

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Transit and Rail
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TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Mark Imhoff, Director, Division of Transit & Rail

DATE: September 7, 2012

RE: Current Activities Update

The purpose of this memo is to give the Transportation Commission a brief status on the current activities of the Division of Transit & Rail.

Payback of Commission Loan – DTR has repaid the \$5.4 million loan it received last fall from the Transportation Commission to cover for Federal FY 2012 FTA operating grants. The loan is requested annually in order to enable DTR to contract with its transit grant recipients until such time as Congress appropriates FTA funding to the states. The CDOT transit grant recipients operate on a calendar year budget cycle, and the Transportation Commission loan enables the local transit entities to budget and receive their annual operating grants in a timely manner, and avoid any disruption of service. Without the loan DTR would not be able to contract with the local grantees until after Congress made a full year's appropriation (which this year was not until July), and the grantees would not have continuous operating funds for their programs.

Next month DTR will be requesting a loan from the Commission for Federal FY 2013 to be used for calendar year 2013 FTA transit operating grants. In addition, to be more responsive to our grantees, and to better manage our process work flows, we will be asking the Transportation Commission to consider expanding the loan to cover FTA capital grants; to be repaid in the spring or summer of 2013 after Congressional appropriations. A more complete explanation will be provided in October.

FREX Bus Disposal – DTR staff issued a call for proposals to transit operators interested in obtaining the FREX buses. Proposals are due Sept. 16th. DTR anticipates that requests will be made for all ten buses. Mountain Metro Transit is decommissioning the buses and has been very cooperative, making its staff available to show the buses to interested operators. MMT is also preparing to return to CDOT the funds it has been holding in escrow. DTR staff will select the operators receiving the buses by Sept. 26.

2014/15 FASTER Transit Grant Process – DTR has released a call for FASTER Transit projects for FY 2014 and 2015. The call is for two years in order to allow for better capital planning. The call was issued earlier than last year at the request of the Regions in order to give applicants more time to complete the application and to provide the Regions more time to coordinate with their respective TPRs, and evaluate the readiness of proposed construction projects. The project review, evaluation, scoring and recommendation process will occur this fall, with the recommendations coming to the Transportation Commission early next year. Given changes brought about by MAP-21, DTR staff anticipates expanding its call for projects to include FTA funds, as part of an effort to reduce the number of applications needed and to consolidate capital requests into a more cohesive process.

Interregional Connectivity Study - The ICS is evaluating technologies, alignments and financial/funding options for potential high speed rail along the Front Range from Fort Collins to Pueblo, and the “connectivity” with RTD’s FasTracks system in the Denver metro area. This study is working with a Project Leadership Team (PLT) comprised of representatives from CDOT, federal agencies, elected officials and staff from communities along the Front Range, railroads, and select advocacy groups.

- Status: See attached status update. Next major milestone meetings will be late 2012 into early 2013.
- Duration: 18 months (April 2012 – September 2013)

Advanced Guideway System (AGS) Feasibility Study – The AGS study is considering high speed transit options between DIA and Eagle County Regional Airport. Like ICS, it is also evaluating technologies, alignments, and financial funding options. The study is strongly coordinated with the ICS to provide an integrated statewide answer on high speed transit options, statewide.

- Status: See attached status memo. Technology Request For Information being released in mid-September, and evaluated by mid-October. “Technology Forum” presentations by invited RFI respondents will occur in late October.
- Duration: 18 months (April 2012 – September 2013)

Establishing a Framework for Transit and Rail Performance Measures - Working with the Transit and Rail Advisory Committee, DTR established a framework for transit and rail performance measures. Seven categories with multiple measures have been identified that will be most useful in establishing the existing condition of the state’s transit and railroad systems, and in assessing proposed improvement over time.

- Status: Final report under review by DTR staff. DTR is working with the new Performance Management Branch to roll-out an initial transit performance measure at the end of October.
- Duration: 10 months (November 2011 – August 2012)

Transit Capital Asset Inventory - In order to improve DTR’s ability to forecast the need for transit capital rehabilitation and replacement funding throughout the State, and to program available funding to meet the highest priority needs, DTR staff initiated the development of an improved capital asset inventory. The objective for the inventory is to collect data from each grantee agency on transit capital assets across the state, and the costs of rehabilitating and replacing those assets. An automated and transparent data collection process will allow data

to be collected and updated on a regular basis. A major portion of the project will be to work with grantee agency's to improve and standardize their data management systems and procedures.

- Status: RFP with procurement
- Duration: 6 months from NTP

Intercity and Regional Bus Study - CDOT is preparing a *2013 Statewide Intercity and Regional Bus Network Study* that will update a similar 2008 study and will further identify intercity and regional bus service needs and priorities in the state; estimate capital and operating costs associated with various levels of service; and identify opportunities for connecting local, regional, and intercity transit modes at intermodal stations/hubs and airports. A consulting team will conduct the study in coordination with the DTR and a Technical Advisory Committee.

- Status: Proposals were received August 16th; and scored on August 31st. A firm will be selected by September 17, 2012, contracted by October 29, and the study initiated soon thereafter.
- Duration: 9 months from NTP (estimated: November 2012 - July 2013)

Statewide Transit Plan - DTR submitted to procurement the scope of work for consultant services to develop CDOT's first Statewide Transit Plan. The Plan is required by state statute and will "identify local, interregional, and statewide transit and passenger rail needs and priorities." Per state statute, a statewide survey to assess the transportation needs of the elderly and disabled will be conducted as part of the Plan. The scope of work also includes preparation of the local transit and coordinated human services plans for the 10 rural TPRs. The Statewide Transit Plan will then integrate the local transit and coordinated human services plan for the 15 Colorado TPRs (10 rural + 5 urban), the passenger rail elements of the State Rail Plan, and results of other DTR studies. The Statewide Transit Plan will then be integrated into the Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan.

- Status: The RFP will be posted to the BIDS system in mid- to late-September.
- Duration: 15 months from NTP (Estimated: January 2013 – March 2014)