



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

2829 West Howard Place
Denver, CO 80204

DATE: January 15, 2021
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)
FROM: David Krutsinger, Director, Division of Transit & Rail (DTR)
SUBJECT: TRAC Composition and Roles

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is advise TRAC members of (re-)appointments, keeping the TRAC current for the task of advising the Division of Transit & Rail.

Action

Information and discussion only; no action required.

Background

The Transit & Rail Advisory Committee was initiated January 1, 2011, with members generally serving 2-year terms. The original members were seated with half having three-year terms, so that half of the TRAC members' terms expire December 31st of even-number years, and the other half, December 31st of odd-numbered years. The TRAC terms are coincident with the calendar year service periods of CDOT Executive Directors, rather than with the state fiscal year.

The legislatively-defined purposes of the Division of Transit & Rail, and the TRAC are, per state statute and 2009 legislation (SB 09-094):

43-1-117.5 3(a) The Transit and Rail Division shall be responsible for the planning, development, operation, and integration of transit and rail, including, where appropriate, advanced guideway systems into the statewide transportation system; shall, in coordination with other transit and rail providers, plan, promote, and implement investments in transit and rail services statewide...

43-1-117.5 3(b) The Division of Transit and Rail shall coordinate with the Regional Transportation District..., Regional Transportation Authorities..., and other transit operators to ensure the efficient provision of transit services. The authority given to the Division pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) shall not be construed to limit or otherwise affect the powers of any transit operator or other local governmental entity or to usurp or duplicate the existing regulatory authority over railroads...[by FRA, STB, or the Colorado PUC].

43-1-1104 1(b) [Under the section creating the STAC] The Executive Director, in consultation with the [Transportation] Commission shall appoint an interim Transit and Rail Advisory Committee to specifically advise the Commission and the Executive Director regarding the initial focus...of the Division...and to recommend a long term advisory structure, including the advisory structure's purpose and role, in support of the transit and rail related functions of the Department. The special interim Transit and Rail Advisory Committee shall include such representatives of other industries and other groups interested in transit and rail issues and such other individuals as the Executive Director, in consultation with the [Transportation] Commission, deems appropriate; except that the committee shall include, at a minimum one or more: (I) representatives of transit operators, (II) representatives of Class I railroads, (III) representatives of short line railroads; and (IV) representatives of entities or interest groups involved in the promotion, planning, or development of passenger rail systems.

Details

Since the original "interim" version of TRAC was created in 2011, smaller changes have occurred in the membership. Please see the attached 2021 roster of persons lending their knowledge and expertise to guiding CDOT and DTR forward on matters of transit. The following table summarizes people by their current terms of appointment. Thank you all for your expertise!

| Term Expiring: | TRAC Members by Current Appointment |
|----------------|---|
| 12/31/2021 | David Averill, Lauren Isaac, Dave Johnson, Danny Katz, Alana Miller, Ann Rajewski, Bill Van Meter |
| 12/31/2022 | Craig Blewitt, Sarah Curtis, Jonathan Flint, Matthew Helfant, Will Jones, Vince Rogalski, Jim Souby, Eva Wilson |

The 2021 TRAC has moved away from having as much representation of freight railroads on the TRAC for a variety of reasons. The freight railroads themselves have gone through some contractions, with fewer people covering more territory. It was/is necessary to be more selective about which meetings these freight representatives attend. The State Legislature established and created a higher priority for the Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission (2017) (“Rail Commission”), focusing more freight railroad participation there, in regards to collaborating for purposes of shared passenger corridors. CDOT re-invigorated (2017+) the Freight Advisory Council, where train, truck, and inter-modal freight concerns are addressed. Finally, DTRs funding streams have become more transit & passenger rail focused, making it less relevant for freight railroads to participate on the TRAC.

It is a pleasure to have Jim Souby continuing on TRAC, also a member of the Rail Commission. His knowledge and participation on both, provides a bridge of communication with the freight railroads there.

It is a pleasure to have Eva Wilson join TRAC, representing Avon Transit, as well as having past experience with Eagle County. Eva takes the place of Michael Koch who moved onto private consulting practice. Eva has experience with both I-70 Collaborative Effort discussions about trains/AGS to the mountains along I-70 (and bus service in the meanwhile) and in working with Union Pacific relative to the Tennessee Pass Line.

There is no current Amtrak representative on TRAC. Rob Eaton was promoted to a national role at Amtrak (congratulations Rob!), and will need time to find a replacement for the western-US representative. An Amtrak participant may be added to TRAC again at that time.

Please welcome some great additional participation from the Western Slope of Colorado: Jonathan Flint (Steamboat) and Sarah Curtis (All Points Transit). In addition to the geographies they both cover, Jonathan brings past experience in a variety of vehicle technologies at SST, and he has the newest Outrider route running through his community. Sarah brings great experience with demand-response transit in Montrose, in addition to also having the Durango-Grand Junction Outrider Route, and coordinating with SMART to expand service between Montrose and Telluride.

Next Steps

Continue to “on-board” the newer TRAC members
Meetings on 2nd Fridays of odd-numbered months.

Attachments

2021 TRAC Roster