

Transportation Commission of Colorado
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2016

Chairwoman Kathy Connell convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. at the CDOT Headquarters in Denver.

PRESENT WERE: Kathy Connell, Chairwoman, District 6
Gary Reiff, Vice Chair District 3
Shannon Gifford, District 1
Ed Peterson, District 2
Heather Barry, District 4
Kathy Gilliland, District 5
Kathy Hall, District 7
Sidny Zink, District 8
Nolan Schriener, District 9
Bill Thiebaut, District 10

EXCUSED: Steven Hofmeister, District 11

ALSO PRESENT: Shailen Bhatt, Executive Director
Michael Lewis, Deputy Executive Director
Josh Laipply, Chief Engineer
Debra Perkins-Smith, Director of Transportation Development
Maria Sobota, CFO
Herman Stockinger, Government Relations Director
Paul Jesaitis, Region 1 Transportation Director
Dave Eller, Region 3 Transportation Director
Johnny Olson, Region 4 Transportation Director
Kerrie Neet, Region 5 Transportation Director
Kathy Young, Chief Transportation Counsel
Scott McDaniel, Staff Services Director
David Specter, HPTE Director
Ryan Rice, Operations Division Director
Mark Imhoff, Director of Transit and Rail
Vince Rogalski, STAC Chairman
David Ulane, Director of Aeronautics
Alicia Nolan, FHWA Representative

AND: Other staff members, organization representatives,
the public and the news media

An electronic recording of the meeting was made and filed with supporting documents in the Transportation Commission office.

Audience Participation

Chairwoman Connell opened the meeting for general public comment. There were no public comments.

Individual Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Schriner has been meeting with representatives and governments in the Colorado Springs area. He noted there is a lot of interest in transportation right now.

Commissioner Barry complimented CDOT staff for their work in the recent snowstorm. She stated that the roads were safe and clear. She had no other items to report, as Bagels with Barry was cancelled on account of the snow.

Commissioner Gilliland recently testified for Bill 1031. The bill initially called for a change to the Transportation Commission districts, and has been changed to a study of the districts. She stressed that the legislature wanted to work with CDOT staff on the study and is pleased with this collaboration. Additionally, she was confirmed by the Senate Committee in February. The commissioners being confirmed were asked why they wanted to be on the Commission, and what they hope to accomplish. All in all the confirmation was very positive. She also took a moment to compliment CDOT staff's good work in the recent storm.

Commissioner Hall missed the initial confirmation due to the rockslide on I-70. She will be getting confirmed this morning, and will be leaving the commission meeting shortly. This month she met with County Commissioners in Montrose and Delta, and was impressed with the ideas they presented. She also complimented CDOT staff for their work in the snowstorm.

Vice Chair Reiff met with representatives of Cherry Hills Village and thanked Paul Jesaitis for his help in the meeting. Commissioner Reiff mentioned Tony DeVito and his staff has also has made tremendous progress on the Central 70 project. Finally he recognized Herman Stockinger for his great work presenting the FASTER audit findings.

Commissioner Gifford has been attending public meetings for the Central 70 project. She complimented the team for their work during the EIS process. She also attended the Colorado Rail Passenger meeting that discussed the statewide rail plan.

Commissioner Thiebaut congratulated his fellow commission members on their approval by the Senate and Shailen Bhatt for being with CDOT for one year. Additionally, he thanked the staff for their hard work during the snowstorm.

Commissioner Peterson thanked all the state employees for keeping the state safe during the snowstorms. He was recently appointed by the Senate Transportation Committee, and congratulated his fellow appointees on the Commission.

Commissioner Zink recognized Region 5 RTD Kerrie Neet as she is retiring. Commissioner Zink stated that Kerrie is a great teacher, team builder and manager, and has the perfect temperament for the RTD position. She thanked CDOT staff for keeping the public safe in very precarious spots, like Red Mountain Pass and Wolf Creek pass, both of which Kerrie played a great role in. Commissioner Zink is grateful she got to work with such a good and encouraging colleague and wishes Kerrie good luck in her future endeavors.

Chairwoman Connell echoed the thanks to staff for the great work during the snow storm. She noted that during the snow event, the Peak Period Shoulder Lanes

operated great. She mentioned how excited she is for the May Commission Road trip, when the TC meeting will take place in Steamboat Springs. Commissioner Connell also was thrilled with staff's resiliency program to back up everything when catastrophe hits. Throughout the month, she met with local TPR's and County Commissioners.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Shailen Bhatt stated that this TC meeting was his one year anniversary as Executive Director. Though he is sad to lose Kerrie Neet to retirement, he knows she has curated a competent team to lead the Region through transition. Director Bhatt brought up the US DOT Smart City Grant Program, which CDOT is supporting the City of Denver's application. The program will give a city \$40 million for tech programs. Finally, he had an opportunity to tour the Grand Avenue Bridge in Glenwood Springs.

Chief Engineer's Report

Chief Engineer Josh Laipply gave an update on the I-70 rock fall situation, and when the road will re-open. He also gave an update on the Central 70 project, which is releasing the second round of RFP's next week. Josh also expressed his gratitude for outgoing Region 5 RTD Kerrie Neet.

HPTE Director's Report

Standing in for HPTE director David Spector, Nick Farber gave the commission an update on US36 Phase II, which will be opening in late march. Currently, members of staff are testifying against a bill in the legislature that would prohibit switchable responders for Managed Lanes. Finally he gave a brief explanation of the HPTE manual presented at the P3 Manual workshop.

FHWA Division Administrator Report

FHWA Division Administrator John Cater explained the new freight program put into place by the FAST Act. The program will put \$800 million for state to apply for with a 60% match for major freight programs. Mr. Cater also mentioned that during the recession, FHWA cut 15% of its staff. They are slowly rebuilding their staff. Finally he recognized Kerrie Neet for her great work with CDOT.

Act on Consent Agenda

At the request of staff, Chairwoman Connell stated that a motion would need to be brought to remove the IAA HPTE Agreement from the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gifford brought forward the motion, with Commissioner Reiff seconding the motion. The item was removed from the consent agenda.

Chairwoman Connell entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Reiff moved for approval of the resolution, and Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Upon vote of the Commission, the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution #TC-16-2-1

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Transportation Commission’s Regular Meeting Minutes for Jan. 21, 2016, are approved.

Discuss and Act on State Infrastructure Bank Colorado Springs Loan Application

CFO Maria Sobota recommended the resolution to approve the loan for new Taxiways at the Colorado Springs Airport. Commissioner Schriener stated that he has worked very closely with the airport on this issue. He went on to say that the airport is playing a huge role in helping Colorado Springs economy grow stronger.

Chairwoman Connell entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Schriener moved for approval of the resolution, and Commissioner Thiebaut seconded the motion. Upon vote of the Commission, the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution #TC-16-2-2

Discuss and Act on the 8th Budget Supplement of FY 2016

CDOT Maria Sobota opened the Budget supplement up for questions from the Commission.

Chairwoman Connell entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gilliland moved for approval of the resolution, and Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Upon vote of the Commission, the resolution passed unanimously.

Other Matters

Kyle Lester, Director of Maintenance gave a rundown on the recent snow event. He stated that during the snow storm, plow drives drove a total of 633 thousand plow miles over 38,000 hours. He acknowledged all of the operators for their hard work at their job. Specifically, he read letters from the public thanking Ryan Barry, Gabe Martinez and Tony Valdez for going above and beyond.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Connell closed the February Transportation Commission meeting at 9:45 a.m.