



**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development

## Statewide MPO Meeting

Host: CDOT

CDOT HQ - 2829 W. Howard Pl., Denver, CO

Friday, October 26, 2018

1-3 p.m.

Room 158 Valley Highway Conference Room (1st Floor)

### Participants

- MPOs: Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Jacob Riger, Steve Cook, and Ron Papsdorf; Grand Valley MPO - Dean Bressler; North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO) - Becky Karasko and Alex Gordon (on phone); Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) - Bart Mikitowicz; and Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) - John Liosatos.
- CDOT Headquarters: Debra Perkins-Smith, Tim Kirby, Marissa Gaughan, Aaron Willis, Kathleen Collins, Gail Hoffman, Alisa Babler, William Johnson, Miguel Aguilar, Lisa Streisfeld, and Erik Sabina.
- CDOT Regions: Lizzie Kemp and Danny Herrmann, Region 1; Karen Rowe and Wendy Pettit (on phone), Region 2; Karen Schneiders, Region 4.
- FHWA: Aaron Bustow and Bill Haas.
- FTA: Ranae Tunison

### Transportation Performance Measures

General Comments - Tim Kirby, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch manager

- Ideally, the MPOs and CDOT would complete their long-range plans and then set targets based on the plans. The MPOs and CDOT would select their projects for the MPO Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) based on the targets.
- For the 2045 planning cycle, however, setting of the targets and project selection for the MPO TIPs and STIP preceded completion of the long-range transportation plans due to deadlines in regulations for the federal transportation authorization act, the FAST [Fixing America's Surface Transportation] Act.
- The Transportation Commission formally opened the planning process for the 2045 SWP in October.
- Performance management needs to become an important part of the long-range transportation plans, the TIPs, and the STIP, Bill Haas of FHWA said.
- Ron Papsdorf of DRCOG predicted the plan-to-projects schedule would be followed more as time goes on; the current way is the result of FHWA timing.
- In connection with projects included in the transportation plans, Bart Mikitowicz of PACOG asked if CDOT's 2045 SWP would have anything about passenger rail. Tim Kirby told him that nothing precludes PACOG from including projects for the Southwest and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission in its plan.

**Updates from CDOT Performance and Asset Management Branch - William Johnson, CDOT Transportation and Asset Management Branch manager**

- CDOT met its Oct. 1, 2018 deadline for submitting its baseline report on the National Performance Measures to FHWA headquarters. William thanked staff members of the Colorado Division Office of FHWA for their assistance.
- The MPOs have a Nov.15 deadline for completion of their signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with CDOT for safety (Performance Management - PM - 1), infrastructure (PM2), and system performance (PM3).
- In response to a question, Bill Haas said the PM1, PM2, and PM3 MOUs should not include anything about transit at this point because adding transit might make it difficult for the MPOs to meet the Nov. 15 deadline.
- Marissa Gaughan said transit agencies do not need to be signatories to the PM1, PM2, and PM3 MOUs. This is another reason it makes sense for a separate Transit PM MOU developed in coordination with FTA, CDOT DTR, and the MPOs. All MOUs are part of the overall CDOT Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
- William Johnson discussed the PM1, PM2, and PM3 MOU template that includes safety, infrastructure condition, system performance, freight, and air quality. He noted DRCOG has to submit a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) performance plan this year because it is the only MPO in the state with a population of 1 million. Later, all MPOs with populations of more than 200,000 will have to submit CMAQ performance plans if in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area.
- Attendees agreed that the MOU template should have language stating that the MOU supersedes the earlier separate safety MOUs.
- William Johnson said the MPOs should pass resolutions that set the targets; they need not pass resolutions approving the MOUs. MPOs should send the signed resolutions to him at CDOT and Bill Haas at FHWA.

