

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: 09/11/2013	ATTENDANCE
Time: 02:01 PM to 03:52 PM	Baumgardner
Place: Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, Colorado	Buck
	Coram
	Everett
This Meeting was called to order by	Fischer
<u>Representative Tyler</u>	Jones
	King
This Report was prepared by	Kraft-Tharp
<u>Kelli Kelty</u>	Lawrence
	Lee
	Mitsch Bush
	Moreno
	Peniston
	Primavera
	Scott
	Todd
	Heath
	Tyler

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Field Hearing Grand Junction	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

02:01 PM -- Field Hearing Grand Junction

Representative Tyler, chair, called the meeting to order. No roll call was taken. The committee members introduced themselves and discussed the districts they represent and their committee membership. Representative Tyler discussed what the committee hopes to hear from the representatives of Grand Junction and Mesa County.

02:09 PM

Commissioner Doug Aden, Colorado Transportation Commission, and Mr. Dave Eller, Region 3 Transportation Director, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), introduced themselves to the committee. A handout of the CDOT Region 3 Map was distributed to the committee (Attachment A). Commissioner Aden acknowledged the success of Western Colorado in its transportation accomplishments and resources. Mr. Eller discussed some of the local projects in the Grand Valley. He said that Grand Valley is unique in its transportation infrastructure. He commented on lack of shoulders on roads and other safety issues that are of concern. He said that asset management is a major concern for the transportation planning regions (TPRs). He said that there is the first diverging diamond interstate in the state that is currently under construction and that it will hopefully be the first completed diamond interstate.

02:15 PM

Commissioner Aden discussed the challenges that Grand County faces in transportation needs and resources. He said that three industries are critical: agriculture, natural gas development, and tourism. He said that transportation infrastructure is challenged in these areas. He fears the trans infrastructure will be inadequate as the industries progress and develop over coming years. He explained that there are real challenges on critical routes for agricultural producers in the area. He said that the fuel tax hasn't been raised in over 20 years and, as a result, there is a loss of purchasing power and a demand on the system to increase vehicle miles travelled. He stated that Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) revenues account for about 16 percent of CDOT's budget and that money is split half to the bridge enterprise and half to provide safety enhancements for local governments. He said that 15 million is allocated for transit, part of which is allocated to regions and part is kept in the statewide pool for transit enhancements around the state. He commented that Grand Junction has congestion issues on the west end but mostly the needs relate to the surface condition, driveability of the roads, and safety aspects. He emphasized that roads in the area lack shoulders and passing lanes, which can lead to dangerous conditions. He commented on economic competitiveness.

02:21 PM

Representative Peniston asked for more information about monies to the bridge enterprise. Commissioner Aden commented on the bridge enterprise and how revenues are used. Discussion ensued concerning how Region 3 has been impacted from the bridge enterprise revenues. Commissioner Aden said that the money is allocated based on need by the commission, without regard to which regions the projects are in.

02:24 PM

Representative Mitsch Bush asked for more information about the Utah sales tax. Commissioner Aden commented on the Utah sales tax. Representative Primavera asked about congestion and public transportation in the area. Mr. Eller responded that Mesa County has a good local transit system. Senator Heath asked for more information about how Grand Junction differs from other parts of the state in terms of transportation needs and resources. Commissioner Aden commented on congestion issues, lack of shoulders, and safety concerns in the area. He said that the transit system was recognized by CASTA for its success but that all rural communities have transit needs for transporting elderly people and accommodating the growing workforce. Senator Heath said that the committee has heard numerous times about the needs for passing lanes and shoulders and asked how critical of an issue it is for CDOT, and whether current projects will address these concerns. Commissioner Aden said that passing lanes and shoulders are a large priority for all projects. He said that adding shoulders and passing lanes are expensive but that it is a high priority for the area and the region. Discussion ensued concerning costs related to adding shoulders and passing lanes. Mr. Eller said it costs about \$2.5 million per mile to add shoulders and passing lanes. He stated that Region 3 receives \$14 million of FASTER safety monies that is allocated to 15 counties.

