	MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE TRANSPORTATION ENTERPRISE (HPTE)  Held: Wednesday, May 20, 2020; 10:00 am Remote Meeting via Zoom. A recording of the meeting can be found here.  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:  Shannon Gifford, Chair Margaret Bowes, Vice-Chair Anastasia Khokhryakova Karen Stuart Travis Easton Don Stanton Cecil Gutierrez
Roll Call:	All Board members were present. The meeting began at 10:00 am.
Informal Discussion	During the informal section of the agenda the HPTE Board of Directors discussed the following:  C-470 Toll Rates Tolling Equipment Finance Agreement (TEFA) Mountain Express Lane (Westbound) Fund 536 Budget Amendment Toll Rate Adjustment on I-25 North 2020 Calendar Year Plan Electronic Transaction Consultants Corporation (ETCC) Contract update
Roll Call Regular Meeting	The Board did not break. The meeting reconvened at 10:27 am, all Board Members were present.
Public Comment	There were no public comments.
Director's Report	<ul> <li>HPTE Director, Nick Farber, provided the Director's Report, which included information on the following:</li> <li>HPTE was formed in the last recession to accelerate the recovery of the state. HPTE staff continues to work to identify ways to support CDOT and economic growth in the state during the COVID-19 recession.</li> <li>HPTE is developing a 2020 Plan on how to help CDOT for the remaining six and a half months of the year.</li> <li>Director Farber participated in the Governor's Economic Working Group and with CDOT's Transportation Recovery Working Group.</li> <li>A white paper called "Colorado Ready" was put out to the Working Group recently for comment. The paper discusses how transportation is tied to the economy, what our vision is for Colorado's transportation infrastructure; transportation and the workforce; and federal, state, and administrative recommendations.</li> </ul>

Transportation Commissioner Bracke is on the Working Group and will report back to the TC on what's taking place.

- Last week Director Farber virtually met with the Directors of E-470, North West Parkway (NWP), and Plenary. They are all seeing drops in traffic, between 65 and 70 percent, but are starting to see traffic come back, albeit slowly, as the Stay at Home order is replaced by Safer at Home. Also, over their years of operations, E-470, NWP, and Plenary have built up sufficient reserves to cover the loss in revenue they are seeing.
- HPTE staff received a presentation from traffic & revenue consultant, C&M Associates, who point to more of a U-shaped recovery, with the economy back near 2019 levels by 2023/24.
- Lastly, Director Farber introduced Tim Hoover. He is HPTE's new communication lead, along with Tamara Rollison. Most recently Tim was at the Denver City Auditor's Office and before that was a reporter at the Denver Post.

## Communications Update

Tamara Rollison, Region 1 Communications Manager, provided the communications update to the board, which focused on the I-25 North Express Lanes Campaign. Key information presented to the board included:

- Based on the COVID-19 travel restrictions and fewer people traveling on the highways, and to be sensitive to the financial hardship that the state is currently facing, the message has been adjusted to focus on informing rather than the benefits of the lanes. The primary campaign message is "tolling starts soon".
- This campaign will provide education on two primary topics:
  - The new segment of Express Lanes (I-25 North from 120th to NWP/E-470) is open.
  - Be ready, tolling starts in June. Learn more at expresslanes.codot.gov.
- Our goals for the paid campaign and the outreach include:
  - No surprises! Use a multi-channel approach to reach the target audience so they are not caught unaware of the new Express Lanes.
  - Raise awareness about the new segment of I-25 North Express Lanes opening by informing the general public, partners and elected officials.
- This campaign concept uses simple, friendly messaging to inform viewers
  while utilizing a visual approach that builds upon the recent Express Lanes
  safety campaign. The familiar images of Express Lanes in combination
  with the simple information will make it easy for the general public to get
  the message that tolling starts in June.
- The campaign will use a combination of paid media and earned media, as well as utilizing social media and VMS outreach to notify the public about the I-25 North Express Lanes (120th to NWP/E-470) toll commencement in June. Other outreach planned:
  - Social media posts
  - VMS messages

