

Planning Connections - May 2016

CDOT planning news you can use.

RoadX Planning Projects Proceeding

[RoadX](#) is a fast-paced and innovative initiative by CDOT to partner with the private sector and rapidly deploy new technological solutions that have the potential to significantly improve the safety and mobility of the statewide transportation system. The focus of RoadX is on a [series of pilot projects](#) that, if successful, will be reviewed for possible implementation more broadly across the state. So far [two pilot projects](#) have been identified and more will be rolled out over the course of the coming months. Region Planners and DTD staff are supporting this effort by laying the groundwork to ease the transition from successful pilot project to broader implementation through improved communications, processes, and policies that encourage and accommodate new technologies. Currently three RoadX planning projects are under way focused on stakeholder outreach efforts, updated managed lanes corridor guidance, and integration of technological solutions into PEL studies. These planning projects are being led by a series of work groups including Region Planners and DTD staff. [Mike King](#), the RoadX Planning Liaison, may be contacted about current and future RoadX planning projects.

'Together We Go' Reports on CDOT Progress

CDOT is developing an annual two-way conversation with statewide stakeholder groups and the public to inform the planning process and report on progress made since the 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan was adopted in March 2015. This effort is an opportunity to highlight CDOT achievements, enhance relationships, and inform the next statewide planning effort.

This annual conversation, entitled Together We Go, will highlight key initiatives and how these relate to the public. In addition, CDOT will reach out to communities that have had limited involvement in transportation planning in the past. The Together We Go outreach effort will begin with telephone town halls in several of the Transportation Commission districts in June 2016. Over the summer, staff will engage a wide range of stakeholders in face-to-face conversations throughout the state. For more information, see the [FAQ about Together We Go](#). [Michelle Scheuerman](#) is leading the effort.

10-Year Development Program to Inform Project Selection

Priorities for the 10-Year Development Program will be identified with the CDOT Regions in the summer and fall of 2016 based on Region and planning partner input. The 10-Year Development Program is a smaller subset of the [Development Program](#), identifying those major investment needs that are a higher priority over the next 10 years. The 10-Year Development Program will likely include projects totaling roughly \$2.5 billion from the \$8.5 billion Development Program.

The Planning and Project Selection Work Group composed of Region Planners, Regional Planning and Environmental Managers, and DTD staff met twice in April to develop proposed next steps; the proposed approach from this work group will be shared with a recently created Project Selection Process Oversight Committee on May 13, and with STAC on May 20. TPR outreach is anticipated to begin in June, with completion of the 10-Year Development Program anticipated in the fall. Projects identified in the 10-Year Development Program will be compared to eligibility criteria to assess

which of several funding opportunities - such as SB 228, National Highway Freight Program, and discretionary grant programs - are applicable to each.

The Development Program is part of the broader Project Selection and Prioritization initiative. Both efforts will be supported by work groups and overseen by the Project Selection Process Oversight Committee, composed of members of CDOT Executive Management. The Planning and Project Selection Work Group will consider how to incorporate criteria, weighting, and tools into the 10-Year Development Program process. [Jeff Sudmeier](#) and [William Johnson](#) are leading these efforts.

Commission approves Safe Routes to Schools projects

The Transportation Commission approved 21 Safe Routes to Schools projects in April, including seven infrastructure and 14 education and encouragement projects. The infrastructure projects totaled \$2 million and the education and encouragement projects totaled \$499,437. Recipients of the grants are:

- Infrastructure:
City of Boulder, City of Durango, City of Englewood, Pueblo County government, Summit County government, Town of Basalt, and Town of Pagosa Springs.
- Education and Encouragement:
Archuleta School District, Center Consolidated Schools 26JT, City of Arvada, City and County of Denver, City of Durango, City of Fort Collins, City of Golden, City of Sterling, Englewood Schools, Holyoke School District Re-1J, Lake County Build a Generation, Mesa County and Grand Valley MPO, School District 27J (Brighton), and Thompson R-2J School District.

The awarded projects can be viewed at: <http://www.codot.gov/programs/bikeped/safe-routes>.

Updates in Brief

- **Bike/Ped Policy** - The Transportation Commission is anticipated to adopt the updated Bike/Ped Policy Directive 1602 at their May meeting. A detailed Procedural Directive will be finalized in June.
- **Discretionary Grants** - Three applications were submitted by CDOT under the FASTLANE grant program: US 287 Lamar Reliever Route, US 85 Centennial Highway, and a Truck Parking Information Management System. La Plata County submitted an application for US 550. Applications were also submitted for I-25 North under the TIGER Program by CDOT, and under the FASTLANE Program by North Front Range MPO. CDOT also intends to submit four applications under the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) in May: US 160 Towaoc Passing Lanes, US 50 Blue Creek Canyon, US 550, and SH 139 Little Horse South.
- **Freight Planning** - The [Freight Advisory Council](#) (FAC) identified five focus areas to invest time in identifying both short and long-term needs: low vertical clearance bridges, truck parking, highway safety, communication, and education. A consultant (Cambridge Systematics with FHU) has been selected for development of the Multimodal Freight Plan and updated State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan. Kickoff is anticipated this summer. Staff are currently working on an approach to implementation of FAST Act freight programs, including the designation of Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors and carrying out the new formula-based National Highway Freight Program.

