Washington state has mandated all public transit free for minors, including Amtrak that is provided by state funding within the state borders. Minors(Under 16) must be with an adult so there are still some costs there. Amtrak has some case studies it can provide.
- Andy Cotton - Breckenridge - They are fare free and provide in town bus services. When starting the service in 1997, the council didn't want to do a fare. The name is the Free Ride. In 2015, voters approved a lift ticket tax (4%). This tax along with the town general fund, and CDOT allows the town to be able to pay for the service for the locals. Challenges: Crowded sometimes, just surpassed 1 million riders for the year. Currently, focusing on first and last mile. The E-ride bike share program (they charge for this service) has been very successful. They noticed a decrease in ridership on one bus route and when they investigated it was because of the bikeshare program.
- Ben Valdez - Pueblo - They have a Genfare based system, para transit fare box. Fare box returns are a wash, paratransit is growing at a rate of 10-12% over the last 16 months. They also have a Vanpool subscription service. Provide transit by necessity more than transit by a choice. Some of the new fixed routes have had 5.5 to 6% growth..



- Ben Gellman - Bustang - Collect fares through mobile fare payment apps The Vendor is Masabi. Collect around 85% of fares this way. 15% come from cash at the fare box and bulk ticket sales collected by the operator. Farebox recovery is 30% of operation expense recovered. Challenge: distance based fares lead to many fare changes which are hard to change with partners. Looking forward to Cotransit and they are a part of RTDs transit app.
- Karen Stuart - Was a part of the Pass program working group and it was noted that the fare box can't recover enough to run a system. Enjoyed the expanded route service with Bustang. While in France, she rode local buses for a euro.
- Ean Tafoya - Green Latinos - Have noticed a lack of marketing on how transit agencies interact with each other. Being able to explain how it all connects is key. Having maps on how local transit is overlaid with Bustang would be helpful. Thinks fare free is much easier for drivers because of less conflicts with riders. Usability is important. Phones can die and users will still need to be able to board buses.
- Adam Krom - Intercity - Should highlight the importance of the relationship between agency and customer. Agencies should be anticipating what users want for the future. Third party trip providers have fare collection and reservation barriers and different cities want you to use their own app. Mobile tickets are very common (80%+) and these apps can collect fares and assist users with transit with QR codes for feedback, help with transitions, and customer data collection. Being able to charge devices will become a key component along with providing wifi.
- Wrap Up and Next Steps
 - Cadence starting in January 2025 - Most would like a monthly meeting, suggestion to have monthly for first few months and then reevaluate
 - Set monthly time/ad hoc? - Set monthly time
 - Contact Kay for presentation/speakers

