

Agenda Item:

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
HIGH PERFORMANCE TRANSPORTATION ENTERPRISE (HPTE)

Held: Wednesday, April 19, 2017; 11:30 am

4201 E. Arkansas Ave., CDOT HQ Auditorium, Denver, CO 80222

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

Attendance:	Kathy Gilliland, Chair	Jan Martin	Trey Rogers
	Thad Noll	Gary Reiff	

Chair Gilliland called the meeting to order @11:30 am: Vice Chair Marostica and HPTE Board Director Gifford were excused.

Director's Agenda Overview and Discussion: HPTE Director David Spector updated the Board on recent HPTE activity. The list of priorities developed by the Board at last year's strategic planning retreat was reviewed. Most goals have been achieved, with the HOV3 rollout and related communications being a highlight. He noted that the OMPD-HPTE reorganization is on-going, and the timeline for that has been accelerated due to the departure of the office director Brett Johnson. He expects to have a proposal for the Board to review in May or June. The development of a debt policy is moving ahead, and a guidance document is being prepared. The business plan the Board asked for is still under development, although it has been sidetracked many times by critical priorities such as the Bighorn due diligence effort. HPTE Board Chair Gilliland expressed appreciation for the update, and suggested that the staff present an update on a quarterly basis.

Herman Stockinger, Director of the Office of Policy and Government Relations, gave an update on Legislative matters affecting transportation. HB17-1242 (Duran, Grantham, Mitsch Bush, Baumgartner) is a sales tax bill heading to the Senate Finance committee soon. He said CDOT is tracking the favorable and unfavorable amendments as the measure moves forward. CDOT is concerned with stipulated project priorities, proposed budget allocations, and the proposal for interim committees to examine major transportation projects for negative environmental impacts. Director Stockinger also spoke about a potential bill aimed at reducing the HOV requirement from 3 occupants to 2 on the North I-25 corridor. He noted there is a weekly legislative conference call scheduled, and all Board members are welcome to participate.

Susan Rafferty, Director of HR, spoke to the Board about the posting of the HPTE Tolling Operations Manager position. After a national search, the position remains unfilled because of the salary range relative to the positions they are currently in. She explained the State typically hires at a mid-range that is consistent with other similar positions. HPTE Board Chair Gilliland said all of CDOT has new capabilities and new needs, and noted the disconnect between state salary ranges and the skills and background needed for positions like this one. She asked how CDOT can fill this critical position with existing salary restrictions, and said CDOT needs to look at industry and market benchmarks for salaries. There was discussion among the Board about potentially being more proactive with the Legislature on salary ranges that match the level of expertise necessary for CDOT's purposes. HPTE Director Spector said he would keep the position advertisement in the market, while pursuing possible alternatives such as internal contracting.

Simon Stachnick, Tolling Manager for Plenary Roads Denver then updated the Board on performance data for US 36 and I-25 Central. He noted that in the FY16017 second quarter, license plate tolling is slowly decreasing as a percentage of overall traffic in the Express Lanes. Travel times have improved in both the Express Lanes and the general purpose lanes. He said when the data for April is compiled, he will have a true year-over-year dataset to analyze and compare.

Board Break, Reconvene and Roll Call: The Board took a five-minute break. Upon reconvening, all Board members were present.

Consent Agenda: Resolution #231
Approving March 2017 Minutes: Upon a motion by Board Director Rogers and second by Board Director Martin, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Chair Gilliland invited members of the public to come forward if they wished to comment. No speakers came forward.

Director's Report: HPTE Director Spector presented an overview of the items on the Agenda. He noted key points from the lunch discussion, including the quarterly update on Board priorities. Director Spector reported the variable message signs (VMS) on the Mountain Express Lane now also show license plate toll rates, which adds transparency to the Express Lane pricing. Regarding the Central 70 project, HPTE Director Spector said the FHWA found that there is insufficient evidence that the Project itself will create adverse, disparate impacts. He also reminded the Board of the joint workshop with the Bridge Enterprise directly following this meeting.

OMPD Report: Joe Mahoney, Office of Major Project Development, presented an update on the Express Lane projects. The winter season is over and the Mountain Express Lane has been very successful. Overall volumes have doubled and gross toll collection rates have also increased. The MOU with FHWA is still being amended. He reported an I-70 Mountain Corridor visioning process is underway with substantial stakeholder participation. This is similar to the planning and environmental linkage study underway on South I-25 (Castle Rock to Colorado Springs). The C-470 project is proceeding toward design and construction milestones, but financing depends on TIFIA action. HPTE Director Spector reported a final push to get TIFIA action is being made in Washington.

Communications Report: HPTE Communication Manager Megan Castle reported that the rollout of the free switchable transponders to HOV "purists" went live on April 5, and is proceeding smoothly. Currently, 2,800 additional ExpressToll customers have qualified for the free transponders. She said most outreach activity has been completed for the HOV3 transition, and the focus of on-going outreach will be on customer experience.

36 Commuting Solutions Final TDM Report: Audrey DeBarros, Executive Director of Commuting Solutions, gave a final report on the three-year transportation demand management program in the US 36 Corridor. She noted the results and measures from the program will be used to inform future projects. The RTD-supported transit pass program was especially successful, with daily VMT reductions of 13,000 miles traveled. A key lesson from the program is that TDM works as a construction mitigation strategy that increases multimodal services during project construction. She recommended that CDOT and HPTE continue to invest in TDM for future major projects. HPTE Director Spector thanked Commuting Solutions for their services, and especially their work during the HOV3 rollout.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 1:30.