

**I-70 Collaborative Effort**  
**May 29, 2019**  
**Summit County Community and Senior Center, Frisco, CO**

**Draft Meeting Summary**

**Members Present:** Randy Wheelock, Greg Hall, Mike Riggs, Gary Frey, Shaun Cutting, Bentley Henderson, Chris Linsmayer, Dorothy Jones, Danny Katz, Dennis Royer, Mike Hillman, Nicholas Williams, Holly Norton, Paul Jesaitis, Margaret Bowes, Mary Jane Loevlie, Ann Rajewski, Mike Goolsby, Matt Scherr, Brian Duchinsky, Brendan McGuire

**Alternates Present:** Vershun Tolliver (FHWA), Steve Harrelson (CDOT), David Cesark (CDOT), Tracy Sakaguchi (Colorado Motor Carriers), Steve Durian (Jefferson County), Scott Haas (Forest Service)

**Others Present:** Steve Coffin, Lisa Stresifeld (CDOT), Miller Hudson (Colorado MagLev), Bert Melcher (Sierra Club), Becky English (Sierra Club), Kelly Galardi (FHWA), Joel Barnett (FHWA), Tamara Burke (CDOT), Amy Saxton (Clear Creek County), Kevin Brown (CDOT), Stephanie Gibson (FHWA), Kevin Burns (Vail Resorts), Dennis Hisey (Colorado state legislature), Dave McReynolds (SKIING), Martha Miller (CDOT), Tom Acre (Town of Dillon), Jan Cain (Idaho Springs), Karen Hedlund (WSP), JoAnn Sorenson (Clear Creek), Lina Lesmes (Town of Silverthorne), D. Paul Jagim (City of Grand Junction), Vanessa Henderson (CDOT), Neil Ogden (CDOT), Julie McCluskie (Colorado state legislature), John Kronholm (CDOT), Karen Berdoulay (CDOT), Ron Papsdorf (CDOT), Kurt Kollette (Jacobs), Pam Reichert (consultant), Tom Koenlee (Sustainable Hills), Patty Silverstein (Development Research Partners)

**Meeting Notes:**

In light of Co-Chairs Mauck and Gibbs having resigned from the CE, consultant Steve Coffin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**1. Election of Co-Chairs**

Steve Coffin read the relevant sections of the CE Operating Protocols regarding selection of co-chairs, including the section that requires one co-chair to be from the West Slope and the other from the Front Range. He then explained that former Co-Chair Mauck, in an email earlier in 2019 announcing his departure, had asked that any member interested in serving as co-chair notify Steve Coffin of his interest. Steve Coffin further explained that the only members he had heard from were Greg Hall from the Town of Vail and Clear Creek County Commissioner Randy Wheelock. He asked the members present if there were any other members interested, and hearing none, asked if there was consensus among the CE to support appointing Greg Hall and Randy Wheelock to that position. There was consensus and the two were selected. At that point, they took over management of the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting of the CE were approved by consensus with no changes.

**3. CDOT Listening Session**

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shoshana Lew initiated a listening session as part of her comprehensive effort with stakeholders across the state to take a fresh look at Colorado's transportation needs. She explained that the purpose of these discussions is to take a step back from planning transportation projects by topics (e.g., highway, bike, transit) and have a more holistic mobility discussion. The goal for these discussions is to better inform a 10-year pipeline of projects. The CDOT team referred the group to the website on the effort (<https://www.codot.gov/programs/colorado-transportation-matters/your-transportation-plan>). Ms. Lew further noted that CDOT has more funding as a result of action taken this year by the state legislature, so this effort is also intended to inform CDOT on how to take advantage of this opportunity. She and the CDOT staff also explained that one of their objectives is to make sure that smaller projects, and particularly those in rural communities, get their fair share of transportation dollars.

Danny Katz inquired about the timeline for completing this process. Ms. Lew explained that the goal is to have this exercise completed by this winter when CDOT will be planning its budget.

Gary Frey inquired about how the lack of transportation funding will affect this exercise. Ms. Lew explained that if the conversation focuses on the lack of funding, the discussion about the state's needs will get sidetracked. What CDOT is trying to do is instead lead with the vision and then back into the funding questions.

Steve Harrelson then provided an overview of the corridor and the projects within the corridor.

The CDOT team then asked the CE the series of questions that are being asked in each of the listening sessions occurring across the state and that are listed on the project website. A copy of the listening session power point is attached.