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	Discussion
	<ul> <li>Board members agreed that it was the right decision to adjust the messaging and be sensitive to the current challenges people are facing.</li> </ul>
Project Update	Tony Meneghetti, Major Projects Manager, provided the project update to the board, which included:  I-25 North (120th to E-470/NWP) Final acceptance testing (FAT) has been ongoing since March. Go-live is scheduled for June 10th. C-470 Segment 1 On schedule to open the Express Lane for the 45 day FAT testing on June 11th/12th. The tolling commencement is scheduled for August 18th, 2020. Working with Colorado State Patrol to have additional officers to improve safety and enforcement of tolling rules and regulations. I-70 Mountain Express Lane (westbound) The project team requested that the eastbound lane be closed to allow for equipment to be added to the westbound lane to continue construction as planned. The equipment will be out of the lanes for the Memorial Day weekend to ensure the eastbound lane can open if needed. Traffic volumes are lower on all corridors On US 36, HPTE took advantage of the lower volumes to fix some areas of the roadway that needed repair between Federal Blvd and Pecos St. This was a section of US 36 that was not rehabilitated during the US 36 Express Lanes Project. HPTE used the money provided by the TC to make these improvements.  It was scheduled to take 150 days, but with closures taking place during the day they were able to complete it faster, in just 39 days.  Discussion The HPTE Board noted the importance of documenting the time and money saved as a result of day-time closures, such as US 36, to get projects done faster. HPTE staff is compiling this information and providing it to CDOT communications. The intention is to send out a press release that gives a full list of the projects that have seen improved construction time and budget savings.
Legislative Update	Simon Logan, HPTE Liaison and Program Coordinator, and Andy Karsian, CDOT Liaison, provided the legislative update to the board, which included:

- The Assembly returns next Tuesday. There is a significant deficit in the state budget which has resulted in many agencies, including CDOT, looking for budget savings.
- There remains a significant number of bills for the legislature to consider and the terms free, fast, and friendly are being used by leadership to describe legislation that has a chance of passing in the remaining days of the session.
- The Low-emission Vehicle ManagedLane Access bill (HB 1325) has a fiscal note of \$3.3 million and has opposition. So, it doesn't really fit within this and means it is unlikely to pass.
- All legislators on the House Energy Committee have been contacted with HPTE concerns with the bill and asking for a "no" vote when the bill is brought before them, possibly next week.
- The number of bills under consideration will be significantly reduced when the assembly returns.
- The number of committees will also be reduced to three: State, Veterans and Military Affairs; Finance; and Appropriations.

## **NETC Presentation**

Angie Rivera-Malpiede, Executive Director of North East Transportation Connections (NETC), provided an update to the board on NETC activities on the Central 70 Project. The presentation included:

- COVID-19 Response
- Community Outreach
  - 18 meetings to date and 216 community office hours held.
  - "Walking School Bus" activities to help reduce the number of cars going to Swansea Elementary School. Kids who walk regularly are given 4 tickets to the Museum of Nature and Science.
- 1,278 Monthly RTD passes distributed GES community saved \$94,968, and Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT), reduced by 137,822 miles
- Two bike libraries established
- Partnered with B-Cycles to distribute 350 bikes to community organizations
- Business outreach through the NETC incentive program
- A significant change in transportation behavior due to COVID-19 with reductions in transportation usage
- NETC is working with the local community to identify when to bring back services impacted by COVID-19 through surveys, polling, and social media tools

## **Discussion**

 The HPTE Board thanked Ms. Rivera-Malpiede for the work that NETC does to support the communities impacted by the Central 70 construction and the recent pandemic. Board members also noted that HPTE has seen significant reductions in traffic volumes on the Express Lanes network that is mirrored on RTD and other services.

Consent Agenda - Resolution #326 Approving March 2020 Minutes	<b>ACTION:</b> Upon a motion by Director Guiterrez and second by Vice-Chair Bowes, a vote was conducted and Consent Agenda Resolution #326 was unanimously approved.
Resolution #327 C-470 Toll Rate Approval	<b>ACTION:</b> Upon a motion by Director Stanton and second by Director Guiterrez, a vote was conducted and Resolution #327 was unanimously approved.
Resolution #328 Adjusting Toll Rates on I-25 North	<b>ACTION:</b> Upon a motion by Director Stuart and second by Director Easton, a vote was conducted and Resolution #328 was unanimously approved.
Resolution #329 Fund 536 Budget Amendment	ACTION: Upon a motion by Director Easton and second by Director Khokhryakova, a vote was conducted and Resolution #329 was unanimously approved.
Adjourn	The HPTE Board adjourned at 11:20 am.