

# Planning Connections - June 2016

*CDOT planning news you can use.*

## Climate Change Workshop Set for July 14 in Denver

CDOT is hosting an all-day workshop on July 14 in Denver for Colorado's transportation planning leaders on *How to Consider Climate Change Adaptation in the Transportation Planning Process*. The workshop is sponsored by the Transportation Research Board and designed in collaboration with other Colorado state agencies, recognizing the valuable research and guidance provided in Colorado's *2015 Climate Plan* and the *Colorado Resiliency Framework*.

Dr. Michael Meyer, a climate change expert, will serve as the workshop moderator and will share information about activities that are being conducted nationwide. A panel of transportation professionals from other state DOTs and MPOs will share what they have done in their respective organizations along with the lessons they've learned and the tools they utilized. Also joining us as keynote speaker is Susan Joy Hassol, an expert in communicating climate change to an array of audiences.

The workshop will begin with an overview of the national and local framework for climate change planning as it relates to Colorado, including the mitigation and adaptation planning work that has been done in Colorado already. Following this introduction, workshop participants will benefit from short presentations and open discussion with four panelists representing two MPOs and two state transportation departments who have implemented various climate change adaptation planning efforts. Following a luncheon keynote address by Susan Joy Hassol, participants will focus on breakout workshops and discussion on tools and challenges in discussing climate change considerations in the transportation planning process. Participants will leave the workshop with information and tools to help facilitate climate change planning in their respective organizations.

Invitations have gone out to select leaders in Colorado's MPOs and TPRs, from key CDOT divisions, and other state agencies. Due to budget constraints, participation is limited; however, CDOT planning staff will share key information and workshop results via a webinar in late summer or early fall of this year. For information on the workshop, contact [Michael Snow](#) in the Multimodal Planning Branch.

## Updated Bike/Ped Policy Approved

At its May meeting in Steamboat Springs, the Transportation Commission approved the updated and renamed [CDOT Policy 1602 "Elevating Bicycle and Pedestrian Opportunities in Colorado"](#) as part the consent agenda. Although the policy has been in place since 2009, it required a review beginning in the fall of 2015. As a result of a thorough vetting, the policy re-commits CDOT's support to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians by:

- Requiring CDOT to include the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning, design, operation and maintenance of transportation facilities as a "necessary component" of all programs and activities;
- Listing the three "exemption criteria" for not including the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians rather than placing such criteria in another directive;

- Requiring documentation of reasons *before* the final decision is made to not consider the needs of bicyclist and pedestrian; and
- Specifying that the policy applies to all branches, divisions, regions, and offices of CDOT and consultants working for CDOT and to all projects overseen by CDOT or within CDOT right of way.

Any decision to not accommodate the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning, design, and operation of transportation facilities must be based on at least one or more of the following exemption criteria:

- Bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the roadway; or
- The cost of establishing bikeways or walkways would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use. (Excessively disproportionate is defined as exceeding 20 percent of the cost of the larger transportation project); or
- Where scarcity of population or other factors indicate an absence of need.

Requirements of the bicycle and pedestrian program will be outlined in a revised Procedural Directive 1602.1, currently being finalized. For additional information, contact [Betsy Jacobsen](#) in the Multimodal Planning Branch.

### TSMO Plans, FHWA Application Focus on TDM and Interstate Operations

The Transportation Systems Management and Operations Division (TSMO) is working on two plans that are expected to be completed in December 2016 and on an FHWA grant application for I-25. The plans are:

- The *I-70 Mountain Corridor Operations Plan*. Strategies to improve safety, reliability, and mobility on the interstate will be identified. The project team has received excellent input from Region 1 and Region 3 staff.
- The *Statewide Transportation Demand Management Plan*. TDM strategies that are being implemented statewide will be included, as well as an estimate of the number of trips saved. The plan also will recommend strategies with high benefit-cost ratios for future implementation.

TSMO is coordinating with Region 1 and RoadX staff to develop the FHWA application for "Advance Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment". If awarded, funding would be applied to the I-25 Managed Motorways project, which would coordinate the operation of ramp meters on 14 interchanges on I-25 between University south to Ridge Gate in order to optimize traffic flow and reliability. The I-25 Managed Motorways project also will provide:

- Real-time travel information for northbound commuters taking either light rail or I-25
- The number of parking spaces available among the 7,000 parking spaces on the RTD park and ride lots
- Safety alerts to commuters on traffic incidents, crashes, and detours

For additional information, contact [Lisa Streisfeld](#) in TSMO.

### 'Project First' Launches Collaborative Approach

CDOT is working collaboratively with the Colorado Contractor's Association (CCA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) to enhance working relationships on construction projects through an effort called [Project First](#). Project First is expected to better serve CDOT transportation projects through these steps:

- Joint training with both CDOT and contractor employees - Existing training will be examined and new training developed that CDOT and contractor employees can jointly attend.
- Risk assessment tool - Used to identify risks on construction projects for both CDOT and contractors.
- Issues identification and tracking log - The intent of this tool is to quickly identify issues in a timely and efficient manner as they arise.
- CDOT and CCA charter - A charter defining how CDOT and CCA will work together is being developed.
- Partnering survey - A survey about partnering has been distributed to involved parties.
- Review of partnering specification - The contract specification on partnering will be reviewed to emphasize defining partnering session attendees and issues.

