

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: 07/24/2013	ATTENDANCE
Time: 03:32 PM to 05:15 PM	Baumgardner
Place: University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado	Buck Coram
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Representative Tyler</u>	Everett Fischer Jones King
This Report was prepared by <u>Kelli Kelty</u>	Kraft-Tharp 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:
TLRC Field Hearing- Greeley	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

03:32 PM -- TLRC Field Hearing Greeley

Representative Tyler, chair, called the meeting to order. No roll call was taken. The members introduced themselves to the room. Representative Tyler gave a brief overview of the committee's expectation from the hearing concerning transportation needs in Greeley.

03:36 PM

Commissioner Kathy Gilliland, Colorado Transportation Commission, and Mr. Johnny Olson, Regional Transportation Director for Region 4, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Commissioner Gilliland introduced herself to the committee. Mr. Olson commented on specific projects in Northern Colorado, including US 34 and "spaghetti junction" (US 34 and 85). He said that the area around Greeley is primarily agricultural. He commented on major corridors in the region. He discussed an environmental impact statement on I-25 and that it was inclusive of different modes of transportation. He discussed the need for having viable alternatives to I-25. He commented on State Highway 14 and 392.

03:44 PM

Representative Tyler asked for more information concerning capitol projects. Senator Heath asked for information about State Highway 392, including whether the department has data reflecting an increase in travel. Commissioner Gilliland gave a brief overview of funding history in the region. She said that the road gas tax was last raised in the early 1990s. She commented on the High-Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) and the expansion of I-25 in the area. Representative Tyler asked how the regions work together to prioritize, particularly with the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program. Discussion ensued concerning statewide priorities.

03:55 PM

Representative Tyler commented on state bridge ratings in the state. Representative Coram asked if there are any studies available concerning the effect of magnesium chloride on bridges. Representative Kraft-Tharp asked for more information about I-76.

04:00 PM

Representative Lawrence asked about funding for RAMP projects. Representative Mitsch Bush asked about public private partnerships and RAMP.

04:08 PM

Mayor Tom Norton, City of Greeley, and Mr. Joel Hemasath, Director of Public Works for the City of Greeley, introduced themselves to the committee. Mr. Hemasath commented on projects underway in Greeley, including trail projects, pedestrian enhancements, widening projects, and access to corridors. Mr. Hemasath said that there are 40 bridges in Greeley and commented on bridge maintenance. Mayor Norton commented on cooperative efforts with CDOT on highways and economic development. Mr. Hemasath said that 3 percent sales tax on groceries is dedicated to infrastructure maintenance, of which 70 percent goes to road maintenance.

04:14 PM

Senator Heath asked about the 3 percent sales tax on groceries. Mayor Norton said that 51 years ago, he designed the bridge that goes over the top of Highway 34, and that it has been repaired several times. He said that the intersection of 35th Avenue and the Highway 34 bypass is a very busy intersection. He expressed that the state has done a good job in the Greeley area. He said that most residents use Highway 85 to travel from Greeley to Denver and commented on the transit system in Greeley.

04:23 PM

Representative Mitsch Bush asked for more information about paratransit in Greeley. Mayor Norton commented on current projects in Greeley and the city's cooperation with CDOT. He commented on magnesium chloride and its impact on bridges. Discussion ensued concerning multimodal transportation and Senate Bill 13-048. Representative Fischer asked about energy development in the region and how important energy assistance impact grants are to the city.

04:36 PM

Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer, Weld County, and Commissioner Sean Conway, Weld County, introduced themselves to the committee. Commissioner Kirkmeyer commented on current transit projects and grants in Weld County. She said that funding is critical and that Weld County is concerned that rural parts of the state are not going to receive adequate funding. She said that they are concerned with the direction that CDOT is taking on program distribution and that funds from rural Colorado will be taken and used in urbanized areas. She said that major projects are I-76 and Highway 85. She commented on transit in rural Colorado and the importance of moving products to market. She stressed the need for infrastructure. Discussion ensued concerning current projects in Weld County.

04:50 PM

Representative Fischer asked for more information about the allocation model that CDOT is using. Commissioner Kirkmeyer commented on metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and transportation planning regions (TPRs). She said that in 1995, the state had a multimodal transportation plan for the entire state. In the last year, CDOT revised the regional boundaries and, six months ago, it changed the model from resource allocation to program distribution.

04:55 PM

Commissioner Conway commented on collaborative efforts in Weld County, particularly the North Front Range MPO. He stressed the importance of partnerships and collaborative approaches to transportation planning and funding at both the regional and local levels.

05:02 PM

Discussion ensued concerning collaboration efforts and successes in the region. The discussion also touched on MPACT 64 and the TPR and MPO process. Senator Jones commented on the need for a statewide vision on transportation.

05:15 PM

The committee adjourned.