

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

Date: August 21, 2013
Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: La Plata County Fairgrounds
2500 Main Avenue
Durango, Colorado
Meeting attendees: See attached sign in sheet

Welcome & Introductions

Scott Weeks from CDOT kicked the meeting off and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

Project Background

Scott provided an overview of the planning processes for the Statewide Transit Plan and for the Regional Transit and Human Service Coordination plans.

Scott 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

Tracey MacDonald from CDOT (via phone) reviewed the strategy for public involvement for both the statewide project and the local 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 Southwest region.

Public meeting input/strategies:

- Use a non government meeting space
 - Identify what the invited public will get out of attending... what is the benefit to them – raffle, bus pass, etc.
 - Durango has previously had success with brewer sponsored public meetings
 - Using the fairgrounds is free and the rec center is also a good location
 - Meetings could be held midday in Durango and in the evening in Cortez to improve coverage
 - Video conferencing is available at locations in Pagosa Springs, Cortez and Durango – this has worked well for public TPR meetings and reduce the need to hold meetings at two different locations
 - It was requested that at lead one of the next two TWG meetings be held in Cortez
 - Post cards and information on the transit vehicles
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Key Elements of a Coordinated Transportation Plan

Holly Buck, 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 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

Holly 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:*
 - Business centers
 - Changes to the Activity Center table:*
 - The table included a number of activity centers in SLV region. The team will update the table and map and send it to the group for another review
 - Add dialysis centers
 - Axis health system
 - Piedra store is closed
 - Frosty's ag Market is now the superette
 - Add clinics
 - Add two Walmarts
 - Check the presence of "Food Emporium"
 - Remove Spruce Mesa Foods
 - Check location of Pueblo Community College Mancos and Durango?
 - Add low income housing
 - Rec centers
 - Check location of Region 9 Ombudsman Program
 - Remove SW Colorado Research Center
 - Add GED program locations
 - Add continuing education locations
 - Add preschools and grade schools
 - Employed Working Outside of County of Residence
 - Comments:*
 - There is travel between La Plata and New Mexico
 - There is travel between Archuleta and La Plata
 - 2011 Percentage of Households with No Vehicle
 - Percentage of Residents Age 65+ for 2013, 2020, 2030, and 2040
 - Job Growth from 2000 to 2040
 - Comments:*
 - Archuleta County appears to show too much job growth. The team will check the number.
 - 2011 Veteran Population
 - 2011 Minority Population
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- 2011 Percent of Population with No or Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- 2011 Population below Federal Poverty Level

Southwest TPR 2008 Plan Summary

Holly reviewed the 2008 Southwest Plan Summary document with participants. Holly 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.

Holly 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 Southwest region:

- Maintain then enhance existing services
- Provide multimodal options for the region
- Maximize choices and incentives that reduce passenger vehicles at peak hours
- Encourage TOD
- Conduct public education and outreach as well as incentives to encourage transit
- Consider future rail service for commerce, tourist, and economic development
- Encourage inclusion of transit-friendly options at the development review level
- Improve services for seniors and transit dependent populations
- Implement strategies that improve air quality and address environmental sustainability

Regional Transit Needs, Projects, and Priorities

A portion of the first Transit Working Group meeting was used to discuss project needs within the Southwest 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.

Amber Blake said that there were other plans and projects that should be considered. She will send those documents to the team for inclusion.

The discussion outcomes are below (highest priority designation by group is indicated with an asterisk *).

