



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

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News From:



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

US 50 Middle Bridge in Gunnison fully reopens Work continues on Lake Fork Bridge for the next few weeks

Montrose, Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties – The Colorado Department of Transportation is pleased to announce the full reopening of the US 50 Middle Bridge to two-way travel Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Flagging and pilot car operations at this bridge are expected to end midday when both lanes will open for travel. The US 50 Lake Fork Bridge about five miles to the west will still be restricted to one lane of travel with work expected to finish in December.

HB 23-1101

The Transportation commission was to discuss and Make a decision on the boundary issues for 3 different TPR's. The Commission has postponed that decision until later. Current legislation states that there shall be 15 TPR's. It has been suggested that new Legislation will be submitted that would increase the number of TPRs. This would allow for the possibility for 16 TPR's. This would solve a number of issues.

At the last STAC meeting the following Legislative summary
Was presented

State Legislative Update

- State legislative session to start in January 2025.
- Significant budget deficit identified for the State of Colorado
 - However, no discussion of administrative cuts or furloughs occurred.
- Continuous Spending Authority is being sought for SB 260 programs, including MMOF program funds which are currently annually appropriated.
- CDOT is seeking other transportation fees to cover maintenance and asset management programs.

Federal Legislative Update

- The Transportation sector and IJIA may have substantial changes with the new federal administration.
- On December 20, the 2024 Budget expires and will need a continuing resolution to keep the budget active for FFY 2025-2026.
- Transportation reauthorization package anticipated to look different at the federal level.
- CDOT does not specifically know when FHWA is to release the notification of rural surface transportation program awards, but it is anticipated in a couple months.
- CDOT was awarded \$47M for safety improvements on US 287 from Boulder County up to the Wyoming border. CDOT also received \$66M in a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) FRA grant to improve the rail corridor from Union Station to Longmont.

Transportation Planning meeting #2 held on November 14th

We had a long discussion on project lists. We reviewed the projects from our 2045 Plan and our 10 Year Plan.

The results were that each County would get together with their respective Communities and work on project lists for their area. The Counties would forward these lists to the respective Region by a date certain.

The review of these lists would occur at Planning Meeting #3. Draft Lists would be developed to possibly include both remaining projects from the 2045 Plan and the 10 Year plan and new projects.

2050 Statewide Plan Update - Darius Pakbaz

- Active Transportation and Transit Plan Discussion
 - This plan promotes intentional integration of active transportation modes and transit into the Colorado transportation system.
 - Presentations covered key information regarding active transportation and transit planning activities occurring at CDOT.
 - Both elements will be rolled up into the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan.
- Next Steps for Active Transportation and Transit Plan
 - Long-range plan modal integration will be ongoing topics of STAC meetings
 - Other topics integrated into the statewide long-range plan include: freight, asset management, resilience, and safety.
- Discussion:
 - Pueblo Area asked for their region's ATP survey results. CDOT is in the process of compiling results based on MPOs and TPRs.
- PD 14 Letter from NFRMPO
 - As a result of the comments in the letter from NFRMPO regarding the revised PD 14, draft text changes to PD 14 were submitted to the 2050 SWP Subcommittee of the Transportation Commission for their review. PD 14 is a potential living document. The TC will discuss these changes to PD 14 at their November meeting.
 - STAC requested to be informed of the results of the 2050 SWP TC Subcommittee review of PD 14 text changes and to keep the STAC posted. CDOT agreed to report back on this.

STAC Work Plan Discussion - Gary Beedy and Darius Pakbaz

- A draft 2025 STAC work plan was presented that includes standing agenda items.
- Workplan considers: Training and onboarding, 2050 SWP, 10-Year Plan, Enterprise Updates, Winter Maintenance, FY 26 Budget Overview, STIP Update and Adoption, TPR RPA Grants, Rest Area Program Update, and Aeronautics Update.

Discussion

- Several STAC members commented on the need for STAC to add value and be better integrated and aligned with TC decision making. STAC working in unison before advising the TC is one approach noted.
- Policy Directives planned would be good to add: PD 1602 (Bike and Ped) is one known for a need to update, Annual Update of PD 14, Update PD 1601(TDM requirements for intersection approvals), Add GHG Rule 2 CCR 601-22, PD 1610, cover a briefing of one PD at each meeting. Another suggestion was to discuss the Interagency Consultation Team (IACT) and their role in implementing GHG PD 1610.
- Consider making FASTER an enterprise as one approach to keeping these funds available.
- The 10-Year Plan will be critical over the next years to monitor closely.
- STAC requested CDOT to forward a copy of PD 1602 to STAC membership as a follow up item to today's meeting.
- CDOT will bring back a revised STAC Work Plan for 2025 and post it on the CDOT website

Draft meeting Schedule

Transportation TPR Meeting

Planning meeting #3

February 13, 2024

1:30 to 4:00pm