

Transportation Commission October 19-20, 2016, CDOT Headquarters Auditorium, 4201 E. Arkansas Ave, Denver, CO 80222

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## Transportation Commission (TC) Workshops Wednesday, October 19, 2016

**Note:** Materials for specific agenda items are available at <https://www.codot.gov/about/transportation-commission/meeting-agenda.html> by clicking on the agenda item on the schedule provided at this site.

### **Transit Overview Workshop (Mark Imhoff)**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this workshop is to provide the TC with an overview of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Transit Program, as requested at the September Transit Overview Workshop, to provide a more descriptive overview of the current transit policies.

- The current CDOT Transit Program is structured around the guiding principles and policy direction given in the following documents:
  - Division of Transit & Rail enabling legislation 9; SB09-094/CRS 43-1-117.5
  - Statewide Transit Plan; adopted March, 2015. The Executive Summary is provided at: <http://coloradotransportationmatters.com/other-cdot-plans/transit/plan-documents/>
  - Policy Directive 14 (Policy Guiding Statewide Plan Development); revised October, 2016 (pending)
  - State Management Plan; revised draft submitted to FTA March, 2016 (approval pending): <https://www.codot.gov/programs/transitandrail/transit/state-management-plan-draft-2015>
  - Colorado State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan, adopted March, 2012: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/PassengerFreightRailPlan/SPRP-Final>

Transit programs and funding sources were summarized in a table outlining the link to the Statewide Transit Plan with Statewide Transit Plan categories, goal/objective, performance measure, CDOT policies, and an explanation of the CDOT Policy Origin.

#### **Discussion and Comments**

- The Division of Transit & Rail (DTR) is in the process of reviewing the FTA funds distribution process. It was suggested that this process should perhaps be expedited.
- There was some discussion about the possibility of providing weekend Bustang service on I-70 to help reduce recreational traffic. DTR staff will come back to the TC at a future date with additional information for further discussion.
- The Bustang service provided to and from a recent Bronco game was so successful that DTR plans to extend the service for the remaining home Bronco games.

### **Project Prioritization – Ten Year Development Program (Debra Perkins-Smith)**

#### **Purpose**

To update the TC on progress of the Development Program and discuss next steps in project selection for Senate Bill (SB) 09-228 and other funding opportunities.

#### **Action**

TC input on next steps.

A summary of Development Program Projects in terms of major investment needs, transit, other transportation needs, and an ongoing bicycle and pedestrian assets inventory was provided. Details on project selection,

availability of funds from different programs – SB 228, the National Highway Freight Program where highlighted and information regarding project selection criteria being developed was summarized in a handout and explained.

#### **Discussion and Comments**

- The overall \$9 billion list of projects culled from various sources such as regional transportation plans (RTPs) was reduced to \$2.5 billion for the 10 Year Development Program. The 10-Year Development Program can be used as a starting point or tool in project selection processes for SB 228, the new National Highway Freight Program, and discretionary grants and criteria applied to identify the best projects.
- It should be recognized that what projects get completed often is determined more by what projects are ready, with budgets that fit within funding constraints, versus being high priority projects.
- The CDOT Regions applied knowledge of their areas, and transportation needs to winnow the \$9 billion overall list down to \$2.5 billion, and worked with their planning partners – the rural TPRs and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) – to strike a balance between needs and available funding.
- The Transportation Commission requested a second workshop in November to further discuss criteria as well as how to approach SB 09-228 (i.e. should projects be selected as funds are received or should projects be identified up to the full possible amount of transfers, etc.).

#### **Budget Workshop (Maria Sobota)**

##### **Purpose(s)**

- To discuss the following FY 2017-18 budget topics: 1) FY 2017-18 Revenue Estimates; 2) FY 2017-18 Annual Draft Budget Allocation; and 3) FY 2017-18 Budget Narrative.
- To summarize the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 unaudited revenue reconciliation and TC Contingency Reserve Fund (TCCRF) surplus balance reconciliation.
- Last month, the TC asked the DAF to analyze the historical usage of the TCCRF. Attached charts provided a summary information and annual averages over the period (including the first quarter of the current fiscal year). The information provided was intended to support further policy discussion regarding the TCCRF use.

