



**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

## **Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)**

*This meeting will be hosted virtually*

**February 1, 2024**

**8:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

### ***Agenda***

| <b>Time</b> | <b>Agenda Topic</b>   |
|-------------|---|
| 8:30-8:35   | <b>Welcome and Introductions – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair</b>   |
| 8:35-8:40   | <b>Approval of the January Meeting Minutes - Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair</b>   |
| 8:40-8:55   | <b>CDOT Update on Current Events (Informational Update) – Herman Stockinger, CDOT Deputy Director</b>   |
| 8:55-9:05   | <b>Transportation Commission Report (Informational Update) – Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summary report of the most recent Transportation Commission meeting</li></ul>   |
| 9:05-9:30   | <b>Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Overview (Informational Update) - Kay Kelly, Chief of Innovative Mobility &amp; Paul Desrocher, Director, Division of Transit &amp; Rail</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of the 2024 Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan</li></ul>  |
| 9:30-10:00  | <b>TPR Representative and Federal Partners Reports (Informational Update)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updates from STAC members and federal agencies</li></ul>  |
| 10:00-10:10 | <b>Break</b>  |
| 10:10-10:20 | <b>Legislative Report (Informational Update) – Emily Haddaway and Jamie Grim CDOT Office of Policy and Government Relations (OPGR)</b>  |
| 10:20-10:45 | <b>2045 Statewide Plan Lessons Learned (Informational Update) – Darius Pakbaz, Director, Division of Transportation Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A review of the lessons learned from Colorado's 2045 Statewide Transportation Plan</li></ul>  |
| 10:45-11:00 | <b>Other Business - Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STAC members are encouraged to track ongoing Colorado legislative efforts via the Transportation Legislation Review Committee webpage:<br/><a href="https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/transportation-legislation-review-committee/2024-regular-session">https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/transportation-legislation-review-committee/2024-regular-session</a></li></ul> |

STAC Website: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/planning-partners/stac.html>

# Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time: Thursday, January 4, 2024;  
8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

## [STAC Meeting January 4, 2024 Recording](#)

### **Attendance:**

**Denver Area:** Nicholas Williams, and Ron Papsdorf  
**Central Front Range:** Dwayne McFall, and Dick Elsner  
**Eastern:** Gary Beedy  
**Grand Valley:** Dana Brosig and Rachel Peterson  
**Gunnison Valley:** Vince Rogalski, Roger Rash, and Michelle Haynes  
**Intermountain:** Brian Pettet, Dana WoMeeting Recording Time Stamp 00:00:00od  
**North Front Range:** Scott James and Suzette Mallette  
**Northwest:** Heather Sloop and Brian Cerkenik  
**Pikes Peak Area:** Holly Williams, John Liosatos, Jessica Bechtel, and Danelle Miller  
**Pueblo Area:** Eva Cosyleon and Wendy Pettit  
**San Luis Valley:** Keith Baker, Hew Hallock, and Vern Heersink  
**South Central:** Brian Blasi  
**Southeast:** Stephanie Gonzales  
**Southwest:** Sarah Hill and Jim Candelaria  
**Upper Front Range:** Jon Becker, Kevin Ross, and Elizabeth Relford  
**Southern Ute Tribe:** None  
**Ute Mountain Ute:** None  
**Federal Transit Administration:** Emma Belmont, Julia Wcislo  
**Federal Highway Administration:** Bill Haas  
**Transportation Commissioners:** Eula Adams, Jim Kelly, Shelley Cook, and Barbara Bowman

1. **Welcome and Introductions -Vince Rogalski, STAC Vice-Chair ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 00:04:01](#))**
  - The meeting commenced at approximately 8:35 by Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair.
2. **Approval of the November 2023 STAC Meeting Minutes - Vince Rogalski, STAC Vice Chair ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 00:08:05](#))**
  - Meeting notes from the November 2023 STAC meeting were approved by the STAC membership by motion of Commissioner Elsner and seconded by Commissioner Ross.

### 3. CDOT Update (Informational Update) - Herman Stockinger, CDOT Deputy Executive Director ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 00:12:21](#))

- TC took action to approve the fees for utilizing CDOT ROW to lay fiber - The TC was required to establish fees and was behind schedule for the timeline identified by executive order and state statute. CDOT feels the fees are very modest, and was glad to see fees established.
- Workshopped with Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise (BTE) over the past couple of months to established a bonding program for the big projects are coming up, i.e., Floyd Hill and I-270. The intent is to get the bond program TC approved in January 2024.
- The PD 1601 Interchange improvements request along I-76 in Weld County, will have a workshop on this January 2024, and we anticipate the TC will take action next month.
- The Performance and Asset Management Branch will provide an overview of the status of our Asset Management Program.
- The 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan process will be introduced to the TC and will be presented with an overview of the transportation planning process and policies, similar to what was presented at this STAC meeting.
- TC is scheduled to open the planning rulemaking session this month, on January 18, 2024 as part of the requirements of HB 23-1101. See draft rules provided in the STAC packet that align with the staff recommendations of the TPR Study required by HB 23-1101. CDOT will file with the Secretary of the State by the end of January 2024. Planning Rules are also to add a new state definition of the disproportionately impacted communities.

### 4. Transportation Commission (TC) Report (Informational Update) - Vince Rogalski, STAC Chair ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 00:08:48](#))

- Lots of public comments received regarding the fiberoptic broadband fee structure for installation in CDOT right-of way, opposition to the annual fees. Fees were adopted by the TC.
- Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise and their 10-Year Plan.
- Legislative Report with a list of legislative priorities for CDOT and the Transportation Legislative Review Committee.
- Awards for initiatives - Process Improvements awardees announced.

### 5. TPR Representative and Federal Partner Reports ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 00:11:39](#))

- Central Front Range TPR - Cold and not much snow, we need some snow. TPR meeting is planned for this coming Monday. Working through the winter in Fairplay is impressive, with no snow to interfere with construction.
- Eastern - Last TPR meeting was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> - main discussion was TPR bylaws to move forward for the next TPR meeting planned for March. We think we have what is needed incorporated. Looking at shifting funding from the 10-Year Plan to more critical pavement improvement projects in the TPR.
- Grand Valley MPO - At the December Board meeting we said goodbye to Kathy Hall as the Transportation Commissioner and welcomed Barbara Bowman. Kathy Hall was critical in the creation of the Grand Valley Transit (GVT) 20 years ago, and will be missed. We are excited to work with Barbara Bowman. Amended our UPWP and TIP and PTAS (Safety Action Plan for Transit) documents. Bus Maintenance Facility has 60% of design completed and the ordered buses are coming in. Moving on the Travel Demand Model update and working on our Safe Streets for All Action Plan.
- Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Met twice since the last STAC meeting. The 2023 Active modes crash report for 2015-2019. reports on Traffic Congestion with the total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) below pre-covid levels, when we experienced different peak travel times with a shift from early morning to mid-day. Transit ridership is still down but is increasing. the updated travel demand management strategic plan was adopted.
- Gunnison Valley TPR - Not much going on. We don't have any snow in Gunnison Valley. Little Blue Creek Canyon is open in both directions along US 50, and CDOT will work on finishing touches of

construction, which includes installing new paving, signing, painting, etc. to finish up in June 2024. Noted conflicts with other TPR meeting times, hoping for a February 8 TPR meeting. Airport construction is completed. Jet bridges installed. Signed a contract for temporary light in front of the airport. Ninety percent completed on plans for the new intersection airport entrance. We are seeking grant funds to support these improvements.

