



Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

GVRTC Minutes for February 27, 2017

Attendees: Frank Watt, Todd Hollenbeck, Kathy Young, Dean Bressler, Biz Collins, Dan Thao, Jason Smith, Michael Bennett, Jody Kliska, Scott Mai, Ron Quarles, David Thornton, Trent Prall, Kathy Hall, Pete Baier, Tim Kirby, Zane Znamenacek, Steve Gsell, Darleen Gsell, Margaret Koestel, Sue Kupelian, Taylor Smock, Pauline Struckman, Bennett Boeschenstein

Roll Call: Penny Prinster, Chair – Town of Palisade, called the meeting to order. 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: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Adopt the minutes from the October 24, 2016 GVRTC Meeting.
Penny Prinster asked for a motion. David Karisny so moved and Phyllis Norris submitted a request to 2nd the motion. Vote was 3-0 in favor. Scott McInnis had not yet arrived at the meeting.

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.

None

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.

2. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Commissioner Update – Kathy Hall, CDOT Transportation Commission District 7

Discussion is always about the budget and that there is never enough funding. There is more conversation from the governor and legislators to address the enormous shortfall on funding. There is a .6% sales tax proposal from the Colorado Contractors Association. They provided a briefing at the Transportation Committee in January 2017. The Contractors Association is trying to get the legislature to put it on the ballot instead of them having to get a petition. The .6 sales

tax will total to \$750 million annual revenue, which is planned to be split three ways to fund local transportation agencies (30%), transit (30%), and CDOT (40%).

The Transportation Commission approved \$20 million to go towards engineering and planning projects in an effort for CDOT to have projects shovel ready should there be more construction funding. Current projects are the Palisade Curves and 22 Road intersection improvements. sent to GVRTC Reps 3/13/17

The Central I-70 project (the record of decision took 14 years) has come in to improve the area by the viaduct which is by the Purina factory and Western Stockshow complex. There have been a lot of protestors that are showing up in black masks that are the reroute group. There is not a reroute option in the record of decision. CDOT has been putting windows in some of the houses, purchasing homes and providing job fairs on a regular basis for those affected.

The Transportation Commission has formed two new committees. The Resiliency Committee is to address keeping roads open such as when Glenwood Canyon, which is frequently. Technology Committee to have the best DOT in the country regarding automatous vehicles, message boards, etc.

Kathy Hall was appointed to the Scenic Byways Committee by the Governor for a 4 year appointment and they meet quarterly. They received a letter requesting Douglass Pass be removed from the Scenic Byway designation.

CDOT is conducting more telephone town halls for outreach around the state.

CDOT headquarters building in under construction and the existing buildings are probably sold.

Kathy had a meeting with Colorado Public Interest Research Group (COPIRG) this week and reported they have completed a white paper. CDOT needs to add \$1.5 billion a year for Transit, Walking and Biking. This funding would have to come from what CDOT has already which is only \$1.4 billion annual budget.

Mesa County Bicycling Alliance is an informal group that meets periodically. There is a meeting tonight. They are looking for an open line of communication with the transportation agencies in the area and to impress upon how important it is to have biking paths.

Kathy Hall had a meeting with Jacqui Foster. Staff have also met with Jackie and provided her with information about all the options GVT provides. She is concerned about how to get people to their doctors' appointments that live in the outlying regions such as what Regional Health Connection in Montrose is doing. Discussion about Glenwood Springs Chamber and how much they have benefited from Bustang. Ride Glenwood transit system not funded well enough to be much good.

House Bill 1153-any Federal money can only go to I-25 North & South. Most likely will be killed.

Discussion about Rep. Thurlow Tabor bill. This would help transportation funding shortages if it is designated toward transportation. The new money would be debruced.

3. CDOT Region 3 Update – Dave Eller, CDOT

Bike Alliance communication with CDOT is good, but the most appropriate path of communication may be through the MPO as a subcommittee of either GVRTC or TAC.

Discussion on Rep. Willett Tour of the Moon designation for Colorado National Monument bicycle loop. It is currently named the Monument Loop. Sign changes don't have anything to do with funding. CDOT has made improvements along 340 yet most of this Monument Loop is on City & County roads. Two signs on 340 would have to be changed out if the name of the bicycle loop changed.