#### **4. Briefing on Economic Impact of High-Speed Transit in the Mountain Corridor**

Patty Silverstein with Development Research Partners presented the attached power point summarizing the study she recently completed on the economic impact of high-speed transit in the mountain corridor. She explained her methodology and the assumptions that went into her analysis. She reported that the study concluded that a high-speed transit system would result in:

- 4.2 million new visitors to the corridor who would generate \$548.6 million in new spending and create 4,660 new jobs with wages totaling \$153.3 million;
- Enhanced business activity in the corridor which would generate \$131.6 million in new spending, 1,560 new jobs and \$64.7 million in new wages;
- 3,350 new residents who would generate \$31.5 million in new spending and create 208 new jobs that would produce \$9.2 million in new wages; and
- Travel cost savings of \$3.3 million for new visitors, \$8.4 million for commuters and \$1 million for residents.

She explained that these benefits are created annually.

Further, the additional visitor and resident spending associated with a high-speed transit system will foster the development of 1,360 new residential units and 2 million square feet of commercial space with a combined value of nearly \$1.2 billion.

She was asked whether her study identified the locations or number of stops the system would make in the corridor, to which she responded no. She was also asked how this compared with the 2007 study she did on the cost of congestion in the corridor, to which she replied that the two studies were very different and thus cannot be compared.

**5. Report from ROD Compliance Subcommittee meeting**

Steve Harrelson presented on the work plan created by the ROD Compliance Subcommittee. This subcommittee was created by the CE to formalize a process for making the determination whether or not a particular project complied with the I-70 Record of Decision issued by the Federal Highways Administration and CDOT. Subcommittee members included Steve Harrelson, Kelly Galardi, Randy Wheelock, Greg Hall, Martha Miller, Margaret Bowes, Adam Bianchi, Gary Frey, Bentley Henderson and Mike Hillman.

The plan drafted by the subcommittee laid out a step-by-step process for evaluating whether a project complied with the ROD. A suggestion was made to modify step 4. A question was asked whether this step-by-step process preceded NEPA analysis. Steve Harrelson replied that this process could be followed multiple times during the project, including at project scoping. Kelly Galardi further explained that this process is designed to be a tool that spurs dialogue and facilitates input.

After discussion, the group agreed by consensus to the approach subject to the modification of step 4. The revised approach is attached.

**6. Report from the 2020 Clause Subcommittee meeting**

A second subcommittee had been formed by the CE to develop a work plan for the 2020 Reassessment. That subcommittee included Vanessa Henderson, Shaun Cutting, Kelly Galardi, Mary Jane Loevlie, Bentley Henderson, Gary Frey, Holly Norton, Adam Bianchi, Steve Harrelson, Randy Wheelock, Ben Gerdes, Matt Scherr, and Mike Hillman.

Steve Harrelson explained that the subcommittee met on April 15. Based on the discussion in that meeting, a draft work plan had been developed and distributed to subcommittee members. Comments were received and a second draft was issued the week prior to the May 29<sup>th</sup> CE meeting. The second draft generated additional comments. It was determined that at least one more meeting of the subcommittee was needed to be able to finalize the document. The subcommittee agreed to meet again and produce a recommended work plan for the CE to consider at its next meeting. In the meantime, it was agreed that a packet of background materials (“homework”) would be sent to the CE in August for their review prior to the September meeting.

Steve Harrelson explained that there is a significant amount of technical analysis to be done as part of the reassessment and given that 2020 is fast approaching, asked if the CE could authorize

CDOT to commence with the work while the work plan was finalized. The CE agreed by consensus that CDOT should commence with the work.

**7. Rapid Speed Mobility Study**

Lisa Streisfeld of CDOT presented the agency's State Benefits and Opportunities Study. The focus of this study was on the feasibility of rapid speed mobility in Colorado, to evaluate the multiple technologies that could be implemented and to better understand the paths to implementing those technologies. It included an analysis of the governance of rapid speed technology and on rapid speed technologies that had been deployed elsewhere. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Ms. Streisfeld explained that the study was not intended to select a technology but rather to flesh out how something like this would be implemented. The intent was to include an array of technologies to illustrate the spectrum of what could be implemented. The analysis could be applied to any technology and was intended to represent the breadth of technologies that would be considered for further study.

She also noted that CDOT will soon be undertaking a Front Range passenger rail study.

**8. CDOT Updates**

CDOT then presented an update on projects in the corridor. Martha Miller of CDOT Region 3 gave an update on the I-70 East Frisco Interchange, the eastbound Frisco to Silverthorne Auxiliary Lane, the I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lane and the Dowd Junction interchange projects. Steve Harrelson presented an update on the Westbound Peak Period Shoulder Lane and Fall River projects, as well as an update on the Eisenhower/Johnson Tunnels Hazardous Materials study mandated by the state legislature.

**9. Legislative report**

Rep. Julie McCluskie and Senator Dennis Hisey provided an update on transportation legislation activity from the prior legislative session.

**10. Public Comment**

There were no representatives of the public who had any comments.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.