

Colorado Department of Transportation Standing Committee on Efficiency and Accountability (E&A) Meeting Minutes

Date: August 14, 2013

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: CDOT Headquarters, Mt. Evans Room

Committee Members in Attendance:

Louie Barela, CDOT Division of Finance and Accounting

Dave Childs, CDOT Division of Highway Maintenance & Operations

T.K. Gwin, CDOT Division of Aeronautics

Solomon Haile, CDOT Division of Engineering, Design and Construction

Maribeth Lewis-Baker, Chairperson; Free Ride Transit System, Breckenridge

Daniel Owens, Operating Engineers Union

Debra Perkins-Smith, CDOT Division of Transportation Development

Jody Randall, American Civil Contractors

Bob Sakaguchi, Jacobs Engineering

Gary Vansuch, Vice Chairman; CDOT Director of Process Improvement

Bill Weidenaar, Regional Transportation District

Beverly Wyatt, Division of Human Resources and Administration

Committee Members Absent:

Steve Hofmeister, Transportation Commissioner

Dan Gibbs, Summit County Commissioner

Barbara Gold, Audit Director

Michael Penny, City of Littleton

Others Present:

Mehdi Bazar, Information Mgmt. Branch

Leo Livecchi, Information Mgmt. Branch

David Luhan, Office of Information Technology

Navin Nageli, NavJoy

Alex Karami, CDOT, Staff Branche

(I) Welcome

Chairperson, Maribeth Lewis-Baker began the meeting by reviewing the items on the agenda for the meeting. She asked if there were any proposed changes or additions to the agenda; there were no changes or additions. The Committee Approved the July minutes and they were adopted for the record.

(II) Report from Committee's Task Force on Traffic Data

Solomon Haile presented the Task Force's results and recommendations of the study.

The purpose of the study: To review how CDOT is currently collecting the traffic data and to determine if there are any possible ways to increase the efficiency and optimize the Traffic Data management System.

Background

- CDOT is using 3 types of Roadway devices to collect traffic data:
 - Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATR)
 - Roadway Traffic Management System (RTMS) or Radars
 - Ramp Meters
- Up until the recent reorganization, devices operated & maintained by DTD, ITS Branch, Regions 1,4 and 6; Now it's – Division of TSM&O and DTD
- Traffic flow parameters/measures
 - Volume
 - Speed
 - Occupancy
 - Vehicle classification

Recommendations

- Radars and ramp meters should be used to supplement the volume and speed data within the Denver Metropolitan area where the DTR ATR infrastructure is limited
- Division of TSM&O and DTD will review the radar locations and assign priority/schedule for re-calibration to ensure no discrepancy between data sources
- Approved COGNOS users should be able to access and retrieve the data as needed
- CDOT website should also include radar and ramp meter data for the traffic volumes.
- Division of TSM&O, DTD and the relevant CDOT Region should work together before any new data collection device is installed on a CDOT roadway

Analysis: What is the benefit to the travelling public and the department? How do we measure its effectiveness? The upfront cost is significant, what does it buy?

Next Steps: These recommendations do not need to go to the Executive Director. Deb Perkins-Smith (DTD) and Ryan Rice (TSM&O) can make any necessary decisions and implement as decided.

(III) Access Permit Fees

Alex Karami, Access Manager from Staff Branches, joined the meeting to discuss raising the fees for Access Permits which have not been increased since 1991. Alex shared some of the background, for example that this idea was proposed in 2008 to no avail. He also shared what our neighboring states are doing: some charge nothing for access permits while other use a sliding scale or a fee based on the value added to the property. Currently CDOT charges as follows: \$50 for driveways; \$100 for simple commercial projects; \$300 for complex commercial projects; and no charge for local agencies. The fees don't cover the actual cost to process the permits. Alex expressed concern about what the purpose of additional funds would be. We are limited by what we can do with the funds—they can't pay for extra staff so where would the money go and what is the benefit. After much discussion, the group decided to re-establish to task force.

Action Items

From July:

1. Send ideas about defining the role of this Committee to Gary by August 30th.
2. Bring ideas about mentoring within CDOT
3. There are numerous reports due to the Legislature each year. What are they and why are they needed?

From August:

1. Hand off traffic data info to Debra Perkins-Smith & Ryan Rice; draft short memo to DH with status.
2. Reestablish the Access and Oversize/Overweight Permits Task Force (Bob Sakaguchi – Chair; Bill Weidenaar; Alex Karami)
3. Invite Toby Manthy from DTD to discuss Performance Measures

Next Meeting

Date: September 18, 2013

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: CDOT Headquarters, Mt. Evans Room, Shumate Building

Adjourned:

Maribeth Lewis-Baker asked the members if there were any other topics that needed to be addressed. None were brought forth. Maribeth motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. The motion passed. 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,
Jenni Fogel