- **RUC Pilot** - The CDOT Road Usage Charge (RUC) Pilot is anticipated to begin this summer. CDOT is also participating in a grant application submitted by a consortium of western states for a regional RUC project.
- **Planning Process** - Several efforts are currently planned or underway to prepare for and make improvements to the next long-range planning cycle; these include development of Program Distribution; Policy Directive 14.0 update; Statewide, Regional, and other transportation plans; and the STIP. To date this has included TPR-level discussions, surveys, and an April workshop on "Statewide Plan Lessons Learned."
- **SW MPO** - MPOs are discussing potential changes to the format of the SW MPO meeting, including possibly going to an MPO-host format in which the meeting would be hosted by a different MPO each month and rotate around the state.
- **STIP** - The updated FY 17-21 STIP will be approved by the Transportation Commission at their May meeting. Grand Valley MPO, PPACG, and PACOG are approving updated FY 17-21 TIPs. DRCOG and NFRMPO are still reviewing the timeline and process to do so.
- **Updated Allocations** - The Regions and MPOs in May will receive notices of updated allocations for sub-allocated programs based on the FY 17 budget. At the request of the MPOs, updated allocations for CMAQ, STP-M, TAP, and Metro Planning will also be provided through FY 21.
- **Website** - The [CDOT Planning website](#) has been reorganized and additional content added. Further additions and enhancements are in progress.

Transportation Commission Corner

Planning highlights of the [April Transportation Commission \(TC\)](#) meeting are:

The TC approved:

- \$1.5 million for express platform improvements and safety switches for the Winter Park Ski Train. The grant will help Winter Park negotiate with Amtrak and Union Pacific (the track owner) for revival of the ski train, which ended in 2009. A test run took place in March 2015 to assess interest in resuming the train. Interest was so strong that a Sunday run was added to the initial Saturday run. The ski train could help relieve traffic on I-70. Winter Park would like the ski train to resume in January 2017. The effort is a public-private partnership between Colorado Rail Passenger Association, Union Pacific Railroad, City and County of Denver, and Winter Park Resort.
- An amendment to the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) I-70-Peak Period Shoulder Lanes Intra-Agency Agreement with CDOT on cost sharing on managed lanes. The amendment could result in CDOT and HPTE each paying about half the maintenance and operations costs based on usage of the managed lane. HPTE may contribute more toward costs as additional revenues are collected over time. The I-70 Mountain Express Lane Project stretches for 13 eastbound miles.

The TC heard:

- The toll express lanes on US 36 between Denver and Boulder may have contributed to a 29 percent increase in travel speeds for *all* lanes.
- A walk-on request from Region 3 for a total of \$5.3 million for the recent rock fall on I-70 demonstrates the need to identify risk and resilience of the transportation system statewide.

FHWA may reimburse CDOT for some of the costs. A Risk and Resiliency pilot project along I-70 is planned and expansion statewide is possible.

The TC Transit and Intermodal Committee recommended:

- Approval in May of the updated Policy Directive (PD) 1602 “Elevating Bicycling and Walking Opportunities in Colorado”. The PD reinforces accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians. A more detailed Procedural Directive will be developed outlining how PD 1602 will be implemented and compliance will be verified.
- Approval in May of 21 Safe Routes to School projects. (Details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The TC and CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt recognized:

- David Eller, Regional Transportation Director of Region 3, for his work and that of Region 3 employees in seeing that Glenwood Canyon on I-70 was opened ahead of schedule after the rock fall.
- Mike Timlin of the Division of Transit and Rail for outreach to the Transportation Planning Regions on the Rural Regional Bus Network.
- Leslie Feuerborn for a successful Safe Routes to School program.
- Opening of the I-25 North Express Toll Lanes.

These personnel changes also were mentioned:

- Nancy Shanks of the Office of Communications, who represents Region 5, is retiring. Her replacement will be Lisa Schwantes.
- Mike McVaugh is the new Regional Transportation Director in Region 5, taking the place of Kerrie Neet, who retired.

STAC Corner

- Minutes from the April meeting and Statewide Transportation Plan Lessons Learned Workshop are available on the [STAC Website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- May 18-19 - Transportation Commission workshops and meetings (in Steamboat Springs)
- May 19 - Statewide Planning Team meeting
- May 20 - Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) and Statewide MPO meeting
- June 9 - Freight Advisory Council (FAC) meeting

If you have suggestions for topics, updates to submit, etc. please submit to gail.hoffman@state.co.us.