- Intermountain TPR- The next meeting is January 19. Acknowledged NWCOG's Dana Wood as the new staff member there. IMPTR is looking at our bylaws and the IGA to be sure they are good. Waiting to know the final TPR boundary decisions.
- North Front Range MPO - Planning Council was held on November 7, where the election of the 2024 leadership was conducted. John Malo is the MPO Chair, and serves as the Loveland Mayor Pro Tem, and the STAC Representative is Johnny Olson, I will continue to serve as the past Chair of the NFRMPO. On November 7 opened I-25 Segments 6-8 at the Centerra Mobility Hub. Thanked Executive Director Lew and Governor Polis for attending and for their support. This is Commissioner James' last meeting as the STAC representative, Johnny Olson is the STAC Rep now. Commissioner Jamies noted he will continue to be actively involved in Transportation.
- Northwest TPR- Not met since last STAC meeting doing elections on January 11<sup>th</sup> and to determine who to take care of the NWTPR website and meeting scheduling, as Steamboat Springs may not be able to do. There is potential for Fraser to take this on. Did go to the Board of County Commissioners in Grand County on Dec 12. Red Dirt Hill plans to commence phase 1 in 2025. A speed study from Tabernash to Granby speed to be lowered from 65 to 60 mph. Rick Ridderis main focus is passenger rail from Denver to Craig, and wildlife corridors, where the gold standard is Kremmling to Silverthorn. Thank you to CDOT Region 1 - for Berthoud Pass for snow removal. Heather Sloop explained that elections are planned for NWTPR next week, and that it may be her last meeting as a STAC representative, but she was honored to serve, regardless.
- Pikes Peak Council of Governments (PPACG) - Approved community economic development study. Today have an STAC update from Shane Ferguson on Region 2.
- Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) - Board last met in October - still working on complete streets and working on the Travel Demand Model update to finish in next few months. A call for projects for MMOF and CPG funding should be awarded next month. A request for proposal (RFP\_ on Honor Blvd is in the works with construction to be underway.
- San Luis Valley TPR - Last TPR meeting was November 9. The SLV Transit Council - Chaffee Shuttle - now is Mountain Valley Transit. Shared the link to their website. Harriet Alexander Field large EPA grant was awarded to mitigate underground fuel storage tanks. Commission Baker is stepping aside as Chair. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> SLVTPR will hold elections for the Chair and the STAC representative. There will be a February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting that is remote for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) representative seat on their committee also needs to be filled. Not much snow here.
- South Central TPR - October was the last TPR meeting, the next meeting is Jan 25<sup>th</sup>. A road and mill pile along I-25 is a question from Commissioner Galusha that Region 2 will respond to.
- Southeast TPR - Lamar Main Street project is close to completion. US 385 north of Grenada, weather is fair this year. Review of the draft bylaws to adopt at the next meeting or in April is anticipated. Our Regional Transit program is to start in March - waiting on wrapping of buses for SETRAN and working to get drivers. For Otero to Prowers Counties the intent is to expand routes along US287. Worked on bugs of the dispatching platform and uber for transit tools. This all will make scheduling easier. We have several MMOF projects underway. The next SETPR meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) - None
- Southwest PTR -TPR did not have a quorum at our snowy December 14 meeting, but carried on with discussion of the agenda. The election of officers was scheduled, but the election was deferred to February. While myself and Jim Candelaria are willing to continue serving as Chair and Vice Chair if there is no other interest. We reviewed administrative edits to TPR bylaws such as meeting time and location. There were no substantial changes recommended. We discussed the broadband ROW access fee. Acknowledging the need and importance of a fee structure, the consensus of the SWTPR was that the proposal may create obstacles for broadband deployment in rural areas. The members present approved a letter requesting the TC to vote against the fee, which was circulated by email to the remaining members. The letter was signed and sent to TC.

- Upper Front Range TPR - TPR meeting held in December - Elected Morgan County Commissioner as Chair, Jon Becker, and Weld County Commissioner Kevin Ross as Vice Chair. Heard from the new TC member Jim Kelly. Denver Metro Air Quality Conformity Determination presentation was provided from DRCOG, TPR Study recommendations were overviewed, and Larimer County presented on CMAQ projects, The MMOF call for projects was released, and CDOT's Brian Varrella gave a presentation on CDOT Drainage 101, Hydrail was discussed - the concept to create hydrogen using solar and assessing viability of this technology in Colorado. The next TPR meeting is in March.
- Ute Mountain Ute (UMU) - None
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - None
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - No FY 24 Apportionments yet. Planning for a partial apportionment for five months.

## 6. CDOT Legislative Report – Herman Stockinger, Emily Haddaway and Jamie Grim, CDOT Office of Policy and Government Relations ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 00:43:58](#))

### Legislative Report from Emily Haddaway, CDOT State Legislative Liaison

- Legislative Session to begin on January 10, 2024.
- This session will have a heavily transportation-focus
- CDOT's agenda for legislative session in 2024 includes emphasis on:
  - Safety - Distracted driving - no hands free law yet - CDOT supports such a bill.
  - Cleaning up a bill expand the use of automated vehicle information systems that will use speed cameras to enforce speed limits and
  - Reduce crashes of Commercial Motor Vehicles via a chain law expansion,
  - Expand transit and passenger rail
  - Other bill topics where CDOT will provide support to entities that drafting bills:
    - Housing and strategic growth are other bills
    - Lane filtering for motorcycles
    - Broadband
    - Improving Work Zone Safety
    - Raising the CDOT maintenance cap before going to bid - prefer to increase this dollar amount.
  - STAC member, Gary Beedy, requested access to review the draft bills.

### Federal Legislative Update - Jamie Grim, CDOT Federal and Local Government Liaison

- Facing potential government shutdown of a portion of the federal government.
- A full budget by January 19, 2024 is required to avoid a shutdown. Four of twelve agencies will shut down including USDOT. Many legislators anticipate a continuing resolution.
- Key Issues: Funding for US and Mexico border migration issues, conflicts in the Middle East and the Ukraine.
- President Biden signed a continuing resolution for FAA until March 8, 2024.

## 7. Transportation Planning 101 – Marissa Gaughan, Multimodal Planning Branch ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 01:04:20](#))

- An overview of Planning Partner and Public engagement was covered. Key planning documents and the process from Statewide Vision to Achievable reality were described.
- A review and update of the 10-Year Plan was also provided.

**8. Asset Management Update – William Johnson and Toby Manthey, Performance and Asset Management Branch ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 01:31:50](#))**

- A review and update of the Asset Management program was reviewed. Asset performance requirements both state and federal were also overviewed.
- CDOT's rank nationally for pavement condition is quite low.
- Additional funds are needed for CDOT to receive a higher rank for certain categories of asset condition.

**9. Colorado Freight Plan Update – Craig Hurst and Erica Denney, CDOT Freight Mobility and Safety Branch ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 02:12:33](#))**

- The Colorado Freight Plan was drafted in time in order for CDOT to continue to spend National Freight Highway Program (NHFP) dollars. It is a strategic plan and does not include a freight project list.
- The public outreach process and results for the plan were outlined.
- Hot topics from stakeholders included: transparency, safe and clean transportation, efficiency and availability of statewide transit, economic partnerships, traffic capacity and bottlenecks and modal diversity.
- Each major topic included strategies to address issues and enhance the safety and mobility of freight in Colorado.
- Freight safety, mobility, maintenance, economic vitality, sustainability and resilience, were all analyzed in the plan.
- The NHFP update was presented with focus areas of truck safety, freight operations and clean transportation.
- Next steps include the FHWA approving the Freight Investment Plan (freight project list of NHFP funded projects), an appendix to the Colorado Freight Plan, sometime in March 2024.

**10. Region 2 Update – Shane Ferguson, CDOT Region 2 Transportation Director ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 02:52:32](#))**

- Projects overviewed included: Military Access Mobility and Safety Improvements Project (MAMSIP) (along CO 94, South Academy Blvd., and I-25), US 285/CO9, Airport Blvd./Powers Road Diverging Diamond Interchange, I-25/US 50B Interchange, Region 2 Bridge Bundle Design Build, N-17-AD Bridge Replacement, I-25 Train Derailment Response, and Wildlife Mitigation Efforts.

**11. STAC Work Plan – Darius Pakbaz, CDOT Division of Transportation Development Director ([Meeting Recording Time Stamp 03:11:11](#))**

- MPB staff is finalizing the STAC 2024 Work Plan and intends this plan to be a living document. One item will reserve time to discuss 2050 SWP elements. The draft work plan was reviewed.

**Next STAC Meeting**

The next STAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 8:30 am** and will be held virtually.

# Transportation Commission (TC) Meeting Notes -DRAFT January 17-18, 2024

## Workshops

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Youtube link: [Transportation Commission January 17, 2024 Workshop](#)

## Transportation Commission Workshop

### Attendance

All 11 Transportation Commissioners were present: Chair: Karen Stuart, Vice Chair: Terry Hart, Eula Adams, Yessica Holguin, Mark Garcia, Shelley Cook, Hannah Parsons, Barbara Bowman, Jim Kelly and Rick Ridder, and Megan Vasquez.

Budget Workshop (Decision) - Jeff Sudmeier, Bethany Nichols, and Jessica Myklebust [Recording Timestamp 00:03:00](#)

### Purpose and Actions:

Budget Amendment - To review the fourth budget amendment to the FY 2023-24 Annual Budget in accordance with Policy Directive (PD) 703.0. The Division of Accounting and Finance (DAF) is requesting the Transportation Commission (TC) to review and adopt the fourth budget amendment to the FY 2023-24 Annual Budget, which consists of one item that requires TC approval. The fourth budget amendment 1) reallocates \$0.3 million from the Commission Reserve Funds line (Line 73) to the Safety Education line (Line 75) for the final payment of a study of devices assessing motorist impairment pursuant to HB 22- 1321.

### Budget Supplement -

The purpose of this budget supplement request is to request approval from the Transportation Commission for a project budget increase of \$3,951,153 (+24% of total project budget) in order to Award the 23861 US50A Resurfacing Coaldale to Salida project. The project crosses both Region 2 and 5 Engineering and Maintenance boundaries, and involves significant coordination between both regions. The project bid opened on December 7, 2023. The Transportation Commission is being asked to approve this funding request so that CDOT can award the project to the low bidder.

Amounts of project fund changes for the Budget Supplement include:

- \$5,318,426 - Decrease #0085 US 550 Pacochupuk South Roadway Mobility, Safety, and Wildlife Improvements
- \$5,318,426 - Increase #1339 US 160 Pagosa Springs' Main Street Reconstruction and Multimodal Improvements
- Information only - \$1,583,474 will be taken from the Cost Escalation Fund for the Region 4 - SH119 Nederland West project.