##### **Action(s)**

- The TC was asked to review FY 2017-18 revenue estimates, the FY 2017-18 Program Budget, and the FY 2017-18 Draft Budget Narrative, and to provide feedback to the Department in preparation for the adoption of the FY 2017-18 Draft Annual Budget in November 2016 (TC will be asked to adopt final budget after revenue forecasts are updated in March 2017). The TC is being asked to consider a new line item for “Strategic Projects – Staff Recommendations”.
- The DAF was asking the TC to also review surplus fund balances from FY 2015-16. Funding considerations that are reviewed will be vetted through the normal monthly supplement process.
- In addition, the TC was being asked to engage in a policy discussion regarding the uses of the TCCRF.

#### **Discussion and Comments**

- Estimates from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) are that the state FY 2016-2017 budget will have an approximate \$226.5 million deficit due to reduced revenues from sales and use taxes and corporate income tax collections. For that reason, it’s best to wait before deciding how to spend any surplus.
- During the discussion, a representative of a telecom company that has been attempting to permission to cross the state line from Utah into Colorado for a year asked for assistance from the TC. He was referred to CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt and administrative staff.

**Grand Avenue Bridge Maintenance IGA (Josh Laipply)****Purpose**

This workshop summarized the terms of the Maintenance Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) executed between the Colorado Bridge Enterprise (CBE) and the City of Glenwood Springs (COGS or Local Agency) dated December 17, 2015. The Maintenance IGA is associated with the State Highway 82 Grand Avenue Bridge Replacement Project, currently in progress.

**Action:**

The CBE staff requested the CBE Board of Directors (BOD) ratify the Maintenance IGA at the November CBE Board meeting. Upon ratification, the CBE will be able to implement the terms of the IGA in adherence with state statutes.

**Discussion and Comments**

- Ordinarily, the TC doesn't approve IGAs. This is an exception because Transportation Commission approval is required when CBE gives more than \$750,000 to a local agency. Glenwood Springs will receive \$5.56 million of CBE funds to maintain the bridge.
- The pedestrian bridge also will carry utilities that had to be relocated due to construction of the replacement Grand Avenue highway bridge.
- Transfer of the pedestrian bridge after completion will include not just the structure, but will also include decking, approaches, elevators, and other components.

**Technology Committee (Peter Kozinski)****Purpose**

To update and confirm with the TC the two policy directives related to the RoadX program:

1. Autonomous Vehicle Policy
2. Funding Policy

**Discussion and Comments**

- Every section of the state has its own unique and specific conditions that may affect what technology will work best. For example, in the southeastern part of the state in Lamar, the dust storms are often so thick that it's almost impossible to read the variable message signs. But drivers and passengers can get messages from cell phones.
- Because of the volume they carry, interstates and then secondary highways such as US 285 are the first candidates for autonomous vehicle infrastructure. Then will come urban arterials and then rural roads.
- One of the challenges is how to entice the private sector to install fiber optics in the public right of way to fill in the gaps. Next month the TC will hear about CDOT options for increasing the percentage of total lane miles covered with fiber optics. Only about 4 percent of the lane miles are so covered today.
- Maybe CDOT could consider a "challenge grant" to help fill in the bandwidth gaps around the state.
- A consultant suggestion was noted that CDOT could potentially embed electric charging stations into the pavement for electric vehicles, one commissioner quipped, "We could charge for the charge."

**Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee also met to discuss release of the Final Patrol Inventory Audit from June 2016 ARC Committee, and an Audit Division Update. See the link above to the TC October 2016 Packet for more details.

## Transportation Commission Regular Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2016

### Roll Call

- The newest commissioner, Rocky Scott of Colorado Springs, replacing Nolan Schriener of District 9, wasn't present for his swearing in because of a family emergency. All other TC members were in attendance.

### Comments of Individual Commissioners

- CDOT staffers in Region 2 were commended for their response to the devastating fires in Beulah (5,000 acres, as well as structures and homes) and Custer County (17,000 acres burned).
- Government Relations staff was thanked for an excellent presentation on RoadX prepared for the South Lakewood Business Association.
- A framed picture of the SH 9 project, with its wildlife underpasses and overpasses, was shown. Regional Transportation Director (RTD) Dave Eller and his staff were thanked for all their work leading up to a ribbon-cutting this past month. The project is an excellent example of CDOT working closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), FHWA Division Director John Caters said. It also received a write-up in *Colorado Outdoors*, the magazine of CPW.
- Several CDOT managers, including RTD Johnny Olson and CDOT Deputy Director Mike Lewis, met with a business group in Loveland. The group is interested in knowing what it can do advance I-25 North projects. Perhaps some concrete proposals will come from that.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony also took place for the \$10 million Wilson Gulch Road project. Also in the southwest part of the state, the Ute Mountain Ute had its tribal election, electing a new chairman and new council members.

