

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

Date: July 17, 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

Bill Weidenaar, Regional Transportation District

Steve Hofmeister, Transportation Commission

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

Daniel Owens, Operating Engineers Union

Michael Penny, City of Littleton (via teleconference)

Debra Perkins-Smith, CDOT Division of Transportation Development

Jody Randall, American Civil Contractors

Bob Sakaguchi, Jacobs Engineering

Beverly Wyatt, Division of Human Resources and Administration

T.K. Gwin, CDOT Division of Aeronautics

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Gibbs, Summit County Commissioner

Barbara Gold, Audit Director

Solomon Haile, CDOT Division of Engineering, Design and Construction

Gary Vansuch, Vice Chairman; CDOT Director of Process Improvement

Others Present:

Gregg Miller, CDOT, Information Technology

Alex Karami, CDOT, Staff Branches

(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—since Solomon Haile was not present, his agenda item, Task Force report, was tabled; added to the agenda: discussion about the meeting and memo to Don Hunt. The revised agenda was approved. The Committee Approved the June minutes and they were adopted for the record.

(II) Discussion of IT/OIT issues

Gregg Miller joined the meeting to discuss on-going issues with the Office of Information Technology (OIT). OIT was created under Governor Ritter to consolidate all the state agency IT departments into a single agency. At the time CDOT fought to stay independent, but were unsuccessful. As a result of the consolidation there are many complaints and on-going issues. Among them:

- HR issues within OIT: lost employees are not replaced resulting in high vacancy/low service
- Dissatisfaction with choice to go with Google
- OIT refuses to sign service level agreements limiting accountability
- CDOT lost 82 positions; these were employees with specific, valuable CDOT knowledge.
- If CDOT needs assistance from a 3rd party, OIT must approve, which they generally do.
- There is talk of a centralized service desk, which could cause more problems

There are some positives:

- The upper management of the OIT has turned over and as a result, things are beginning to show signs of improvement.
- There have been some cost savings and improved efficiencies.

Group discussion: Does Executive Director Hunt need this committee to offer support to make sure CDOT's concerns are being addressed? No, ED Hunt is very aware of the issues and is taking a proactive stance with OIT. At this time, support will be provided only if specifically requested.

(III) Future Direction of this Committee

Discussion centered on the future direction of this committee: When this committee was formed, the State was in a different place—it was part of the FASTER legislation in 09. The current climate is more transparent, more accountable, and more efficient so is this Committee still necessary and relevant?

Items to consider:

- Update the charter?
- Request guidance from the Transportation Commission?
- Work on changing the legislation?

(IV) Access Permit Fees:

The fees for Access Permits have not been increased since 1991, and the current fees are not covering the cost of processing the permits. The only way to increase the fees is through legislation and CDOT cannot carry a bill, however, the EA Committee could. The committee voted on whether or not to sponsor a bill. The ayes have it. None opposed. The Committee will work on a strategy.

(V) Meeting with Executive Director Hunt

On July 11th, Maribeth Lewis-Baker and Michael Penny met with ED Hunt to discuss priorities for the Committee with him.

Below are the items discussed and his *response*, plan.

1. Concerns about purchasing limits on goods and services
This is a statutory issue. The E&A Cmt will have to take the lead.
Tabled.
2. Inconsistencies in consultant selection
Some differences currently exist between regions; Would like specific examples.
This issue may belong with a different group/committee. Tabled.
3. Increasing transparency in procurement for construction projects
4. Development of performance metrics for CDOT employees
Already exists, PMP.
No action necessary.

Action Items

1. Invite Alex Karami to next meeting to discuss Access Permit fee plan. Contact AG's office to see if they have any input or issue with the plan.
2. Bring ideas about defining the role of this Committee.
3. Bring ideas about mentoring within CDOT
4. There are numerous reports due to the Legislature each year. What are they and why are they needed?

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