

Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Transit Working Group #1 – Meeting Minutes

Date: July 30, 2013
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Region 10 Office
300 North Cascade, Suite 1
Montrose, Colorado

Meeting attendees:

Karin Stewart – Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Service
Matt Muraro – CDOT Region 5
Lynn Black – San Miguel County
Mark Roeber – Delta County
Bob Kalenar – Delta County
Chris Coulter – Town of Mountain Village
Tony Cady – CDOT Region 5
Mark Rogers – CDOT Region 3
Justin Clifton – City of Delta
Paul Ruud – Town of Telluride
Peter Crowell – RIO
Vince Rogalski – Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region STAC Chair
Bill Quiggle – Mountain Express
Scott Truex – Gunnison Valley RTA
Chris Larsen – Mountain Express
Joanne Fagan – Town of Ridgeway, Ouray TAC
John Harris – City of Montrose
Sarah Curtis – All Points Transit
Michelle Haynes – Region 10
Holly Buck – FHU
Steven Marfitano – FHU
John Valerio – CDOT DTR
Tracey MacDonald (via phone) – CDOT DTR
Will Kerns (via phone) – OV Consulting

Welcome & Introductions

John Valerio from CDOT kicked the meeting off and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

Project Background

John Valerio from CDOT provided an overview of the planning processes for the Statewide Transit Plan and for the Regional Transit and Human Service Coordination plans.

John reviewed materials included in the meeting packet, including: public involvement and agency coordination for the planning processes, review of the Statewide Transit Plan goals and objectives, guiding principles for transit planning at CDOT, what will be included in the Statewide Transit Plan, and an overview of the project schedule.

John also led a discussion about the relationship of the Statewide Transit Planning process to the proposed MPACT64 ballot measure. He indicated that at this time, it is expected the ballot measure would include funding for highway and transit projects, with transit funding available for capital and operating expenses. It is still uncertain how money would be distributed throughout the state. Currently, CDOT gets \$28 million for transit (\$15 million through FASTER and \$13 million through FTA). For the Statewide Transit Plan, there will be a full data collection process to inform the plan, but the potential of the MPACT64 ballot measure has necessitated collecting potential transit projects at this meeting. This list will be used in the case of the MPACT64 ballot measure to inform voters of transit needs throughout the state.

A lengthy discussion between CDOT and local stakeholders indicated the region is considering bringing a ballot measure to form an RTA in fall 2014, which may conflict with the MPACT64 ballot measure. The group indicated concern about coordinating local activities with state measures and the current amount of uncertainty. John indicated that while CDOT will be providing information in response to the MPACT64 measure, the agency is not leading the effort and must only react to outside decisions.

Public Involvement Approach

Will Kerns from OV Consulting reviewed the strategy for public involvement for both the statewide transit plan and the local coordinated transit plan. The schedule at present includes a public open house in the fall of 2013 and a second open house in the spring of 2014. Input was solicited as to best approaches and locations for public meetings in the Gunnison Valley region.

Public meeting input/strategies:

- Electronic meetings seem to work well with widespread web and phone access
- Distribute public meeting information on transit system vehicles, through transit agency contact lists (sent by providers for security), and other community locations
- Give dispatchers information to pass along to transit customers
- Survey Monkey could be used to solicit feedback

Key Elements of a Coordinated Transportation Plan

Steven Marfitano, Transportation Planner for Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU), reviewed a handout that covered the basic components of a coordinated transportation plan. Some of the key elements of completing a coordinated transportation plan included the following:

- Provide a forum for transit providers and human service agencies to discuss issues
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination (reducing cost inefficiencies)
- Create a list of priorities and projects

- Satisfy requirements of MAP 21.