**Memo and Updates from CDOT Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch - Alisa Babler, Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch**

- The MPOs have a February 28, 2019 deadline for safety targets.
- Because safety targets are set annually, the MPOs will need to annually adopt and submit to FHWA and CDOT target-setting signed resolutions.
- CDOT performance measures are on a 5-year rolling average. The safety performance measures are for numbers and rates of fatalities and serious injuries, as well as the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The 5-year rolling average targets for 2019 are:

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Target</i>
Number of Fatalities*	644
Fatality Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)*	1.21
Number of Serious Injuries*	2,909
Serious Injury Rate per 100 million VMT	5.575
Number of Non-Motorist Fatalities and Serious Injuries (Pedestrians and Bicyclists)	514

*\* These must be the same for both the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's Highway Safety Plan and FHWA's Highway Safety Improvement Plan*

- The 2018 targets were 5-year rolling averages for 2014-2018 based on trend analysis of 2012-2016 data. CDOT will base the 2015-2019 targets on analysis of trends for 2013-2017.

- The 2015-2019 safety targets reflect a continued expectation of increases in fatalities, but at lower rates, and a continued decrease in serious injury crashes. Those expectations arise from legalization of marijuana, distracted driving due to more technology, steady gas prices, and increasing population density along the Front Range, according to a memo included in the Statewide MPO agenda packet.
- Sixteen percent of all fatalities involved bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Challenges for data analysis are:
  - An upgrade and rollout of a new Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR) crash data system, which resulted in some missing Denver injury crash records in 2016. Therefore, 2016 and 2017 data on serious injuries is likely to increase after DOR compiles all the data.
  - Predicting VMT creates another variable that could affect fatality and serious injury rates.
- A Local Road Safety Plan Peer Exchange will be Dec. 18-19, 2018 at Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock. The peer exchange will focus on development of local road safety plans to identify, analyze, and prioritize roadway safety improvements for local roads, which are roads that CDOT does not own (also called off-system roads).
- According to a publicity flyer distributed at the meeting, local roads experience three times the fatality rate of Interstates.
- The peer exchange will have a rural focus, but it also is applicable to urban areas. The target audience is local traffic engineers.
- Off-system roads are eligible for federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds.

**Transit Transportation Planning and Management (TPM) - CDOT Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - Ranae Tunison**

- Oct. 1 was supposed to be the deadline for submittal of transit performance measures to FTA and the Division of Transit and Rail (DTR).
- The transit agencies and the MPOs should be working with DTR on the transit measures.
- This is a summary of what the MPOs have done to date:
  - GVMPO - Staff will meet on Tuesday to discuss the matter, and will get it done as quickly as possible. Staff will submit the required documentation as soon as possible.
  - NFRMPO - FTA has granted the Greeley-Evans Transit (GET) an extension until Nov. 1 to submit their Transit Asset Management (TAM) measures. The MPO will readopt the TAM targets once GET submits them to FTA.
  - PPACG - Mountain Metro will work on the transit measures with the MPO.
  - DRCOG - RTD and DRCOG will work on a resolution.
  - PACOG - Cannot say anything right now due to the absence of the MPO's principal transportation planner.
- Marissa said DTR should attend the next Statewide MPO meeting to update all on the effort.

**Travel Survey and Travel Model - CDOT, Erik Sabina**

**Travel Survey**

- Erik discussed what the travel survey should entail, and asked these questions of the MPOs:
  - Do you agree that CDOT and its consultant should survey half the 20,000 households in 2021, with the remaining 10,000 households surveyed periodically after that?

