



Statewide MPO Meeting Notes - DRAFT Thursday, May 13, 2021

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present:

- **Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs):** Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)- Alvan-Bidal Sanchez and Jacob Riger, Steve Cook; Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Region (GVMPO): Dana Brosig and Dean Bressler; North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO) - Becky Karasko, AnnaRose Cunningham, Medora Bornhoft; Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG): John Liosatos, Kathryn Wenger, Laura Crews, Will Mast, and Mark Northrop; and Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG): Eva Cosyleon and John Adams
- **CDOT Regions:** Region 3 - Mark Rogers, and Region 4 - Josie Hadley
- **CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD):** Marissa Gaughan, William Johnson, Aaron Willis, Theresa Takushi, Jamie Collins, Keara McLean, Kathleen Collins, Carrie Tremblatt, Annelies van Vonno, Nathan Lindquist
- **CDOT Division of Transit & Rail (DTR):** Qing Lin, Julia Wcislo, and Sharon Terranova
- **CDOT Performance and Asset Management Branch:** William Johnson and Britton Stock
- **CDOT Information Management Branch:** Erik Sabina, Toby Manthey, and Darius Pakbaz
- **CDOT Chief Engineer's Office:** Marci Gray
- **CDOT Office of Innovative Mobility:** Lisa Streisfeld, Mike King
- **CDOT Division of Accounting and Finance:** Paige Castaneda
- **CDOT Traffic Safety and Engineering Services:** Alisa Babler
- **Colorado Division Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** Aaron Bustow and William Haas
- **Region 8 Federal Transit Administration (FTA):** Ranae Tunison and Emma Belmont

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update - Jamie Collins, CDOT STIP Manager

- Jamie Collins provided a brief STIP update. She is in the process of finalizing the draft so the STIP can go to the Transportation Commission (TC) next week for adoption.
- She mentioned that CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) had done a good job helping her make sure all the transit projects in the TIPs are included in the STIP. Most of the corrections now are just typos.
- The STIP will go to the TC next week for adoption and then to FHWA and FTA for final approval.

Division of Transit & Rail (DTR) Update -Julia Wcislo, CDOT DTR

- The release of the 2022 Super Call has been delayed from April 6, 2021 to June in order to get more feedback from the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) board and the Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC) and incorporate new funding sources.



- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Biden Administration transit funds were overviewed with \$378 million anticipated for small urbanized areas (UZAs) and rural areas of the state that go to CDOT.
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding update: The programming unit has created budgets and written scopes of work (SOWs) and almost finished the shopping carts (CDOT's internal process to assign funds to tasks). They are distributing almost \$70 million in funding including CRRSAA and Winter Surge Funds to 39 agencies.
- John Liosatos asked if the newly proposed transportation funding bill (SB 21-260) will replace SB267 funds. Marissa said her understanding was that it was separate from SB267 and we should still expect to receive the year 3 funds, but added we should confirm this at STAC tomorrow.

State of the Assets Annual Meeting/New asset management discussion group with CDOT/MPOs/Locals -

William Johnson and Britt Stocks, CDOT Performance and Asset Management Branch

- William Johnson led a discussion about potential improvements to asset management across the state. He mentioned state DOTs across the nation need to better coordinate with MPOs. He noted the 10% of highways and 13% of bridges on the NHS are owned by local jurisdictions and noted this percentage was in the high middle compared to other states nationwide.
- Britt Stocks shared a presentation on a statewide Colorado Asset Management User Group. The group would be a free association of transportation asset management practitioners in Colorado, including state-level, MPO and city and county transportation officials.
- Britt requested feedback from the MPOs on if they would want to take part in this and if so, what they would like to see from the group. The group would be focused on building a knowledge base of asset management practices in the state and would meet about 2-3 per year.
- Several of the MPOs representatives voiced their support and said they would be interested in participating.
- Jacob Riger from DRCOG said they might be interested, but had questions about how CDOT would address the various roles of state, MPO, and local governments in the group. William Johnson said the overall purpose of the group is to advance asset management around the state, and that while each level of government plays a different part in asset management, it is good for all levels to understand asset management principles at all levels. He reiterated that they would need to make sure the discussion was relevant to all levels of government.
- Will Mast with PPACG said one of the things they would like to discuss in this group is how CDOT and MPOs can help small local jurisdictions to create their own asset management plans.
- William Johnson said once they were further along in setting up the first group meeting, they would return to the SWMPO meeting to share that information.

