

Transportation & Intermodal Committee Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2012

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes - The March 21, 2012 meeting minutes will be approved at the May meeting.
2. FTA 5309 Grant Program – Tom Mauser gave a presentation on the FTA 5309 discretionary grant program. The program funds capital projects. One of the programs under 5309 is the Bus and Bus Facilities Program which is further divided into the following four subprograms. DTR solicited applications for these programs from transit operators in rural areas, and submitted to FTA:
 - 12 State of Good Repair projects,
 - 4 Bus Livability projects,
 - 2 Clean Fuels projects, and
 - 4 Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative.

Projects were evaluated and ranked based on criteria approved by the T&I Committee. The requests totaled over \$11.5 million. Last year Colorado received \$3.3 million for the program.

DTR has been working to make the process more transparent and coordinated with other grant programs using a similar application template and criteria. Projects not funded by one program are considered in other applicable grant programs without the applicant having to resubmit. Staff has received positive feedback from grantees and applicants on the streamlining of the process.

DTR will provide the list of selected projects to Commissioners in order to address any questions within their districts.

Commissioner Gilliland commented that it is key that we integrate transit into discussions when looking at the entire transportation system. Transit should play a more prominent role; we've subsidized highway for a long time. Need to get people to understand the role of transit in the system.

3. Briefing on Interregional Connectivity Study and Advanced Guideway System Feasibility Study – David Krutsinger presented an overview on these two studies. The studies began in April 2012 and will conclude in September 2013. The recently completed State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan included these two studies to consider high speed rail in Colorado along I-25 and I-70. The studies will be coordinated focusing on alignment, technology, and funding/financing. Funding is a major element of both studies, focusing on capital cost, O&M, and revenue estimation to determine financial feasibility. A big part of the project includes outreach to industry through and RFQ/RFP process. Three firms will be short-listed from the RFQ process and provided a stipend (included in the project scope/cost) to develop a technical proposal for AGS.

Commissioner Gruen commented that it was a great presentation and was pleased to see the emphasis on financial feasibility. It's important to understand the financial/funding element in conjunction with the technology side and not lose sight of it.

4. TRAC Update – Ann Rajewski gave a brief update on the activities of TRAC. TRAC has been discussing performance measures and is beginning to focus on policy considerations towards transit.
5. Don Hunt pointed out that the TBD Colorado meeting notes indicated that many participants are unclear of the role of transit at CDOT. They don't have a clear understanding that much of the transit in the state is regional and not run by CDOT. The challenge is communicating our bigger role in transit in Colorado and that CDOT has \$15 million a year in FASTER funds for transit (\$10 million is statewide FASTER funds) and the allocation we get from the FTA.

Mark said that one of the policies issues that the TRAC will look at is the allocation of statewide FASTER transit funds and how they can be used to help with provide greater connectivity.

6. Mark mentioned that AMTRAK is considering rerouting the Southwest Chief line to better maintained tracks, which would bypass Colorado. To upgrade the BN tracks would cost Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico collectively approximately \$100 million and then approximately \$10 million per year to maintain. This poses a big challenge for AMTRAK, the BN Railroad and the three states involved.