



**Statewide MPO Meeting CDOT HQ**  
**2829 W. Howard Pl.**  
**CDOT Auditorium (1st Floor)**  
**February 22, 2019**  
**1-3 p.m.**

**Participants**

- MPOs: Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Ron Papsdorf, Matthew Helfant, and Jacob Riger; Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO) - Dean Bressler (by conference call); North Front Range MPO - Becky Karasko; Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) - John Liosatos; and Pueblo Council of Governments (PACOG) - John Adams (conference call).
- CDOT Headquarters: Debra Perkins-Smith, Tim Kirby, Marissa Gaughan, Mike King, Kathleen Collins, Gail Hoffman, Aaron Willis, Diane Boddicker, Michael Snow, William Johnson, Darius Pakbaz, Erik Sabina, Charles Meyer, and Eboni Younger-Riehl.
- CDOT Regions: Region 1 - Stephanie Holden and JoAnn Mattson; Region 2 - Karen Rowe and Wendy Pettit (conference call); Region 3 - Mark Rogers (conference call); and Region 4 - Karen Schneiders and Alana Koenig.
- FHWA: Bill Haas

**Spotlight: North Front Range MPO**

- CDOT is trying to give each MPO a chance to share information on particular programs of interest to other MPOs rather than asking the MPOs to take turns hosting.
- NFRMPO and Larimer County are working on developing a one call/one click center to connect transit and human services agencies with potential users. NFRMPO received a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant to establish the center, and may apply for two more grants. The NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee recently heard a presentation about the concept.

**Transportation Performance Measures**

- Reminder: MPOs must declare their own safety targets or declare their support for the Colorado safety targets by MPO Board Resolution and send copy to CDOT by February 28, 2019.
  - The board resolutions should go to William Johnson and Darius Pakbaz.
  - In connection with the Vision Zero goal of no deaths from traffic crashes, Charles Meyer said the Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch completed the scope of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), and should be ready to advertise for consultant assistance in a month or two.
  - Charles asked if DRCOG could time its Vision Zero Plan with the SHSP. A big focus of the Vision Zero Plan will be pedestrian safety.
- Transit TPM: MOU Update - CDOT Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

- Michael Snow reminded the group that he gave members a draft MOU between CDOT and transit providers and MPOs last month, and that the group agreed that each CDOT Region should have its own separate Memorandums of Understanding. He has created separate MOUs for each CDOT Region.
- The only suggestion for a change in language came from NFRMPO. NFRMPO wanted a statement that CDOT did not wish to impose requirements other than state and federal ones.
- Bill Haas said FHWA needs official notification that the MPOs have approved the MOUs before it can approve the STIP. The MPOs can provide that notification through their standard processes.

### **Information from Performance and Asset Management (PAM) Branch**

- William Johnson said PAM is going through the STIP to ascertain the average per year total investment in the National Highway System (NHS), both on- and off-system. He will send the information to the MPOs once it is gathered.
- Work on the Transportation Asset Management Plan is in process.
- Nick Mesenbrink of the GIS unit at CDOT has already met with DRCOG and NFRMPO about correcting MPO boundaries in CDOT GIS maps. Comments on this were:
  - DRCOG - Jacob Riger asked about funding implications of changing boundaries that Nick had mentioned. William said MPO boundary changes could cause unknown variances in indirect processes. For example, the Department of Local Affairs and the Department of Regulatory Affairs agencies often use CDOT boundary data as their authoritative data source. Jacob also suggested CDOT develop a policy for determining MPO boundaries when they follow a road. For example, does the boundary go down the middle of a road, or to each side? This is not a problem for DRCOG, since MPO boundaries follow county lines. William said he does not think CDOT needs a policy, and that perhaps a standard set of business rules could suffice.
  - NFRMPO - The MPO sent its detailed shapefiles to CDOT.

### **Title VI: MPO Annual Goals and Accomplishment Reports - Eboni Younger-Riehl, CDOT Civil Rights & Business Resource Center (CRBRC)**

- Eboni said the CRBRC is changing the way it collects information annually from MPOs about their compliance with Title VI. Title VI provides that: "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits, or be subjected to discrimination under any program activity received Federal financial assistance."
- The CRBRC used to ask for separate plans, one for FTA and one for FHWA. Now only one report is required.
- The recommended format for the Title VI plan is the FTA Title VI template in addition to the components of the Title VI checklist.
- A survey that CRBRC will send to the MPOs will be the vehicle for the annual goals and accomplishments report.

- In August, the resource center will send a survey about Title VI compliance. The resource center last issued a survey about a year ago.

