



**Transit and Rail Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 January 14, 2022
 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 Google Meets**

Member	Organization	Yes	No	Member	Organization	Yes	No
David Averill	SMART	x		Danny Katz	CoPIRG		
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.			Bill Van Meter	RTD	x	
Dave Johnson	RFTA	x		Eva Wilson	Town of Avon		
Will Jones	City of Greeley	x					

Others Present	CDOT Present
Lisa Bitzer - Via Mobility Angel Bond - Boulder County Danny O'Connor - City of Boulder Bill Patterson - Via Mobility Frank Bruno - Via Mobility Cady Dawson - FHU Zoe DeVito - Via Mobility Cindy Terwilliger - FTA Ruth Mesfin Rediet Ayanaw Sarah Hill	Bob Wilson - CDOT Julia Wcislo - CDOT Kyle French - DTR Laura Morales-Garcia - DTR Michael Timlin - DTR Moira Moon - DTR Peter Hadley - DTR Qing Lin - DTR Shilpa Kulkarni - DTR Amber Blake - DTR Kimberly Kinnison - DTR Mark Rogers - CDOT Lisa Streisfield - CDOT Andrew Geleske - CDOT Andrew Karsian - CDOT Brian Saller - DTR David Singer - CDOT Geoffrey Guthrie Nathan Vander Broek - CDOT Natalie Shishido - CDOT Kaitlin Girtin - CDOT Michael King - CDOT Marsha Nelson - CDOT Emily Barden – DTR / Minute Taker

	Cindy Wilson - CDOT Blake Van Jacobs - DTR Clarissa Leighou - CDOT Kay Kelly - CDOT Jan Rowe – CDOT
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1. Introductions/Meeting Overview/Welcome – Ann Rajewski

Ann Rajewski called the meeting at 1:05 pm

2. Via / City of Boulder / Boulder County Recognition – Moira Moon/Amber Blake

- Thank you to the work done by Via Mobility and participating agencies and people helping those affected by the fire
- Proclamation to pass expressing gratitude to Via Mobility Services, City of Boulder, and Boulder County
- Jonathon Flint to suggest open after-action debrief on how to react in the future
- Frank Bruno suggests working with Emergency Management to prepare for events in the future
- Will Jones ICS courses that are available to show employees what they can do in the future
- Angel Bruno thanked Via Mobility and participating agencies for their quick and effective response

3. Round Table – Ann Rajewski

- Craig Blewitt - Mountain Metro Transit starting Mobile ticketing
- Vince Rogalski reminds everyone about changes in MMOF funding - reduced matches for cities and counties
- William Van Meter (Denver RTD) working on system optimization and comprehensive analysis of route structure and family services - looking at recommendations to changes in how they can operate at a capacity similar to before the pandemic - analysis will be rolling out to public and available online (<https://fhueng.mysocialpinpoint.com/reimagine-rtd>) - proposal going to board in March and implementation should take a few years - Comprehensive Fare Study and Equity Analysis rolling out soon as well
- Cindy Terwilliger - presentation Bipartisan infrastructure law fact sheets and a pre-recorded seminar on <https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL> apportionment fiscal year 2022
 - Discretionary Bus/ Bus facilities awards being prepared; look out for it in the first quarter of this year
 - FTA is reviewing applications for grant programs and they hope to be announcing it soon. For more information, visit: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/grants>
 - Working on concluding food delivery flexibility from COVID changes
- Ann Rajewski has message from CASTA - if you have training needs please let them know - Transportation conference occurring in Spring

4. Federal & State Legislative Update – Andy Karsian

- a. Federal - waiting for Dept of Transportation to release details on grant funding and grant opportunities
- b. State - legislature started this week - SB260 being delayed, not impacting CDOT budget

- Joint Budget Committee approved CDOT state budget 3-year funding for MMOF - revitalizing main streets
- Front Range Rail to transfer from Commission into District
- Non transit matters discussed at legislature including Low emission vehicle Managed Lane Bill, wildlife crossing, safety stops, and preventing distracted driving

5. Southwest Chief Update – Jim Souby

- Commission focus to legis implementation - cooperation with CDOT is great
- Key issue is appointment to district board - several appointments have been noted and waiting for senate approval process
- designing agenda to help new board members start
- FRA state funding will support combined EIS effort to reduce time to get approval for final route, services offered, recommended freight corridor has not been finalized yet, but has good outlook
 - New district can look at funding
 - positive support from voters in district and raising taxes for funding
 - Comment from David Singer: FPRR: The Preliminary Alternatives Analysis and Service Development Plan led by FRA will get Colorado to initiate NEPA by screening out unreasonable alternatives. Equivalent to a PEL study
- 3 more commission meetings final on April 22

