



## Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)<sup>1</sup> Board of Directors Minutes

**Held: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

The CTIO meeting was broadcast on YouTube Live. A recording of the meeting is available [here](#) for six months after the meeting. After that time, they will be archived.

The regular meeting of the CTIO Board of Directors was convened in accordance with applicable statutes of the State of Colorado, with the following Directors present:

- Cecil Gutierrez, Chair (in-person).
- Nellie Moran, Vice-Chair (remote).
- Shelly Cook (in-person).
- Gina Sacripanti (remote).
- Terry Hart (in-person).
- Patricia Canonico (in-person).

### Roll Call Regular Meeting

All board members were present. The meeting began at 10:06 a.m.

### Public Comment

The CTIO Board did not receive any public comment.

### Comments from Directors

Director Sacripanti highlighted a request from the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) for a traffic and revenue analysis of the I-25 South area, as well as the discussions that had taken place with a traffic and revenue consultant for the work. She noted that their preference was for the more expensive, detailed analysis. Director Darlington also walked the board through the process for PPACG to have any projects identified added to the ten-year plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) is now doing business as the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO). CTIO is how the enterprise will refer to itself now and in the future, however, the HPTE name is retained for legislative and legal documents. publicMetropolitan,addedten-year

## Discussion

- CTIO Board members and staff discussed the different elements of the study request. The Board directed staff to meet with PPACG again to gather more information and said they would be open to a future budget amendment to fund an initial feasibility study.

Chair Gutierrez also highlighted his observation that there was often speeding in the Express Lanes and flagged that this may be something CTIO could help address in the future.

## Director's Report

CTIO Director, Piper Darlington, provided the Director's Report, which included information on the following:

- Staffing update: a new Budget Analyst (Samuel Foster) and a Traffic Operations Center Supervisor started this week. In addition, a Maintenance Technician will be hired soon and the job posting closes on Monday, the 25th. CTIO continues to grow its staff to meet the expanding needs of the Express Lanes Network.
- Joint Service: details of the most recent meeting of the Joint Service Executive Oversight Committee.

## Discussion

- CTIO Board members and staff discussed engagement and outreach from gubernatorial candidates.

## Legislative Update

Emily Haddaway, CDOT Legislative Liaison, provided the board with the last legislative update for the 2026 session, focusing on the Transportation Statutory Clean-up Bill, which clarifies the definition of toll evasion and gives CTIO the authority to insure third parties if a passenger rail project is determined to be in the public interest. Ms. Haddaway also provided details of the Transportation Funding Adjustments bill aimed at making changes in the event of the passage of Ballot Measure 175. Lastly, she noted that the Statutory Revision Committee is considering introducing a bill in the next legislative session to change HPTE's legal name to CTIO for consistency.

## Consent Agenda

**ACTION:** Upon a motion by Director Canonico, seconded by Director Cook, a vote was held, and Resolution #495, April 15th and 28th Minutes, was unanimously approved.

## Toll Rate Adjustment Introductions

Nathaniel Benton, CTIO Toll Systems Specialist, presented to the board on the annual toll rate adjustments for all Express Lanes. The presentation included information on the following:

- Express Lanes 101.
- Tolling Policy.
- Fiscal Year 27 Toll Rate Adjustments.

- Next Steps.

#### **Discussion**

- CTIO board members and staff discussed:
  - Why changes to the surcharge for four-axle vehicles were not necessary.
  - The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and operations and maintenance cost calculations.
  - Perception in some parts of the public between toll rates and excess revenue.
  - Price of gas and people's willingness to also pay a toll.
  - Some board members expressed support for a smaller increase than the one proposed based on staff analysis.
  - CTIO staff confirmed they would take the board's feedback and return with more information at the next meeting.

## **Mountain Express Lanes (MEXL) Performance and Courtesy Patrol Sponsorship Update**

Alex Frank, Express Lanes Operations Manager, presented information on the MEXL lanes' performance and Courtesy Patrol. The presentation focused on the following:

- MEXL background and operating parameters.
- 2025-26 Regular Days/Hours.
- Winter traffic trends.
- Safety Patrol Sponsorship details and outcomes.
- MEXL communications.
- Text alert service.
- Coming soon.

#### **Discussion**

- CTIO board members expressed their support for the partnership with CDOT on the courtesy patrol and said they would like to see it continue.
- Board members and staff also discussed how the service is messaged to the public and the benefits of the coverage to CTIO and CDOT.

## **West Metro Station Study Update**

Joan Lyons, CDOT Rail and Transit Planner, represented details of the West Metro Station Study, which included information on the following:

- Overview of the study.
- Route and potential phased implementation.
- Service development plan and ridership overview.
- West Metro planning effort.
- Community engagement.
- Feasibility analysis.
- Upcoming engagement opportunities.

#### **Discussion**

- CTIO Board members thanked the presenter for the detailed information and noted that they look forward to hearing more about the study and future plans at future meetings.

# 10 Year Plan Open Discussion

## Discussion

- CTIO Board members provided feedback on recent discussions related to projects and funding. They noted the following:
  - Bustang's long-term funding solution and CTIO's role in it.
    - Board members expressed the need for continued engagement with CDOT on this topic. Particularly, how Bustang could be transferred to CTIO, what funding CTIO has available that could potentially be used to support Bustang, and what that would look like from a legal and practical standpoint.
    - Board members flagged the importance of stakeholder engagement in the process.
  - 10 Year Plan projects, Bustang, and rail projects are all separate items.
    - Board members noted the importance of advancing the I-25 funding proposal linked to the 10-year plan, and some also highlighted the I-270 project and stakeholder engagement as important.
    - Analysis of all funding streams to CTIO (tolls, Safety and Toll Enforcement Program, Senate Bill 184) was requested by the board to better understand what is available to support projects identified.
  - Board members highlighted the importance of flagging to stakeholders how CTIO revenue is restricted and what it can be used for as a critical piece for people to understand.

## Adjournment

The CTIO Board adjourned at 12:10 p.m.