- CDOT Region 1 - Contingency Reserve request for \$1,780,000 for C470/I70 WB Emergency Bridge Repair.

**Discussion:**

- No discussion

**C-470 and I 70 STructure Emergency Repair (Decision) (Structure No. F-16-KW) - Jessica Myklebust [Recording Timestamp 00:07:14](#)**

**Purpose and Actions:**

- CDOT Region 1 is requesting \$1,780,000 from the Transportation Commission Program Reserve for the emergency work associated with the C-470 over I-70 Bridge Impact Damage (Structure F-16-KW). The requested action is the approval of the requested Transportation Commission Program Reserve funding.

**Discussion:**

- Commissioner Garcia inquired whether insurance would reimburse CDOT to cover the \$1.78 million repair. If funds are recovered in a reasonable timeframe, funds will be put towards the TC contingency request, otherwise the funds are received and placed in the miscellaneous category. Insurance recovery efforts often take multiple fiscal years.
- Commissioner Yessica Holguin inquired about the percentage of funds CDOT is generally able to recover from insurance. Additional analysis will be required from risk management to make data available to answer this question per Jeff Sudmeier.

**Region 1 Update (Informational) - Jessica Myklebust [Recording Timestamp 00:15:42](#)**

**Purpose and Actions:**

- To provide the TC an update of Region 1 projects and accomplishments. Key information covered included:
  - Region 1 Status for 39 million in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), Population is over 3M, 4,100 of Lane Miles, 8.5 Counties, 56 local agencies, and 750+ employees - 5 Engineering Sections and 2 Maintenance Sections
  - Major projects covered included: I-70 West: Floyd Hill, Eisenhower Johnson Memorial Tunnel Repairs, I-270 Improvements (I-25 to I-70), US 6 and Wadsworth Blvd Interchange, Regional Arterial Bus Rapid Transit, West Metro Bridges Replacement, and I-70 Wooden Noise Wall Replacement.
  - Maintenance and Operations activities for 2023 included: 24/7 operations with firefighting capabilities, Snow fighting operations 1.35 million miles, Broomed 6,500 miles of shoulders, ramps and flyovers, Patched potholes - 20,399 sq. yards of concrete and asphalt, Removed 18,358 cubic yards of debris, and cover 86% of incident responses across the state. Work included cleaning homeless encampments, covered the I-25 coordinated ramp metering project, and the Greenland Wildlife overpass project.
  - Shared information about Region 1 employee social gatherings, and how appreciated Region 1 staff is appreciated for all they do.

**Discussion:**



- Commissioner Adams asked for clarification about the distinction between CDOT's jurisdiction and the jurisdiction of municipalities and other agencies in terms of debris removal responsibilities. Commissioner Myklebust detailed the Colorado revised statute which states that CDOT jurisdiction is generally from curb to curb. However, CDOT will occasionally aid in cleanups outside of its specified jurisdiction. Commissioner Adams also mentioned Lone Tree and Lincoln ramp metering causes concerns with local bottlenecks with communities. Region 1 is aware and looking into this via the ramp metering project - the pilot for I-25 ended, and the need for future analysis in other locations is recognized.
- Commissioner Cook inquired about mutual aid agreements for Berthoud pass and the conditions that were present over MLK weekend. Region 1 teams were on snow shift for 10 days in a row. Regions 1 and 3 cooperate very frequently especially along US 40, both Regions responded to the avalanche. Collaboration is necessary to deal with emergency situations such as avalanches, rockslides etc. It was a long weekend.

## Overview of CDOT Transportation Asset Management (Informational) - Darius Pakbaz, William Johnson, and Toby Manthey [Recording Timestamp 00:46:07](#)

### Purpose and Actions:

- This workshop provided an overview of the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Transportation Asset Management program. No action is requested, it is an information item only. Future TC meetings will cover decision items regarding asset management funding approval.
- No expanding the existing system, but maintaining the existing system based on data to extend the life of assets. Pushing a limited budget as far as it can go.
- 12 key assets covered: bridges, tunnels, walls, culverts, pavement, rest areas, buildings, geohazards, ITS, fleet, traffic signals, maintenance level of service.
- Each has a performance target and budget (CDOT's and a federal one too), with strategic investment as a priority.
- The final TAM list is approved by the at least two of the four- Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Engineer, and the Chief Financial Officer.
- TAM funds are multiple, not just the 10-Year Plan, and federal redistribution among others.
- Risk Management and Resiliency are also emphasis areas for the Asset Management Program. Major risks include: flood, post-fire debris flow, funding uncertainty, geohazards, cost uncertainty, and fire.

### Discussion:

- Commissioner Kelly inquired about the division in program funding and the condition of assets between rural and non-rural areas. Pavement condition has the best data available with annual reporting on investment in rural pavement. The 2023 FY saw about 800 million dollars spent on rural pavement. Commissioner Kelly requested that data be made available for the other asset classes.
- Commissioner Kelly also pointed out the difference in funding between 2014 and 2023. Given inflation, program funding appears to have gone down. While the total budget has decreased, certain costs within the budget have been moved elsewhere. For example more of the funds have been coming from the 10 year plan or from ad hoc decisions.

## Overview of CDOT Transportation Planning (Informational) - Darius Pakbaz and Marissa Gaughan [Recording Timestamp 01:14:02](#)

### Purpose and Actions:

- This workshop provided the Transportation Commission (TC) with a broad overview of multimodal transportation planning in Colorado.
- Planning Partner engagement occurs with the 15 - 10-rural and 5 urban and representatives of the STAC and the Tribes.
- Seek input from the public and local leaders too.
- Types of plans that feed into the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan include: long-range regional transit and transportation plans, the 10-Year Plan (bridge between Statewide long-range transportation plan and the STIP and CDOT's North Star for planning projects), and the STIP (4-Year funded project plan).
- Data and public input weave into the planning process all along the planning process and compliance with state and federal planning regulations as required.
- State and federal policies guide transportation planning - at CDOT: PD 14, with performance objectives and measures for the transportation system. These policies feed into the state and regional transportation plans. Other modes and transportation topical plans feed into the statewide plan.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rule links lowering GHG emissions to planned projects.
- 10-Year Plan has been successful of initiating or concluding first four years of projects; next to identify a new list of four years of projects to add to the pipeline of projects.

### Discussion:

- Commissioner Holguin inquired about how the public can have more input into the planning process. Holguin requested an overview presentation on how the planning process incorporates public engagement and public opinion. Marissa Gaughn stated there is no incorrect time to get involved in the planning process. The public can call their regional officials to give feedback at any point. Darius Pakbaz noted CDOT understands the importance to focus on transparency and build on the good work done last time and now to work with Marsha Nelson and engage communities that are not or have not been often represented. Commissioner Holguin stressed that more transparency is a desire for the planning process, and noted that lots of advance notice of the process is important.
- Commissioner Garcia inquired about the strategy for obtaining necessary funding to fulfill the projects in the 10 year plan. So far, projects have moved forward according to plan and funding has kept up in the current four year window. While there have been inflationary cost increases, CDOT has been able to identify additional funding sources to meet those increased funding requirements. The out years 5-10 of the 10-Year Plan remain unconstrained.
- Commissioner Adams inquired about how changes can be made in a fair and equitable way to long term plans when significant changes in funding or political environment occur. The importance of performance based planning, which recognizes the reality of change was noted. The importance of long term planning is to set forth goals to base planning decisions on. CDOT is committed to communication with stakeholders and planning partners when it comes to changes over time in association with the 10-Year Plan.
- Multiple meeting attendants noted the significant participation of TPRs and MPOs in the planning process in addition to the incorporation of the public's concerns.

## Mobility Committee - State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Briefing

### [Recording Timestamp 01:43:33](#)

#### Purpose and Actions:

- State Freight and Passenger Plans are typically updated every five (5) years. The last iteration of the Colorado Freight and Passenger Rail Plan was completed in 2018. This workshop summarized the key plan revisions currently being updated for 2024. No action is being requested in January 2024. We are seeking a resolution for approval of the State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan in February 2024.
- David Singer and Cody Hedges were recognized for their contributions to this plan.
- The Plan is an inventory of assets for rail, not a project list.
- The Plan goals include: safety, expand and improve, mobility and connectivity, preserve and maintain, economic vitality and environmental quality
- There was an opportunity to engage with numerous stakeholders including but not excluding - rail entities and public interest groups, along with planning partners, and state and federal agencies.

