



**Transit and Rail Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 March 8, 2019
 12:00 – 3:00 PM**

2829 W. Howard Place, Denver, CO 80204 / South Platte River Trail Conf Room #231

Member	Organization	Yes	No	Member	Organization	Yes	No
Ann Rajewski	CASTA	X		Rob Eaton	Amtrak		X
Sara Cassidy	Union Pacific RR	X		Larry Worth	Rural Transit		X
Bill Van Meter	RTD		X	Mike Ogborn	Ogborn Consulting / Short-line railroad	X	
Craig Blewitt	Mountain Metro Transit	X		Danny Katz	CoPIRG		X
David Johnson	Roaring Fort Transit		X	Steve Hurlbert	I-70 Coalition / Local jurisdictions		X
Jim Souby	Colo Rail		X	Peter Rickershauser	BNSF Railway	X	
Matthew Helfant	DRCOG	X		Will Jones	City of Greeley / Small urban areas	Phone	
Terri Binder	Club 20	X		Vince Rogalski	STAC	Phone	

Others Present	CDOT Present
Lee Cryer, RTD, for Bill Van Meter Dave Averill, SMART (Phone) Cindy Terwilliger, FTA (Phone)	David Krutsinger, Director/DTR Brodie Ayers, DTR Qing Ling, DTR Audrey Dakan, DTR Jane Hickey, DTR Tom Mauser, DTR Araya Messa, DTR Michael Timlin, DTR Rocio Ramirez, DTR Sharon Terranova, DTR Brian Hartman, DTR Michael Snow, DTR Nate Vander Broek, DTR Randy Grauberger, DTR Lisa Streisfeld, RoadX Gail Hoffman, Statewide Planning Section Laura Morales-Garcia, DTR

1. Introductions/Meeting Overview/Welcome

Ann Rajewski called the meeting to order at 12:04, welcoming everyone to the meeting, asking for a roll call.

2. Round Table

- Lee Cryer – today is RTD’s 50th anniversary and quiet zones are being implemented on A-Line.

- Mike Ogborn – Legislature passed Minimum Two-person Crew on Freight Trains (HB19-1034); RRs are asking Governor to veto the legislation.
- Ann Rajewski – CASTA just released Spring conference schedule and location. TRAC members can apply for CASTA membership rate or can attend a session or two without charge.
- Michael Timlin – March 20th CDOT, Mountain Metro Transit, and DRCOG holding a TDM day. April 21st, Summit Stage starting commuter program between Fairplay and Breckenridge.
- Ann Rajewski – CASTA and CDOT putting together full day electric bus training on April 16th aimed at service providers.

3. TRAC: Chair & vice Chair Structure – Ann Rajewski / David Krutsinger (attachment)
David discussed adding a Vice Chair (based on attachment).

David nominated Craig Blewitt. Ann asked for comments/discussion. - there were no comments and no other nominees for Vice Chair.

Ann moved to vote to add a Vice Chair. (Craig stepped out for the vote) No one opposed; motion carries. Craig Blewitt is new Vice Chair.

4. State Legislative Update – David Krutsinger (attachment)

- Require Traffic Signals Cycle Yellow Before green – David thinks it failed; more European model and in conflict with MUTCD.
- Eliminate Red Light Cameras – bill died in committee; cameras are still allowed and legal.
- Modify Specific Ownership Tax Rates – Terri shared that Club 20 opposed because it would have harmed farms with older equipment.
- CO Clean Pass Act – bill is controversial. It could give drivers of electric vehicles an even steeper discount since they already don't pay gas tax. Could put a strain on toll lanes (capacity and congestion, plus loss of fees).
- Winter Conditions and Traction Control Requirements – Lisa shared that there are concerns with car rentals because they do not have alternative traction control in the vehicles on purpose (companies do not want to deal with the liability of a renter putting on chains).
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Age – Ann shared that many agencies support because of value of addressing driver shortage; Lee thinks good idea, personally (doesn't know RTD's position).
- Hazardous Materials Transportation Routing – Terri asked what was behind the push for this change. David says initial draft allowed trucks to go through EJMT at all times. CDOT pushed back because of concerns about tunnel closure after a passenger truck fire closed the tunnel for extended time.
- Increase General Fund Funding for Transportation – concern on transit side is that there's an increase for CDOT and local governments, but not transit. CASTA does not support that part of the bill.
- Prerequisites for Construction of Managed Lanes – just codified internal policy to get managed lanes studied.
- Suppl Approp Dept Transportation – Ann explained that SB1 didn't move funds into MTOF pot. Took appropriation to get funds moved to MTOF.
- Ann – referred initiative from SB1 was supposed to go on ballot in November if neither 109 or 110 passed. Referred initiative was a bond, so probably not going to add to ballot this year. The legislators she is talking with are looking at a potpourri approach to funding (at least in part to reduce pain from increasing taxes). CASTA has been considering taking FASTER funding and asking for incremental increase since pot is growing but funding for transit is fixed at \$15m. Talking with legislators about differences between highway and transit funding, because transit has operating costs over many more years and it is hard to rely on and plan for future projects with short-term funding source. Transit demand is growing, so this is important. Talking with Lieutenant Governor about connections between transit and health care costs (paying for transportation to reduce missed appointments, increase aging in place) since she is focused on health care.