Regional Planning

Demographics

Steven Marfitano, Transportation Planner for FHU, reviewed the demographic materials that have been created to date by the consultant team. The following maps/information was presented with a request for participants to provide comments:

- Major Activity Centers and Destinations
Potential map additions discussed:
 - Add resorts
- Employed Working Outside of County of Residence
Comments:
 - Review Montrose to Gunnison commuter behavior, participants surprised that no arrow is shown between
 - Review Hinsdale since no arrows are indicated leaving the county
- 2011 Percentage of Households with No Vehicle
- Percentage of Residents Age 65+ for 2013, 2020, 2030, and 2040
- Job Growth from 2000 to 2040
- 2011 Veteran Population
- 2011 Minority Population
- 2011 Percent of Population with No or Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- 2011 Population below Federal Poverty Level

Gunnison Valley TPR 2008 Plan Summary

Steven Marfitano, Transportation Planner for FHU, reviewed the 2008 Gunnison Valley Plan Summary focusing on the Goals and Vision identified for that plan. Generally the 2008 plan identified the need to “provide a transit network to serve residents and visitors throughout the region.” The general themes from the 2008 plan focused on regional service, service to the general public, and elderly service.

The group indicated that the goals and vision should also focus on integrating multimodal travel into the region with the goal of reducing travel by private auto, or at least reducing the growth to private auto vehicular use.

Regional Transit Needs, Projects, and Priorities

A portion of the first Transit Working Group meeting was used to discuss project needs within the Gunnison Valley TPR. A Project List was developed based on input from the stakeholders about the short and long term transit needs for the region. The projects were discussed using the following categories: operating, capital and coordination. The discussion outcomes are below.

Capital Projects and Needs

Short Term

- Van/Vehicle Replacement as Needed
- Match Vehicle Needs to Operating Projects
- PNR Montrose (SH 145)
- PNR Ridgway
- PHN Nucla/Naturita Area

- ADA Veterans Van (current van not ADA accessible)

Long Term

- PNR along SH 135 Corridor between Gunnison and Crested Butte
- Mountain Village Gondola Cabins
- Intermodal Facility in Montrose
- Maintenance Facility in Montrose
- Mountain Village Gondola Full Capacity Back-Up Power

Operating Projects and Needs

- Maintain/Increase Existing Services (TOP PRIORITY)
- Gunnison to Montrose (General Public Service) (TOP PRIORITY)
- Montrose to Delta (General Public Service) (TOP PRIORITY)
- Delta to Cedaredge
- North Fork Communities (Coal Mines) to Delta
- Increase Service to Telluride (including Cortez and corridor)
- Increase Frequency and Service within Telluride and Mountain Village
- Increase Operating Frequency and Hours between Gunnison and Mt. Crested Butte
- Increase Summer Service in Resorts
- Increase Frequency for Senior and Disabled Service in Gunnison County
- Increase Frequency for General Public in City of Gunnison
- Increase Gunnison Valley (entire region) Medical Service to Montrose and Grand Junction
- Backfill Mountain Village and Telluride Operating Expenses
- Increase Norwood/Delta Valley Operating Funding (losing funding based on real estate)

Coordination Projects and Needs

Employee

- New and Expanded vanpool programs
- Implement TDM Strategies

Medical

- Regional Volunteer Driver Program

Veterans

- Increase utilization of vehicles with General Public Service (All Points Transit already takes calls/schedules for Disabled American Veterans)

Information/Communication

- Marketing
- Single Information Resource

Next Steps

The meeting closed by discussing what we need from the Transit Working Group and what they can expect in the months to come, including:

- All project correspondence and information will be distributed via email and online
- Feedback on demographic data/maps – send any comments to Steven Marfitano (see contact information below)
- Transit Provider and Human Services Surveys to be distributed in early August

- Next Transit Working Group Meeting – date to be determined
- Please send Steven Marfitano (email below) any contact information of people that should be included in the Transit Working Group

Adjourn

The group was thanked for their participation and the meeting adjourned.

PROJECT CONTACTS:

CDOT DTR Lead: Scott Weeks, scott.weeks@state.co.us
Work: 303-757-9771

CDOT Project Manager: Tracey MacDonald, tracey.macdonald@state.co.us
Work: 303-757-9753

Lead TPR Planner: Steven Marfitano, steven.marfitano@fhueng.com
Work: 303-721-1440

Project Web Site: <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/transitandrail/statewidetransitplan>