



Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

GVRTC Minutes for April 24, 2017

Attendees: Todd Hollenbeck, Dean Bressler, Biz Collins, Dave Eller, John Cater, Dan Thao, Cheryl Gibboney, Dana Martinez, Bob Jackson, Greg Canton, Greg LaBlanc, Bill Haas, Ken Haley, Jason Smith, Trent Prall, Scott Mai, Mike King, Rich Persky, Tim Kirby

Roll Call: Penny Prinster, Chair – Town of Palisade, called the meeting to order. Bennett Boeschstein sitting in for Phyllis Norris – City of Grand Junction, Scott McInnis – Mesa County, and David Karisny – City of Fruita are present.

Call Meeting to Order: 3:00 p.m.

Member Representative Remarks:

Councilmember Boeschstein announced the Las Colonias Amphitheater ribbon cutting will be held on July 6 at 5:30p.m. He also sought input from other municipalities regarding policy around Electric Bicycles as the Riverfront Trail currently does not allow them. Grants awarded to Riverfront Trail were specific to non-motorized vehicles. Dave Eller said difference in bicycling speed is a hot topic for CDOT, not only for regular bikes versus E-Bikes, but also road cyclists versus relaxed cyclists (i.e., Vail pass downhill or Cherry Creek trail). The State does not have a position on the issue, but the majority of cities and trails currently prohibit them. Fruita and Mesa County does not have a policy on E- bikes. FHWA provision says E-bikes do not fall into the motorized vehicle category.

Town Trustee Prinster announced Governor Hickenlooper will attend the opening of the Cameo shooting range. Pre-registration is required and May 15 is the deadline to pre-register.

Approval of Minutes

1. Adopt the minutes from the February 27, 2017 GVRTC Meeting.
Penny Prinster asked for a motion. Dave Karisny so moved and Scott McInnis submitted a request to 2nd the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Consent Item(s)

The Consent Agenda is intended to allow the Committee to spend its time on more complex items. These items are generally perceived as non-controversial and can be approved by a single motion. The public or Committee Members may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

2. **Adopting the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by approving Resolution 2017-001, an Agreement between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) and authorizing the Chair to sign. – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPO**

See attachment. We have a rolling TIP, so 2017 was taken off and 2021 was added. Items in the spreadsheet highlighted in yellow identify the changes that were made. What is the current status of I-70B? Bids for the North Avenue interchange open this week. The advertising date for the next phase of construction will be determined by assessing remaining budget following the payout for this phase.

Design funding is currently identified for the next phase of the I-70B project, not construction. Will be from approximately I-70B at American Way to 1st Street, then 1st Street to Ute/Pitkin with terminus TBD.

Penny Prinster asked for a motion to adopt the 2018-2021 TIP. Dave Karisny so moved and Scott McInnis submitted a request to 2nd the motion. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Consideration Item(s)

None

Briefing Item(s)

Briefing items are intended to allow the Committee to give Staff guidance in the day-to-day operations of the Regional Transportation Planning Office, or to hear general presentations from others.

3. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Update – John Cater and Bill Haas, FHWA

New Administration – Provided perspectives on transportation in the community. Elaine Chao is now the Transportation Secretary but no Administrator has been assigned yet, and state DOT direction comes from Administrator. So business as usual until administrator is assigned. Specifics on implementing executive orders (i.e., Buy America) have not come down the pike. Not sure how funding will be affected because they deal on multiyear funding plans. Most funds come to CDOT and are distributed to programs and departments. Discretionary funds, such as TIGER, have a relatively small amount of funding. Is Colorado a sanctuary state? John had not heard this or the definition of a Sanctuary State yet. Is Amtrak going to be cut? 30,000 people per year take Amtrak from Grand Junction. The group agreed that steep cuts to Amtrak are not likely.

Performance Measures – MAP 21 requires performance measures, such as air quality and bridge and pavement condition. CDOT is required to set targets (i.e., fatalities, fatality rate) then gather data on current performance to see how you are performing next to the target. June 1 is the deadline for CDOT to set targets. STAC should discuss it at their meetings. The MPO has the opportunity to set individual targets. The GVRTC will begin having discussions in July on whether to use CDOT targets or set our own. This is the first time FHWA has measured these things, and so far the values are trending in the wrong direction. Are the numbers proportionate to the population? Distracted driving is the leading reason for the increase. Asset management has been rolled out first. More to follow on this topic.

Air Quality – new eight-hour ozone standard is making its way to implementation. Final designation on Front Range areas that have exceeded that standard will be released this fall. The Western Slope region has not exceeded the standard 700 parts per billion. You can visit the website to track air monitoring data for many emissions all over the state. Locally, we have an air quality monitor in Palisade, on the criminal justice building at 6th and Pitkin, and on the National Monument. Historical data is also available for these monitoring sites.

