

Transportation Commission July 15 - 16, 2015

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Please see: <https://www.codot.gov/about/transportation-commission/current-agenda-and-supporting-documents/july-2015-tc-packet.pdf> for the July 2015 TC (TC) Packet.

Program Management Workshop (Richard Zamora, Josh Laipply, Maria Sobota)

Purpose

The Program Management Office (PMO) Workshop provides the TC with an update on the delivery of programs and significant projects. This month there is a focus on the Flood and Responsible Acceleration and Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) Local Agency Programs.

Discussion and Comments

- *SH 9 - FRISCO TO BRECKENRIDGE: IRON SPRINGS ALIGNMENT AND VAIL PASS MULTI-USE PATH DEVOLUTION (RAMP PROJECT 3-12.29, SA# 19930)*
 - Trying to advance the SH 9 project to later this calendar year (2015); the project will require \$4.489 million in RAMP contingency funds. It will also be receiving \$1 million in local contributions.
 - Questions from the TC pertained to the independent project cost estimate completed that was too low, and it was explained the additional costs are associated with a reclamation element and a wildlife crossing that were added to the project.
 - Concern was raised that every month there is another project or projects that need RAMP contingency funds. The Chief Engineer explained that the TC can expect this to continue in the future and that a lesson learned is that contingency should have been built into the RAMP program.
 - A Commissioner noted that many of these issues are related to the fact that PMO didn't exist during RAMP's development. The process is evolving. The Department needs to be sure that projects hit the market at the right time in the construction cycle.
 - The Office of Financial Management and Budget (OFMB) recently developed a macroeconomic tool that will help to forecast construction cost increases in fiscal year (FY) 2016. This is a tool that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) did not have previously, but can put it to use in an attempt to avoid future low cost estimates.
- *CASH AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT*
 - An update was provided on the delivery of program including total program spending for FY 2016 and its impact on individual cash fund balances and federal cash equivalents.
 - A Commissioner noted that due to uncertainty of federal funding, the TC needs to identify the level of risk it is comfortable with in regard to how aggressively the cash balance is drawn down.
 - The TC needs to analyze the funding streams and decide what level of risk is acceptable. The downside of being overly cautious is that there is money sitting in the bank.
 - Typically CDOT does daily transfers with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), but there are times when those transfers are delayed.
 - A \$500 million balance may be too large a reserve, but it was noted that this is a policy decision for the TC to make.
 - Executive Director informed the group that CDOT has a "burn rate" of \$120 million per month.

US 85 & Union Pacific Rail Road in Region 4 (Josh Laipply)**Purpose**

The purpose of this workshop is to update the TC on the discussions that are in progress between Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) and CDOT concerning CDOT's expired lease agreement in UPRR's right-of-way (ROW) along State Highway 85.

A proposal presented by UPRR involves CDOT purchasing the parcels of land on which the ROW is located. UPRR's offer of \$7.6 million is more than CDOT's Fair Market Value offer of \$3.7 million.

CDOT's Options:

1. Settle with UPRR, based upon their offer. However, by law we cannot pay more than fair market value for temporary rights.
2. Pursue litigation, with it being unlikely that a trial would end favorably for CDOT, with a substantial financial cost.
3. Explore alternative arrangements with UPRR.

The staff recommendation is to proceed with negotiations to identify a solution that provides mutual benefit to the UPRR and CDOT.

Discussion and Comments

- The cost of making UPRR's requested intersection improvements might cost roughly the same as potential litigation.
- CDOT can potentially offer UPRR quantifiable operational improvements (via the road closures and grade separations) as well as the support of local communities and private developers, which taken together are a significant offering.

Safety Committee Meeting (Darrell Lingk, Sam Cole)**Purpose**

Update the Safety Committee on our Loss History (Excellence In Safety Process), and Public Communications for Office of Transportation Safety.

