COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail

Transit and Rail Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2021
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Google Meets

Member	Organization	Yes	No	Member	Organization	Yes	No
David Averill	SMART	X		Danny Katz	CoPIRG	X	
Craig Blewitt	Mountain Metro Transit	X		Alana Miller	City of Denver		X
Sarah Curtis	All Points Transit	X		Ann Rajewski	CASTA	X	
Jonathan Flint	Steamboat Springs Transit	X		Vince Rogalski	Gunnison Valley TPR / STAC	X	
Matthew Helfant	DRCOG	X		Jim Souby	ColoRail	X	
Lauren Isaac	Easy Mile, Inc.	X		Bill Van Meter	RTD	X	
Dave Johnson	RFTA	X		Eva Wilson	Town of Avon		X
Will Jones	City of Greeley	X					

Others Present	CDOT Present	
Cady Dawson	Amber Blake	Kay Kelly
Dana Brosig	Bob Wilson	Kayla Zacharias
Jeffrey Butts	Brandon Najdovski	Kyle French
Justin Begley	Brian Hartman	Laura Morales-Garcia
	Brodie Ayers	Lisa Streisfeld
	Catherine Kosse	Marissa Gaughan
	Cemal Akcicek	Mark Rogers
	Erik Stanley	Michael Snow
	Geoff Guthrie	Michael Timlin
	Glenn Krause	Mike King
	Jan Rowe	Peter Hadley
	Jeffrey Prillwitz	Shilpa Kulkarni
	Jenny Gritton – minute taker	Spencer Dodge
	Julia Wcislo	Theresa Takushi

1. **Introductions/Meeting Overview/Welcome** – Ann Rajewski
   ● Meeting started at 1:03, virtual introductions skipped because they're awkward

2. **Round Table –** Ann Rajewski
   ● Craig Blewitt: Groundbreaking on new storage facility is at the end of September
   ● Jim Souby: Next Friday Zoom meeting with Amtrack, contact Jim for info

3. **Federal & State Legislative Update –** Andy Karsian

- "I have no updates."

Discussion & Questions
- Danny Katz: Roughly how much money could come to the CO transit space from federal legislation?
  - Will send info to Laura to send out to the group.

4. **US287 BRT Feasibility Study** – Jeff Butts / Brian Hartman (attachment)
   - Came from RTD's 2014 NAMS (Northwest Area Mobility Study), includes feasibility of 287 BRT and Fort Collins Flex Express
   - Latest project developments focus on stakeholder and public outreach, including building a political/business coalition
   - Phase 1 timeline extended from August to the end of December 2021; working with CDOT to get Phase 2 moving by February. Tentative public meeting on September 29th.

Discussion and Questions:
   - David Averill: What are travel times compared to Bustang? How competitive will this be with Bustang over on I-25?
     - Preliminary results show Bustang will serve a slightly different population than the BRT
   - Danny Katz: Have possible funding options been identified/advocated for?
     - The priority right now is to get 119 projects finished, so a lot of energy is going toward that and other top projects. Small Starts grants are an option, some rural and state funding, as well as local sources such as a sales tax raise. Taking an opportunistic approach.
   - Jonathan Flint: Follow-up information about real cost and options as this is implemented would be great for the public to have.
     - Boulder County is working on transparency and will bring back the communications team.

5. **GHG Rulemaking Update** – Rebecca White / Theresa Takushi
   - Began as HB19-1261, framework laid out in the GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap. SB-260 now requires adoption of GHG Reduction guidelines for transportation planning.
   - Applies to CDOT and all 5 MPOs; CDOT by 2022, MPOs at next rollout of planning documents. If the reduction level can't be met, additional GHG mitigation measures can be used. GHG report provided to TC.
   - Written comment period until October 15th, as well as 9 hybrid public hearings held throughout the state. Rule becomes effective January 14th 2022.

Discussion & Questions
   - Danny Katz: Is there anything around TOD as a mitigation measure in this rule?
     - It may already be listed, otherwise it will be considered with a submitted comment.

6. **Transit ZEV Roadmap** – Michael King / Cady Dawson (attachment)
   - Ties directly to the 2020 Colorado EV plan: the goal is to deploy 1,000 EV transit vehicles by 2030 and achieve a fully electric transit fleet by 2050. Roadmap, developed with FHU, is meant to be a guide on how to get there and what funding/policies are necessary.
   - Currently in the stage of gathering stakeholder input on draft plan, addressing comments, and finalizing.
   - The attached report covers existing conditions, potential barriers, current progress, the role of utilities, financial modeling, and implementation strategies.

Discussion & Question
   - Danny Katz: Is our funding from SB-260 more than what the report says we need?

