

San Luis Valley Transportation Planning Region Transit Working Group #1 – Meeting Minutes

Date: August 20, 2013
Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: Alamosa County Offices
8900 Independence Way
Alamosa, Colorado
Meeting attendees: See Attached Sign in Sheet

Welcome & Introductions

Scott Weeks from CDOT kicked the meeting off and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

Project Background

Scott provided an overview of the planning processes for the Statewide Transit Plan and for the Regional Transit and Human Service Coordination plans.

Scott reviewed materials included in the meeting packet, including: public involvement and agency coordination for the planning processes, review of the Statewide Transit Plan goals and objectives, guiding principles for transit planning at CDOT, what will be included in the Statewide Transit Plan, the key elements of the Local Transit and Human Service Coordinated Transportation Plans, and an overview of the project schedule.

During the review of the team structure a committee member asked Scott who from the SLV region was on the Statewide Steering Committee or on CDOT's TRAC. Scott and Tracey agreed to look at the committee lists to determine who would represent this region.

Public Involvement Approach

Tracey MacDonald from CDOT (via phone) reviewed the strategy for public involvement for both the statewide project and the local plan. The schedule at present includes a public open house in the fall of 2013 and a second open house in the spring of 2014. Input was solicited as to the best approaches and locations for public meetings in the San Luis Valley region.

Public meeting input/strategies:

- Bring CDOT and other reps to the groups to listen to the regional concerns
- Public meetings are less effective
- Alamosa is a good location to hold meetings

Key Elements of a Coordinated Transportation Plan

Holly Buck, Transportation Planner for Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU), reviewed a handout that covered the basic components of a coordinated transportation plan. Some of the key elements of completing a coordinated transportation plan include the following:

- Provide a forum for transit providers and human service agencies to discuss issues
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- Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination (reducing cost inefficiencies)
- Create a list of priorities and projects
- Satisfy requirements of MAP 21.

Regional Planning

Holly reviewed the demographic materials that have been created to date by the consultant team. The following maps/information was presented with a request for participants to provide comments:

- Major Activity Centers and Destinations
Potential map additions discussed:
 - Railroads
 - Clinics
 - Transit centers
 - Airports in Buena Vista, Salida and Alamosa*Changes to the Activity Center table:*
 - Clinics
 - Transit centers
 - Airports in Buena Vista, Salida and Alamosa
 - Adams State College is now Adams State University
 - Employers with 50+ employees
- 2012 K-12 English Language Learners
Comments:
 - Conejos County numbers seem too low and should be closer to the 2011 minority population numbers
- 2011 Veteran Population
Comments:
 - Committee member told the group that not including Chaffee County there are 5300 veterans drawing benefits in the area. Based on this, the numbers in the graphics seem a bit low.
- Intra-County Public Transit Commuters
Comments:
 - Would like more information about how many days per week these commuters make the trip.
 - There is also travel between Moffat and Crestone. It was pointed out that given the size of these communities, the demand between them was probably too low to show up on this graphic.
- 2011 Percentage of Households with No Vehicle
- Percentage of Residents Age 65+ for 2013, 2020, 2030, and 2040
- Job Growth from 2000 to 2040
- 2011 Minority Population
- 2011 Population below Federal Poverty Level

San Luis Valley TPR 2008 Plan Summary

Holly reviewed the 2008 San Luis Valley Plan Summary document with participants. Holly reiterated that this information is the outcome of the last plan update in 2008 and is being used to get an idea as to whether or not the key issues, strategies, goals, etc. are still in line for the region.

Holly led a more detailed discussion to obtain feedback on current vision and goals for the region. The following are the key concepts that emerged from the discussion for the San Luis Valley region:

- Improve linkages and modal alternatives for commerce, tourism, and transportation dependent populations
- Plan for additional intercity bus and demand responsive transit for the region
- Develop transportation alternatives for the elderly
- Improve connections to other Colorado regions
- Maintain the existing transportation system
- Support the provision of state funds for public transportation
- Support improved and sustainable quality of life for the region's diverse population

The group generally agreed that these goals and strategies still apply to the region. There was concern over some of the agencies' ability to actually implement these goals due to financial constraints.