5. FASTER Fund swap (RTD / DRCOG) – David Krutsinger (attachment)

Hoping for recommendation from TRAC today – must be TC action because more than 1m and it changes the FASTER distribution formula. \$3m set aside for RTD can't match federal w/fed so so RTD will get CMAQ instead (Memo references).

Approve, recommend with options

All approved in favor – of this recommendation.

6. Southwest Chief Front Range Rail commission Update – Jim Souby / Pete Rickershauser / Randy Grauberger (attachment)

- SWC & FRPRC meeting this morning
- Established a few subcommittees / including a sub-committee for a revised RFP
- Become more transparent than in the past
- Implement – passenger rail / aware can't operate behind closed doors.
- Discussion on website work and press releases.
- Consider possibility of extensive public involvement to be more open and communicative and getting our story out – getting our blended team together.
- SWC & FRPRC will touch base with FRA to assure they are a partner on this and eventually they will be required to approve the EIS.
- Potential of a BUILD Grant – announcement coming in April
 - Consideration of application for SWC & FRPRC in order to finish up the rail relay in Colorado and Kansas.
- TIGER 9 - Colfax & CRISI - CDOT leads these grants. Targets to finish categorical exclusions end of summer.
- David added Director with much higher interest in this – coordination on this and transit including Bustang. Big picture looks for much more moving forward. Commitment is not just front-range focused, this is throughout the entire state, mobility hubs coming from the Governor and the Director.

7. Capital Call Update – Qing Lin / David Krutsinger (attachment)

- What is the schedule for allocating monies for these projects? Once confirm match can be made and approval is given April to start contract then beginning July/August.
- Fund availability is a lot of times determined by the roll forward from the previous year.
- Transparency to assure fairness in selection / SB 267.
- Seeing a lot of request for design process
- Pete – Surprising with the needs that this wouldn't be used above
- Ann - from CASTA perspective encourage agencies to think bigger and encourage perspective and problem with capital funding, also finding the right project is an issue.
- Terri – inquired on the counties listed. David - CDOT did confirm via the census under the definition of rural as under 50,000. This is a minimum of 25% to these counties. Always assure they receive at least this amount. Mike noted there is a lot of discussion about transit centers.
- Settlement funds - \$3.5M originally, but requested \$18M so asking for \$14M NOFA
- How should the state distribution work?
- Are these 100% no match? No match requirement to settlement funds, requires no match and it can be used to match for other buses.
- David – roughly speaking agencies would be spending 10% for each vehicle.
- How do these buses perform in the mountains? Different environments prevent different challenges, mountain, frequent stops, cold weather, etc. all those things limit the charge amount. Mike talked with MCI engineer coming out with coach next year however if using in Winter next year lucky to go 120/140 miles in Winter with heater. Ann stated experience with these buses is helping, we are talking and sharing this information with each other. Craig noted part of this is you have to get rid of your other buses and replace it with your electric bus.

- Lisa noted - looking at working with this consortium – coils to charge your bus by placing the bus “over” these coils. – constant charge moving over roadway.

8. Strategic Project Selection – Sharon Terranova / David Krutsinger (attachment)

- Looking for a TRAC Subcommittee – pull together very quickly & meet very quickly
- Have first year of funding & pick the first year of projects
- Address how it meets the Transit Plan Goal, Mobility, Transit System Development, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Vitality, and Safety Improvements
- Has very high scores – but concept changes
- TRAC subcommittee with ratings and will be brought back to TRAC.
- Subcommittee to consist of: David Averill, Ann Rajewski, (Ann will work on an additional staff for the committee).
- Stand-alone or right of way purchases to be used for 267? David would lean in the affirmative, but legislative is not very clear and cannot build without property, so lean in that direction and get some clarification.

9. Quarterly Memos / Informational

a. Bustang & Rural Regional / Outrider Program – Michael Timlin (attachment)

- Even though suffering through driver shortage continue to grow, impacting reliability on the west line specific. David and Mike meeting with CEO next week for plan. CDOT did increase funds via the contract to assist with hiring for shortage.
- Hourly bus operator driver pay rate depends on the experience.
- Probably see a resurrection of Snowstang and maybe other routes in the future.
- DTC service is a bit lacking, promotional not picked up well in the media, working on this. Continue to grow with some more seasonal than others.
 - Route change up in May.
- David noted in fairness to ACE, Bustang’s current operator even at full staff, still believe additional service would be needed on the West line. Randy inquired if that was related to ski season, yes winter recreation.
- Outrider runs are operating well with different operators along the way.

b. Transit Grants – Qing Lin (attachment)

- No questions – no comments

c. SB228 – Sharon Terranova (attachment)

- No questions – no comments

Additional

Craig noted two grant opportunities, FTA up to \$500,000 & USDOT up to \$10M for autonomous vehicles/buses. The City of Colorado Springs is currently submitting a request for a shuttle to manage the demand at Garden of the Gods Park.

10. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 – Ann Rajewski