- Funding explicitly for transit is not quite that high, but now we do have a significant portion necessary (and the potential federal funding) to get a strong start.
- Jonathan Flint: Has there been any thought to doing a price agreement similar to those for a Van or a BOC?
  - DTR is currently in the process of updating consultants that help with price agreements. Once this is finalized, the plan recommends including an EV option as much as possible.
- David Averill: The significance of planning shouldn't be ignored in efforts like this; without answers from planning this is risky, and small agencies can't afford to make mistakes.
  - SB-260 and the ZEV funding do push for planning; hopefully agencies will be primed for success.

7. **MMOF Update** – Michael Snow (attachment)
   - SB-260 has caused some key changes to the text of the program:
     - Expanded to identify and target modal choices for disproportionately impacted communities
     - Requirement for reduction of GHG and air pollutants
     - Proposed modification of funding formula to align with expanded program goals (i.e. low-income, minority, and housing-burdened households)
     - TC is now permitted, if recommended by CDOT, to reduce match on individual projects.
   - Agencies are largely in charge of their SB-260 project selection, but CDOT will assist.
   - TRAC final recommendations in November at the next meeting.

   Discussion & Questions
   - Danny Katz: Can 2022 funds from SB-260 be stretched out across several years?
     - Federal stimulus funds (directed by SB-260 to these programs) have an expectation of faster spending; right now they must be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026. This is up to each TPR to decide.
   - David Averill: Is there a way to also think about parts of the state with a particularly acute housing shortage, such that there is a labor shortage because the workforce can't afford to live in town? Is there a means to expand the service area to reach this workforce?
     - Especially in resort towns, the housing burden is more complex than it seems (e.g. high income doesn't always surpass high housing cost).
   - Amber Blake: We may have some interesting things to consider in terms of formula distribution when service needs are expanded. Is it the actual demographic of the ridership rather than the agency location?
     - This will be a "juice" conversation for the MMOF committee.
   - Will Jones: From a ridership standpoint, do we need to start looking at mobility (e.g. first-last-mile) rather than just transit?
     - Where there's more ridership already, there is more funding from the program. Not necessarily indicative of the transit/mobility need.
   - Matt Helfant: What does "new technology" mean under mobility management?
     - It's very broad.. as an example, agencies are trying new TDM software. As long as it goes towards the goal and is purposeful, applicants can propose that it fits.

8. **10-Year Plan Amendment Update** – Amber Blake (attachment)
   - Currently with SB-260 as well as COVID relief funding, TC has moved forward with funding the first 4 years of projects in the 10-year plan. CDOT and regions will be conducting outreach to TPR and MPOs starting in October to update plan lists.

- Very important that we have all of our transit agencies participate in this process, to ensure that transit isn't overlooked.
- Though focus is on funding existing projects, new projects may be added.
- SB-260 does not have a transit set-aside; this could be an opportunity, since there is no limit.

  Discussion & Questions
- Danny Katz: Is there a way to emphasize the need for transit operating, not just capital?
  - The 10-year plan is capital projects, emphasizing the purpose of planning ties in the need for operating and service expansion.
- Ann Rajewski: There aren't enough capital projects to use all the funding; many agencies are more desperate for drivers and operating dollars than for new buses.
  - We need to get people comfortable with using the money for operating, even with the risk of having to remove a service (which is not a thing anyone likes to do)
- Vince Rogalski: How is the 10-year plan reflecting the need for GHG reduction? Also, transit has to participate in the TPR! And what is this transit enterprise in SB-260?
  - We can discuss the transit enterprise at the next TRAC meeting.

9. **Super Call Application Update** – Amber Blake / Qing Lin (attachment)
   - See attached presentation for available FTA fund values and other specifics (presentation cut short due to meeting going overtime). Updated slide on received applications will be sent out after the meeting.
   - DTR will work to figure out if/how additional needs can be met with ARP and other funds.
   - DTR will be moving forward with reviewing the 5311 award distribution methodology; a subcommittee may be set up, TRAC members welcome to join! This process has been extended from the original spring 2022 deadline.

10. **Meeting Schedule / Virtual vs. In-Person (through June 2022)** – Ann Rajewski / Amber Blake (attachment)
    - Next meeting, in November, is scheduled to be In Person. Motion to move it from the 11th to the 5th to avoid conflicts with Veterans Day.
    - Moving forward with the attached strategy; Laura will post on the website.

11. **Informational Memos / quarterly through June 2021*** – Amber Blake (attachments)
    a. **Bustang Program –** Kyle French / Brandon Najdovski
       - Ridership for most routes is hanging out around 40% of 2019
    b. **Outrider Program –** Jeff Prillwitz / Kyle French
    c. **Transit Grants –** Qing Lin / Brodie Ayers
    d. **SB 228 –** Brian Hartman / Audrey Dakan
    e. **SB 267 –** Audrey Dakan / Brian Hartman

    *Besides Bustang, these were skipped over as the meeting went overtime.

12. **Adjourn –** Ann Rajewski
    - Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm.