



Statewide MPO Meeting
CDOT HQ
2829 W. Howard Place
CDOT Auditorium (1st Floor)
July 26, 2019 from 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Participants

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO) - Dean Bressler (by phone) and Dana Brosig and; Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Ron Papsdorf, Steve Cook, Jacob Riger, and Matthew N. Helfant; North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO) - Medora Bornhoft (by phone); Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) - John Adams; and Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) - Kathryn Wenger.
- CDOT Headquarters: Rebecca White, Erik Sabina, Marissa Gaughan, Kathleen Collins, Aaron Willis, Gail Hoffman, Carrie Tremblatt, David Swenka, Darius Pakbaz, and Jamie Collins.
- CDOT Regions: Region 1 - Jason Rudel and Danny Herrmann, Region 2 - Wendy Pettit (via phone), Region 3 - Mark Rogers (via phone), Region 4 - Karen Schneiders and Jan Rowe.
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA): Ranae Tunison and Kristin Kenyon
- Federal Highway Administrative (FHWA): Bill Haas and Aaron Bustow

Spotlight: Federal Highway Administration

- Bill Haas and Aaron Bustow highlighted a recent FHWA workshop on performance management at DRCOG offices. The workshop featured a good sharing of ideas that showed widely varied MPO approaches to performance management.
- FHWA does not want to be prescriptive for fear of shutting off promising approaches. The FHWA district offices have asked FHWA headquarters for more guidance, but so far, FHWA headquarters has not provided it.
- When MPOs use the flexibility that FHWA provides, they face the prospect of hearing from FHWA at the end of the process that their method is not meeting the mark. For example, FHWA distributed calculation methods after the targets were due. That was not helpful.
- Darius Pakbaz suggested that the FHWA Resources Center organize a Colorado MPO workshop on performance management, an idea that met general agreement. A collaborative workshop with both FHWA and FTA would be a good step.
- Tim Kirby said that the more DOTs that go down their different paths on performance management, the more they may have to undo what they have already done. Both Los

Angeles and Denver have the same congestion level due to the way each calculated congestion.

- Kristin Kenyon said that FTA has heard that departments of transportation and transit agencies need more templates and clearer deadlines.
- Aaron Bustow said that FHWA could try to alert MPOs to the latest FHWA thinking on performance management through emails, webinars, and face-to-face meetings.

Title VI Training - Eboni Younger-Riehl, CDOT Civil Rights and Business Resource Center

- Eboni drew everyone's attention to a flyer in the meeting packet on an all-day workshop on Title VI compliance training at CDOT headquarters on Aug. 5. The last time FHWA offered such training was in 2015.
- She also said she has sent surveys to MPOs on updates to the goals and accomplishments section of their Title VI plans. Filling out the survey will double as the MPOs' Title VI plan update of the goals and accomplishments, but the MPOs will still need to upload a Title VI plan to the survey.

Regional Funding Discussions - DRCOG

- Characterizing himself as a messenger, not a promoter, Ron Papsdorf said that the Metro Mayors Caucus is discussing the possibility of raising regional revenues for transportation.
- A local or regional transportation funding measure might have a better chance of passage than a statewide one.
- Colorado has five regional transportation authorities (RTAs) today that are taxing authorities with the ability to raise local funds for transportation. They can raise sales, use, and property taxes.
- According to a 2017 Colorado Legislative Council summary, the five RTAs are Gunnison Valley Rural Transportation Authority, Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation, and South Platte Valley Regional Transportation Authority.
- The RTA option might be a worthy one since local jurisdictions maintain 75 percent of lane miles - and the failure in 2018 of both statewide transportation Propositions 109 and 110.
- Goals of a regional RTA would be to accelerate regional and local priorities; address congestion, pavement conditions, and mobility issues; and allow each region to determine priorities, equity, rate, and distribution.
- Arguments for an RTA are that it is in statute; RTAs already exist in the state; and Pikes Peak RTA is similar but smaller than the DRCOG region.
- Arguments against are that it is designed for small collaborations; entities that decide not to join could make corridor investments difficult; and it creates a new governing body with one representative per participant.
- A Metro Transportation Collaborative (MTA) could be a new type of legislatively created entity in which the boundaries and governance would be set in statute, although negotiation would still be required to determine the jurisdictions that would support or oppose inclusion. It still would require a new layer of government.
- The five existing MPOs - which have 83 percent of the population - could be empowered via state legislation to have the authority to tax for transportation.

- Next steps are to write a statute with the authority to empower MPOs to form MTAs, reach out to MPOs and other jurisdictions statewide (including possibly the rural transportation planning regions), and work with the legislature on enabling authority in 2020.

Local Road Safety Circuit Rider - David Swenka, CDOT Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch

- David announced that CDOT recently hired a contractor to offer technical assistance to local agencies in interpreting and providing safety data, and helping counties produce their own safety plans.
- The safety circuit rider has a more rural focus for certain services (e.g., road safety audits, and local road safety plans), but it will be available to everyone for technical assistance.
- The assistance will coordinate with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), which will soon be up for renewal, and in cooperation with CDOT and FHWA. The University of Colorado has provided LTAP for the past 19 years.
- CDOT hopes that a community college will provide the new LTAP. The service could overlap with the CDOT training academy and with maintenance classes that community colleges are already offering.

Statewide Travel Survey - Erik Sabina, CDOT Information Management Branch

- Erik said that there seemed to be general agreement last month about the amounts MPOs would contribute to the travel survey. (The amounts were DRCOG, \$2M; PPACG, \$700K; NFRMPO, \$425K; and PACOG and GVMPO, \$275K each.)
- He had an initial meeting with Central Federal Lands Division about obtaining visitor information for national parks and other federally owned destinations in Colorado. Further negotiations are proceeding.
- Information will go in the Transportation Commission packets for August on a request for \$1M for CDOT's portion of the statewide travel survey. The rest of the estimated budgeted portion of CDOT's \$2.25M share will come from planning funds.
- Ron Papsdorf said that since the major costs will occur in calendar year 2021, DRCOG has budgeted some for CY 2020, with the bulk in CY 2021.

CDOT STIP Update - Jamie Collins, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch

- Jamie said she has met with FTA and FHWA as part of the preparations for producing a 10-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- In the recent past, CDOT updated the STIP annually, but did not this year because of uncertainties about the STIP.
- CDOT will release the 2020-2023 STIP to the public in September for adoption in November. Adoption of the 2020-2023 STIP will be a steppingstone to the 10-year STIP.
- March 2020 remains the adoption date for the 2045 Statewide Transportation Plan, as well as the adoption of the full 10-Year STIP.
- The next STIP will include the full 10-year pipeline of projects.
- The 2020-2023 STIP will have two stand-alone sections: an Executive Summary, and the full, detailed STIP document with all of the supporting reports, etc.

Transportation Commission adoption of both sections is set to take place at the same time in November.

Long-Range Plan / Roundtable Updates and Coordination - All

- DRCOG - Ron Papsdorf thanked CDOT for its partnership on county meetings and other events around the MPO. The county meetings and other events are among the steps toward producing the 2045 SWP. Rebecca White thanked DRCOG for its willingness to work with CDOT on the meetings and events.

Other Business

- SWMPO "Spotlight" Schedule
 - PPACG - August
 - GVMPO - September
 - CDOT - October
- Other Future Agenda Topics?

Future Agenda Topics

- Transportation Performance Measures will return as a standing agenda item next month
 - CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew, FHWA, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have received the calculated safety performance measures.
 - Charles Meyer will bring the actual measures and methodology memo to the August meeting.
- Front Range Passenger Rail (August Meeting)
- Environmental Justice and Equity, DRCOG, Matthew Helfant (August Meeting)
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Population Control Totals
- DOLA Demography Office Presentation tailored to MPOs
- Anything else?