



Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission May 2021 Meeting Minutes

Time: Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Zoom Online and at the Byways Symposium in Glenwood Springs

Attending: Amanda Barker, Nathan Boyless, Lenore, Kiera CDOT Intern, Heidi Plankow, Chris Bowles, Ilana Moir, Andrew Grossman, Traci Stoffel, Tony Gurzick, Michael King (CDOT), Cheryl Glanz, Rebecca White, Matt Mines (CEO), Chad Schneckenburger, Jane Leche, Kathleen Bracke, Tim Finger (BLM), Jack Placchi (BLM), Christy Costello (CCI)

Nathan Boyless called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

February 2021 Commission Minutes

Amanda Barker presented the February 3, 2021 Commission meeting minutes for discussion and corrections. With no debate, the motion to approve was from Ilana Moir, seconded by Cheryl Glanz. All in favor, none opposed.

Annual Survey Report

Lenore Bates presented the reported information about the Colorado Byways from the surveys sent out beginning of the year, due March 22. Here is the [PDF report](#) she showed. At the November byways annual meeting in Pueblo, Lenore will focus her presentation on Action Plans, a critical success strategy for the byways that many currently lack.

Updates from the Byways

- **Peak to Peak:** Cheryl working on the CMP plan, close to the finish line
- **Cache la Poudre:** haven't determined to annex into the city, changing the entryway to make it less industrial, working with students
- **Tracks Across Borders:** tribes are slowly starting to open more, New Mexico is re-launching its tourism strategy
- **Top of the Rockies:** working on their CMP revision
- **Flat Top Trails:** working to secure funding for a discrete project
- **Alpine Loop:** designated camping sites, supported the State Trails program to get crews, working with Chaffee County.
- **USFS:** Chad preparing for a hectic season, changing like camping and fire restrictions, reservations for Mt Evans and Mt Brainard Lake
- **Highway of Legends:** Debra is handing leadership reigns to others working with the byway.

Electrified Scenic Byways

Michael King (CDOT), Andrew Grossman (CTO), and Matt Mines (CEO) gave a program update of work implemented by CTO, CEO, and CDOT. Here's the [link to the presentation slides](#).

Please access them for background on the statewide objectives, the definition of an electric byway, and other considerations like destination charging.

Twelve Scenic and Historic Byways are under review, with **seven byways meeting the full definition of an electric byway**: Lariat Loop, Grand Mesa, Silver Thread, Collegiate Peak, Flat Tops Trail, and Top of the Rockies.

Presenters addressed concerns and considerations of temperature and elevation change. They are Conservative in the definition because the top priority is to ensure someone is stranded. Battery range is improving each year - 220 average, quickly charges up to 80% then goes down in amount charged (that's where the 180-mile average comes from). If you wouldn't drive it in a sedan, don't do it in an electric sedan.

The group encouraged consideration of solar chargers, and there is a study already underway. Partnerships with welcome centers will be essential to the program's success. Two are active now with more planned. We must consider the maintenance of stations and swapping out the technology. Colorado participates in the [REV West partnership](#) of seven western states, coordinating particularly with New Mexico and Utah.

Action Item: Vote to approve the Electric Vehicle Byway Criteria and the seven recommended Byways for this classification. The motion to approve was from Andrew Grossman, seconded by Heidi Pankow. All in favor, none opposed.

TravelStorys GPS Possibility for Byways

Nathan Boyless and Andrew Grossmann closed out the Commission's conversation and consideration of a joint contract to bundle the byways program into an agreement with TravelStorys GPS. No organization has been identified as the correct place to host this effort. The lukewarm reception means this should be set aside. All byways are encouraged to reach out directly to TravelStorys, and there are grant and funding opportunities that Lenore and other byways can share with groups to consider.

2017 Strategic Plan - Goals Revisited

Amanda Barker presented the 2017 strategic plan goals with updates on what has been achieved during the strategic plan implementation. The next commission meeting will prioritize and set goals for the upcoming year.

Specific items to follow up include determining if the Byways could become a Colorado Concierge (through CTO). The Commission applauds the micro-site and the public platform our byways have on the statewide Colorado.com website, with specific thanks to Andrew Grossman and his predecessor on the commission, Jill Corbin. Identified priorities for next year are ongoing outreach to the individual byways and funding and support for the program through small grants and Federal Funding.

Shared Updates

- **Colorado Byways Symposium:** Lenore Bates and Heidi Plankow shared details about

the incredible lineup of speakers and settings just getting underway in Glenwood during the Commission meeting. A poet from Colorado who lives near two of the byways, written a poem for the Colorado Byways, Rosemary keynote at 9 am.

- **Executive Order** for Byways Commission: Nathan Boyless is working through the initial review. The Commission will consider a revised document at the August meeting with an update for getting the Governor to one of our new national byways or the Santa Fe Trail anniversary celebrations.
- **Creative District Applications** opened up with CCI - Le Veda applying (they would be on a byway), La Junta applying, too. Planning funds for relief and recovery. Community revitalization fund for \$65M for capital projects
- **Colorado Tourism Office** will release the **Restart Destinations program applications**, receive a one-day activation, 75 technical hours, and \$10K in communications support. Silver Thread is interested in applying.
- **Federal legislation**: We have a partnership with Scenic America that tracks legislation that could impact the byways. Amerian Cultural Resources lobbyist watches for bills that would impact historic preservation. Byways funding announced - omnibus spending \$16 million across the nation, strong and tying into CMP. If funding is approved, the Byways Commission will prioritize funding applications.
- **Department of Local Affairs** sends out funding opportunities. [Send Traci an email](#) to be on her email list.
- **CPW introduced a [Go Wild Pass](#) bill**: places an opt-out fee on the registration fee (\$40 fee) with access to all state parks.
- **[Colorado Transportation Alliance](#)**, led by CDOT and CPW, looking at wildlife corridors, overpasses, underpasses, partners on Hwy 9, 160
- **History Colorado** submitted a request to get \$50M into the State Historical Fund memorandum through higher education. No word if it's been well-received on the Hill yet.
- **Metcalf Archeological Consultants** is partnering July 9-10 on Arts Week in Golden will be an archeological dig at the Aster.

Amanda moves to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.