

Meeting Notes
Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan (SFPRP)
Stakeholder Group

Denver, CO – August 9, 2011

Mehdi Baziar, CDOT project manager for the Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, (SFPRP) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Stakeholder Group (SG) for the SFPRP. Mehdi asked the 33 individuals at the meeting to make a self-introduction. Also, the 7 individuals calling in on the conference call also introduced themselves. Scanned copies of the sign-in sheets will be posted on the web site.

Following introductions, Mark Imhoff, Director of the Division of Transit and Rail, stated that the work of the Stakeholder Group was key to linking rail related issues into CDOT's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan, especially as it relates to goals and objectives.

Larry Warner, Consultant's Project Manager, reviewed the highlights of the Stakeholder Group's May 4 meeting. At that meeting, the group broke into sub-groups, "Freight" and "Passenger", to develop a draft list of goals and projects related specifically to freight and passenger rail. The work of that Stakeholder Group at that meeting was later provided to the Steering Committee at their July 6th meeting and the Steering Committee developed a list of preliminary Goals for the Stakeholder Group to work with in developing "Objectives" at today's meeting. Larry indicated he was very pleased with the way the process was working; Stakeholder Group providing input to the Steering Committee to provide direction for the SFPRP with the Stakeholder Group continuing to provide feedback.

The next agenda item was a review of the preliminary goals developed by the Steering Committee. After a good period of discussion, it was recommended that Goal # 1 be changed by adding the word "rail" into the goal which would now read: "Create a balanced transportation system utilizing cooperative land use planning to create intermodal connectivity and accessibility without compromising existing rail service and infrastructure." Also, it was suggested that Goal # 5 be revised to read: "Utilize the efficiencies of freight and passenger rail to support communities and enhance economic growth throughout the state." There were no suggested changes to Goals 2, 3, and 4.

CRL's Roger Sherman, Public Involvement Consultant on the Consultant team, next provided the Stakeholder Group with an update related to the upcoming six workshops and open houses to be held around the state. Concerns were expressed related to the lack of meetings on the Front Range. Larry noted that the meeting in Denver was one hour from both Colorado Springs and Fort Collins and individuals on the west slope (Steamboat Springs as an example) were 3 1/2 to 4 hours from Denver or Grand Junction. Larry explained that the project scope originally called for 4 locations but that the sponsoring partners of these outreach meetings, Action 22 and Progressive 15 had each asked for an additional meeting location.

The PowerPoint presentation that will be presented at the workshops as well as copies of the presentation boards that will be available at the open houses will be placed on the SFPRP web site on Monday, August 15. Individuals that are not able to physically attend any of the upcoming meetings can still provide comments and input either by completing the “Comment Card” that will be also posted on the web site or by sending an e-mail to CDOT’s Project Manager, Mehdi Baziar at Mehdi.baziar@dot.state.co.us .

Consultant’s Randy Grauberger, Deputy Project Manager for the SFPRP, provided the group with a brief overview of the 20 + presentation boards that are being developed for the open houses. There were suggestions that the “Questions to be Asked” listed on the final board be revised. Based on this discussion, the questions will be shown as:

- What are the strengths of Colorado’s rail transportation system?
- What are the deficiencies of Colorado’s rail network?
- What improvements need to be made to Colorado’s rail infrastructure and rail service?
- What should be considered in prioritizing these improvements?

There was also a suggestion that a map be included on a presentation board that shows the various rates of population growth by county. There was also a question as to how many ‘quiet zones’ had been created in the state.

The next element of the meeting agenda were Breakout sessions to discuss and develop objectives linked to the five Rail Plan goals. Individuals had the opportunity to choose which breakout session to participate in. Those on the conference call participated with the “passenger” group.

Bob Felsburg then provided the larger group an overview of the rail passenger related objectives and Randy Grauberger did the same for the freight rail related objectives.

Randy Grauberger next provided the Group with an update on the various tasks in the development of the SFPRP. Additional comments were made concerning the lack of workshops and open house meetings being held along the Front Range.

Mehdi asked the attendees for their preference of meetings dates for the next Stakeholder Group meeting. It was determined that the next meeting of the Stakeholder Group would be on October 18 from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. in CDOT’s Auditorium.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.