6. Blue Skies - Recommendations – Amber Blake (attachments)

- 5311 redistribution - now in year 5 on transition plan - conducting analysis for options to continue funding
 - recommending priority to baseline funding for amount to rely on, allow for expansion services, new agencies, and to improve state of good repair, and improve efficiency (A&O) in call for projects requires agency update and certification of programs, instead of formal applications
- Agencies expecting increase get the full anticipated amount and agencies expecting decrease of funding will remain at 2022 funding levels
- Applications required for future expansion of projects, new agencies, and rollout
- Interviewing agencies anticipating increases and decreases to ensure that scenario will meet their anticipated needs, different from COVID ridership expecting recovery - Overall positive feedback on Blue skies scenario
- Fiscal Analysis - 20% increase in 5311 apportionment (2% annual increase in fiscal years), roll forward \$6 mil state admin funds from CARES Act for next 5 years, reserve \$7 mil from 2022 regular 2022 regular 5311 funds and spread \$1.4 mil/year for the next 5 years for capital needs
- David Averill - how to sort for expansion in the future and is the 2% increase per year enough to sustainably plan for expansion
 - Amber Blake- Will need an equity analysis to occur and conversations with agencies to plan for the future continuing services
- Ann Rajewski - What can we do to plan around what expansion will look like - concerns for future expansion should not prevent them from trying it out
- Jim Souby - how much flexibility at the federal level do we have to move money around for expansion?

- Amber Blake - Will be specified for rural transit - DTR is taking steps for ARP funding as a menu for funding options - needs of the project should provide different options for funding sources to optimize funding for the right kind of projects for those funds
- David Johnson notes that Super Calls show the flexibility of funding and good optimization
- Jonathon Flint - Are we revisiting methodology on a regular basis?
 - Amber Blake -In the memo, we look into how things will look with funding and additional needs through conversations - 2024 and on will involve further conversations and going back to methodologies to check in on efficacy of the action being done
- Craig Blewitt -support in how we are planning on having the conversations and looking at the sustainability of the project
- Workshop for Transportation Commission in Feb/March 2022
- Revamping call for projects for 2023 Call in April/May
- Executing operating contracts before Jan 1, 2023
- Begin evaluation of baseline funding levels for 2024
- Unanimous support from TRAC for approval of Blue Skies Scenario
 - TRAC members encouraged to attend workshop to show support and answer questions

7. Information on TRAC / Election of Officers / New appointees upcoming – Amber Blake

- Alana Miller’s last TRAC meeting - thank you for your work and commitment in TRAC - best wishes!
- Term up for many board members - evaluation of needs for boards - conversations coming for if members wish to continue board before March meeting - letters of reappointment coming
 - Addition of rural members that are not RTA members and a Rail representative are needed
- Election of Officers - Small number of current officers - looking for more members to approve agenda and pull small sub-committees together
 - Thank you to Ann for being the chair of TRAC and Craig for being Vice Chair!
 - Matthew Helfant nominates himself for Vice-chair and Craig Blewitt for chair
 - Craig Blewitt declines nomination and nominates Will Jones for chair
 - Will Jones accepts nomination

Motion passed unanimously for Will Jones as Chair and Matthew Helfant as Vice Chair

8. Informational Memos & additional information /quarterly through March 2021 (attached)

Restructuring Division - Amber Blake

- 6 new FTEs approved for DTR - vacant positions soon to be open for applications
- After staff analysis, Matrix staff positions for staff to be available to more rural regions like Region 5
- In process of hiring deputy director
- New Financial Mgt and Contracts Admin positions open
- Ann asks about Super Call adding more work to contracts reimbursements - how does the position impact this?
 - Amber answers that increase to funding and redistribution and contracts, new role is to meet those increased needs for inhouse expertise on Contracts to provide better service
 - Craig Blewitt asks for an email on changes
 - Amber Blake says there will be an email and they will be available to view on the DTR website

- David Averill congratulates on new FTEs and work done to provide increased capacity
- Jonathon Flint suggests a list of contacts for specific jobs and who to call for certain purposes once positions are filled

Award List – Qing Lin & Amber Blake

- Amber Blake - is receiving feedback on Contracts where they are and stuff - work for a 90-day back period to claim pre-contract reimbursements
- Administrative/Operating awards were funded this cycle with ARP funds and amounts shown are 147% of baseline funding.
- Qing Lin - Moving on 5310 awards as they don't have the funding as 5311 has - working on operating awards for 5311 agencies will be hearing from Kim Phi soon about new award amount for 2022
- 2022 Capital apportionment has been going up slowly and will be provided later

9. Adjourn – Ann Rajewski

Meeting adjourned by Ann Rajewski at 2:32 pm