Capital:

Short-Term

- ▶ Bayfield: park and ride
- ▶ Cortez: park and ride *
- ▶ Dolores: park and ride
- ▶ Archuleta County: park and ride *
- ▶ Archuleta County: expand fleet; Transportation Center (Pagosa Springs)
- ▶ SUCAP: Bus Barn
- ▶ Dolores: Bus/Vehicle Shelter
- ▶ Area-wide: park and ride lots in common gathering locations (stores, etc.); shared parking (church, shopping centers)

Long-Term

- ▶ Area-wide: alternative fuel replacement vehicles
 - ▶ Area-wide: General fleet replacement
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Coordination:

Employment

- ▶ South Ute Tribe – serve employment center/service industries
- ▶ Transit coordination council – involvement, engage, organize
- ▶ Partnerships – medical facilities with bus services, taxi services, etc.
- ▶ Expand coverage area to service main employment centers

Medical

- ▶ Cortez – Durango: public-private medical facilities

Veterans

- ▶ VA Hospital – coordinate service to Grand Junction facility
- ▶ Veterans currently lose money if they use public transportation. If they drive themselves they get reimburse to a value that exceeds the price of fuel. This doesn't make transit a competitive option.

Information/Communication/Other

Area-wide:

- ▶ Voucher Program to allow transfers between agencies
- ▶ Regional Services – promote services to public via outreach, communication
- ▶ Alternative fuel vehicle replacements
- ▶ Alternative fueling stations

Operation:

Short-Term

- ▶ * Pagosa Springs – Durango – Cortez – Dove Creek (VM 491) – (160 Corridor Alamosa)
 - Primary – medical facility
 - Secondary general transportation
- ▶ Arch. City - Ignacio
- ▶ Expanding service to outlying communities
- ▶ Ft. Lewis College
- ▶ Durango – Durango Mountain Resort
- ▶ Area-wide: increase ADA access
- ▶ Area-wide: recruit trained certified drivers

Long-Term

- ▶ Provide transit service to regional airport
 - ▶ Voucher program – allow transfers between agencies
 - ▶ Expand operating hours
 - ▶ Durango: service to Bayfield Medical Center
 - ▶ Cortez – Walsenburg transit service
 - ▶ Montezuma City – Durango: service to medical centers
 - ▶ Montezuma City – provide weekend, evening service
 - ▶ Bayfield – increase mobility/travel options
 - ▶ Dolores City – Rico – Cortez transit service
 - ▶ Dove Creek – SUCAP transit service
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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 Linda Rhine (see contact information below)
- Transit Provider and Human Services Surveys to be distributed in mid-August
- Next Transit Working Group Meeting – late October
- Please send Linda Rhine (email below) any contact information of people that should be included in the Transit Working Group. It was suggested that the the following organizations should be involved:
 - Womans Resource Center
 - Archuleta County Administrator to get more information about the budget for transit and transportation
 - Durango Mountain Resort
 - Private providers
 - Town of Rico
 - Chamber of Commerce

Adjourn

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

CDOT Project Planner: Scott Weeks scott.weeks@state.co.us
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Lead TPR Planner: Linda Rhine lrhine@nelsonnygaard.com
Work: 415-284-1544

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



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Transit Working Group Meeting #1**

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2500 Main Avenue
Durango, Colorado

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Holly Buck	FHD	6300 S. Spruce Wang 600	303 721 1440	Holly.Buck@ fweng.com
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Laura Lewis Marchino	Region 9	295 Grand St. Dgo	970-247-9621	Laura@Scan.org
Hilary Burman	FLC	1000 Rich Drive Durango, CO 81301	970-247-7220	burmanh@ flc.fortwarr.com



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SEAYTON RITTER	ROAD RUNNER TRANSPORT	PO Box 800 Juntura, OR 97531	970-563-4545	crucinter@ sugar.or.gov
Raymond Taylor	Archuleta County Veterans Services Office	PO Box 1507 Pagosa Springs CO 81427	(970) 264-4013	raytaylor@archuleta county.org
Morgan Gurule	Fort Lewis College Financial Allocation board	1000 Rim Drive Durango, CO 81301		m1gurule@fortlewis.edu
GREGG JOET	SCORE	10 Town Plaza Box 190, Durango	970- 254 254-1416 x 114	gregg@score.org



Statewide
Transit Plan

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JASON ARMSTRONG	D.W.C. I	435 E. 2ND AVE DURANGO, CO 81301	970-759-1682	IL - SWILL@SWCI.ORG
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