



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

DATE: JANUARY 2021

Vince Rogalski, Chairman

Gunnison Valley TPR

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On January 4th there were two meetings, 1) a STAC meeting in the morning followed by 2) a Transportation Commission meeting. The topic of discussion was the “COVID EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGE”. Below is a summary of some of the discussion.

DATE: January 4th, 2021

TO: Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rebecca White, Director, Division of Transportation Development
Marissa Gaughan, Multimodal Planning Branch Manager

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Emergency Relief Package

Purpose

Provide a briefing on the recent federal legislation that includes both a COVID relief bill and FY2021 omnibus appropriations package.

Action

Approve the comprehensive package of project and program investments based on the regional allocations of stimulus funds, plus the additional FY 21 supplemental STBG and bridge funds.

Background

A \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package and a \$1.4 trillion FY 2021 omnibus appropriations package was passed by Congress and signed by the President of the United States on December 27, 2020. Together, these funding sources would provide approximately \$150 M for transportation in Colorado. CDOT would like to achieve the following objectives in terms of putting these dollars to work:

- **Move quickly** - By allocating dollars quickly, CDOT can ensure maximum benefit to Colorado's economy. CDOT has focused on projects ready to go to advertisement as soon as possible (preferably February-April).
- **Retrain focus on 10-year plan** - Projects come from the 10-yr plan (specifically Years 3 and 4 of the SB267 list) and reflect stated priorities from the plan (e.g. improving asset condition).
- **Distribute dollars equitably** - Because these dollars are intended to help the economy, staff proposes distributing them equitably across the state using the same formula as was used for the SB267 funding.
- **Support public health and sustainability goals** - This includes continued funding for Revitalizing Main Streets and modernizing our approach to NEPA so that project investments continue to support air quality goals.

Details

Funding will be allocated based on the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program formula that is based on population (larger urban, small urban, flexible) with portions sub-allocated to the large urban Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). In addition to eligible uses under the STBG Program, stimulus funds may be used for costs related to preventive maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, personnel, including salaries of employees (including those employees who have been placed on administrative leave) or contractors, debt service payments, availability payments, and coverage for other revenue losses.

The Transportation Commission meeting followed the STAC Meeting. The following is the Resolution Passed by the Commission.

Resolution #TC-RES-2021-01-01 SM

Resolution Related to Federal COVID-19 Relief Package

Approved by the Transportation Commission on January 4, 2021.

WHEREAS, a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package and a \$1.4 trillion FY 2021 omnibus appropriations package was passed by Congress and signed by the President of the United States on December 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the funding package includes \$9.8 billion for surface transportation for State Departments of Transportation, and Colorado's share of this would be 1.37% or \$134.3 million; and

WHEREAS, taken together, COVID Relief and FY 21 Supplemental funding is expected to provide Colorado approximately \$150 million; and

WHEREAS, the legislation dictates that funding will be allocated based on the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program formula that is based on population (larger urban, small urban, rural, flexible) with portions sub-allocated to the large urban Transportation Management Areas; and

WHEREAS, in addition to eligible uses under the STBG Program, stimulus funds may be used for costs related to preventive maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, personnel, including salaries of employees (including those employees who have been placed on administrative leave) or contractors, debt service payments, availability payments, and coverage for other revenue losses; and

WHEREAS, funding is available through September 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission (Commission) supports the following goals for these additional funds:

Move Quickly

- By allocating dollars quickly, CDOT can ensure maximum benefit to Colorado's economy.
- CDOT has focused on projects ready to go to advertisement as soon as possible (preferably February-April).
- CDOT staff will provide formal guidance to sub-recipients within 30 days on the timely use of funds.

Retain Focus on 10-yr Plan

- Projects come from the 10-yr plan (specifically Years 3 and 4 of the SB267 list) and reflect stated priorities from the plan (e.g. improving assets).

Distribute Dollars Equitably

- Because these dollars are intended to help the economy, staff proposes distributing them equitably across the state using the same formula as was used for the SB267 funding.

Advance Health and Sustainability Goals

- Continue critical COVID infrastructure support--Revitalizing Main Streets--supporting communities through the winter months.
- Help modernize our approach to NEPA so that project investments continue to support GHG goals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission approves the attached list of projects to be implemented with funds received from the COVID-19 relief and government funding package contingent upon their inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in order to show how quickly Colorado can make use of transportation funds, the Commission anticipates sub-recipients to approve projects by April, 2021, and expects most projects to go to advertisement by summer, 2021; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission supports staff developing expenditure curves for all projects, including those chosen by sub-recipients, to ensure all stimulus funds are expended by the September 30, 2024 deadline, and if a project is unable to meet that deadline, a new project shall be chosen.