Discussion and Comments

- In FY 2015, CDOT had 261 worker's compensation claims, a 24% decrease from 2011 and for the first time in CDOT history it has fallen below 300 per year.
- In FY 2015, CDOT had 124 lost time claims, a 28% decrease from 2011.
- Excellence in Safety is a proactive, behavior-based approach focused on creating a safety culture in which employees take ownership of the program.
 - Uses leading indicators rather than lagging indicators.
 - Estimates indicate that Excellence in Safety's goals are 50% - 60% accomplished.
- Public Communications manages 9 safety campaigns, with recent highlights including:
 - St. Patrick's Day
 - 4/20 Drugged Driving
 - 200 million total impressions via "smoking car", arcade games, and educational snacks
 - RideWise motorcycle safety
 - Seatbelt Billboards
 - Drop the Distraction
- Upcoming campaigns will focus on teen driving, motorcycle awareness, child passenger safety, and pedestrian safety.

Transit and Intermodal (T&I) Committee Meeting (Mark Imhoff)**Purpose**

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the T&I Committee with the status of Bustang, its FY 2015 and quarterly expenditure report, FY 2016 Operating Budget and a discussion on the importance of SB228 to Bustang and rural and regional transit. Two other topics covered were the FY 2016-2017 Administration and Operating call for projects, and an update on the FY 2015 Transit Planning Grant Applications.

Discussion and Comments

- Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) Director noted that Bustang's interregional service on I-25 between Colorado Springs, Denver, and Fort Collins and I-70 mountain corridor between Glenwood Springs and Denver began Monday, July 13. The service had 190 riders on Monday and 234 on Tuesday. Totals weren't available yet for Wednesday.
- Some technical issues arose regarding old fare boxes on loan from Colorado Springs for Bustang. These fare boxes were shipped for repair to an area near Chicago, and CDOT has begun the procurement process for their replacements.
- Bustang recorded 489 transactions (including purchases of passes for multiple rides).
- Public comments received include support for weekend service and for intermediate stops in Castle Rock and Idaho Springs, and some complaints about Wifi reception in the mountains.
- Awards of the FY 2016-2017 Transit Operating Grant Applications will be announced in August. New applicants for operating funds include Ute Mountain Ute tribe, the Town of Winter Park, and Park County. Applications total \$2.6 million more than what is available from the approximate \$11.8 million in FTA grants.
- Of the 10 applications for planning grants, DTR is recommending full funding of all but three. Priorities for planning grants include: 1) Statewide projects; and 2) Creation of regional transit implementation plans. A third category, requests for new regional transit plans, will not be funded this year because new Regional Transit Plans were just completed.
- DTR has a new tool up and running to help staff track awards and reimbursements, which should improve customer service.
- A Commissioner thanked DTR staff for helping get the Roadrunners service between Durango and Grand Junction started.

Thursday, July 16, 2015**Roll Call**

- All present but Commissioner Bill Thiebaut, who had been excused.

Thanks to Ed Peterson, outgoing TC chair

- The new chairman, Commissioner Kathy Connell, presented the previous chairman, Commissioner Ed Peterson, with a gavel and thanked him for his service.

Swearing In of New Commissioners (Herman Stockinger)

- Swearing in of new commissioners will take place next month.

Comments of Individual Commissioners

JULY 2015 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

- A Commissioner expressed being pleased with the launch of CDOT's new interregional bus service, Bustang, on Monday, July 13, and with the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City and County of Denver regarding the I-70 viaduct project.
- A Commissioner complimented DTR staff for working through the many details of initiating Bustang service and Mike Cheroutes, Director of the High Performance Enterprise (HPE), and his staff for the successful opening of the US 36 multimodal project that includes a bikeway/pedestrian way, Bus Rapid Transit, and reconstruction.

Executive Director's Report (Shailen Bhatt)

- The Executive Director remarked on the passing of John Valerio of DTR who had been instrumental in the beginning of Bustang. Memorial services for John will be Tuesday, July 21.
- The Oklahoma DOT flew CDOT employee Ty Ortiz to Oklahoma to assist with a rock fall problem.
- Texas DOT requested help from CDOT with some flooding issues. CDOT Region 4's Regional Transportation Director (RTD) Johnny Olson provided assistance.
- CDOT Executive Director testified to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee regarding some financial initiatives of CDOT, such as the public-private partnerships and devolution of certain segments of state highways to local governments. He also was asked to comment on some congressional efforts to devolve all transportation funding and decision making to the states. He told the congressional committee that such a move could have a \$500 million annual impact on CDOT.

