



**Statewide MPO Meeting**  
**Friday, April 29, 2016**  
**1-2:30 p.m.**  
**CDOT HQ Room 159**

**Present:** Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Doug Rex, Steve Cook; Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO) - Todd Hollenbeck; North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO) - Terri Blackmore, Becky Karasko; Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) - Craig Casper, Kevin Bayes; and Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) - Scott Hobson. CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD): Jeff Sudmeier, William Johnson, Michelle Scheurman, Kathleen Collins, Oana Deselnicu, Mike King, Gail Hoffman. CDOT Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch - Charles E. Meyer. FHWA: Bill Haas, Aaron Bustow.

**Future SWMPO Agenda Topics/Administrative Matters (Informational) - Jeff Sudmeier, DTD**

- FHWA fact sheets on proposed rulemaking for the National Highway System performance, freight movement on the Interstate system, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program were distributed and will be sent via email.
- On Wednesday, May 4, FHWA will present a webinar on rural and urban freight corridors. Urban freight corridors therefore should be a logical topic for the May meeting. Other forthcoming meeting topics include program distribution.
- The MPO Operating Manual is being updated as part of a broader Transportation Planning Manual and will include sections that will range from a high-level view for decision makers to a more detailed look for staff.
- The CDOT Planning website also is being updated to be more user friendly and include more useful resources and information.

**Funding Changes - Terri Blackmore, NFRMPO**

- Terri Blackmore, NFRMPO executive director, asked why CDOT doesn't incorporate changes to funding over a five-year period after a federal transportation bill such as the FAST Act or any other funding legislation is passed.
- For the MPOs, federal funding sources of greatest interest (other than the Consolidated Planning Grants) are: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Program (now called the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - STBGP), and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
- Jeff said that historically, Program Distribution or Resource Allocation has been used to establish fiscal constraint of the TIPS and STIPs, and constraint is updated one year at a time, based on the budget adopted for that year. He noted that as part of the next Program Distribution process we could discuss whether that process should change. Since there is a new transportation authorization bill, it may make sense to deviate from that process and provide several years of updated revenues for the programs sub-allocated to the MPOs. Jeff will follow up again with the Division of Accounting and Finance.

**Future Statewide MPO Meeting Locations and Topics - Terri Blackmore, NFRMPO**

- Terri said the three large MPOs met and suggest the following changes to Statewide MPO meetings:

- The MPOs take turns hosting the Statewide MPOs; she volunteered NFRMPO as host of the June meeting.
- The MPOs should develop the agendas and elect their own chair and co-chair for the meetings.
- Meeting materials should be distributed with the agenda a week before the meetings.
- Other suggestions made at the meeting were:
  - The MPOs host the meetings every other month or just in the summer months
  - The MPOs organize MPO Summits twice a year
- Terri will set up a conference call with all the MPOs to discuss the proposal. CDOT experts may need to attend remotely via Zoom; however, the MPOs could involve MPO and local experts in the discussions.
- Jeff said the May Statewide MPO meeting will remain on the calendar at CDOT until after the MPOs have had their discussion and determine how they would like to proceed. Jeff also noted that staff is happy to support the MPOs in whatever format they think will be most effective.

#### MOA Template and Federal Rules (Discussion) - Jeff Sudmeier

- A draft template CDOT-MPO Memorandum of Agreement (i.e. Metropolitan Planning Agreement) is complete. All sections were workshopped at previous SW MPO meetings, except for the recently drafted section on performance. (Federal law requires state departments of transportation and MPOs to use a performance-based approach for assessing the condition of pavements on the Interstate system and on the National Highway System - NHS; the condition of bridges on the NHS; performance of the Interstate system and NHS; the numbers and rates of traffic serious injuries and fatalities - including the numbers of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries; traffic congestion; on-road mobile source emissions; and freight movement on the Interstate system.)
- The group decided to cite the applicable statute (i.e., "per 23 U.S.C. 490 and other applicable regulations") so that the MOAs don't need to be changed with each addition of final rules.
- The updated draft template will be sent to the MPOs for review. After the review, the MPOs may use the template as a basis for their own MOAs with CDOT.
- Final rules for MAP-21/FAST Act have been issued for safety and safety performance management.
- Next month the Association of MPOs (AMPO) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is requesting comments on system performance, freight movement on the Interstate System, and CMAQ. (An FHWA flier on the proposed rulemaking was passed out at the meeting.)
- William Johnson suggested the MPOs and CDOT coordinate on submitting comments where possible. Each MPO may have its own specific comments as well. William suggested MPOs submit comments to him by Friday, May 13, a week before the next Statewide MPO meeting on May 20. June 17 is the deadline for submitting comments from the MPOs and state departments of transportation to AMPO and AASHTO. Aug. 20 is the deadline for submitting all comments to FHWA.
- Charles Meyer reviewed the final rules for safety. He said that CDOT's approach is in line with requirements for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Traffic and Safety Engineering is working with Erik Sabina, manager of the CDOT Information Management Branch, on complying with the requirements for the Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) for non-local paved roads, local paved roads, and paved roads.
- Steve Cook of DRCOG suggested CDOT establish 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) statistics for each MPO.

- The Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data for off-system roads is not considered definitive, but is available to MPOs upon request.
- Charles reminded the group of the Final Rule on safety performance measures and the timeline. It requires that no later than July 2017, CDOT set safety performance measures. MPOs are required to establish their own no later than 180 days after that, but no later than February 2018. Meanwhile, CDOT Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch and the CDOT Office of Highway Safety are working together to set annual state safety targets that are consistent with Policy Directive 14. This will be done in early 2017. Steve Cook suggested that MPOs and CDOT start working together to discuss the safety measuring methodology. The timeline for the Final Rule is:
  - April 2016 - Final Rule
  - 2017 - Coordination between Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Highway Safety Plan, Highway Safety Improvement Program, and MPOs on safety measures and targets
  - July 2017 - Establish 2018 targets
  - Feb 2018 - MPO set targets (180 days after DOT)
  - Dec 2019 - Data available for PM assessment
  - March 2020 - Notifications sent from FHWA

**Consolidated Planning Grants (CPG) Timeline for Amendments (Informational) - Jeff Sudmeier, DTD**

- DTD is coordinating with FHWA, the Controller's Office, and Division of Accounting and Finance to identify changes to allow for the execution of CPG contracts by October 1 of each year. Details of approach and timeline should be worked out in May and will be shared with the MPOs at an upcoming meeting.
- In order for contracts to be executed by October 1, DTD liaisons need to receive CPG Scopes of Work (based on UPWPs) by the end of June. The amended UPWPs need to go to the FHWA for approval by September 30. The MPOs said they are amending their UPWPs on this schedule:
  - DRCOG - June 4
  - GVMPO - Possibly May, but July most likely
  - NFRMPO - New UPWP, June 2
  - PACOG - June
  - PPACG - Uncertain (need to get new staff person trained)

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Annual Update Documentation - Jeff Sudmeier, DTD**  
 In order to facilitate Governor John Hickenlooper's approval of TIPs, the following documentation is needed:

- The TIP and Conformity determination if the MPO is in a non-attainment or maintenance area for air quality
- Board resolutions of approval
- Air Quality Control Council conformity letter (if applicable)
- MPO planning self-certification

**C-Plan Update (Discussion) - Kathleen Collins, DTD**

- Kathleen reviewed with the group recent coordination activities with ESRI, developer of cloud-based ArcView. ArcView is the platform for the display of CDOT data on C-Plan.
- The result of the coordination work should be a C-Plan that is easier to use and to read.
- Other departments of transportation and MPOs have used such online Geological Information Systems (GIS) data to enhance online mapping that identifies projects under construction, generate project reports at various geographic levels and borders, extract project information

by project/agency owners, include the project manager's name and contact information, sort information and mapping for project types by mode or facility type, display a windshield view of a project, and improved data sharing among planning partners and agencies.

- Challenges and issues include:
  - Avoid duplication of data and mapping efforts
  - Staff time and costs
  - Determine appropriate phasing of improvements as staff becomes familiar with building ArcGIS Online webapps and other applications

#### **MPO UPWP Mid-Year Reviews (Information) - Jeff Sudmeier, DTD**

- The MPO and Regional Planning Section has scheduled all the mid-year reviews of the MPOs during May.
- MPOs are asked to submit their mid-year reports a week or so before their mid-year reviews.

#### **MPO / FHWA Updates (Discussion) - MPO and FHWA Staff**

- NFRMPO - Terri Blackmore attended the Intermountain MPO meeting in Arizona. Air quality and transit were among the topics covered. The group is made up of MPOs from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Washington, and Utah. NFRMPO also has two new staff members.
- PPACG - Work is proceeding on the transportation plan and the TIP.
- PACOG - PACOG has hired a new program manager.
- FHWA - FHWA has filled a vacancy and created and filled a new position. A full-time FHWA employee will work on I-70 East issues. A shift of responsibilities among FHWA staff will take place by the end of June.

#### **Other Business**

- A discussion about how the rolling, or annual, TIPs would work with cash management could be scheduled for a Statewide MPO meeting and be the only item on the agenda.