#### Discussion:

- Commissioner Stuart noted that the N-Line extension was mislabeled considering the initial plan for the N-Line was beyond the reach of the extension. Stuart argued it should be labeled completion rather than extension.
- Commissioner Ridder asked about considerations of rail in Hayden and in relation to the airport there, and the conflict between multimodal transport advocates and rail advocates. There has generally been strong support for passenger rail, but there may be additional opportunities for multimodal transit along rail lines or use as last mile transit options. Rails with trails as opposed to trails over rails. It was noted that the study is taking all options and ideas into consideration.
- Commissioner Ridder also inquired about the status of the Moffat Tunnel negotiations. Negotiations are taking place with Union Pacific Railroad to consider providing the benefits the tunnel was originally intended for, such as connecting the state via passenger and freight rail.
- Commissioner Kelly asked about the set up of tax structure and ballot initiatives that will allow the State Rail Plan to achieve its goals. The board will be performing financial analysis to determine whether ballot initiatives should be proposed.
- Commissioner Cook inquired about resources for communities to capitalize on rail development. Transit oriented development resources are also often applicable for rail development with the Federal Transit administration. The Federal Railroad administration is also focusing many of its new resources on intercity rail.
- Commissioner Adams asked about what is the ask of the TC for February. The request is for approval of the State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, and then in partnership, with stakeholders, pursue both USDOT and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant funds for passenger rail in Colorado.
- Multiple Commissioners inquired about right of way and multimodal use on existing freight rails. Since most existing rail is privately owned infrastructure, there is not significant support for building infrastructure within their private property.

# Transportation Commission Regular Meeting

## Thursday, January 18, 2024

Youtube link: [Transportation Commission January 18 2024 Regular Meeting](#)

Call to Order, Roll Call

11 Transportation Commissioners were present: Chair: Karen Stuart, Vice Chair: Terry Hart, Eula Adams, Yessica Holguin, Mark Garcia, Shelley Cook, Hannah Parsons, Barbara Bowman, Jim Kelly, Rick Ridder, and Megan Vasquez.

Public Comments [Recording Timestamp 00:01:00](#)

- Policy Directive (PD)1601 interchange application for I-76 and CR-8, which was initially supposed to be on the agenda for today, but has been removed. A TC workshop in February is anticipated with approved action in March. Letter writers in support of this application, were made aware of this schedule change.
- Other comments included concerns with road conditions during the last week, and various complaints.
- Communications from Hill, and the letter from Nancy Casados from Cortez, are all available via TC emails.

Comments of the Chair and Individual Commissioners [Recording Timestamp 00:1:49](#)

- Commissioner Parsons - attended PPACG and CFR meetings, and attended the regional monthly breakfast with several local agencies. Local leads are very complimentary to regional staff, with recognitions for CDOT Region 2 staff, Matt Pettit and Jason Nelson, and CDOT Region 2 Regional Transportation Director, Shane Ferguson.
- Commissioner Holguin - Denver Regional Council of Government's (DRCOG's) Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) meeting was postponed from this month to next month. Non-attainment Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) also did not meet in December, and will be meeting at the end of January. Toured DIA/DEN West checkpoint, and noted that this is an impressive system with state of the art equipment.
- Commissioner Garcia - Echoed appreciation to CDOT maintenance staff and the COTrips crew.
- Commissioner Cook - Attended Commuting Solutions Annual Legislative Breakfast in Boulder, about current thinking that may feed into legislation. At the JeffCo transportation action and advisory group (JeffTAG), CDOT presented, DRCOG reported that CDOT and RTD are doing a household travel survey, and we will get a rare glimpse at travel habits around the state. Quite a few communities are doing comp plans / transportation plans, including Edgewater, Arvada, Wheat Ridge, & JeffCo.
- Commissioner Hart - echoed thanks to CDOT maintenance staff. Looking forward to exciting work in the upcoming year.
- Commissioner Kelly - Noted unbelievable difference in I-25N from Fort Collins and Denver between now and two months ago, trip is faster and with express lanes, make it feel better and safer. People from Region 4 and his predecessor, Kathleen

Bracke, that worked on that should be really proud of what they've done, they have saved lives and reduced air pollution. Took Bustang from Fort Collins to Union Station last week, and it was a pleasant trip. North Front Range MPO Council got together last week, meeting focused on safety, looked at statistics on fatal crashes and substantial/serious injuries. Instead of setting goals to be average, set goals to shoot for as low as possible.

- Commissioner Adams - echoed thanks to CDOT maintenance staff.
- Commissioner Bowman - Echoed thanks to CDOT staff maintenance and crew. Workshops on asset management and public engagement are always great to hear. Colorado is leading the nation in greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation programs. Attended STAC and I-70 coalition meetings, gave shoutout to I-70 Coalition for their outreach which includes social media, bus stop & light rail advertising, and a new partner outreach program in the Front Range going to city councils, county governments, neighborhood organizations, AAA, CU, CTO and more to spread word on their resources and programs. Also have new go I-70 videos that feature I-70 travel tips, and Bustang. Advised people to check these out.
- Commissioner Vasquez - echoed thanks to CDOT staff maintenance and other. Appreciated the presentation provided during the workshops.
- Commissioner Ridder provided a shoutout to maintainers of the video cameras on the roads, they are very useful in determining routes and road conditions. Has been focused on Northwest rail project in the last month, project is moving forward with a fast pace. Sat in on the Northwest TPR's last meeting, began to develop a relationship with them and hear some of their concerns and ideas.
- Commissioner Stuart, TC Chair, noted attention to the Transportation Commission and anyone who looked at the agenda. Very good report on Globeville-Elyria-Swansea on equity progress. Talking about managed lanes and efficiency safety, something that is lost is that transit opportunities are provided on the lanes, to Bustang RTD as well. Program put in for Central 70 is extraordinary, and Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) even provides bus passes and transponders with a certain amount of value allocated for people in the area to offset need for express lanes.
- The majority of commissioners recognized CDOT staff for their work this year.

## Executive Director's Management Report (Shoshanna Lew) [Recording](#) [Timestamp 00:17:41](#)

- Appreciation and thanks to the team, and cross-regional cooperation.
- During the Berthoud Pass closure, the snow slid over and over during snow removal efforts. Appreciated work of the team. Multiple CDOT Regions collaborated to clear the roads as best they could.
- Lots of dialogue going into the state legislative session, legislators are interested in potential transportation bills this session. There is an exciting and robust transit and rail agenda that is part of broader focus on strategic growth.

## Chief Engineer's Report (Keith Stefanik) [Recording](#) [Timestamp 00:21:03](#)

- Received a message from Marsha Nelson, who attended CMGC Outreach event, which is a small business outreach event to get them into contact with larger contractors that do some CMGC projects. There is a misconception that a large alternative delivery project is only awarded to one contractor. An event planned by Marsha's group, with 300 people showed there is interest from smaller contractors in these projects. Representatives from a lot of larger projects were networking with small contractors

to see opportunities. A lot of large contracts have a magnitude of subcontractors on it; it is a team of contractors for design and building. Lots of interest was expressed in the CDOT alternative delivery program.

- With completion of CY2023, there are final stats on the capital construction program: estimated \$869M in contractor payments and finished the year at \$860M dollars. Highest amount of contractor payments, record year within core program (excluding the Central 70 project). Starting to forecast spending this calendar year, where drawdowns and schedules are with projects. Hoping to have a baseline forecast for calendar year 2024 within the next month.

## Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) Report (Piper Darlington) [Recording Timestamp 00:24:16](#)

- CTIO held the first board meeting of the year the previous day, with a lot of informal discussion. Wanted to highlight that the Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act (FASTER) legislation that established CTIO or the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) legally, required CTIO to produce an annual legislative report, which has been posted online and it will be distributed to the legislature by February 15th. The report is a great resource, with overview of CTIO projects, financing, priorities, and highlighted achievements from 2023. Offered to print copies for board members.
- CTIO Board approved execution of a new loan agreement for I-70 project which is a refinancing of the existing loan with Wells Fargo. Board authorized execution of new Interagency Agreement (IAA) between CTIO and CDOT, will be discussed later.
- The team has been getting a lot of interest in the safety enforcement program. The local FHWA nominated CTIO to talk about safety enforcement. Simon Logan also presented on the GES tolling equity program. These are first-in-the-nation programs, so get opportunities to talk about this nationally.
- During snow operations, we are not enforcing the safety and enforcement program on corridors where it is active. If ingress and egress zones, roadways and lane markings are not visible and CDOT is plowing, they want to proactively turn off safety enforcement equipment. Safety enforcement is continuing to do well, tracking on public comments. Tolling commenced on the I-25 South Gap, and communications team has been fielding media questions. This is a huge lift for both the CTIO and the CDOT operations team. Thank you to CDOT, Tim Hoover, E470 (current back office partner), and the consultants to get corridors up and running. Excited to start the year with the opening of a new tolling corridor.
- Question from Commissioner Garcia, on the express lane with HOV 3+, how do you discern the number of passengers with darkened windows? The program is all self-declared, if a driver has a switchable transponder it is up to the driver to declare the switch from HOV to toll mode. There is no great way of detecting HOV on the market, this is in the tolling back office procurement, hoping for better means of enforcement of that. There is a certain degree of cheating but it is hard to enforce. Don't have to necessarily register, but to note you to be tolled, you need a transponder.

## Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division Administrator Report (John Cater) Report [Recording Timestamp 00:31:20](#)

- Starting with safety: fatality numbers down 5%, which is heading in the right direction, early returns this year have been continuing the downward trend. More opportunities to partner with other states to manage programs and reduce fatalities.



- Colorado was awarded a EV Charger Reliability Grant with \$8.3M going to CDOT. Expecting to hear back from the next few grants in the next few weeks. It is a continual cycle.

## Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC Report (Vince Rogalski- STAC Chair) [Recording Timestamp 00:33:20](#)

- STAC met on January 4th, first item on agenda was update from Herman Stockinger. The fee structure for fiber optics was passed; during the last meeting for the Commission, a number of people had some comments on that. In the following months, there will be discussion of the Bridge & Tunnel Enterprise and approval of a bonding program for that.
- Opening formal planning process and rulemaking for HB-23-1101. "Boundary areas" title is misleading - most important thing is that we are looking at the administrative functioning of TPRs. People want to be able to access transportation and comment on what is happening and what they want to see happening in terms of project. This bill focuses on how we need to be more publicly available, big help in moving transportation forward in the state.
- More to come on the legislative report in the next session. We want earlier access to proposed bills and avoid controversy as was experienced last year.
- Unsure if there will be a closure for the federal government, should know by tomorrow (January 20th).
- Had a presentation on Multimodal Planning 101. Have new representatives in the STAC, good presentation on how planning works, how long-range and 10-Year Plan works. Funding for some of these things is in a 10-Year Plan and in asset management (also presented in workshop). Very important to maintain what we have built.
- Colorado Freight Plan is important since there are a lot of trucks on the road. Main topics from Freight Plan: transparency, safety, clean transportation, efficiency, availability of statewide transit, economic partnerships, traffic capacity, and bottlenecks and multi-diversity.
- Region 2 Regional Transportation Director, Shane Ferguson, provided an overview of the status of key projects for Region 2.
- Darius is working on providing a work-plan schedule. This year will be a big planning year for upgrading the 10 year plan and the 2050 plan. For the previous plan, CDOT visited every county commission to talk about their needs and their vision for transportation.
- Next STAC meeting is February 1st, still conducting virtual meetings, nothing in person is anticipated until May.
- Comment from STAC Vice Chair, Heather Sloop: Kicking off statewide plan, with meetings in April and get moving in June. In most regions, county meetings will be virtual, it is even more important through a HB 23-1101 conversation, to have administrative-individual TPR communication with our own Regions.

## State Legislative Update Report(Emily Haddaway) [Recording Timestamp 00:42:42](#)

- Currently tracking 14 bills that have been introduced, could mean that it is a bill that widely affects us or its a license plate bill which will be completely administered by DOR/DMV and could impact on revenue. A lot of bills will be introduced soon. No big surprises out of bills introduced thus far. A lot of these bills are Transportation



Legislative Review Committee (TLRC). First memorial highway resolution that was passed, the MLK Jr. Memorial highway on US-36 in Region 4. More memorial highways are the most likely coming bills. CDOT does not pay for signage. Legislatures need to find an endorser to make a donation to the Department to fund signs. All different Regions have processes for those.

- Distracted driving bill has been drafted and should be introduced soon.
- Workshopping Commercial Motor Vehicle Chain (CMVC) safety bill.
- SMART Act Hearing bill was postponed, rescheduled for next week.
- Joint Technology Committee will be reviewing a bill regarding CDOT right-of-way (ROW) proposed fees associated with broadband/fiber optic installation. CDOT will send a letter to the joint technology committee ahead of the hearing.
- No outreach yet on confirmation hearings for Transportation Commissioners appointed over the summer.

### Act on Consent Agenda (Herman Stockinger) [Recording Timestamp 00:46:00](#)

- Proposed Resolution #1: Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2023
- Proposed Resolution #2: IGA Approval >\$750,000
- Proposed Resolution #3: FY24 Maintenance Projects \$150k-\$250k
- Proposed Resolution #4: Disposal: Parcel 27-EX, Former Maintenance Site at 6055 Wadsworth Bypass, Arvada
- Proposed Resolution #5: Reaffirm: Abandonment U.S. 6 North Frontage Road

A Motion by Commissioner Parsons to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Adams passed unanimously.

### Discuss and Act on Proposed Resolution #6: 7th Budget Supplement FY 2023-2024 (Jeff Sudmeier) [Recording Timestamp 00:47:20](#)

The seventh supplement includes three requests:

- Region 2 and 5 to increase the construction phase budget on US-50 resurface Coalvail to Salida project by approximately \$3.95M utilizing Region 2 and 5 bridge construction and surface treatment funding. Needed to award it to the lowest bidder given market conditions and rural mountainous nature of project.
- Request from Region 5 to transfer \$5.3M from US-50, result of bid savings redirect to US-160 Pagosa Springs Main Street project, funds needed as a result of updated cost estimate, reflects increase in construction costs.
- Request from Region 1 to allocate \$1.78M in TC contingency funds to emergency repair work on C-470 over I-70 bridge impact that occurred a little over a month ago.

A Motion by Commissioner Cook to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Bowman passed unanimously.

### Discuss and Act on Proposed Resolution #7: Budget Amendment of FY 2024 (Jeff Sudmeier & Bethany Nichols) [Recording Timestamp 00:49:25](#)

- Request to allocate \$300,000 from the TC Program Reserve to the safety education line of the budget. The Office of Transportation Safety completed legislatively required study relating to the use of devices to assess motorist impairment. Study completed, payments to vendor were not made until August, when appropriation was no longer

available. Made payment but in order to avoid shortfall and impacts to program, need to backfill amount of final payment of \$300,000.

A Motion by Commissioner Kelly to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Garcia passed unanimously.

## Discuss and Act on Proposed Resolution #8: Opening of the Planning Rules (Herman Stockinger) [Recording Timestamp 00:50:49](#)

- Open up planning rules that are required by HB-23-1101 to open planning rules following completion of the TPR study. First resolve authorizes staff and a newly created planning rule coordination committee to open up the rule-making process, form a TC subcommittee to help staff think through the rule-making process. Second resolve is to authorize a hearing officer, Andrew Hogul in the communications department, in charge of conducting rule-making hearing, and following Act requirements. Third resolve, to include all of public comments during TPR study to be included as exhibit in rule-making process.
- Once rule-making opening is approved, the plan is to meet with the coordination committee next week to talk through the details and file with the Secretary of State and the Department of Regulatory Agencies January 31st. This will allow the rule to be published in the Colorado Record February 11th. Rulemaking Hearing would be in the first two weeks of March. Once rules are opened and filed, this triggers notices to stakeholders that the rulemaking process has begun, public comments are opened, and tells stakeholders when the hearing will be.
- Can open public comment on the entire rule, or pieces of a rule. Since there are complicated pieces related to GHG standards, asking to only open up three pieces of the rule related to study done. Open Section 2 - related to transportation planning regions, Section 3 - state transportation advisory committee. Also requesting to open up the definition of “disproportionately impacted committee” as this has changed in state statute.
- Question from Commissioner Garcia on “disproportionately impacted committees” - is this related to TPR study? No it is not, making an exception to open up this one piece.

A Motion by Commissioner Holguin to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez passed unanimously. Commissioner Adams left the dais and did not vote.

## Discuss and Act on Proposed Resolution #9: Amendment to the I-70 Mountain Express Lane Intra-Agency Financing Agreement relate to Wells Fargo Loan (Piper Darlington) [Recording Timestamp 00:56:30](#)

- Resolution asking for review and approval on authorizing execution of new IAA between CTIO and CDOT Mexel Lanes Project. CTIO has had a joint IAA since initial eastbound Mexel Lanes, IAA has gone through several iterations. Initial one drafted in 2015, had secured financing. Amended again when Westbound lanes opened, to reflect additional express lanes. Using initial IAA as baseline. Characterize changes in new 2024 version as administrative. On CTIO’s side, they are refinancing existing loan to deliver eastbound project. Since CTIO is a party of loan agreement, IAA serves to document roles and responsibilities for shared project, and for lenders, this gives them more certainty on roles and responsibilities, particularly for operations and maintenance.
- Outlines a process in which CTIO can request a back up loan from TC, for example if project is not doing well and needs support through a loan. This gives banks certainty that CTIO will be able to fulfill obligations. CTIO has never had to do this though. Creating administrative amendments to show that they are refinancing a loan.

- Changes to the were IAA approved by the CTIO board.
- CTIO has been working on this process with lender, Wells Fargo and with the CTIO Board. Loan agreement is included as informational to TC as an exhibit to IAA since it is driving amendments. Entering into a variable rate interest loan for next three years with Wells Fargo.
- Question from Commissioner Kelly on net effect of changing loan structure? What is driving refinancing is that with the old loan, they are entering a term-out period at the end of January, which raises the rate to 7% and don't want to enter term-out provisions as it looks bad to the market. CTIO decided to do a variable rate interest loan since markets are volatile but all signs indicate that rates will go down. Have had fixed rate loans in the past but this loan was the best option given other quotes from banks.

A Motion by Commissioner Kelly to approve, and seconded by Commissioner Ritter passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adams was not present for the vote.

### Recognitions [Recording Timestamp 01:02:45](#)

- Recognized staff for working through snow implications through last weeks.

### Other Matters [Recording Timestamp 01:02:58](#)

No other matters

### Adjournment



**COLORADO**  
**Department of Transportation**  
Division of Transit & Rail  
2829 W. Howard Place 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Denver, CO 80204

**TO:** Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Paul DesRocher, Director, Division of Transit and Rail  
**DATE:** February 1, 2024  
**RE:** State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

Purpose

To provide the STAC with an overview of the 2024 Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan.