Chief Engineer's Report (Joshua Laipply)

- Ed Fink, who worked for 30 years for CDOT, including as an RTD, has passed away. Ed Fink was recognized as starting the Maintenance Level of Service (MLOS) program.
- CDOT will receive \$200 million in SB 228 funds- 80% in April 2016 and 20% in January 2017. Highway funds have been committed to the I-70 Viaduct project. DTR and others are working on a list of transit and rail projects for 10% of the federal funds.

High Performance Transportation Enterprise (Michael Cheroutes)

- HPE is beginning discussions on a possible toll structure for the I-70 mountain corridor peak period shoulder lanes. During peak periods, the wide shoulder will operate as a third travel lane.
- An IGA was executed between CDOT and City of Denver on the I-70 viaduct project. The IGA addressed Denver's financial commitment to the project and was approved by the HPE Board at its meeting on July 15.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division Report (Shaun Cutting in place of John Cater)

- CDOT's uniquely successful relationship with FHWA has played a role in CDOT's use of public-private partnerships, the network of managed lanes, innovations such as design-build, and alternative ways of doing avalanche control, among other things.

Act on Consent Agenda – Approved unanimously on July 16, 2015.

These were the resolutions approved as part of the consent agenda:

- Regular meeting minutes of May 21, 2015
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Overall Goal – Goal was set that 12.15% of construction, professional services, and design-build contracts should be awarded to businesses that are at least 51% owned by minorities and women.
- Dispose of parcels 16REV-EX and 17-EX of Project CR 01-0182-07 – Parcels are on Sixth Avenue at Sheridan, and are no longer needed for transportation purposes. The owner plans to use the parcels for a medical center.

JULY 2015 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

- Repeal Policy Directives (PD) 384.0, 512.0, 513.0, and 548.0 –Repeal of the policies is part of CDOT’s initiative to repeal those that are no longer needed. They are:
 - PD 384.0 – Subletting Construction Contract (dated 12-17-2009);
 - PD 512.0 – Development of CDOT Construction Projects from Inception to Advertisement (dated 2-18-2010);
 - PD 513.0 – Construction Project Specifications and Construction Project Standard Plans (dated 12-17-2009);
 - PD 548.0 – Safety Considerations on 3R Projects (dated 12-17-2009)
- Update PD 1503.0– Memorial Naming and Designations (dated 5-21-2009) - This resolution repeals Policy Directive 803.0 and consolidates information from that policy directive and 1503.0 so that the General Assembly and citizens have just one document to review if they wish to name a highway segment after someone.

Discuss and Act on the 1st Budget Supplement of FY 2016 (Maria Sobota) – Approved unanimously on July 16, 2015.

The budget supplements approved were:

- **Region 1**
 - \$1,725,000 – *SH103 OVERLAY MM .2-13.5- Surface Treatment*
 - \$4,250,000 – *I-25 & I-225 TREX DEFECT REPAIRS*
- **Region 3**
 - \$400,000 – *SH139 in Garfield County Roadway Failure*
 - \$4,489,815–**RAMP Public-Public Contingency Fund**

A Commissioner commented on the need to be conservative in setting aside contingency funds.

Other Matters

- None

Acknowledgements:

- Michael Cheroutes, Director of the HPTE, thanked and recognized his staff, both past and current, for their work on the US 36 project.
- Gary Vansuch, Director of Process Improvement, acknowledged the team responsible for the successful Access Permits Process Improvement Project. This project reduced the amount of time for processing an access permit request by an average of 38%. It includes an Amazon-like tracking tool so that applicants can see where their permits are in the process. The project was chosen for an international conference on excellence conducted in Nashville, TN. It was one of two selected from among many government projects from 40 teams represented. It was chosen for being the one project having the best customer impact.