Statewide Transportation Survey - Notice to Proceed - Erik Sabina, CDOT Information Management Branch

- Erik Sabina shared that he has received approval to proceed with the Statewide Transportation Survey. Over the past year, he has been working to get the contract in place and he is working with the procurement folks to learn lessons from the slow pace of this effort.
- The general structure of the project will involve three task orders. This first one is to do planning and conduct a pilot survey. The next task order will involve the majority of the fieldwork for the project. The third will be to purchase some form of "big data."
- The first two phases will help inform the purchase of data. Erik noted the oversight committee, including all the funding partners, and potentially some new partners, will start soon.
- John Liosatos asked if we needed to pause this project to ensure that all the data we are collecting is consistent with what the new transportation funding bill will require. Erik Sabina responded that there was no need to pause. This project is going to go on for quite some time, whereas the funding bill



should pass or not by the end of the current legislative session. If the bill passes and there is language in there about data requirements, we have plenty of time to incorporate it into this project.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Rulemaking Update -Theresa Takushi, CDOT Division of Transportation Development

- Theresa Takushi provided an update on the GHG transportation policy rulemaking. She mentioned that they were on a 2-3 week delay in the schedule. She mentioned that the rulemaking is quite complex and they are working through many of the elements, including the modeling pieces, and what it all means for setting the budgets.
- She mentioned that they had been getting some questions about the equity implications of the bill and how they relate to certain sections of SB260 on equity. Equity needs to be considered in all rulemaking by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Theresa asked the MPOs what equity measures MPOs are currently looking at in their planning process.
- John Liosatos mentioned that they follow the federal process including a title 6 analysis as part of the long-range plan and their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In addition, any project that is federally funded has additional equity and environmental justice requirements. He mentioned that environmental justice (EJ) is incorporated in everything they do all the time. He added that each MPO probably has a slightly different process due to differences in context, capability, and resources. John noted that overall, you should look at the overall MPO process and not just their long range plan.
- Theresa added that CDPHE is specifically interested in the impacted communities adjacent to the projects. She mentioned that she wants to communicate to CDPHE that many communities are already addressing this issue.
- Becky Karasko mentioned that for most projects they are already doing EJ analysis. She also added they recently adopted an Environmental Justice Plan and that EJ was included in many other planning documents as well.
- Jacob Riger added that there are already many requirements around what is done around EJ and that they look at the percentage of minority and low income in each traffic analysis zone (TAZ) and if it is higher than the regional average, they designate it as an EJ area. Nearly half the population winds up being tagged in this way. They have also looked at data on vulnerable populations at the tract level. They also did a lot of engagement and outreach with vulnerable populations. They recently did a themed environmental justice meeting during outreach for their new plan. Jacob again reiterated the complexity and nuances of how MPOs are incorporating EJ into their planning processes.
- All GHG Transportation Policy Rulemaking updates are available at:
<https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/greenhouse-gas/ghg-transportation-policy-rulemaking-process>

Announcement - CDOT Engineering Contracts has hired more IGA Contracts Team Members - Marci Gray, CDOT Engineering Contracts

- Marci Gray announced that CDOT recently hired four new team members for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Contracts team. Three of the positions are for a two-year term and one is for a nine-month term. Marci Gray gave a brief background on the new employees and noted that several have legal experience and contracting experience so they are able to jump right in. These new employees will help with speeding up the contracting process for projects.

Other Business

- Lisa Streisfeld reminded the group that HB 21-1076 recently passed. The bill requires the owner or operator of a carpooling service internet application to register annually with the Department of Transportation.
- **Staffing updates:**
 - Dean Bressler asked a question about senior staffing hiring process.
 - Marissa mentioned that her previous position is hiring and is doing interviews next week.



- William Johnson mentioned that Lizzie Kemp, the Risk and Resiliency Manager will be transferring from Marissa's group to his group. He mentioned that he was also looking to hire a staff economist with transportation specific skills.
- Marissa added that we will be hiring a few fellowship positions, including a resiliency fellow and a planning fellow with a land use background. The CDOT Division of Accounting and Finance (DAF) will also have a position for a transit fellow.
- Josie Hadley added that R4 is hiring a transit and innovative mobility liaison.
- Dean asked if there was a way to get on a listserv to learn about all these job openings so he could share these positions with partners and consultants.
- Marissa requested to give some time to think about how to share this information.
- Josie Hadley mentioned the possibility to sign up for notices on the CDOT jobs site as one alternative.
- Mike King provided links to two positions the CDOT Office of Innovative Mobility is seeking related to electric vehicles (EVs).
- **MPO Meeting Scheduling Discussion:**
 - Aaron added that the June STAC meeting will likely be a hybrid of in-person and virtual. Marissa asked if this group would like to try for a hybrid meeting or keep things virtual.
 - Mark Rogers added that if the MPO meeting stays on Thursday, they could do a hybrid meeting, and asked if the meeting would stay on Thursday mornings or go back to Friday afternoons after STAC.
 - Marissa added that the meeting was moved to Thursdays sometimes to avoid conflicting with TRAC, but if the group preferred Thursday mornings, they could stay on that day but it might be more difficult if people were traveling to be in person for STAC.
 - Bill Haas added that he liked doing the meeting before the STAC meeting and would like to see an item on the agenda about hot topics at STAC the next day. He added he was less enthusiastic regarding the idea of Friday afternoon meetings after STAC, and added that the MPO meetings seemed to have less energy in the afternoons after STAC.
 - Marissa asked if anyone objected to moving the MPO meetings to Thursday instead of Fridays after STAC. No one voiced any objections. She suggested staying virtual for MPO in June, but potentially moving to a hybrid approach in July.
 - John Liosatos added that while he had no issue, he remembered Ron Papsdorf from DRCOG had a conflict with Thursday morning meetings.
 - Marissa suggested sending a quick email poll out to the MPO invitees to determine the meeting day/time for next month. Kathleen will send.