Action

No action is required. This agenda topic is for informational and discussion purposes only.

Background

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the responsible federal agency that oversees State Rail Plans (SRPs). SRPs are required for eligibility for certain federal capital grants and are meant to inventory the rail transportation system, services, and facilities within the State. They are intended to enable states to develop strategies and policies for enhanced passenger and freight rail service on a comprehensive scale. FRA's Guidance requires that SRPs be updated every five (5) years and the last iteration of the Colorado Freight and Passenger Rail Plan was completed in 2018. Its existing goals are to:

- Ensure that Colorado's rail systems are safe and secure
- Expand and improve Colorado's rail systems for passengers and freight
- Provide greater mobility and connectivity options
- Preserve and maintain critical corridors and infrastructure to support Colorado's rail systems
- Advance economic vitality and environmental quality of Colorado's communities and regions

This iteration is a light update to the 2018 plan, as a significant number of items have remained relatively unchanged.

Details

The 2024 Colorado Freight and Passenger Rail Plan includes updates to districts, stakeholders, funding, and financial authorities, such as the creation of the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) District, the Commission's funding for Mountain Rail planning and new funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It recognizes current and past rail initiatives, such as FasTracks and the Southwest Chief Rehabilitation; changes in commodity movements; the current state of the Colorado rail network; proposed rail improvements, including available plans of the freight railroads; and coordination with the State's public and private partners, such as the Class I railroads, Amtrak, and neighboring State DOTs.

Notable Updates:

- Front Range Passenger Rail
- Mountain Rail Network
- Burnham Yard
- San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad
- New Funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Southwest Chief Track Rehabilitation
- Southwest Chief Thru-car Study
- Freight Coordination



#### Next Steps

The TC will vote for approval of the SRP at their February 15, 2024 hearing. Upon approval, the plan will be sent to the FRA for review and acceptance, with FRA acceptance expected by the end of April 2024.

#### Attachments

State Rail Plan Presentation

[Draft 2024 Colorado Freight and Passenger Rail Plan](#)







C. Enright/CDOT



**COLORADO**

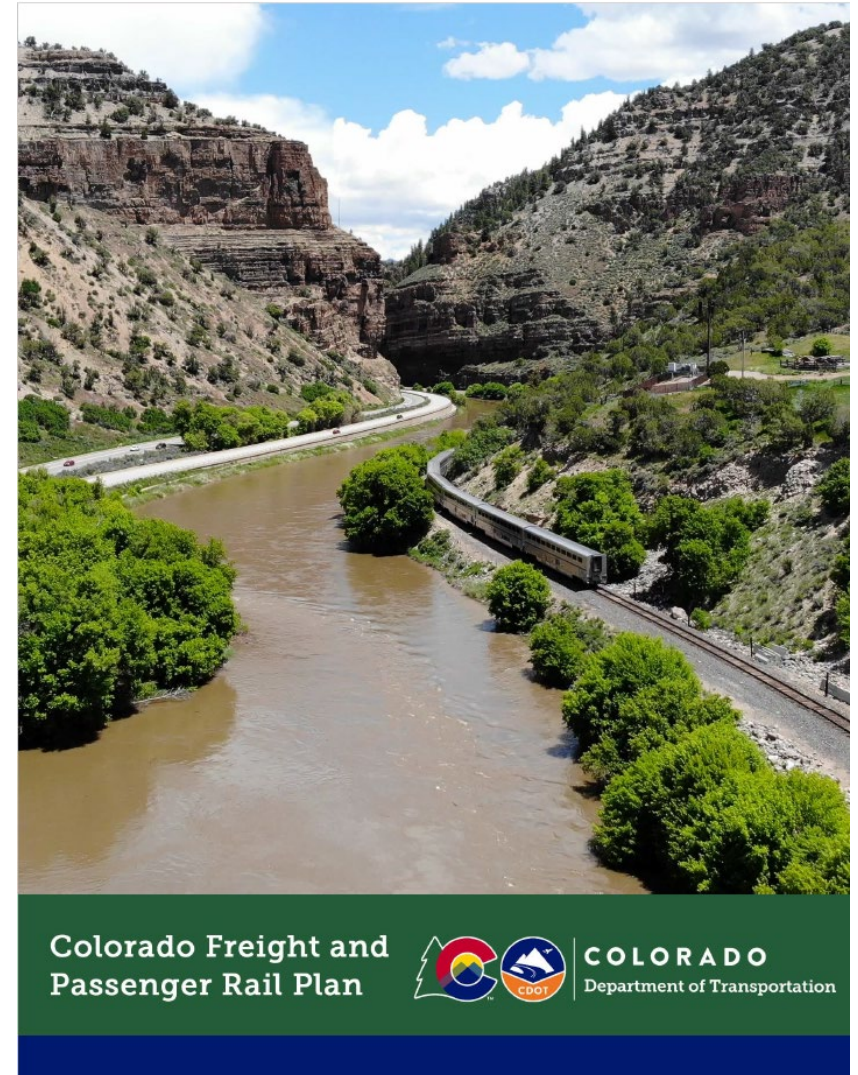
Department of Transportation

# Colorado Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Update



# What is the State Rail Plan?

- Positions Colorado for future grant, financing and policy opportunities
- Factor in discretionary grants
- Required by Federal Railroad Administration
- Strategic and high-level document
- Identifies key issues, needs, and initiatives
- Inventories potential future investment concepts
- Developed in coordination with key partners







# State Rail Plan Goals

Safety and  
Security

Expand and  
Improve

Mobility and  
Connectivity

Preserve and  
Maintain

Economic  
Vitality and  
Environmental  
Quality



Advance  
Passenger Rail



Strengthen Rail  
Coordination



Integrate Planning  
Processes

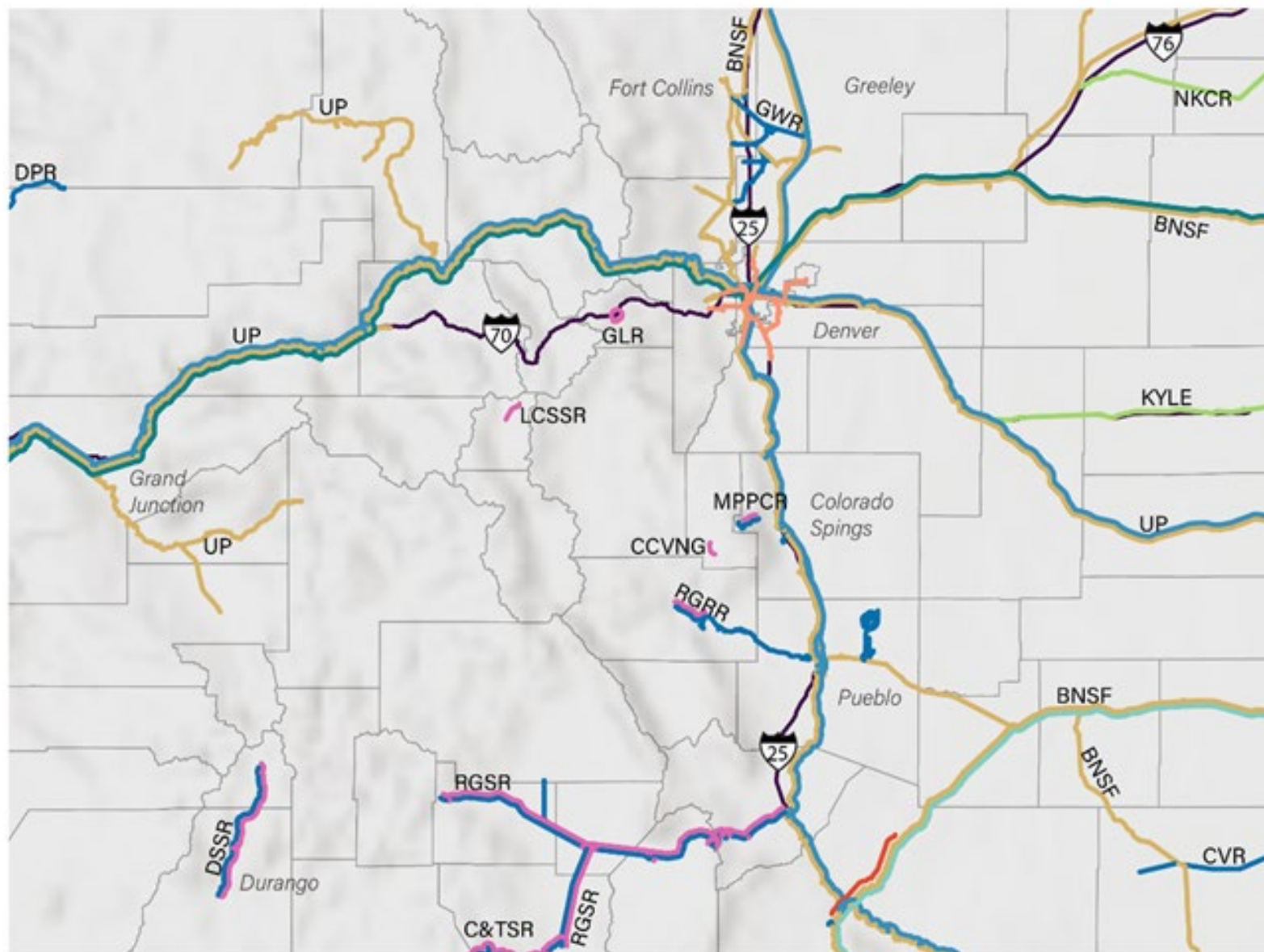


Enhance Economic  
Connections



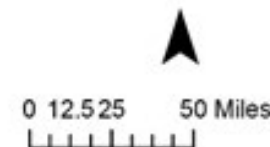
Address Freight Rail  
Needs & Issues

# Colorado's Active Rail Network



## Legend

|                     |                                  |                     |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Class I Railroads   | RTD Light Rail and Commuter Rail | STRACNET Connectors |
| Class II Railroads  | Amtrak California Zephyr         | STRACNET Corridors  |
| Class III Railroads | Amtrak Southwest Chief           | Scenic Railroads    |