02:34 PM

Commissioner Aden commented on the history of trans bonds and said that the projections were that the debt service would be paid from general fund transfers to CDOT. There were a few years when that happened but that in recent years CDOT hasn't received General Fund revenue in several years. As a result, the budget has been shrunk in other areas to make up for the debt service. Mr. Kurt Morrison, CDOT, came to the table to respond to questions about the debt service.

02:40 PM

Stacey Mascarenas, Board Member, Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee and Mayor Pro-Tem for the Fruita City Council, Commissioner Rose Pugliese, Mesa County Commissioner, and Commissioner John Justman, Mesa County Commissioner, introduced themselves to the committee. Commissioner Pugliese emphasized the importance of the highway system to the county's economic development. She said that Mesa County currently has the highest unemployment rate of any county in Colorado. She said that the county has always had a good relationship with CDOT and that the county commissioners have stressed the need for infrastructure improvements. She stated that it is easier to do projects if they get money directly from the federal government, rather than going through CDOT. She asked the committee to allow construction to occur in a more timely and efficient manor in order to keep projects moving.

02:43 PM

Representative Fischer asked for specific regulations or specific areas where the county has difficulty working with state government.

02:45 PM

Ms. Mascarenas commented on storm water issues and property acquisitions. She said that it is frustrating that regulations slow the process for receiving funds and beginning projects. Senator King asked how much storm water regs are under the purview of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Ms. Mascarenas said that there are regulations under CDPHE and that the added costs are of grave concern. Representative Mitsch Bush asked whether property acquisitions include right-of-ways. Ms. Mascarenas responded yes.

02:49 PM

Commissioner Justman commented in I-70 and the need for an interchange. He commented on severance tax monies and the need for those monies to go to communities where the need is.

02:53 PM

Senator King asked what communication the county commissioners have had with the governors office about getting a return on severance monies. Commissioner Pugliese said that they have sent a letter to the Governor. Discussion ensued concerning severance monies for Mesa County.

02:56 PM

Ms. Mascarenas commented on high priority projects in Mesa County and distributed a handout to the committee (Attachment B). Commissioner Pugliese commented on the importance of connectivity on Highway 29. Ms. Mascarenas commented on the transit system. She said that the transit system is a little over 10 years old and that it exceeds ridership every year. She explained that they are starting to use compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. Discussion ensued concerning transit fares.

03:05 PM

Representative Scott asked the panel how citizens feel about tax increases for transportation needs. Commissioner Pugliese commented that she didn't think a tax increase would receive voter approval in Mesa County. Commissioner Justman concurred with Commissioner Pugliese. Discussion ensued concerning how the community would respond to tax increases for transportation needs in Mesa County.

03:10 PM

Representative Coram asked about the unemployment rate in Mesa County. Commissioner Pugliese said that a lot of businesses are looking for air transportation to the east and Mesa County does not have that capability. She said that every time I-70 closes for rock or mud slides, businesses don't want to come to the area because it impacts their businesses. She commented on a potential energy project that could bring jobs and revenue to the area.

03:13 PM

Mr. Marty Chazen, Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Duncan McArthur, City Council Member, and Mr. Bennett Boeschstein, City Council Member, introduced themselves to the committee. Mayor Chazen commented on a MPACT 64 tax increase proposal for transportation needs. He said that tax increases will be a burden on the community. Mr. Boeschstein said that he has been a city planner for 30 years. He stressed the important correlation between land use planning and economic development. He commented on their multimodal plan and the 2035 plan. He discussed the importance of bicycle and pedestrian paths. He said that 30,000 people per year use Amtrak out of Grand Junction. He said that the Amtrak commute from GJ to Denver takes eight hours in order to avoid I-70. He said that FASTER has been successful in the area and that he likes the Complete Streets project that CDOT has implemented in the area. He stated that it can cost up to 19 percent overhead to do a state project on a state highway. He emphasized that the transit system has been successful and encourages more money for transit in the area.

03:26 PM

Mr. McArthur commented on Highway 29 and Highway 50. He said that tax initiatives, when they are specific and straightforward, tend to be better accepted by the community.

03:29 PM

Representative Primavera asked about aviation transportation in the area. Mr. Boeschstein commented on the local airport and said it's a growing airport.

