



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Development

# Planning Connections - Sept. 2016

*CDOT planning news you can use.*

## DTD Facilitates Session at Rural Transportation Working Summit

CDOT Division of Transportation Development took an active part in the National Working Summit on Transportation in Rural America conducted September 7-9 at the Denver Tech Center.

Two CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD) staff members, Oana Deselnicu and Tim Kirby, facilitated a three-hour session on *Commerce and Freight in the Rural Environment* and intern Grace Kellner took notes. About 15 participants attended this session, with diverse backgrounds ranging from local economic developers, truck industry leaders, and transportation planners. Session goals were to discuss the role of freight in rural economic development, identify challenges for freight in rural areas, and brainstorm possible solutions.

One of the main takeaways from the session was that rural areas are a vital component of national economic development and serve urban areas through the provision of raw or processed materials and commodities, as well as energy products. As such, rural transportation projects benefit people well outside the boundaries of the communities in which they are located. Funding rural projects improves the global competitiveness of the country as a whole, lowers the price of food, and supports development of urban and rural communities. Creative funding for rural transportation projects can be achieved through coalition-building and teaming up with other benefitting organizations, such as the Bureau of Land Management, the FHWA Federal Lands Division, tourism organizations, and public-private partnerships.

The National Center for Rural Road Safety hosted the rural transportation summit. The summit was a working event intended to bring together grassroots stakeholders and transportation leaders to discuss rural transportation issues such as commerce and freight, design and construction, emergency response, safety, and tourism. The ultimate goal was to funnel ideas from all the working sessions into a White Paper for rural transportation to improve the status quo.

## CDOT GIS User Group Builds Community around Geospatial Technology

GIS - geographic information systems - can be a boon to those familiar with how all types of spatial or geographic data can be stored, analyzed, and managed. For example, a collection of CDOT online GIS maps make up [C-Plan](#), which assisted in development of the 2040 statewide and regional plans and is being refined for future planning efforts.

To share ideas and concepts, the Information Management Branch launched the CDOT GIS User Group, which met for the first time at Region 4's new offices in Greeley February 2016.

Since then, the group has met at CDOT Headquarters in April and at the Traffic Operations Center in Golden in July. Those unable to attend in person may attend via Zoom. The meetings last either a half or full day, depending on content, and occur every other month or quarterly. The GIS User Group is open to all interested staff from across CDOT and its partners, and is guided by a smaller Steering Committee consisting of representatives from each CDOT Region and Headquarters.

Some previous presentations and demos include:

- Building the Snow Plowing Level-of-Service mapping app for Division of Maintenance
- Mapping Debris Flows on SH 145 in Region 5
- Using GIS for Hydraulics Studies and Bridge Design in Region 4
- ITS and Fiber Optics Mapping
- Designing Geo-Databases
- Airports, Wildlife, and GIS
- Using both CAD and GIS
- C-Plan (ArcGIS Online) demos
- ArcGIS Desktop tips and tricks

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, October 26, at Region 3 offices in Grand Junction. The User Group currently communicates through a SharePoint site. Please contact [Allison Bejarano](#) for details or 303-757-9285 (7-9285). Or visit this link: [http://connectsp/sites/dtd/imb/gisug/\\_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx](http://connectsp/sites/dtd/imb/gisug/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx)

## Updates in Brief

- **Statewide Plan Assessment** - FHU and Cambridge Systematics are beginning work on an assessment of the 2040 Statewide Plan and 2040 Regional Plans. The purpose of the assessment is to outline how the statewide planning process and plans can be improved, with particular emphasis on scenario planning, needs and gap, and the 10-year development program.
- **Pedal the Plains** - Bike/Pedestrian/TDM Section staffers Lenore Bates and Leslie Feuerborn helped children paint snow shovels and assisted the Office of Communications' Bob Wilson in passing out bike and pedestrian literature at the La Junta City Park on Saturday, September 17. They were there for Pedal the Plains, the annual event that is the eastern Colorado counterpart to Ride the Rockies. This year, the route began in Ordway and went to Fowler and La Junta before finishing in Ordway. A family fun ride also took place in La Junta on Saturday, with activities at various stops along the 5-mile route.

## Transportation Commission and STAC

- A [summary](#) of the Transportation Commission's August 17-18 meeting can be found on the STAC webpage.
- Notes from the August 26 STAC meeting will be available in the September 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](mailto:gail.hoffman@state.co.us). Copies of past issues of Planning Connections are available [here](#) under Planning Process.*