## Freight

- 13 freight railroads; 2,545 miles of track
- 2,523 jobs in freight railroads
- 382,000 jobs in freight-dependent industries
- 20 percent of all freight moved
- 154 million tons of products moved
- \$10.3 billion of products moved

## Passenger

- 3 Amtrak routes; 197,000 travelers annually
- 1 tourist services
- 4 commuter and 6 light rail lines (21.5 million RTD rail passengers annually)
- 7 scenic railroads; 990,000 passengers annually



# Partner and Public Involvement



**Grand County**  
Colorado



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®





# Changes since last update

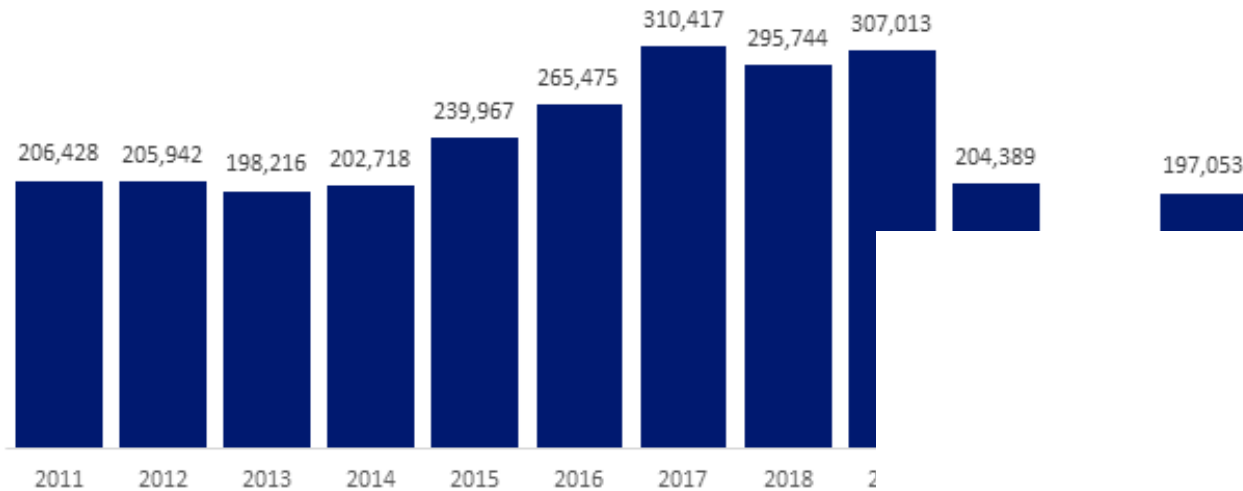
- **Passenger Rail Modernization and Expansion**
  - Front Range Passenger Rail
    - Service Development Plan/Corridor ID
    - Creation of Front Range Passenger Rail District (SB 21-238)
  - Mountain Rail
  - Burnham Yard Development
  - Southwest Chief Track Rehabilitation and Thru-car Study
  - FRA's Long Distance Passenger Rail Study (Zephyr & Southwest Chief)
- **Freight Rail Industry Shifts**
  - Changes in freight rail trends and commodity movements
  - Need to consider Just Transition for energy communities
  - Increased emphasis on freight safety and equity
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding opportunities**



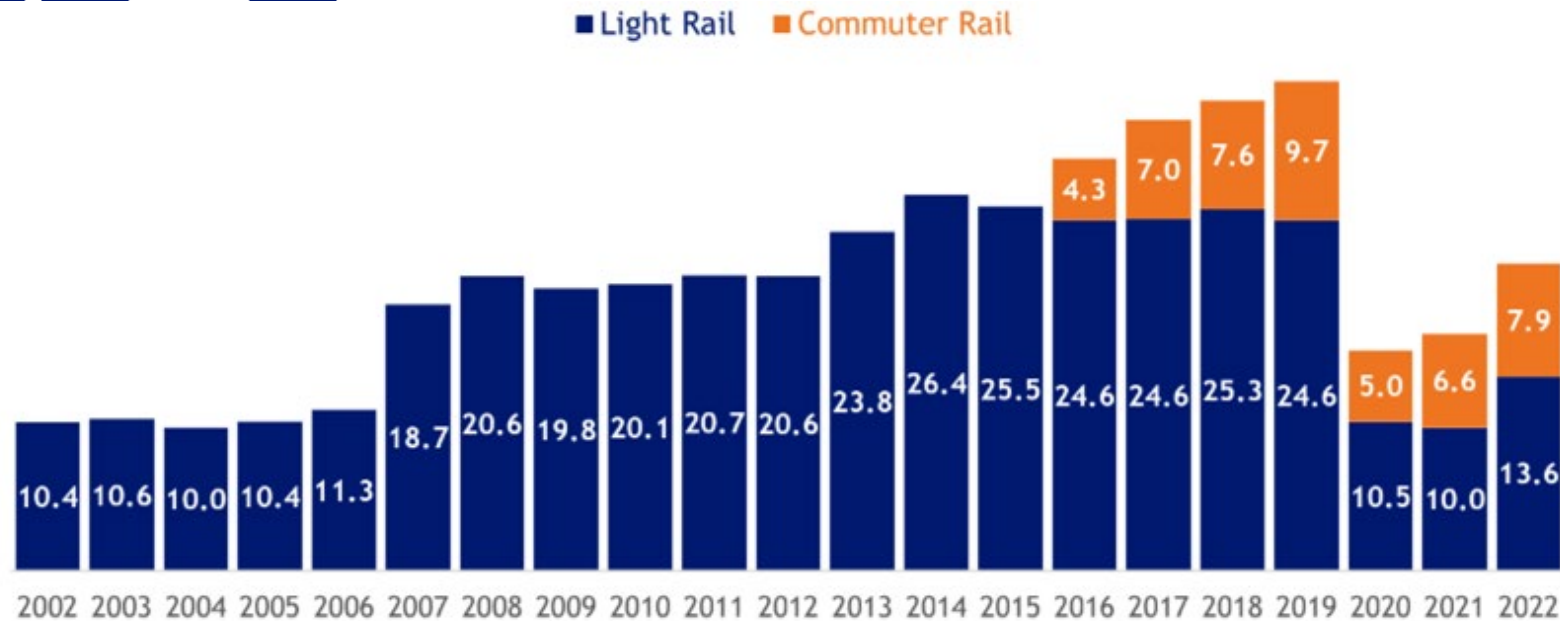


# Trends in Passenger Rail

## Amtrak Ridership in Colorado (2011-2022)



## RTD Rail Ridership (2002-2022)





# Key Rail Policy Issues

## Funding

- Major funding needs for enhancing capacity, safety and equity
- Historic short-term opportunity for federal funding
- Limited **long-term federal funding** for passenger or freight rail improvements
- Significant capital and operating costs for passenger rail corridor development

## Land use and development

- Integrate transit- and rail-oriented development
- Preserve existing rail infrastructure and right-of-way for future uses

## Coordination and joint planning

- Formalize coordination and communication with railroad operators
- Leverage funding for Federal grant opportunities

## Safety

- Recent concerns regarding derailments in Colorado and elsewhere
- But consistently safer than surface alternatives



# Future Passenger Rail Investments by Corridor

## Front Range Passenger Rail

- Station Development
- Support Facilities
- Track Improvements
- Signal Improvements
- Rolling Stock/Fleet
- PTC and safety improvements

## Mountain Corridor

### Network and Service Development Planning

- Stations & Transit connections
- Governance
- Operations
- Rolling Stock/Fleet
- Ridership
- Financial Planning
- PTC & safety improvements

## RTD Commuter Rail

- N Line - Extension
- Northwest Rail Line - Extension
- SW Line Extension
- A Line Crossing Improvements at Chambers Blvd
- Burnham Yard Track Improvements

## Southwest Chief

- Implement 2024 FRA Long-Range Passenger Rail Recommendations
- SWC Thru Car Implementation
- Reroute of Amtrak's Service

## California Zephyr

- Brush Sub Safety and Operational Improvement
- Other infrastructure and operational improvements

## Freight Rail

- Realignment (Colorado Springs)
- Grade Separations (Longmont)
- Bridge Replacements (Denver)
- Signal (Loveland)
- Interchange (Hudson)
- Underpass and Overpass (Fort Collins)
- Safety technology

## Statewide and Regionally Significant Freight Rail

- Positive Train Control (PTC): Denver to Cheyenne
- Track, Siding, and Spur Improvements to support Southern Colorado Rail Park





# Next steps

- February: TC Resolution/Plan Approval
- Winter: FRA Plan review and adoption
- Ongoing: Applications for FRA and DOT grant programs







**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

# Questions/Discussion





# COLORADO

## Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development

2829 W. Howard Place  
Denver, CO 80204-2305

**TO:** Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)  
**FROM:** Darius Pakbaz, Director, Division of Transportation Development  
**DATE:** February 1, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** 2045 Statewide Plan Lessons Learned Overview

### Purpose

As the STAC begins discussions on the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan, staff would like to provide an overview of the key themes and findings from the previous 2045 Statewide Plan development process.

