



## Statewide MPO Meeting

Friday, June 12, 2020

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

### VIRTUAL MEETING

#### Present:

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs): Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)- Jacob Riger; Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO) - Dana Brosig and Dean Bressler; North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO) - Becky Karasko and Medora Bornhoft; Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG): Kathryn Wenger, William Mast, and John Liosatos; Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG): John Adams and Eva Cosyleon
- CDOT Regions: Region 1 - Jordan Rudel, Jan Rowe, and JoAnn Mattson; Region 2 - Wendy Pettit; Region 4 - Karen Schneiders
- CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD): Marissa Gaughan, Kathleen Collins, Aaron Willis, Carrie Tremblatt, Gail Hoffman, and Michael Snow
- Office of Policy and Government Relations (OPGR): Jamie Grim
- Office of Financial Planning and Budgeting: Eric Ehrhar
- FHWA: Bill Haas and Aaron Bustow
- FTA: Kristin Kenyon

#### Boundary Study - Jamie Grim, CDOT OPGR

- OPGR is working on a guidebook to help MPOs and rural transportation planning areas (TPR) work through boundary changes that may be needed in response to the 2020 census and changes to the Census Urbanized Areas.
- OPGR has set a goal to finish the draft by the end of June, and send it to MPOs and TPRs in July. Staff has completed about five of the eight sections, but the completed sections still need to be condensed. Once edited, the completed sections could be sent to MPOs and TPRs for comment.
- The guidebook will not be concerned with modeling and forecasting, but will simply be a resource about the process.
- The guidebook will have eight sections:
  - Colorado statutes
  - The process for changing TPR boundaries
  - The process for becoming an MPO/transportation management area (TMA - an area with a population of more than 200,000)
  - Administration of an MPO
  - Financial implications of new or revised MPO, TMA, and TPR boundaries
  - Methodology for boundary changes based on changes to a Census Urbanized Area
  - Methodology for accessing growth patterns along the boundaries of rural TPRs, MPOs, and TMAs
  - A schedule of what needs to be done and in what order for changing boundaries
- NFRMPO and Upper Front Range TPR (UFR TPR) discussions about possible boundary changes, such as Wellington leaving UFR to join NFRMPO, prompted the guidebook.
- The guidebook would likely to be used most often after each census, but would be helpful any time questions arise.
- Comments included:
  - Development of the guidebook is separate from an earlier process to correct GIS layers for the MPOs.
  - The timeline should include confirmation of GIS shape files as one of the steps.
  - The section on financial implications should include where the necessary information can be found.
  - MPO boundaries were last changed in 2014, 4 years after the census. The same timeline

- should be followed this time. The guidebook is not intended to hasten the process.
- The guidebook is not rulemaking.

#### Spotlight Agency - John Adams and Eva Cosyleon

- A US 50/Purcell project using SB 267 funds is planned in Pueblo West.
- Staff is working on a grant for Phase 1 of the relocation of the transit administration and office, and should hear this fall whether it received the grant.
- Bike and pedestrian master plan is in process.
- Work on the long range plan is progressing, with the consultants working on a plan for public participation now.
- A virtual meeting on the Southwest Chief Station Area Plan took place on May 28. Five possible locations for the station were on the table, with the Union Station seeming to be the most popular.
- A master plan for the Union Avenue/Main Street Corridor is taking place. A survey to accompany the master plan is on the City of Pueblo website, with a public meeting set for June 30. Union Avenue/Main Street is an historic area along the Arkansas River.
- The Arkansas River levy system has been repaired. Now a bike/pedestrian trail is being planned along the river. The type of bridge over the river will depend on availability of right of way.

#### Toll Credits and Local Match Relief Program - Eric Ehrbar

- Any local government or MPO that might not have enough funds for local matches could consider toll credits.
- Local entities should coordinate with MPOs, Eric Ehrbar, Tim Kirby, Marissa Gaughan, and their regional planners on specific projects.
- Eric said he has already talked to PPACG about toll credits.
- A formal email has been sent to MPOs explaining the process.
- Other methods, such as tapered matches and State Investment Bank loans, also are of interest to NFRMPO.
- At CDOT, local match relief are for projects that have already been selected in the MPO Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) through 2023 as an emergency relief tool.
- However, the different tools for local match relief have been available for a number of years.

#### COVID-19 Impacts:

- Most CDOT employees are working from home until at least after Labor Day.
- DRCOG will be teleworking at least for the next month, and assessing how COVID-19 affects projects and funding.
- FHWA has been working on a phased re-opening. For the foreseeable future, travel bans are in effect, even to attend meetings at CDOT headquarters and to carry out all inspections.

#### Spotlight Schedule

- July- FHWA (Discussion topics: planning findings and the approved State Transportation Improvement Program)
- August - PPACG
- September - GVMPO