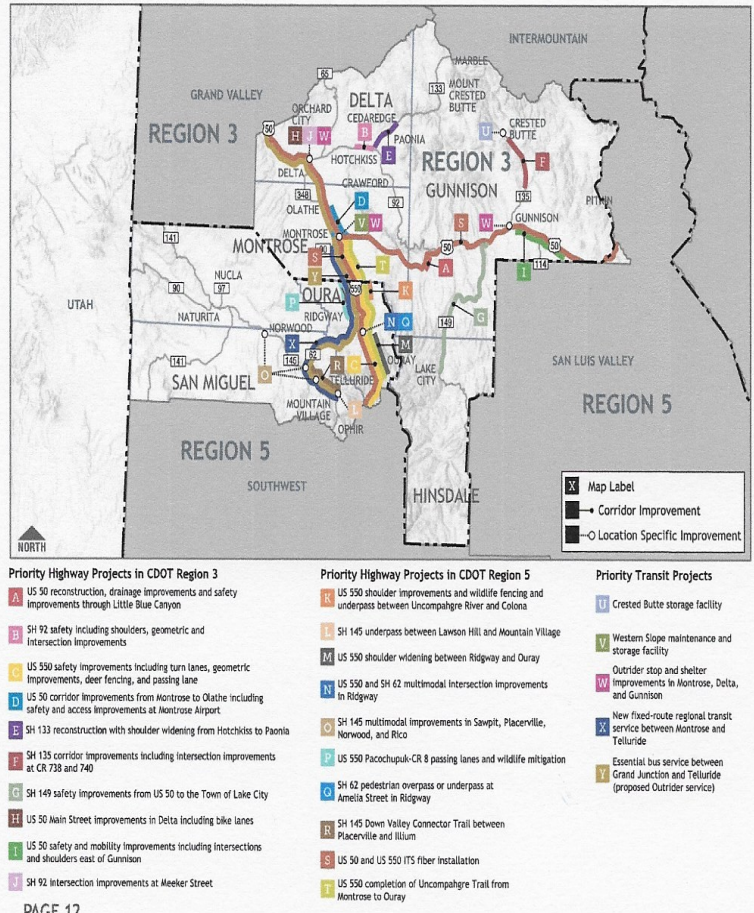
Herman Stockinger, Secretary __1/4/2021____ Date
Transportation Commission of Colorado

Interactive Story Map

- Launched Dec 2020: ytp.codot.gov
- Interactive tool through the ArcGIS mapping system. Users can explore projects in the areas they care about.
- Organized by region & includes highway, transit and rural road improvement projects.
- Each project entry includes key project info such as the project name, description, and cost and funding information.
- Linked to accountability and transparency dashboard to track real time project status.

Gunnison Valley TPR's Project Priorities

The Gunnison Valley TPR's priority projects are shown on the map below. These projects were identified as priorities because they address the Region's most pressing needs and align with the guiding principles. Implementation of these projects will help the Region achieve its goals. Because the Gunnison Valley TPR is split between two CDOT Regions (Region 3 and Region 5), the highway priorities shown on the map below and listed on page 13 are grouped by CDOT Region and do not represent a ranked order. The top five priority transit projects are listed for the Gunnison Valley TPR as a whole. The priority projects for the Gunnison Valley TPR are estimated to cost over \$420 million. The priority highway projects focus on safety improvements that add shoulders, mitigate wildlife crashes by adding fencing and wildlife overpasses, and intersection improvements. The priority transit projects include new transit service between Montrose and Telluride and between Grand Junction and Telluride, and regional transit and storage facilities. The project list reflects the Region's top priority projects, most of which are currently unfunded. The timing for project completion will depend on transportation funding availability. The full project list can be found in Appendix B.



Stimulus Proposal & SB 267 3rd Year Update - Rebecca White, Division of Transportation Development (DT D) Director and Jeff Sudmeier, Chief Financial Officer

a)

Staff presented an overview of nearterm transportation funding opportunities, including the January assignment of projects using the federal stimulus and FY21 federal appropriations funds.

b) Year 3 proceeds of SB267 funds are expected in April.

c) STAC discussion will take place in February and March to select projects to be funded.

d) Investment of the funds will focus on achieving statewide equity with projects in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5, with discussion based on the addback scenario presented in July, 2020. STAC Discussion: Following year two investments of SB267 funds, COVID forced about \$100 million to be pulled from the north I25 projects, resulting in the need to pursue Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans to complete them. These subsequent Year 3 investments need to demonstrate this and should work to again achieve overall equity statewide. CDOT staff will present charts and graphics that show previous investments and how Year 3 funds will achieve equity.

