



## Statewide MPO Meeting

January 29, 2015

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

CDOT HQ Room 225

DRAFT Notes

**Attendees:** MPOs - Doug Rex and Steve Cook, Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG); Todd Hollenbeck, Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO); Craig Casper, Pikes Peak Area Council of Government (PPACG); Scott Hobson, Pueblo Area Council of Government (PACOG); and Becky Karasko, North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO). CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch - Jeff Sudmeier, Gail Hoffman, Tim Kirby, and Marissa Gaughan. CDOT Transportation System Management and Operations - Lisa Steisfeld. Information Management Branch - Erik Sabina. CDOT Transportation Performance - William Johnson. CDOT Regions: Danny Herrmann, R1; Mark Rogers, R3; Kathy Seelhoff, R4 (by video conference); and Matt Muraro, R5. FHWA: Bill Haas, Aaron Bustow, and Jeff Purdy. FTA - Larry Squires.

**ADA Transition Plans (Informational/Discussion) - Greg Martinez, CDOT Civil Rights & Business Resource Center (CRBRC) and Bill Haas, FHWA**

- Greg Martinez suggested that all MPOs begin using the CDOT website on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements to learn more about the implications of the Act for transportation and for their operations. How-to videos are planned for the site later.
- One of the features of the site is an interactive statewide map on curb cuts (or ramps) that required a year of intensive effort for four CDOT contractors. Only about 13% of the 20,000+ curb cuts on state highways comply with the current ADA regulations.
- MPOs aren't required to have ADA transition plans, but their sub-recipients are. When MPOs certify that they comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations, they certify that they're also in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act. FHWA wants to know exactly what they're doing to encourage sub-recipients - the local entities that receive federal funds through the MPOs - to abide by ADA requirements. To head off potential lawsuits, FHWA is emphasizing ADA requirements more.
- To assist the MPOs, CDOT personnel, and others, FHWA and CDOT (Greg Martinez) will offer training on March 22 on the ADA's implications for transportation.
- DRCOG tells its fund recipients about ADA requirements, but has no way of knowing how many comply.
- PACOG found that CDOT personnel involved in one construction project were referring to outdated ADA requirements.
- Some MPOs would like to receive clearer direction from FHWA on what they need to do. Others cautioned to be careful what you ask for.
- CDOT Chief Engineer Josh Laipply will be sending out a letter soon telling all recipients of federal funds about additional design options they have for pedestrian and bicyclist crossings of state highways. Greg discovered that CDOT had too few options to fit the many intersection configurations.

## **INRIX Data and MPO Modeling (Discussion) - Erik Sabina, DTD Information Management and Craig Casper, PPACG**

- Lisa Streisfeld said INRIX, which CDOT has purchased for a trial period, tracks vehicle speed and travel time via mobile phone devices and has data for Colorado back to 2011. INRIX data is helping CDOT determine such things as how quickly traffic recovers from a traffic incident on I-70 Mountain now that the tolled I-70 Mountain express lanes are open. INRIX also makes it possible for users to display the data graphically for Travel Time Index and Planning Time Index, for example.
- CDOT will offer INRIX training the third or fourth week in February. The training is open to MPOs since local agency partners can use INRIX as well under the CDOT contract. Lisa also said she's willing to help potential users individually upon request.
- Those interested in more information can go to the INRIX website to access webinars on such things as how INRIX has been used to manage parking in urban areas.
- Craig Casper said PPACG has been using INRIX data recently. It's best to use it as another piece of information but not take it as gospel due to data anomalies.
- DRCOG had hoped to use it for operational purposes, but that's not really possible right now.
- DRCOG also found INRIX data doesn't work too well to determine use of different modes of travel, such as pedestrians on sidewalks, or the speed of bicyclists.

## **Pavement Performance Measures (Informational) - William Johnson, DTD Transportation Performance**

- William Johnson said he doesn't have too much new to report on the proposed MAP-21 regulations for pavement performance other than FHWA has gone back to good, fair, and poor metrics.
- State departments of transportation need to report on pavement condition of the National Highway System (NHS), the effectiveness of investment strategy for the NHS, and progress toward achieving all state performance targets by Oct. 1, 2016, and every two years thereafter.
- MAP-21 regulations are expected to apply to the latest federal transportation authorization bill, FAST (Fixing America's Transportation Act), that was signed into law in December 2015.
- MPOs and state DOTs must report on system performance in their periodic transportation plans.
- Due to the large backlog of delayed maintenance, CDOT will not be able to meet its own surface treatment targets in Policy Directive 14 for the NHS and the state highway system for several more years. Interstate pavements currently exceed PD 14 standards.
- Craig Casper said he would like to work with CDOT on pavement data for highways, and asked if other MPOs would like to do the same.

## **MPO / FHWA Updates (Discussion) - MPO and FHWA Staff**

- DRCOG - The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Review Work Group has met eight times and is slated to give its recommendations to the DRCOG Board of Directors in February. The Work Group will recommend further exploring a regional/sub-regional dual process for allocating funding. DRCOG also will have its certification review with FTA, FHWA, and CDOT on Feb. 8, and has answered the more than 200 questions in preparation for that.
- GVMPO - The organization is undergoing its quarterly reviews of continuing projects. It is also facilitating discussions with its member entities on compliance with ADA requirements. Work is going forward on coordinating transportation studies in and around Colorado National Monument. Grant request have been submitted for a slow-fill compressed natural gas bus (CNG) refueling station at the City of Grand Junction Maintenance/Fleet Yard and for a new CNG bus.
- NFRMPO - Only half the positions at the agency are filled to date. The MPO has three mobile bike counters and two permanent counters on the Cache La Poudre Trail, one in Larimer County and the other in Weld County.
- PACOG - PACOG's transportation plan is set for board approval on Feb. 25 after the comment period ends. The PACOG restructuring study will begin in March following results of an initial FHWA-CDOT review. In addition, the organization will be hiring two full-time employees (a technician and program manager) by the end of February.

- PPACG - Craig Casper and a GIS technician are the only staff in transportation planning for the agency. Several people were offered jobs with PPACG but turned them down. PPACG has received two applications in response to a request for proposals for a travel demand model.
- FHWA - Invitations to the April 4 Freight Roundtable will be going out next week from FHWA. The 90-minute meeting will be at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce on Market Street. In addition, FHWA is going back to using "Highway Gothic" typeface on signs. Signs that have been done in a different typeface in recent years are allowed to remain until they need replacing.
- FTA - A new grants management program will be online in February. Also, FTA has moved from the USDOT facility in west Lakewood to downtown Denver.

#### Other Business

- Due to technical difficulties, Steve Markovetz was unable to deliver his planned presentation on defederalization remotely. He will be invited to the next Statewide MPO meeting.
- NFRMPO asked if a Front Range travel survey involving CDOT, NFRMPO, DRCOG, PACOG, and PPACG could be conducted for the 2045 plan.

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