- Do you agree that all days of the week should be included in the survey to obtain information on recreational trips?
- Are you in favor of a smart phone-based household diary survey, with special supplements for populations that may not have smart phones, such as the elderly?
- Do you agree that CDOT should acquire a set of complementary “big data” for the survey project to supplement the household diary survey?
- Most of the MPO representatives at the meeting seemed to indicate agreement with these survey features. Additional comments made included:
  - The survey should include such special events as Bronco and Air Force Academy games.
  - Using the Longwoods International periodic surveys of 1,500 households for the tourism office would be a good idea, but CDOT might want to delve into submarkets, such as hunters, skiers, and whitewater rafters.
  - It also would be important to obtain destination data from the GPS systems installed in many rental cars.
- An estimated base cost for a statewide travel survey would be \$6 million, or \$300 for each of the 20,000 households spread over time. To produce robust results, the travel survey should go beyond household diaries done via smart phones.
- Debra Perkins-Smith said CDOT should write a scope of work and then all parties should decide how much each MPO and CDOT should contribute to the total cost.
- Reaction to the outline for a travel survey were:
  - GVMPO - Will try to get some money for statewide travel survey with a focus on Grand Junction.
  - DRCOG - Current cost estimates may not be that firm because it is still a few years out. Ron Papsdorf joked that DRCOG would agree to the same Regional Priority Program (RPP) formula voted on at that morning’s STAC meeting. Under that formula, DRCOG would receive a lower percentage of RPP money based on its population.

#### Statewide Travel Model

- Erik said he has calibrated the Statewide Travel Model for 2010, and validated it for 2015.
- For the 2045 scenario that CDOT will use for planning purposes, he is merging land use and travel networks into a single set of inputs for the model.
- The next steps will be automating model input development, with the help of a consultant who will begin work in 2019.

#### MPO, FHWA, and FTA Updates - Staff

- *DRCOG* - DRCOG released its Active Transportation Plan on Oct. 26. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the MPO transportation plan will be out until Dec. 7. The MPO is working on PM2 and PM3 targets and finalizing its congestion report. The MPO also has considerable participation in its regional technology efforts.
- *GVMPO* - The travel model RFP is out. The MPO should release the RFP for the 2045 Plan in the second quarter of 2019, and adopt the 2045 RTP in fall 2019.
- *NFRMPO* - The call for projects for TIP years FY 2022 and FY 2023 opened on Oct. 12 and will close Dec. 21. The MPO Planning Council adopted CDOT’s PM2 and PM3 targets in September and the TAM targets in October. The MPO will need to re-adopt the TAM targets once it receives the Greeley-Evans Transit targets. January 2019 is the expected completion for the 2045 Regional Travel Demand Model.

- *PACOG* - The MPO passed a resolution supporting Proposition 110 to raise money for transportation through an increase in the state sales tax. It did not pass a resolution in support of Proposition 109 to set aside money for transportation from the General Fund for bonding purposes. A transit relocation study should be complete in April 2019. An update of the bicycle-pedestrian plan is under way.
- *PPACG* - New staff members now fill almost all the MPO staff vacancies.
- *FHWA* - Dec. 7 is the expiration date for the continuing resolution to keep the federal government operating. FHWA released its updated Strategic Plan, based on the U.S. Department of Transportation Strategic Plan. The plan includes some key initiatives. Readers may find the 24-page summary of the Strategic Plan here: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/strategicplan/pdfs/FHWA\\_StrategicPlan\\_2019-22.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/strategicplan/pdfs/FHWA_StrategicPlan_2019-22.pdf)
- *FTA* - Tracey McDonald will be the new FTA planner. Tracey was statewide planning manager at CDOT and then a planner with the CDOT Division of Transit and Rail before joining a consultant firm.

#### CDOT Updates - Marissa Gaughan and Tim Kirby

- Staff has almost completed the *CMAQ Guidebook for Ozone Nonattainment Areas*. The guidebook will assist CDOT and the two MPOs in the ozone nonattainment area: DRCOG and NFRMPO.
- CDOT is reviewing the Functional Highway Classifications internally; the classifications should be ready for external review soon. CDOT also has changed the guidance document that accompanies the classifications.

#### Other Business

- Next Meeting: Dec. 7 at 1 p.m., PACOG may host the meeting. Bart said he should check with John Adams, who is in the hospital, about the MPO being the host.

#### Future Agenda Topics

- Transportation Performance Management is a standing agenda item
- Title VI - Eboni Younger-Riehl, CDOT Civil Rights & Business Resource Center
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Population Control Totals
- DOLA Demography Office Presentation tailored to MPOs