### **Statewide Travel Survey - Erik Sabina, CDOT Information Management Branch**

#### Follow-up from January SWMPO Meeting Discussion

- At the end of a long discussion, Erik said he would bring detailed information to the next Statewide MPO meeting on possible survey options, estimated costs, number of households, and potential benefits.
- Bill Haas of FHWA said possible sources of money for a travel survey are Surface Transportation Program - Metro (STP-M) funds for the MPOs and State Planning and Research (SPR) funds for CDOT.
- The following points were made during the discussion:
  - To investigate whether it would be best to ask people to submit to a survey for a single day or multiple days, a consultant could perform a pilot involving about 100 people.
  - Using a cell phone-based survey would be easier for participants and the consultant firm, but has a few drawbacks. Cell phone numbers are difficult to identify as belonging to Colorado residents, and not every Colorado resident has a cell phone.
  - Big data sources are another possibility for information on travel patterns.
  - Understanding weekend travel is becoming more useful.
  - A broad-brush estimate of costs for the MPOs would be about \$250-\$350 per household, with the number of households surveyed in each MPO based on population. For the 2010 Front Range Travel Survey, for example, the consultant firm surveyed 12,000 households: 7,000 in DRCOG, 3,400 in PPACG, 1,500 in NFRMPO, and 100 in PACOG.
  - In 2010, the total cost came to \$4.4 million, which included sub-samples of 400 GPS trackers (when cell phones were not as widely used as today), a cordon survey, and a commercial vehicle survey.
  - Initial reaction of the larger MPOs included:
    - Ron Papsdorf said DRCOG has good data on travel patterns. He is not certain that spending that much money would make much sense.
    - Becky Karasko of NFRMPO said she needs definitive information.
    - John Liosatos of PPACG said it is important for the MPOs to know the cost first before deciding what the cost-benefit ratio might be.
  - CDOT should be cautious about relying too much on chatting with consultants to obtain information on state-of-the-art surveying techniques. They all have their own interests.
  - Erik said he has also talked with other state DOTs that have conducted statewide travel surveys, particularly Ohio, and to as many surveying consultants as possible.
  - The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has some interest in participating.
  - The survey would begin with a pilot in spring 2020, with most of the surveying done in 2020-2021.

### **CDOT Statewide Plan and MPO Long-Range Plan Updates & Coordination - Roundtable**

- Marissa Gaughan said the Statewide Plan (SWP) Committee of the Transportation Commission (TC) decided to accept the STAC recommendations on all funding sources, including for FASTER Safety, at its Feb. 20 meeting. The STAC decision on

the FASTER Safety funds relied on a policy directive. Some commissioners wanted CDOT to be more pro-active about safety. Staff is planning a workshop on FASTER Safety.

- On the Regional Priority Program (RPP) funding formula, Debra Perkins-Smith said the SWP Committee did not reach consensus. All the SWP Committee members wanted more money set aside for RPP. The RPP distribution formula should not be the basis for distribution of other types of funding, they agreed. The SWP Committee discussed the purpose of RPP money, the historic use and amounts, and equitable distribution between urban and rural sections of the state. Commissioner Steven Hofmeister at first said he wanted to see how much money CDOT funnels to the Front Range, but later retracted his request.
- The full TC will take up the RPP formula at a workshop next month.
- Ron Papsdorf of DRCOG asked if the \$50 million/per year pot for RPP money could be increased to give all CDOT Regions and MPOs an acceptable amount of RPP flexible funding under Option B. Option B is DRCOG's preference. In the past, any redistribution funds CDOT received would go to RPP, but now goes into the TC reserve.
- Ron Papsdorf that the MPOs are donors to the rest of the state.
- The STAC decided to use four factors in its recommended RPP formula as a reaction to the TC's decision last time to use only three factors, which included population.
- Marissa said she would provide a schedule for SWP development to the MPOs once she knows more about priorities of the new CDOT administration under CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew.

#### MPO Updates - Roundtable

- *DRCOG* - DRCOG adopted its first-ever Active Transportation Plan. It has completed the 2030 Mobility Choice Blueprint report with its partners (CDOT, RTD, and the Denver Metro Chamber). The MPO also is starting a local government micro-mobility work group, a regional Vision Zero safety plan, and a multimodal freight plan.
- *GVMPO* - GVMPO is working with Erik Sabina, Shahida Mirza and Juan Robles of the CDOT Information Management Branch on the 2045 travel model update. The work staff for the 2045 RTP currently is limited to the yet-to-be-chosen consultant team and Dean Bressler, the senior transportation planner and engineer. The 2045 RTP will kick off as soon as the MPO issues a request for proposals and selects a consultant. The MPO will support the CDOT safety target. Three positions are open at the MPO: a regional transportation planning manager, a mobility manager, and a transit coordinator. Dean urged those present to consider applying for any one of the positions.
- *NFRMPO* - The 2045 regional transportation plan (RTP) update is under way, with the first set of sections to the Technical Advisory Committee this month for review. The MPO has extended the Travel Demand Model update to this March. Development of the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is taking place, with the aim of adoption in May. The FY 2022-2023 call for projects will go to the Planning Council meeting in March for approval.
- *PACOG* - Safety targets will support CDOT's targets and the board should approve them on Feb. 28. A draft request for proposals for the 2045 long-range plan is under review and should be ready for advertisement in mid-March. The 2020 draft TIP is prepared for public comment and approval in April. The Transit Administration/Maintenance relocation study has narrowed sites down to three for evaluation. The draft bicycle/pedestrian plan also is in process.

- *PPACG* - The MPO has completed performance measures for the 2045 RTP, and drafted a project list. PPACG has hired a new technology and innovation lead, who will start work on March 4. For the 2045 RTP, PPACG will be doing travel demand and land use models. The Transportation and Technology Summit took place Feb. 4; presentations made at the summit are on YouTube.

### CDOT Updates

Tim Kirby urged all to review the TC packet for February, in particular the section on budgets and finances. He said that section has a number of future implications that all should understand.

### Other Business

The MPO schedule to spotlight activities is:

- PACOG - March
- DRCOG - April
- FHWA - May
- PPACG - June
- GVMPO - July
- CDOT - August

### Future Agenda Topics

- Transportation Performance Management is a standing agenda item
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Population Control Totals
- DOLA Demography Office Presentation tailored to MPOs
- Freight items to be included in RTPs (Becky Karasko)
- Functional classification guidance (DRCOG) - on backburner right now