

Northwest Transportation Planning Region Transit Working Group #1 – Meeting Minutes

Date: July 25, 2013
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Olympian Hall
845 Howelsen Pkwy.
Steamboat Springs, CO

Meeting attendees:

Ronald Kittelson – Craig Vocational Rehabilitation Office
Colleen for Pat Riley (via phone) – Jackson County Veteran Services
Susan Juergensmeier – Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
Mary Alice Page-Allen – Town of Oak Creek
Van Pilaud – Rio Blanco County
Steve Ivancie – Routt County Commissioner
Audrey Williams – Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
George Hansen – Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
Ben Beall – City of Steamboat Springs
Ginger Scott – City of Steamboat Springs
Jonathan Flint – Steamboat Springs Transit
Beth Davidson – Steamboat Springs Vocational Rehabilitation Office
Kathy Connell – CDOT Transportation Commission District 6
David Averill – CDOT DTR
Cady Dawson – Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Shea Suski – Felsburg Holt & Ullevig

Welcome & Introductions

David Averill from CDOT kicked the meeting off and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

Project Background

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

David 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, the key elements of

the Local Transit and Human Service Coordinated Transportation Plans, and an overview of the project schedule.

Public Involvement Approach

David Averill from CDOT and Cady Dawson, Transportation Planner from Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU), 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 the best approaches and locations for public meetings in the Northwest region.

Public meeting input/strategies:

- Distribute public meeting and plan information on transit system vehicles
- Publicize at area Chamber of Commerce mixer events

Key Elements of a Coordinated Transportation Plan

Cady Dawson, Transportation Planner from 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 include 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

Shea Suski, Transportation Planner from 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
 - Corrections/Additions:*
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Offices
 - Corrections/additions submitted by individuals
- Employed Working Outside of County of Residence
- Intra-County Public Transit Commuters
- 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

Northwest TPR 2008 Plan Summary

Shea Suski, Transportation Planner from FHU, reviewed the 2008 Northwest Plan Summary document with participants. Mr. Suski reiterated that this information is the outcome of the last plan update in 2008 and is

being used to get an idea as to whether or not the key issues, strategies, goals, etc. are still in line for the region.

Additionally, Shea Suski led a more detailed discussion to obtain feedback on current vision and goals for the region. The following are the key concepts that emerged from the discussion for the Northwest region:

- Access to reliable transit, including paratransit, medical services, and employment/activity centers
- Connectivity area wide, including between regional services and with the I-70 corridor
- Making transit attractive for / capture choice riders
- Education/Outreach
- Safety of facilities

Regional Transit Needs, Projects, and Priorities

A portion of the first Transit Working Group meeting was used to discuss project needs within the Northwest TPR. A “Project List” was developed based on the 2008 Transit Plan and “other” CDOT plans to be used as a reference and starting point for the discussion. The projects were discussed using the following categories: operating, capital and coordination. The discussion outcomes are below.

Capital Projects and Needs

- Oak Creek noted the need for vehicles that carry 15-24 passengers
- Nearly all providers expressed a need for paratransit vehicles
- Craig/Meeker/Rangely expressed a need for demand-response vehicles
- Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) noted the need for fueling stations and supporting infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles
- Hayden park-n-ride still needed
- Regional need for shared maintenance facilities for smaller vehicles

Operating Projects and Needs

- Access to recreation in Steamboat Springs
- 7-days/week employment service between Oak Creek and Steamboat Springs
- Service to/from Steamboat Springs for grocery shopping and other similar trips to/from Walden, Yampa, and Clark since Steamboat Springs is the closest provider of such services to these communities
- Improve Greyhound service through the area (reduce travel times, decrease cost, etc.)
- Medical-related services
 - Rangely/Meeker service to Grand Junction and Craig for veteran medical services
 - Access in Moffat County
- Paratransit service for Craig/Meeker/Rangely, and enhanced paratransit service for Steamboat Springs Transit above ADA requirements
- Steamboat Springs Transit would like to increase frequencies, especially during the peak hours of the ski season
- Means to retain good drivers from leaving for more lucrative jobs
- Employment-related service
 - Between Garfield County (Rifle/Parachute)/Meeker and the oil and gas fields in Rio Blanco County

- For low-income households to access jobs in Moffat County
- Regional service to/from the I-70 corridor, such as in Wolcott
- Bring back passenger train service between Steamboat Springs and Wolcott

Coordination Projects and Needs

- Keeping an inventory of all providers and other players in transit within the TPR
- Shared trained technicians
- Improved coordination between providers of ski-related transit services
- Coordination of employment-related transit services
- Joint call center
- Linking of services, primarily across county lines

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 and past projects identified from 2008 (completed, in-progress, still needed, not relevant, etc.) – send any comments to Shea Suski (see contact information below)
- Transit Provider and Human Services Surveys to be distributed in mid-August
- Next Transit Working Group Meeting – TBD (possibly Tuesday, August 15th)
- Please send Shea Suski (email below) any contact information of people that should be included in the Transit Working Group

Adjourn

David Averill of CDOT thanked the group for attending and reiterated the value of their participation and that we look forward to working with them over the next several months.

PROJECT CONTACTS:

CDOT DTR Lead: David Averill, david.averill@state.co.us
Work: 303-757-9347

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

Lead TPR Planner: Shea Suski, shea.suski@fhueng.com
Work: 303-721-1440

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