



Central Front Range Transportation Planning Region Transit Working Group #2 – Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7, 2013
Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Location: Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments Building
3224 – A, Independence Road
Canon City, Colorado

Meeting attendees:

Angel Bond – Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Joe Chen – Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Gail Nehls – Amblicab
Debbie Bell – Fremont County
Shelly Penkoff – Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Community Services, Inc.
Judy Gilkerson – Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments
George Sugars – Fremont County
Adam Lancaster – City of Canon City
Wendy Pettit – CDOT Region 2
Beth Vogelsang - OV Consulting
Ralph Power – TransitPlus

Welcome & Introductions

Wendy Pettit from CDOT kicked the meeting off and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

Project Background

Ms. Pettit provided an update of the planning processes, current status, timelines, and vision/goals for the Statewide Transit Plan.

Ms. Pettit distributed the meeting packet, which included: a project schedule, statewide vision/goals, draft CFR vision/goals, summary of existing service providers, a regional financial summary, growth projections, and a regional project list that was derived from prior meeting comments and planning efforts.

Draft Central Front Range Vision and Goals.

Ralph Power, Senior Transit Consultant for TransitPlus, Inc., reviewed a draft vision and goal statements to gain consensus from the Transit Working Group (TWG). After some discussion, the TWG agreed to changes to the vision and supporting goals. The vision and goals discussion produced the following:

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- *Vision: The Central Front Range's vision is to improve mobility, economic vitality and economic growth for all residents through the effective coordination and delivery of transit services that are sustainable and provide the maximum benefits in using available resources.*
- Goal 1: Improve coordination and develop partnerships
- Goal 2: System preservation and expansion
- Goal 3: Regional connections

Transit Service and Financial Summaries

Mr. Power reviewed the existing CFR transit services and financial summary and solicited corrections or other information that may have been omitted or inaccurately reported on the survey that generated the information. It was discussed that some service provider information, as well as financial information, was inaccurate and that the project team would be following up with respondents to correct the information. Items identified in the discussion included:

- Wet Mountain Valley Rotary transports the general public; this category was blank in the summary table.
- The Golden Shuttle was not included among the providers and was added.
- The Arkansas Headwater Recreational Area was listed as service provider based on prior planning studies. There was no knowledge of the service among the TWG members and it was removed from the provider list.
- Fremont Taxi was omitted from the private provider list and will be added to the final list.

Regional Transit Needs, Projects, and Priorities

The final portion of the second TWG meeting was used to prioritize project needs within the Central Front Range TPR. A "Project List" was developed during the first TWG meeting and the projects were prioritized under broader categories. The projects were prioritized using the following categories: coordination strategies, facilities/vehicles, maintenance of service, and mobility for the general public. Several key discussion items included the need for regularly scheduled regional service connections to Pueblo and Colorado Springs from Canon City for medical and shopping trips; a current lack of participation in the Coordinating Council and subsequent lack of participation among providers; and the difficulties in coordinating rides among service providers because individual riders have specific travel needs, destinations and travel times. It was also noted that liability concerns make sharing of vehicles difficult and that the very rural areas typically require a very personalized travel service. The group did not feel that dispatch services were relevant to their limited service providers at this time, and would not effectively increase coordination. The discussion prioritization outcomes and time approximations are listed below.

Coordination Strategies

- Strengthen coordinating council participation and increase coordination between systems by exploring strategies for joint initiatives (short-term)
- Develop joint grant applications through the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments (short-term)
- Work to resolve the issues that make vehicle and resource sharing so difficult and identify ways to increase service capacity (long-term)

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Facilities/Vehicles

- Metal building/structure to house vehicles – Wet Mountain Valley Rotary (medium-term)
- Transit transfer facility/hub – City of Cripple Creek (medium-term)

Maintaining Service

- New and replacement buses – City of Cripple Creek, Park County Senior Coalition, Wet Mountain Rotary, Starpoint, Golden Age, and Fremont County Head Start (short-term)
- Maintain existing service levels - City of Cripple Creek, Park County Senior Coalition, Wet Mountain Rotary, Starpoint, Golden Age, and Fremont County Head Start (short-term)

Mobility for the General Public

- Expand service to include later hours and weekends – Golden Shuttle (short-term)
- Weekend and early morning service – Starpoint (long-term)
- Later evening service – City of Cripple Creek (long-term)
- Increase regional connections to Colorado Springs and Pueblo

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:

- The project team will compile remaining data, information, and prioritized project list for distribution to the TWG and inclusion in the final coordinated plan document
- Next Transit Working Group Meeting – January 27, 2014.
- Please send Ralph Power (email below) any information that is missing or otherwise should be included in the coordinated transit plan for the region

Adjourn

Wendy Pettit of CDOT thanked the group for attending and reiterated the value of their participation and that we look forward to continuing to work with them through plan completion.

PROJECT CONTACTS:

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Project Web Site: <http://coloradotransportationmatters.com/other-cdot-plans/transit/>