Autonomous Vehicles – Regular discussion of autonomous vehicles is now in the traveling public, and the term “autonomous vehicle” is a catch-all word for the concept. Things are moving quickly in the field. Guidance came out in November with the previous administration, not sure how that will change with new administration. CDOT started a program two years ago Road-X, attempting to get a jump start on smart roads and other innovations. The website has a list of projects (i.e., smart truck parking). First commercial delivery happened in Colorado recently using a self-driving truck. For autonomous vehicles to work properly we need good pavement, signage, and pavement striping. CDOT is working to identify the best pavement markings for autonomous vehicles. Reducing driver fatigue may be the first benefit we see with autonomous vehicles.

4. **CDOT Region 3 Update and Region 3 Bonding List Overview – Dave Eller, CDOT**

See attachment. A flow chart is available that identifies funding streams and changes, Tim Kirby will send to the group. The 10 year capital development list includes projects CDOT has identified with partners, though no funding is currently available. Projects are separated into Tier 1 & 2 programs based on their total project cost. The original list of projects totaled 9 billion dollars, so they are now trying to carve out what could reasonably be funded with speculated amounts for construction of each project (not just design). Tier 1 projects would require 750 million dollars for Region 3, but it is unsure whether they actually receive this amount. Highlighted projects in the attachment are projects that have come from our area. Did this list go to the Transportation Commission (TC) yet? Not formally, the goal is to see what happens with funding legislation, if it gets passed CDOT needs to provide the list to the TC within 45 days. Projects need to be of statewide significance. CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt intends to come to the GVMPO in the coming weeks to explore projects on the list. House bill 1242 has specified amounts to transportation modes – transit, multimodal, etc. If this bill passes, FASTER will go away and CDOT will need to maintain their current projects covered by FASTER (including RPP) that will need to shift under the new bill. I-70B project was 100% funded by FASTER. CDOT did a great job getting our projects on the list, and if you aren't on the list you aren't getting funding. Local partnerships came up last week; if projects have local funding behind it, CDOT should identify it with the project and it should help elevate the project in the list. The list will be finalized in a couple weeks so any changes to local funding matches should be addressed immediately. This information gives the TC the opportunity to speak to the funding partnership that could help see the project through. Funding commitments should be written and submitted to CDOT.
5. **GVMPO 2017-2020 TIP, Amendment #2 – Dean Bressler, RTPO**

See attachment. The current TIP that will remain in effect through June 30 of this year was amended administratively on April 12, 2017. The amendment includes additional funding provided by the Transportation Commission of \$500k for US 6 Fruita to I-70B (intersection improvements) and \$750k for I-70 Palisade Curves (additional design funding). Dave Eller said the Transportation Commission has contingency funds left at the end of most years. CDOT requested design funding to get ahead of schedule on projects. Transportation Commission followed their recommendation and ear marked the remainder of funds for surface treatment/RPP.
6. **Fit to Drive Campaign – Elizabeth Collins, RTPO**

See attachment. CDOT awarded the RTPO with a safety initiative mini grant to target adults aged 65 years and over to consider difficult transportation options as their driving ability declines. Public transit agencies will be highlighted as a safe alternative to the personal automobile. Grand Valley Transit, All Points Transit, and Road Runner Stage Lines have partnered together to run three television ads on the Fit to Drive campaign. We are seeking a spokesperson to champion this campaign on television. Transportation Commissioner Kathy Hall was asked to be our spokesperson, have not heard back yet. We are open to additional suggestions for spokesperson until this is confirmed with Kathy Hall.
7. **Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Strategic Plan – Elizabeth Collins, RTPO**

See attachment. Grand Valley Transit is beginning a strategic planning effort to set our operation and capital plans for the next ten years. Part of this process includes a half day retreat that will include GVRTC members and community leaders, and am seeking feedback for the date and time for the retreat. GVRTC will check their schedules and Biz will send a save the date.
8. **GVT Operations Report for March 2017 – Dan Thao, GVT**

See attachment. GVT has seen consistent increases in ridership for the past three months. Complaints per boardings did increase by one more complaint, and increased ridership typically

increases complaints (and accommodations, which are not reported here). Transdev has been more thorough in their documentation, and better than what we've had in place in the past, so this could be another factor. Accident rates are down significantly from last year. The potential for a Las Colonias Amphitheater shuttle was raised as a community need, as parking is available for only for a couple hundred people on-site.

Other Business:

None

Meeting Adjourned: 4:17 p.m.: Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Collins.