The following persons testified:

03:30 PM -- Ms. Bonnie Peterson, representing Club 20, introduced herself to the committee. She commented on MPACT 64 and gas tax increases. She discussed the possibility of a ballot initiative next year for a sales tax increase. Ms. Peterson responded to questions from the committee concerning allocation of funds. Discussion ensued concerning MPACT 64.

03:42 PM

Kurt Morrison, CDOT, came to the table to respond to questions about project selection. He commented on the need for a ground-up process and input from TPRs. He said that it was Intended to be a ground-up process but there are a significant amount of funds that will go to transit authorities, cities, and counties. Representative Coram asked about vehicles miles travelled. Ms. Peterson responded that over the next 15 years, the area is going to see a significant decrease in revenue generated from the gas tax due to fuel efficiency measures that will be required for cars.

03:48 PM -- Mr. Kevin McCarty, representing himself as a citizen of Mesa County, introduced himself to the committee. He commented on a possible increase in taxes for transportation needs. He said he would like to see the legislature improve the roads without taking out of his pockets.

03:52 PM

The committee adjourned.

CDOT Region 3 Program Engineering Areas



Data Source: CDOT 2012

Published: June 2013

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Legend

- Transportation Planning Regions
- Counties
- Cities
- Highways**
- Interstate
- U.S.
- State Highway

Resolution of Adoption

Resolution 2013-008

A RESOLUTION OF THE GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CONCERNING ADOPTION OF THE GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S PRIORITIZED TRANSPORTATION LIST.

WHEREAS, The Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee has been designated by the Governor as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Grand Valley Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, Part 2 of Article 1 of Title 29, Colorado Revised Statutes authorizes the parties to contract with one another to make the most efficient and effective use of their powers and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee and its members realize the importance of both short and long term planning in the development of an efficient transportation system, and are aware that it is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Transportation Planning Region to perform those planning functions; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee, in the performance of those planning functions for the Urbanized Area to use Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration transportation planning funds in coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, The Colorado Department of Transportation has begun work on a new Statewide Transportation Plan - the multimodal long-range surface transportation plan that will include a ten-year strategic analysis of Colorado's transportation needs;

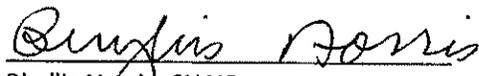
WHEREAS, An important part of the Statewide Plan is to identify a vision for Colorado's transportation system across a range of revenue scenarios, from declining to additional revenues;

WHEREAS, As part of this process, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization has worked with our stakeholders to identify these priorities that could be funded should CDOT receive additional revenue;

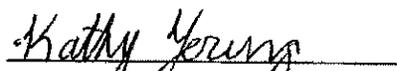
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

That the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's Prioritized Transportation List, hereunto attached, was adopted by the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee, in Colorado on July 22, 2013.

GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE


Phyllis Norris, CHAIR

Attest:


Recorder for the Committee

Rank	Corridor	Problem Areas / Solutions	Additional Discussion / Comments	Estimate
1	I-70B	I-70B Widening Construction Phase IV for Construction (Independent Through Grand Avenue)	Includes North Avenue Interchange Bridge improvements.	\$18.0M
2	I-70	29 Road Interchange	New interchange which includes improvements to 29 Road. Does not include additional lanes on I-70.	\$68.0M
3	US 6	Improvements from Clifton to Palisade (Reconstruction with Widening in select areas)	Capacity improvement in Clifton only. Multimodal in both Clifton and Palisade.	\$30.7M
4	US 6	Improvements from 15 Road Through Fruita to 20 Road.	Implementation of Access Control Plan through Fruita into Greenway Business Park and other areas.	\$26.0M
5	SH 340	Minor shoulder widening (4 ft) where needed from Fruita to Grand Junction	Minor Rehabilitation of Surface with shoulder widening and multimodal improvements.	\$28.0M
6	US 6	North Avenue Urban Improvement/Resurfacing	No ROW anticipated for the improvements, but will include multimodal improvements within ROW.	\$13.2M
7	SH 330	Minor shoulder widening (4 ft) with Surface Rehabilitation	No ROW or Utilities anticipated for the improvements	\$28.5M

Region 3 - GRAND VALLEY MPO
(Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee)