



Planning Connections - October 2016

CDOT planning news you can use.

Volunteer Participants Recruited for Road Usage Charge Pilot Program

CDOT is beginning to recruit volunteer participants for the Colorado RUC (Road Usage Charge) Pilot Program that will develop, implement, and evaluate a RUC system for passenger vehicles based on current operating environments and available technology. Primary project goals are to demonstrate an operational pilot, identify and evaluate issues, test the feasibility of various mileage reporting options, and solicit feedback and ideas.

The 100 participants recruited from around the state during October will create an account and register vehicles with an account manager, select a mileage reporting options (GPS-enabled, non-GPS-enabled, or odometer reading), report mileage on a periodic basis, receive and review invoices, and submit mock payments during the pilot. The pilot will begin in November 2016 with a “soft launch” involving about 15 CDOT staffers to make sure there are no technical issues that need resolving first. The pilot will begin in December 2016 and end in April 2017. A few of the 100 participants will be CDOT emergency management team members, but the rest will be drawn from CDOT stakeholders and the general public. After the pilot ends, the research team will submit a final report that summarizes the pilot, describes the lessons learned, and makes recommendations for future pilots and implementation.

Under a RUC, vehicle owners pay for miles driven instead of (or in addition to) gallons of gas purchased. A RUC is believed to be a more equitable reflection of the actual use of the highways. CDOT is exploring several alternative funding approaches, of which the RUC is but one, because the current gas tax no longer is sufficient to meet the costs of operating, maintaining, and improving the statewide transportation system. The gas tax isn't a sustainable source for future infrastructure funding due to federally-mandated vehicular fuel efficiency and the increasing use of hybrids, electric vehicles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. A recent needs and gap analysis conducted as part of the *2040 Statewide Transportation Plan* published in 2015 showed an estimated revenue gap of \$1 billion over the next 25 years. Contact [Tim Kirby](#) for more information on the RUC and pilot program.

Book Aimed at Improving Main Streets Now Available

CDOT's Bicycle/Pedestrian and Scenic Byways Section has recently developed *Colorado Downtown Streets, A Tool for Communities, Planners, and Engineers* in collaboration with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This book has been created to help Colorado communities and CDOT better communicate issues pertaining to main streets, particularly when the street is a state highway.

This is not a technical guide book, but rather a document that addresses ideas, options, language, and process. It is meant to help strike a balance among the many demands that face our downtown streets. It provides options for how to increase safety for all users across all modes of travel. The design of every street must be tailored to its unique circumstances, as well as adhere to engineering standards and requirements. The book is not a substitute for the engineering process, but rather a

tool to aid in the development of thoughtful partnerships, compromise, and informed decision-making for improving Colorado's downtown streets.

All photos and case studies are from Colorado, helping to remove the old question of how an idea might be adaptable to Colorado issues.

The PDF version is now available on the DOLA web site at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/main-street-resources>. In addition to the book, four animated videos discuss specific topics such as benefits of great streets, street scape components, and more. The videos are approximately 90 seconds each and provide an interesting way of presenting the information. CDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs webpage will be including this link soon. Hard copies of the book are being sent to each of our planning partners, as well as to the CDOT region planners and the region bicycle and pedestrian representatives. For more information or questions, please contact [Betsy Jacobsen](#).

Historic and Scenic Roads Training Offered in Mid-November

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program is offering two free one-day historic and scenic roads training courses entitled *Colorado Historic and Scenic Roads Training: New Insights on Management and Safety for Colorado's Most Distinctive Roads*. The two courses are taught by Dan Marriott, the principal and founder of Paul Daniel Marriott + Associates, a historic landscape preservation planning firm.

The courses will be:

- Golden, CO - November 15, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Full)
- Durango, CO - November 17, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These training courses are recommended for all state and local engineers with planning, design, construction or maintenance responsibilities; landscape architects; transportation planners; cultural resource staff (i.e. archaeology and historic preservation); scenic byways; and decision makers. Each class is limited to 25 people. Because of budget constraints, first priority will go to government employees.

E-mail confirmations will be sent no later than two weeks prior to class with the specific class location and additional details. Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/FBJE4GuwcV3m9X1p2>

Updates in Brief

- **Monitoring Non-Motorized Traffic:** The Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Section at DTD has completed a strategic planning effort on monitoring non-motorized traffic (e.g., bicycles and walking). The planning effort involved conducting stakeholder outreach, including surveys and a focus group. The outreach was to determine what non-motorized traffic data is most needed and how the data would be used. The plan team then formulated program goals and several strategies to achieve those goals and provide better service based on the feedback received. A work plan to implement the plan strategies will be developed over the winter. A copy of the plan will be posted on the CDOT website soon, but is available here:



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- **Bike-Pedestrian Inventory:** The inventory of bike and pedestrian facilities along or adjacent to state highways in Region 2 is expected to be finished in about two months. Data collection has been completed, and the documentation phase has begun. The inventory is expected to serve as a template for similar inventories around the state. A statewide inventory will provide CDOT important information on the bike and pedestrian facilities for which it is responsible and the condition of the biking facilities. This should help CDOT Regions determine where biking and walking conditions are less favorable and therefore where expenditures could be directed.
- **Development Program / Project Selection:** Staff discussed the 10-Year Development Program and project selection for Senate Bill (SB) 228, the new National Highway Freight Program, and the FASTLANE discretionary grant program with the Transportation Commission at their October meeting. A second workshop is planned for November. In the meantime, DTD and Region staff are moving forward with further evaluation/prioritization of projects from the 10-Year Development Program based on draft eligibility and evaluation criteria.
- **Multimodal Freight Plan / State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan:** Development of the Multimodal Freight Plan and State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan is underway, supported by Cambridge Systematics and FHU. Working groups will begin meeting in November, with a Joint Project Advisory Committee (JPAC) meeting for the first time in December. The JPAC comprises representatives of Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee, Transit and Rail Advisory Committee, and Freight Advisory Council, plus other stakeholders.

Transportation Commission and STAC

- A [summary](#) of the Transportation Commission's September 14-15 meeting can be found on the STAC webpage.
- Notes from the September 23 STAC meeting is available in the October packet, also located on the [STAC webpage](#).

If you have suggestions for topics or updates to submit, etc. please send to gail.hoffman@state.co.us. Copies of past issues of Planning Connections are available [here](#) under Planning Process.