### Executive Director's Report (Shailen Bhatt)

- Deputy Director, Mike Lewis, was absent because he was being inducted into the National Academy of Construction, a very prestigious recognition.
- Last week Shailen Bhatt traveled to Salt Lake City for a transportation-focused meeting. He thanked Herman Stockinger of Policy and Government Relations for an excellent presentation that he gave at the meeting. The presentation was on the differences between Utah and Colorado transportation systems and the cause: Utah collects more state revenues.
- Region 2's Roadeo team took third place in a national competition.

### Chief Engineer's Report (Joshua Laipply)

- Bicyclists can now travel by bicycle along I-70 on a bike path from Golden to Genesee thanks to the completion of the final leg of the bike path.
- CDOT is working on several railroad crossing issues on US 85 north of Denver.
- Scott McDaniel is retiring from his position as head of the Division of Project Support. He will be missed for his dedication to CDOT and for his big laugh.
- CDOT is partnering with the Regional Transportation District on the light-rail line out to Denver International Airport – the A-Line.

### High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) (David Spector)

- The high-occupancy vehicle requirement that requires three riders (driver included) to use the HOV lanes will begin Jan. 1.

- A segment of the North I-25 project has been completed, and seems to be shaving about 15 minutes off the daily commute time.
- State legislators on the Transportation Legislative Review Committee were positive about express lanes at the committee's last meeting.
- Applicants will be sought for a tolling operations manager beginning this week.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division Administrator's Report (John Cater)**

- Region 5 RTD, Mike McVaugh and his staff were commended for the successful Tribal Transportation Summit held in September.

**Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) Report (Vince Rogalski)**

Topics covered at the last STAC meeting included:

- On freight funding, the STAC wanted to make it clear that it did not want a "pay to play" provision that would give the advantage to better funded applicants.
- The STAC is looking forward to meeting with some of the commissioners at a STAC-TC workshop on Oct. 28.

**Act on Consent Agenda – Approved unanimously on October 20, 2016.**

- a) Resolution to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Sept. 15, 2016 (Herman Stockinger)
- b) Policy Directive 14 Resolution (Deb Perkins Smith)
- c) Region 5 Property Disposal (Mike McVaugh)
- d) Region 4 property Exchange (Johnny Olson)
- e) Approval of Committee and Board Membership (Herman Stockinger)

**Discuss and Act on the 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Supplement of FY 2017 (Maria Sobota) - Approved unanimously on October 20, 2016.**

**HQ/Region 1/Region 2 Update (Maria Sobota)**

- Construction of the Region 2 new building will begin in November.
- A contract to sell the current CDOT Headquarters land and building and that of Region 1 has been signed.

**Central I-70 Update**

- Commissioners complimented Tony DeVito during his quarterly report on many of the initiatives that are being taken on the project: workforce development (it took a special FHWA exemption to be able to offer up to 350 jobs to residents, thanks to a \$400,000 federal grant), facilitating a source of healthy food for the neighborhood, and addressing the need for affordable housing.
- The Record of Decision for Central I-70 is expected in early 2017.

**De-Federalization of Locally-Administered Pilot Projects - Approved unanimously on October 20, 2016**

- Commissioners approved a resolution outlining the conditions for locally-administered projects becoming totally state funded, without the various federal requirements.

**Request for condemnation authority for Americo Parcels (Josh Laipply)**

- This was deferred until next month.

**Adopt New Commission Rules - Approved unanimously on October 20, 2016.**

**Efficiency and Accountability Committee (Room 225)**

The Efficiency and Accountability Committee was scheduled to meet after the Regular TC meeting.

**Bridge Enterprise (BE) Committee Meeting**

The BE Committee meeting occurred directly after the Regular TC meeting. See materials posted related to this meeting at: <https://www.codot.gov/about/transportation-commission/meeting-agenda.html> for more details.