### Action

This item is for discussion purposes only.

### Background

After adopting the 2045 Statewide Transportation Plan, the project team surveyed and interviewed key stakeholders to identify what worked well and what could be improved upon from the 2045 planning process. The survey and interview questions covered the following topics:

- General Input
- Plan and Modal Integration
- Public and Stakeholder Engagement
- 10-Year Plan
- Final Deliverables (statewide & regional long-range plans, statewide & regional transit plans, project fact sheets, corridor profiles, online story map, etc.)

### Details

Based on feedback received during the lessons learned assessment, CDOT staff has identified some opportunity areas for STAC's input. Those opportunity areas include branding, public outreach, MPO/TPR coordination, stakeholder engagement, data approach, performance-based planning, and plan integration.

### Next Steps

Staff will take the comments from the open discussion with STAC and use STAC's input to help shape the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan development process.

### Attachments

Lessons Learned Overview Presentation







# 2045 Statewide Plan Lessons Learned Overview

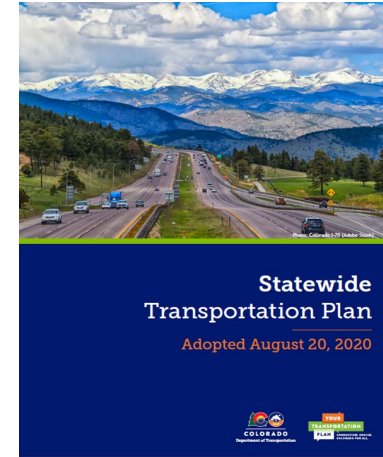
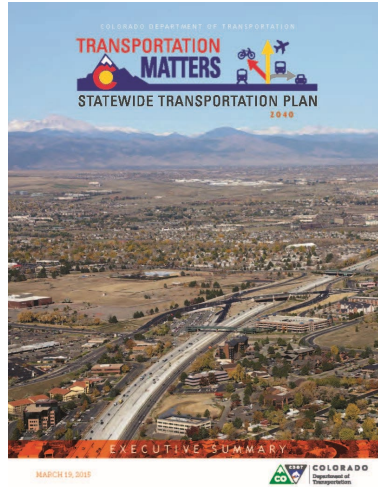
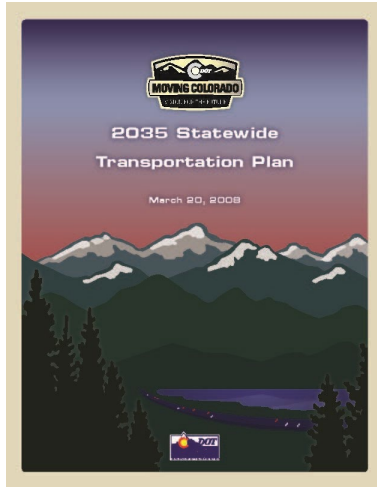
Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee  
February 4, 2024



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation



# Continuous Improvement in the Planning Process



At the conclusion of each Statewide Transportation Planning process, CDOT looks back to evaluate the process to better understand what went well and where improvements could be made in the future.



# Lessons Learned Process Overview

CDOT conducted a lessons learned assessment using surveys and interviews to identify what worked well and what could be improved for future planning processes. Surveys and interviews were conducted with:

- STAC
- MPO / TPR Chairs & Representatives
- Federal Agency Partners
- CDOT HQ & Region Staff

Survey and interview questions covered the following topics:

- General Input
- Plan and Modal Integration
- Public and Stakeholder Engagement
- 10-Year Plan
- Final Deliverables (statewide & regional long-range plans, statewide & regional transit plans, project fact sheets, corridor profiles, online story map, etc.)



# Successful Outcomes from the 2045 Plan

## 1. Effective Grassroots Outreach and Outreach Tools

- Excellent outreach events, public surveying, online interactive maps, social media campaigns, telephone town halls, Spanish language outreach.

## 2. Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement

- Attendance at community events and stakeholder meetings was important and very valuable.

## 3. Integrated Plan Development

- Completing the plans simultaneously with the transit planning resulted in consistent messaging across all planning efforts.

## 4. Creation of the 10-Year Plan

- Over 70 percent of survey respondents indicated that they strongly agree or agree that the 10-Year Plan is a useful document.

## 5. Coordination with CDOT Commission/Committees

- Coordination with the Transportation Commission, STAC, and Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC) was viewed positively by stakeholders.





# Opportunities and Ideas (1)

| Opportunity Area | Feedback Received   | Ideas for 2050 Planning Process   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Branding         | <p>The brand did not include CDOT and made internet searches difficult.</p> <p>The graphic features the words 'YOUR', 'TRANSPORTATION', and 'PLAN' in white text on orange, green, and blue rectangular backgrounds respectively. Below these is the tagline 'CONNECTION. CHOICE. COLORADO FOR ALL.' in small black text.</p> | <p>Consider new branding that would be used consistently throughout the process.</p>  |
| Public Outreach  | <p>Continue to find ways to bring in new voices to the planning process and engage in meaningful conversations with historically underrepresented populations. Continue to conduct Spanish outreach and ensure documents are available in both English and Spanish.</p>   | <p>Early development of a diversity, equity and inclusion plan to guide the branding and public outreach strategy.</p> <p>National scans for engagement best practices.</p> |



## Opportunities and Ideas (2)

| Opportunity Area       | Feedback Received   | Ideas for 2050 Planning Process  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| MPO / TPR Coordination | <p>Coordinate early on how to integrate required elements into the process and ensure federal/state planning requirements are being met congruently. Allow for customization of the rural TPR regional transportation plans, including a la carte elements.</p> <p>Coordinate with MPO/TPRs on public outreach.</p> | CDOT will seek input directly from the MPOs/ TPRs regarding the development and integration of regional transportation plans (RTPs) into the statewide plan. |
| Stakeholder Engagement | Ensure stakeholder input is shared with the MPOs/TPRs so that it may be used to inform regional & statewide planning.   | In collaboration with our planning partners, identify the key stakeholder groups and establish what their role will be early in the planning process.        |



## Opportunities and Ideas (3)

| Opportunity Area           | Feedback Received   | Ideas for 2050 Planning Process  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Performance-Based Planning | <p>Identify goal areas, objectives, and targets early in the planning process. These should be developed collaboratively and up front to guide investment decisions and priorities.</p> <p>Not having program distribution &amp; long-range revenue projections done early in the process resulted in a rushed and disorganized development of projects and priorities.</p> | <p>Staff will be engaging in discussions with STAC and TC about updating the goal areas, objectives and targets in Policy Directive 14.0 in February and March.</p> <p>Program distribution will go to the TC in March.</p>  |
| Data Approach              | <p>Develop a GIS visualization tool to provide an interactive (online) resource for a variety of data sources that inform more data-driven transportation planning, allowing CDOT staff and planning partners to easily access data and turn layers on and off.</p>   | <p>Repurpose the HB1101 TPR Boundary Analysis tool that includes up-to-date travel and population data. This tool is web-based, user friendly and allows for multiple data layers to be displayed (among other efforts).</p> |



## Opportunities and Ideas (4)

| Opportunity Area | Feedback Received   | Ideas for 2050 Planning Process  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Plan Integration | <p>Modal, functional and topical plan integration in the Statewide Plan should build on the success of the transit integration in the 2045 planning process. A process for integrating each modal, functional and topical plan should be established early in the planning process.</p> <p>Outreach and engagement for different planning purposes should be done together to the greatest extent possible to effectively inform statewide and regional planning efforts.</p> | <p>Staff anticipates further multimodal integration and combined outreach/engagement to inform the Statewide Plan and to align with the performance-based planning goals, objectives and targets.</p> <p>Examples of key areas where staff anticipates further integration are safety, active transportation, resiliency, asset management, freight, transit, etc.</p> |



# Open Discussion

- What would you like to see continued into the 2050 statewide planning process?
- What are your ideas for the following opportunity areas?
  - Branding
  - Public Outreach
  - MPO / TPR Coordination
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Performance-Based Planning
  - Data Approach
  - Plan Integration