Gunnison Valley TPR Priority Project List

Map Label	Planning Project ID	Highway(s)	Project Name	Region	Cost (\$M)	Primary Project Type	Additional Project Benefits	SWP Goal Areas
Priority Highway Projects in CDOT Region 3								
A	0033	US 50	US 50 reconstruction, drainage improvements and safety improvements through Little Blue Canyon	3	\$39.00			
B	1107	SH 92	SH 92 safety improvements including shoulders, geometric and intersection improvements	3	\$32.92			
C	0032	US 550	US 550 safety improvements including turn lanes, geometric improvements, deer fencing, and passing lanes	3	\$17.00			
D	2427	US 50	US 50 corridor improvements from Montrose to Olathe including safety and access improvements at Montrose Airport	3	\$25.00			
E	1479	SH 133	SH 133 reconstruction with shoulder widening from Hotchkiss to Paonia	3	\$100.00			
F	1480	SH 135	SH 135 corridor improvements including intersection improvements at CR 738 and 740	3	TBD			
G	2339	SH 149	SH 149 safety improvements from US 50 to the Town of Lake City	3	\$100.00			
H	1463	US 50	US 50 Main Street improvements in Delta including bike lanes	3	TBD			
I	1469	US 50	US 50 safety and mobility improvements including intersections and shoulders east of Gunnison	3	\$15.00			
J	1475	SH 92	SH 92 intersection improvements at Meeker Street	3	\$0.40			
Priority Highway Projects in CDOT Region 5								
K	1133	US 550	US 550 shoulder improvements and wildlife fencing and underpass between Uncompahgre River and Colona	5	\$30.57			
L	2424	SH 145	SH 145 underpass between Lawson Hill and Mountain Village	5	\$2.50			
M	1132	US 550	US 550 shoulder widening between Ridgway and Ouray	5	\$6.93			
N	1489	US 550	US 550 and SH 62 multimodal intersection improvements in Ridgway	5	\$1.50			
O	1482	SH 145	SH 145 multimodal improvements in Sawpit, Placerville, Norwood, and Rico	5	\$5.00			
P	0085	US 550	US 550 Pacochupuk-CR 8 passing lanes and wildlife mitigation	5	\$8.40			
Q	2425	SH 62	SH 62 pedestrian overpass or underpass at Amelia Street in Ridgway	5	\$3.00			
R	2441	SH 145	SH 145 Down Valley Connector Trail between Placerville and Illium	5	\$5.00			
S	1026	US 50, US 550	US 50 and US 550 ITS fiber installation	5	TBD			
T	2426	US 550	US 550 completion of Uncompahgre Trail from Montrose to Ouray	5	\$16.00			
Priority Transit Projects								
U	1110	SH 135	Crested Butte Storage Facility	3	\$3.00			
V	2340	US 50	Western Slope maintenance and storage facility	3	\$2.70			
W	2454	US 50	Outrider stop and shelter improvements in Montrose, Delta, and Gunnison	3	\$0.25			
X	1028	SH 62, SH 145, US 550	New fixed-route regional transit service between Montrose and Telluride	3, 5	\$4.23			
Y	1027	SH 62, SH 145, US 50, US 550	Essential bus service between Grand Junction and Telluride (proposed Outrider service)	3, 5	\$2.75			

KEY

PROJECT TYPES:

- Pedestrian
- Bicycle
- Safety
- Operations
- Capacity
- Transit
- Asset Management

PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Economic Vitality
- Public Health
- Tourism
- Mobility Options
- Aviation
- Quality of Life
- Bike/Ped
- Resilience
- Environment
- Freight
- Asset Management
- Transit
- Safety

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN GOAL AREAS:

- Safety
- Mobility
- Asset Management

Sent to you earlier was a description of some available Grant Programs. Here is another reminder.

Grant Programs Update (Informational Update) - Molly Bly, Can Do Grant Program Manager

- a) Staff provided a status and summary of the Can Do Programs.**
- b) Revitalizing Main Streets (RMS) program received an additional \$2 million funding this year; a total of \$6.1 million total.**
- c) A total of 64 projects were awarded RMS funding for a total of \$2.84 million.**
- d) The grant limit for the Community Telework program was raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in January.**
- e) 27 projects were awarded funding for a total of \$124,000.**
- f) \$176,000 of Community Telework funds remain available in 2021.**

STAC Discussion: While broadband projects are eligible, the high cost of these projects are usually prohibitive; however, some buses have been outfitted with broadband support. Durango is seeing direct benefits from its investments, resulting in increased sales revenues; CDOT staff will be reaching out this year to collect this kind of information to support these metrics.

**Transportation TPR Meeting
NEXT MEETING NOTICE TPR meeting December 3, 2020
Region 10 at 10am to Noon
Possible Video Conference Only**