



## Sustainability Working Group Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2009  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
CDOT Golden Residency  
425 Corporate Circle

### Attendees

Art Ballah	Colorado Motor Carriers
Amy Kennedy	HDR
Betsy Hand	Sierra Club
Bill Scheuerman	CDOT
Ari Stiller	Ski Country USA
Mary Jo Vobejda	CH2M Hill
Yates Opperman	CDOT EPB
Veronica Mitchell	FS
???	FS

### Minutes

1. After a quick round of introductions and agenda review Amy Kennedy presented a summary of the products that the working group has developed to date. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the website. There was quite a bit of discussion during the presentation about how the products related to the Life Cycle Phases, the need for a regional champion for sustainability in the Corridor, project prioritization, and about adaption of Green Roads (University of Washington's copyrighted program similar to LEED certification for roads) for use on transit projects.
2. Bill Scheuerman and Mary Jo Vobejda explained that the CSS Guidance would be a living website. The Sustainability Core Value is an overarching value that appears on the top navigation bar of all the web pages on the same level as the link to the other Core Values. There are similar efforts underway for the development of guidance related to the other Core Values; these will all be available in the Guidance. The Guidance will be maintained to reflect the best available information including lessons learned from projects in the Corridor.

3. The group was eager to discuss the individual documents and began by reviewing the Sustainability Core Value and the Sustainability Principles. The Principles had been reviewed previously and reflected the diversity of opinions related to sustainability in the Corridor. It was suggested that the term “Principles” be replaced with “Goals” and that the wording of the introduction be edited to remove mention of measuring actions. Betsy Hand stressed the importance of not diminishing resources for future generations which has been reflected in several of the Principles. Betsy expressed concern of how consideration will be given to the Principles during the project. Amy pointed out the criteria found further back in the package. Harry Dale had emailed comments to the Working Group expressing a strong desire for criteria specific to Peak Oil and GHG. Thad Noll had endorsed these comments as well.
4. The group skipped ahead to the criteria and noted that it was set up to narrow down the range of options and would be applied during the second life cycle phase –Project Development. The list presented is a starting point for project teams to craft project specific criteria. The team discussed adding more definitive criteria (i.e. reduction of VMT) and there was concern about limiting the future project teams and mandating approaches. Both of these can be addressed: additional criteria will be added as guidance and a strong explanation will be included to provide guidance on the use of these criteria on a specific project.
5. Yates Opperman and Art Ballah indicated a concern about mandating criteria that could result in forcing an option or reducing options. Bill expressed concern about how far analyses should go in considering impacts using the example of requiring teams to include alternate energy sources. He noted that the actual, overall impact of ethanol fuels was much greater than the cost at the pump if the actual agricultural production, processing, and transport are considered.
6. The majority of the group agreed that efforts should be kept at high level and provide guidance for future projects. Betsy continued to express concern about this approach not having enough weight and a desire to add stronger language regarding sustainability and provide more precise direction on what needs to be evaluated.
7. Also of concern to Betsy was the lack of an explicit role of sustainability in Corridor Planning (Prioritization). The group spent time reviewing the process by which projects are identified and included in statewide planning efforts noting that this role fell to the COGs, MPOs, and planning regions. Amy indicated that projects that make it into the plans had to be constructible, fundable, and environmentally cleared, implying an inherent consideration of sustainability.
8. Betsy requested that a link to the Governor’s Climate Action Plan be included in the Guidance. This will be added.

9. Yates cautioned the mixing of criteria that rate alternatives against an outside benchmark with those that weigh alternatives against each other. The team discussed refinement activities highlighting the fact that this occurred after an alternative had been selected. The list is a starting point for future project teams to consider. The group agreed to add 'increasing the amount of renewable energy used' as a potential refinement.
10. Betsy objected to the use of Green Roads as it had the word "road" in it; however if the group uses that program it needs to be properly acknowledged as it is copyrighted material. Ari Stiller noted that the example point system could be easily adapted to transit (i.e. reduction of impacts from construction activities). The group agreed that a point system would be appropriate to use.
11. Bill stated that CDOT is not allowed to incorporate this type of checklist into RFPs but specs could be developed for individual projects that capture these goals. Yates described a similar approach called the Cascadia scorecard that took into consideration more than just transportation; Amy will send a web link out to the working group for this material.
12. The group discussed the Sustainability Success Tracking agreeing on the need for a champion for sustainability in the Corridor to help in the tracking of Corridor trends and information. CDOT has already gathered much of the available data in the PEIS such as land use plans and wetlands but there is no central place that will provide access to update data.
13. The group focused on the suggested indicators for tracking success in moving towards sustainability. Mary Jo explained that sustainability is an overarching value that can be measured by the health of the other Core Values. Veronica Mitchell pointed out that there are more indicators that could be considered; for instance, other types of crashes.
14. Betsy suggested that each Core Value have a sustainability goal in their deliverables. The group discussed the connections between the Principles and the indicators. There was still disagreement over the adequacy of the indicators and the criteria.
15. The team will revise the materials based on the conversation at the meeting, send these out to the entire group, and hold a meeting to include Harry Dale and Thad Noll to ensure that they had a chance to understand and comment on the materials.
16. Art Ballah informed the group of an upcoming workshop at CDOT regarding freight movement (see attached meeting notice).
17. The material will be presented at the Corridor Team meeting on August 28, 2009 in Silverthorne.

From: Tamela.Lang@dot.state.co.us  
Sent: 4/28/2009 2:32:42 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time  
Subj: Colorado Freight Advisory Council Workshop DRAFT Agenda for May 27, 2009

The Colorado Freight Advisory Council is planning a half day workshop on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 between 8:00 am - noon in the Colorado Department of Transportation's Auditorium located at 4201 E. Arkansas Ave., Denver, CO. The topic for the 2009 Workshop is based on the Energy Economy and the Impacts to Transportation Systems. Please mark your calendars so you will be available to attend this informational and educational workshop.

**DRAFT Agenda:**

Welcome by CDOT Executive Director, Russ George  
Michael Meyers - Georgia Tech University  
Governor's Office of Energy (invited)  
Rocky Mountain Institute - Transformational Trucking  
Vestas Wind Systems (invited)  
Halliburton (invited)  
Colorado Legislation Update (freight related)  
CDOT Freight Initiatives

Please forward this information to anyone you know that may be interested in attending.

Another email will be sent out the second week of May and in the meantime if you know you will be attending please RSVP to [tamela.lang@dot.state.co.us](mailto:tamela.lang@dot.state.co.us)

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