Regional Transit Needs, Projects, and Priorities

A portion of the first Transit Working Group meeting was used to discuss project needs within the San Luis Valley TPR. A "Project List" was developed based on the 2008 Transit Plan and "other" CDOT plans to be used as a reference and starting point for the discussion. The projects were discussed using the following categories: operating, capital and coordination. The discussion outcomes are below.

Capital:

Short-Term

- ▶ Buena Vista: park and ride, intermodal
- ▶ Salida: park and ride, storage facility
- ▶ Alamosa: park and ride (Loaf-n-Jug site)
- ▶ Blanca: park and ride
- ▶ Fort Garland: park and ride
- ▶ Del Norte: park and ride, bus pull-out (local)
- ▶ Monte Vista: park and ride, bus pull-out
- ▶ Walsenburg: park and ride, bus pull-out
- ▶ Conejos: park and ride, bus pull-out

Long-Term

- ▶ San Luis: park and ride, bus pull-out (regional bus station)
- ▶ South Fork: park and ride
- ▶ Laveta: park and ride
- ▶ Alamosa: intermodal station on permanent site
- ▶ Chaffee: bus storage facility
- ▶ San Luis Valley: multimodal facility (depot)

Coordination:

The group discussed the possibility of sharing vehicles as one means of coordinating services. The group generally felt that sharing vehicles would be difficult because of the limitations of different funding mechanisms, insurance requirements, and training among other concerns. They encouraged other forms of coordination such as coordinating travel between different agencies for users.

In addition, since the previous plan was developed the group has determined that a centralized dispatch center would not work for them. This project was requested to be removed from the list.

Chaffee shuttle is currently coordinating service well with Canon City, the veterans office, and Red Willow.

Employment

- ▶ Golden Age Shuttle: Canyon City – Chaffee Shuttle
- ▶ Development Resource Group COG
 - Private rail owners – inventory historical elements

Medical

- ▶ Local coordination council: expand established LCLs

Operating:

The group discussed the following short and long term operating needs (priority designation by group is indicated with an asterisk *).

Short-Term

- ▶ * Durango – Alamosa: hospital, higher education, recreation, students
- ▶ * Alamosa: VA hospital, airport, medical
- ▶ * Alamosa – Walsenburg: connection to intercity bus routes on I-25
- ▶ * Buena Vista – North (Leadville): commerce, employment, tourism, north connect I-70) medical services in Vail Valley, Summit

Long-Term

- ▶ Conejos – Alamosa: education facilities, employment
- ▶ Costilla – Alamosa: education facilities, employment
- ▶ Alamosa – south: extend black stage route
- ▶ Montrose – Gunnison: higher education facilities, hospital)
- ▶ Alamosa (local service)
- ▶ South Fork – Walsenburg (rail service)
- ▶ Passenger rail line – short, haul connections/connecting services
- ▶ Shuttle services – outlying communities - Alamosa

Next Steps

The meeting closed by discussing what we need from the Transit Working Group and what they can expect in the months to come, including:

- All project correspondence and information will be distributed via email and online
 - Feedback on demographic data/maps – send any comments to Linda Rhine (see contact information below)
 - Transit Provider and Human Services Surveys to be distributed in mid-August
 - Next Transit Working Group Meeting – late October
 - Please send Linda Rhine (email below) any contact information of people that should be included in the Transit Working Group
 - The group suggested that a Red Willow should be present
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Adjourn

Scott thanked the group for attending and reiterated the value of their participation and that we look forward to working with them over the next several months.

PROJECT CONTACTS:

CDOT Project Manager: Tracey MacDonald tracey.macdonald@state.co.us
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CDOT Project Planner: Scott Weeks scott.weeks@state.co.us
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Lead TPR Planner: Linda Rhine lrhine@nelsonnygaard.com
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Project Web Site: <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/transitandrail/statewidetransitplan>



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Transit Working Group Meeting #1**

Date: August 20, 2013
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 Location: Alamosa County Offices, Commission Room
 8900 Independence Way
 Alamosa, Colorado

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