For additional information, contact [Scott McDaniel](#), Director of the Division of Project Support.

### Updates in Brief

- **Capital Development Committee (CDC) Requests** - CDOT submits requests for funding through the CDC in late July of every year. Regions and Divisions are asked to submit potential requests by June 30. Additional information is forthcoming. Questions and requests can be directed to [Tim Kirby](#).
- **Development Program** - Region staff are working to identify the “top” priorities, with TPR/MPO input, from the [Development Program](#) inventory of major investment needs for inclusion in a \$2.5 billion 10-Year Development Program. Regions have been asked to complete this process by the end of September.
- **Economic Analysis to Support Planning** - [Oana Deselnicu](#) recently joined the Multimodal Planning Branch as an economist. Oana will be providing analytical support to a number of ongoing efforts, and leading new projects/initiatives relating to the economic benefits of transportation investment.
- **Freight Planning** - The Multimodal Freight Plan/State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan will begin in July or early August with kickoffs with the [FAC](#), [STAC](#), and [TRAC](#). Staff are also reviewing criteria and conducting analysis to help in designating Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors as part of the FAST Act National Highway Freight Network, with further discussion with planning partners planned this summer.
- **RUC Pilot** - An internal kick-off of the CDOT Road Usage Charge (RUC) Pilot took place in early June, with the public pilot anticipated in late 2016/early 2017. CDOT is also participating in a grant application submitted by a consortium of western states for a regional RUC project.
- **Planning Process** - The results of the SWP Lessons Learned initiative are being synthesized in a report. A project is planned for fall to build on the outcomes, solicit additional input on what is desired out of the next long-range planning process, identify best practices in other states, and develop a framework for moving forward including how to leverage new capabilities in economic analysis, travel modeling, scenario planning, etc.
- **Policy Directive 14.0** - A PD 14.0 TC Workshop is planned for August, to precede the annual budget cycle, and will include a report on current status in meeting performance objectives. Consideration of updated or additional performance measures will occur at TC meetings in the fall.
- **RoadX and Technology Planning** - Multimodal Planning Branch staff are continuing to coordinate with colleagues throughout CDOT to support the RoadX Program with these technology planning projects: integrating technology into planning and environmental linkages (PEL), establishing guidance for managed lanes corridors, and developing plans and

materials for stakeholder outreach and education. Most recently, CDOT has begun to incorporate FHWA perspectives and requirements into the deliverables that the working group and project teams produce.

- **Safety in the Planning Process Workshop** - CDOT hosted a four-hour workshop for CDOT Region and headquarters staff on June 1 with Dr. Jake Kononov to examine existing methodology for considering safety in the planning process, identify its advantages and disadvantages, and review a blueprint of a new procedure to include safety in the next statewide and regional transportation plans. MPB is checking with the Regional Planners on the best way to engage our planning partners, the rural TPRs and the MPOs.
- **Statewide MPO** - Changes are planned to future SW MPO meetings, which will include MPO-hosted SW MPO meetings five months of the year, rotating around the state. The first of the MPO-hosted meetings is scheduled for July 12 at NFRMPO.
- **Transportation Planning Final Regulations** - DTD staff is reviewing the slides and recording of an FHWA June 14 webinar to determine the statewide and non-metro planning regulations that are mandatory and those that are suggested. DTD staff also plans to coordinate with FHWA and CDOT Regions on CDOT's implementation of the planning regulations. The slides and recording have been posted under [Planning Final Rule](#) on the FHWA website. The webinar will be repeated on July 13; click [here](#) to register for the free webinar.
- **C-Plan Enhancements Underway** -C-Plan is scheduled to have a comments collection, survey, and crowd sourcing functions in the near future. The CDOT Regions also will be surveyed on how they use C-Plan to help determine what other enhancements may be needed. Several maps, galleries, and apps are on C-Plan, which is a cloud-based platform that allows online and on-demand map building. The MPB planning gallery improvements include a few ESRI Webapps. To view C-Plan, go to [www.coloradotransportationmatters.com](http://www.coloradotransportationmatters.com) and pan over the Statewide Transportation Plan tab to see the dropdown list with C-Plan. Contact [Kathleen Collins](#) for more information.
- **Telephone Town Halls Begin** - To date, CDOT has hosted four telephone town halls that had a peak attendance of 4,500 in the Denver metro area, Eastern, Northwest, and Southeast Transportation Commission Districts. Five more telephone town halls are planned through mid-July. The telephone town halls are the initial public outreach effort of Together We Go, a CDOT-led effort to develop annual two-way conversations with stakeholder groups and the public about transportation issues and planning. In July, conversations with our urban and rural planning partners will begin. For more information, check the [Together We Go](#) webpage.

### Transportation Commission and STAC

- A summary of the May 18-19 Transportation Commission meetings are available on the [STAC Website](#).
- Minutes from the May 20 Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee meeting also are available on the [STAC Website](#).

### Upcoming Meetings

- June 23 - Statewide Planning Team meeting
- June 24 - Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) and Statewide MPO meeting

*If you have suggestions for topics, updates to submit, etc. please submit to [gail.hoffman@state.co.us](mailto:gail.hoffman@state.co.us).*