

Statewide Steering Committee Meeting #5 Meeting Summary

Date: June 24, 2014
Time: 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Location: Colorado Department of Transportation, Headquarters
Attendees: See sign in sheet (attached)

Meeting Goal: Concurrence on implementation actions and final report outline

- 1) Welcome and Introductions - Tracey welcomed the group and thanked them for their ongoing participation. The group conducted self introductions around the room and on the phone.
- 2) Interregional Express (IX) Bus and Bus Network Plan Update – John Valerio provided the group with an update on the Interregional Express (IX) bus service that CDOT will begin operating in the spring of 2015. These services will be the first bus services operated by CDOT. The mission is to connect Colorado's largest population and employment centers as well as connect to the state's existing local transit systems. John provide key service statistics for each of the three planned routes:
 - a. I-25 from downtown Denver to downtown Fort Collins, 4 peak commute trips and 1 off-peak trip, serves Fort Collins, Loveland and Denver, 170 to 260 passengers per day estimated.
 - b. I-25 from downtown Denver to Tejon park-and-ride in Colorado Springs, 5 peak commute trips, 1 off-peak trip, serves Colorado Springs, Monument, and Denver, 370 to 550 passengers per day estimated.
 - c. I-70 from downtown Denver to Glenwood Springs, 1 trip per day on weekdays, serves Glenwood, Eagle, Vail, Frisco, and Denver metro area, 20-40 passengers per day estimated.

Modifications are planned to some of the existing park-and-rides to accommodate this service.

All routes will be offered at approximately \$0.17 per mile but discounts will be available when tickets are purchased in bulk.

John shared budget estimates for capital startup and ongoing operating and maintenance with the group.

John fielded several questions and suggestions from the group including the suggestion to provide a "Bronco" special. John stated that this may be able to be accommodated and is being considered. The group also asked about the potential for expansion. John said that the current plan is to get the service up and running and expand as the buses fill. Pete Fraser with SCCOG requested that John provide the latest schedule and John said he would.

- 3) Elderly and Disabled Survey Results – Tracey introduced Erin Caldwell with NRC. In 2013 NRC conducted the Statewide Transit Survey of Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities. Survey results were tabulated at the regional and statewide levels. The survey was distributed by mail and was also available for completion on the web. Agencies throughout the state that work with older adults and adults with disabilities were also given the survey instrument and asked to complete the survey with clients using their services. The overall response rate was relatively high though an exact number was not available. Respondents were asked their typical mode of transportation, the level of difficulty finding transportation and what type of trips they generally needed transportation for. More than half of respondents stated that they felt strongly about supporting more transportation choices in their community, local and regional as well as discount/voucher programs. Findings from this survey effort will be used to inform the regional coordinated transit plans as well as the statewide transit plan.
 - 4) Regional Transit Plan Status – Holly provided the group with an update of the regional transit plans. All draft regional transit plans have been completed and distributed to the Transit Working Groups for a two week review. After comments on all the draft plans have been completed, the team will update the draft plans and distribute them for a final 30-day public review cycle. The 30-day review cycle for all plans is expected to start July 21st.
 - 5) Urban Area Open House Update – In May, CDOT held 5 open house meetings on the Statewide Transit plan in the MPO areas. The meetings were held jointly with the MPO and local transit provider. Common themes heard at the open houses include: more funding is needed to operate transit services; need to expand transit services including new routes, new stops and longer hours; and routes are needed to connect the rural areas to the metro areas for work, shopping and medical trips. This is similar to what we heard at the rural area open houses and through the Elderly and Disabled Survey.
 - 6) Schedule – Holly provided the group with a summary of the anticipated development and review cycle for the Statewide Transit Plan. At this point the consultant team hopes to have a draft plan to CDOT for review by the end of July. CDOT anticipates a two week review cycle and hopes to submit the plan to the SSC for review by August 18 with the hope of completing the final plan by the end of October for TC adoption.
 - 7) Statewide Transit Plan Outline – Holly reviewed the Statewide Transit Plan outline with the group providing a short synopsis of each chapter with the group. The group suggested adding more of a focus to choice riders in chapter 2 to supplement the transit dependent discussion. They also suggested switching the chapters 4 and 6 to improve the flow of the document and reiterated the importance of including passenger and freight rail. The CDOT Civil Rights office asked that the plan look at the needs of EJ and Title VI populations. The group suggested adding information on what we spend on all transportation statewide, not just transit and not just
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CDOT's budget. Then look at what percent is transit of all state spending. It was suggested that STAC may have had a recent similar discussion.

- 8) Implementation Actions – The committee broke into four groups (three at the meeting site and one on the phone) to review the draft implementation actions. The groups provided valuable feedback about what they feel CDOT's role in transit should be by providing edits to text and concepts presented. The final Implementation Actions are attached.

 - 9) Adjourn - The meeting adjourned just after 3:45 PM.
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