

---

**Statewide Steering Committee Meeting #1  
Meeting Summary**

Date: May 29, 2013  
Time: Noon – 2:30 PM  
Location: Colorado Department of Transportation, Headquarters Auditorium

**Statewide Steering Committee Attendees:**

Ann Rajewski – CASTA, TRAC  
Eric Bergman – CCI  
Ernest House, Jr. – CCIA  
Cecelia Garcia – CDOT Civil Rights Office  
Angela Graham – CDOT DTR, State Coordinating Council  
Mark Radtke – CML  
Jim Souby – ColoRail, TRAC  
Danny Katz – CoPIRG, TRAC  
Jacob Riger – DRCOG, TRAC  
Joan Shaffer (phone) – FRONT  
Jennifer Stewart – FTA  
Vince Rogalski – Gunnison Valley TPR, STAC and TRAC  
Brent Belisle – Mile High Independent Living Center  
Craig Blewitt (phone) – MMT, TRAC  
Stan Elmquist – NFRMPO  
Darren Glover (phone) – Rural Transit  
Jasper Butero, Jr. (phone) – SCCOG  
Michelle Scheuerman – CDOT DTD

**Project Team Attendees:**

Tracey MacDonald - CDOT DTR  
John Valerio - CDOT DTR  
Bob Felsburg - FHU  
Holly Buck - FHU  
Beth Vogelsang – OV Consulting  
Will Kerns – OV Consulting  
Suzanne O’Neill, Transit Plus

**MEETING GOALS:**

- Inform the SSC about the project
- Execute a Participation Agreement
- Develop a vision statement for transit in the state of Colorado

---

**PROJECT OVERVIEW – TRACEY MACDONALD, CDOT DTR PROJECT MANAGER**

The effort to develop the Statewide Transit Plan started in April of 2013 with expected completion in June of 2014.

- This plan is required by State legislation and will establish a vision for transit throughout Colorado.
- The project team will inventory existing services and make recommendations to reduce gaps in service and address transit needs.
- The scope includes the development of Local Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plans for the rural TPRs as well as the Statewide Transit Plan and a survey of the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- The plans will be developed in accordance with federal and state planning regulations.

This group, the Statewide Steering Committee (SSC), will meet approximately 5 to 7 times over the next 15 months at key milestones during the plan development process.

In addition, for each TPR a Technical Working Group (TWG) will convene up to three times throughout the process to develop the plans in each region. The TWGs will be comprised of area transit providers, human services agencies/organizations, county and municipality staff, and others involved in providing transportation services. Public open houses will be held separately.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE STATEWIDE TRANSIT PLAN? - GROUP DISCUSSION**

Rajewski, CASTA - Would like to see a plan that makes sense and will not sit on the shelf. Be a guiding document for funding and policy decisions.

Garcia, CDOT – The plan should be inclusive of all. Title VI, low-income, minority groups, and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) populations should be included in the process.

Bergman, CCI – Don't plan in a vacuum; include the local component in coordination on the plan. Consider regional aspects, especially connectivity and economic development and links with workforce/employment.

House, CCIA – A plan that recognizes and coordinates with the Tribal governments in Colorado and neighboring states (NM, AZ and UT).

Graham, CDOT, State Coordinating Council – From a Human Services perspective, coordination between veterans and Medicaid is a huge issue especially across county lines. Look at where gaps are and what issues we can address. Understand how to handle coordination in the future.

Radtke, CML – Available financing mechanisms, Public Private Partnerships, and Taxation ideas should be considered. Review efforts in other states in funding and financing systems.

Souby, ColoRail – We need to demonstrate the value and obvious advantages of a statewide transit system. We need to convince the public that this is what we should be doing with our resources, possibly through a public education program. Show the benefits, comparative advantages and importance of transit to the state. Communicating to the public, elected officials, local governments, etc. on how transit connects to what’s important to them (getting to school, work, recreation, economic development, etc.).

Riger, DRCOG - Look at rural/urban funding, equity issues and service interface between the two. Address lack of funding and potential funding sources. We need a funding source beyond FASTER. What is CDOT’s role, especially in terms of operating service.

Katz, COPIRG – A lot more “Why” and less “What”. How will it (transit) help with pollution, economic development, traffic, etc. Why is transit important? Why should we do transit? Create a long list of the advantages and benefits of transit and educate the public and elected officials and get them to understand the benefits and why it’s good for the state.

Belisle, MHILC – Process should be inclusive of all: accessibility on buses, accessibility on transit, and make transit low-cost. Greater availability of transit.

Scheuerman, CDOT DTD – Be able to track progress over time, have benchmarks to help measure our progress. Coordinate with the Statewide Tribal Coordination Plan, and state to state coordination.

Rogalski, Gunnison Valley TPR – Implementation is key. Transit should be integrated into the Statewide Transportation Plan, not just an addendum. Need to understand how to implement transit into the transportation system; how it affects highways, economic development, etc. Connectivity, we need to address the statement “I can't get there from here.” Address the gap areas. Plan should address Human Services, access to medical and dental care, especially in rural areas. Transit has always been its own thing. We need an educational piece that transit users and providers play a part in the overall state transportation system. Teach the transit community to be part of the planning process and part of the discussion – it’s important to the system. Eventually transit may start to compete for highway funds. Let’s have representation from medical group communities on this Steering Committee.

