COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Statewide MPO Meeting
CDOT HQ
2829 W. Howard Pl.
CDOT Auditorium (1st Floor)
Friday, August 23, 2019 from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Participants
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Jacob Riger, Matthew N. Helfant, and Beth Doliboa; Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO) – Dean Bressler (by phone) and Dana Brosig; North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO) – Becky Karasko; Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) – John Adams; and Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) – John Liosatos
- CDOT Headquarters: Rebecca White, Erik Sabina, Kathleen Collins, Michael Snow, Aaron Willis, Gail Hoffman, Carrie Tremblatt, David Swenka, Eric Ehrbar, Annie Kitch, Darius Pakbaz, and Jamie Collins
- CDOT Regions: Region 1 – Jason Rudel and Danny Herrmann; Region 2 – Wendy Pettit (via phone); Region 3 – Mark Rogers (via phone); and Region 4 – Karen Schneiders and Jan Rowe
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA): Ranae Tunison
- Federal Highway Administrative (FHWA): Bill Haas and Aaron Bustow

Spotlight: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

 John Liasatos related the following about PPACG:

- In cooperation with Mountain Metro Transit, PPACG is combining the long-range transportation and specialized transit plan to maximize efficiencies.
- The MPO is working with DRCOG to implement an on-line Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) database and document.
- Working with El Pomar Foundation and Transportation Commissioner Rocky Scott, PPACG will be putting on a transportation forum on Oct. 8 in Colorado Springs on transportation funding.

Multimodal Options Fund Update, Michael Snow, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch
- For the urban allocations of the $80.12 million available for local projects (or $76.1 million after 5% off the top for administration), MPOs conduct project selections for their regions. All CDOT needs to know is what projects the MPOs select and to be kept apprised of the status of each project. This information will go into a required annual report to the Colorado Legislature.
- MPOs may conduct project selection at any time; DRCOG already has.
- CDOT will compile a memo summarizing the MMOF program.

- A 50% match is required. However, MPOs may request that the TC reduce or eliminate the match requirement on individual projects if they can demonstrate extraordinary need or disadvantage on behalf of the project sponsor.

CDOT 10-Year STIP Project Selection in Metro Areas, Tim Kirby, CDOT Multimodal Branch and CDOT Region 1 Staff
- As summarized by John Liosatos, some of the issues that arose from the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting discussion that morning were:
    o How do we reconcile what we did in the past with what we will do in the future?
    o What criteria is used to get a project in the Project Development Program?
    o What is the relationship between the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Development Program?
    o The involvement of the rural TPRs and MPOs in updating their portion of the Development Program
- John Liosatos suggested CDOT produce a graphic showing how a project becomes listed in the 10-Year Pipeline of Projects, how a project is implemented, and who are the decision makers at each stage.
- Rebecca White said statewide projects might not arise from regional plans. Examples might be improvements to the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel and to the Vail Pass Rest Area.
- Becky Karasko asked when CDOT would provide the program estimates for the TA, STP-Metro, and CPG funding sources so MPOs know approximately how much funding they should include in their long-range transportation plans, and John Liasotos warned of potential problems if statewide priorities reduce the amount of money for MPOs.
- The rural v. urban divide evident in the STAC discussion is taking the conversation the wrong direction; the real problem is that the funding pie isn't big enough, John Liosatos said.
- The Transportation Commission (TC) has not acted on the Regional Priority Program (RPP) formula yet. DRCOG's problem with the RPP formula is that it is inequitable for DRCOG. Jacob Riger asked CDOT not to use the RPP formula for other sources of money, as it has in the past.
- In the absence of full program distribution, NFRMPO used the projections from the 2040 distribution for its 2045 regional transportation plan.

EJ Equity – Matthew Helfant, DRCOG (Presentation included in agenda packet)
- Matthew discussed a population-based approach to environmental justice (EJ) equity. He demonstrated with three somewhat overlapping maps of minority population areas, low-income areas, and transit accessibility and EJ areas.
- An Equity/Civic Advisory Committee – one of several ideas he learned about at a recent EJ class – could inform decision makers about concerns of EJ and other vulnerable communities, and serve as a bridge between an MPO and EJ communities to facilitate meaningful dialogue and build relationships.

Front Range Passenger Rail Update, Randy Grauberger, Front Range Rail
- The Front Range Passenger Rail Commission has three responsibilities: preserve Amtrak's Southwest Chief service across southeast Colorado; consider re-routing the Southwest Chief service between La Junta and Trinidad by way of Pueblo and Walsenburg and pursue possible Amtrak Southwest Chief service into Pueblo and

Colorado Springs from La Junta; and facilitate development of Front Range Passenger Rail service.

- Randy said the board has selected the HDR consultant team to develop a rail service development plan, which is required if Front Range Passenger Rail wants to receive Federal Railroad Administration funds. Completion of the rail service development plan is projected for mid-2020.
- The second part of the planning effort is an environmental impact statement that will begin in spring 2020. The EIS will employ streamlined techniques.
- Public engagement will include Segment Stakeholder Coalitions for the north, central, and southern parts of the rail corridor from Pueblo to Fort Collins.
- Those who wish to weigh in on passenger rail along the Front Range can do so at this site: https://Frontrangerail.metroquest.com.

Funding Programs Update – Tim Kirby, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch
- Update on CMAQ and Funding Forecasts for TAP, STP-M, and Metro Planning
  - o Becky Karasko said she and other MPO representatives need program distribution numbers for long-range planning.
  - o NFRMPO completed its 2045 SWP by projecting program distribution figures for the 2040 plan forward. She knows that as more program distribution numbers become available, she will need to amend the 2045 SWP.
  - o Tim Kirby said he would try to get answers for the MPOs. The TC adopted formulas for all formula programs but RPP, CMAQ, and FASTER Safety.
  - o Jacob Riger said program distribution figures are not as critical for DRCOG as for NFRMPO, but they will be soon.

Performance Measures and Long-Range Plans, Darius Pakbaz, Performance and Asset Management
- In September, the CDOT PAM will present current condition for PM 2 (Infrastructure) and PM 3 (System Performance) in preparation for target adjustment conversations later in the year.
- PAM will have a file for each MPO and the current condition for PM 2 and PM 3.
- The PM 3 peak-hour excessive delay (PHED) per capita and non-single-occupancy vehicle measures only applies to DRCOG due to its population of more than 1 million and being in non-attainment for CMAQ pollutants. PAM will have a monthly reliability figure for travel time for DRCOG.
- MPOs can update their 4-year targets every 2 years after the state has made a target adjustment or set a new target.

Other Business
- SWMPO "Spotlight" Schedule
  - o GVMPO – September
  - o CDOT - October
- Other Future Agenda Topics?
- Erik Sabina announced that the TC agreed last month to put $1 million toward the statewide travel survey. Another $1.25 million will come from Statewide Planning and Research federal funds over about 2 years. The MPOs also will contribute to the effort.

Future Agenda Topics

- Transportation Performance Measures (Standing agenda item)
- Front Range Passenger Rail (Standing agenda item)
- Anything else?