Elmquist, NFR MPO – Informing decision makers, integration of modal plans, corridor preservation and how do roads and transit work together. Educate transit providers to be active in all aspects of transportation planning. How do we preserve ROW, what are we doing about Railroad abandonments? We have bus systems that work independently of each other; we need to address interconnectivity between communities. Integrate the different modes of transit.

---

O'Neill, Transit Plus – Roles and responsibilities of local governments and state government should be identified. Address how things have changed with the development of DTR and what roles and responsibilities each agency should be providing.

Blewitt, MMT - Look to the plan to further define the role of the state in transit. Determine how to incorporate transit into the state transportation system, and stitching together different providers. Role of supporting agencies and cooperation among them. Role of state in providing services that aren't provided by others (e.g., Regional Commuter Bus).

Glover, Rural Transit - Southeast Colorado has transit needs. Coordination between counties and service to the Front Range, especially for medical services is important. What is the financial situation? Should be inclusive of all, accessible, and low cost.

Stewart, FTA – Identify realistic projects and opportunities, realistic funding, economic development, scaling and phasing of larger projects, state to state coordination, representation on the committee from the medical community. Safety and Security is a focus area for FTA now in project selection and evaluation. State of good repair, make an asset plan for aging fleets, factor in bus replacements. PPPs.

#### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER CDOT PLANS AND STUDIES – JOHN VALERIO, CDOT DTR**

- State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan
- Advanced Guideway System (AGS) Feasibility Study
- Interregional Connectivity Study (ICS)
- Performance Measures
- Intercity and Regional Bus
- Transit Capital/Asset Inventory

All of these feed into the Statewide Transit Plan which feeds into the 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan.

#### **DISCUSSION OF THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT - BOB FELSBURG, FHU**

This agreement lays out the Roles and Responsibilities for SSC, CDOT staff, and the Project Team. Purpose is to get members of this committee to commit to active participation in the process to develop the Transit Plans. Meetings will be conducted by the Project Team, with a focus on everyone being given a chance to speak. Our job is to create a Statewide Transit Plan, so we all need to think about the state in its entirety. The Agreement as presented was acceptable to the SSC without revision, and signatures were obtained.

---

**STATEWIDE TRANSIT VISION STATEMENT GROUP EXERCISE – BETH VOGELSANG, OV CONSULTING**

The committee was asked to provide two or three key words that describe transit priorities for the state:

- Dependable, convenient, utility (ease of use – gets me where I want to go)
- Connectivity
- Immediate needs that are obtainable in 10 years
- Statewide connectivity/intermodal stations, great expansion of transit services
- Interconnected, efficient
- Efficient, 21st century
- Access for all (rural and urban), coordination between agencies and human service agencies, easy to get around
- Additional funding
- Funding, coordinated and less duplication of services
- Connectivity, Smart Solutions
- Communication, coordination and collaboration and partnerships
- Statewide connected transit services, equitable, communicated to all in an understandable way
- Intermodal connections/transfers, well connected network, accessible transit
- Connected, accessible, convenient, competitive w/automobile
- Statewide connectivity
- Convenient, safe, affordable, and connects communities
- Robust, preferred, interconnected
- Transit as economic development driver, connectivity, statewide plan
- Financial stability and consistent funding

**WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF TRANSIT IN 20 YEARS? – CONTINUED GROUP EXERCISE**

- A seamless system that is safe, affordable (if not free), and has incredible connectivity.
- Reliable, affordable, and complements the existing system.
- Front Range Commuter Rail, Statewide Intercity Bus System.
- Ability to reach most parts of the state within a reasonable amount of time via transit.
- To be able to get anywhere in the state via transit, Front Range Passenger Rail.
- Oriented to needs and desires of 2030 Colorado, future technologies not past.
- Easy to get around for all users and types of needs and abilities.
- Ubiquitous.
- Funding coordination and everyone can ride the same bus.
- Targeted growth and development.
- Reliable and affordable.
- Communications with future clientele (language, equity, understandable communications).

- 
- Expansion of transit services including a higher market share of all transportation trips, integrated/connected statewide transit system and allow navigation of state with transit.
  - Transit is a critical component of the statewide transportation system for visitors and residents.
  - Walking, bicycling, and transit is the preferred mode of all statewide travel.
  - Second nature access transit connectivity and use a statewide commuter passenger rail backbone.
  - Interconnectability of all the transit systems and services.
  - To be able to get around the state without a car.

#### **DRAFT VISION STATEMENT GROUP DISCUSSION – HOLLY BUCK, FHU**

The discussion began with an initial draft of a vision statement, and the Committee modified it as follows:

“Colorado's public transit system will improve the quality of life of residents by providing affordable, accessible, and reliable local, regional and intercity services that integrate into the overall transportation system, and contribute to the state's economic vitality. Public transit network will be coordinated, connected, and communicated by increasing cooperation within the transit community and subsequently removing barriers and expanding capacity. Colorado's public transit service will be sustainable and well funded to meet the mobility needs of all residents and visitors regardless of age, ability, income, or location.”

The project team will review input and send finalized version of Vision Statement to committee for review and comment.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Complete data inventory.
- Develop mailing and contact list.
- Schedule TPR Technical Working Group meetings for July.
- Schedule open houses around state.

#### **POTENTIAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:**

Aug 7, Oct 30th, Jan 8th, March 26th, May 28th