There are a considerable amount of bicycle advocacy groups out there. Should they get together and maybe the funding requested could be the same. Colorado Springs assess a \$5 fee for each new bike sold to go towards trails. Maybe something could be done here. If bicycle community could organize themselves, with a fee, then organize a board, and funding source could go through this group and they would have a voice at the table. Have their own source of funding and prioritize the projects. Maybe set up a bike group similar to TAC. Discussions about riverfront project ensued. There is a disconnect between the planning and the funding. How do we better align these folks who want to be involved? There have been briefings by staff to the bicycle alliance on a number of occasions. City Grand Junction appoints the Urban Trails Committee.

Knowing there has been a lot discussion about potential funding. RTD's around the area are concerned there are not very many projects are on the "shelf". If there may be more funding, what projects would the regions work on? Currently there is only \$2 million for each region a year. Palisade Curves, US 6 west or east end, these projects that are in our plan, on 10 year capital plan but not moving forward. There is \$750,000 for Palisade curves and \$500,000 for US 6 project. Hoping to have project(s) ready if funding becomes available. RPP \$7-8 million over 4 year time frame. Don't have funding to get some of these designs going.

US 6-there is the 20 Road project, 22 Road Project and tie to G Road. Is the \$500,000 enough for the whole section. It's only for the 20 Road intersection. Advertising set of plans by December 2018 is CDOT's goal for the 20 Road intersection. CDOT will need to work with the City of Grand Junction on the 22 Road intersection as what happens at 20 Road, will affect 22 Road improvements. City of Grand Junction is currently reconstructing 1st Street and how would Hwy 50 connect at 1st and Grand?

Senator Scott spoke about the battles at legislative level. He is confident there is enough momentum for something to happen.

SB228 money is General Fund money, if economy grows, there is a transfer to transportation, if economy grows too much, then Tabor kicks in and it won't go to transportation.

I-70B going out to bid in March. Then start working on conceptualls for 1st & Grand. I-70B is extremely important to the City. All projects should be multimodal in nature.

Redlands Roundabout discussion. The schedule hasn't changed. FOR scheduled later in March 2017. Other project is one mile to the west and CDOT should be able to be combined with roundabout project. CDOT is expecting to go to advertising in September 2017 with construction next year in 2018.

Public comments included: What year did CDOT take their statistics and decide it was necessary? Statistics are from 2011-2015. How many people now have vehicles with the sensors to avoid collisions? This is the coming thing and could avoid building the roundabout with this new technology as well as self-driving cars. The time CDOT did this study was before this technology came out and the roundabout may not be needed.

Additional public comments: Looking back at 28 accident figures. 54 million vehicles have gone through that same intersection during that same time frame. Different lighting, slower speeds could help. The 45 MPH sign doesn't need to be there. Speed bumps to mitigate the problems. Like the Olathe intersection. When CDOT had their meeting with us in August, one suggested was to make a lane separate from the roundabout, coming up Redlands parkway, turning right on Broadway. CDOT said they had ROW all the way to Village Way. The next time we talked about, it interfered with pedestrians. Anything you do with intersection will affect pedestrians. There is a school right there as well as a middle school. These kids have to walk farther. Intersection going to be so busy traffic is going to be backing up. Is the running stream being taken into consideration? Redlands Power has a well to irrigate from this seep. End of Wildwood Dr. & South Broadway are other seeps. Biggest problems are the traffic. Citizens sat at Safeway shopping center and received 1076 signatures against the roundabout. CDOT told us this committee has the power to stop this project. This committee is in charge of prioritizing the projects but not what's designed. Would like letters from those entities they have sent out a letter to. Several documents were provided from the public.

The project has been evaluated, couple open houses, and there is a lot of support for the project as well as against it. Need to try and mitigate the issues brought up. Have done some things heard during open houses that have been mitigated. Possible night construction but City would have to be on board for this as some residents may not be on board for this. Design changes to address pedestrian issues and improve pedestrian safety. Autonomous vehicles are coming and projects will be different then but it will be several years at least before they are common place. Biggest issues are left hand turns. Model demonstrates left hand turns will back up traffic. Roundabout will reduce accidents better than left hand turn signals.

People in audience deserve a special meeting outside this one to discuss this Redlands Roundabout. Sue is the best person to keep into contact with about this meeting. Questions that need to be answered at this meeting were handed out.

4. CDOT Road Usage Charge Pilot Research Program Presentation – Tim Kirby, CDOT

See powerpoint presentation. Oregon was doing a similar type project. Population is going up, MPG regulation for vehicles will be at 50 by 2025. The gas tax doesn't increase with the increase of fuel costs. It stays flat no matter what fuel prices are at.

Penny per mile cost is a concern for those that live in rural areas. Rural families would end up ahead from the data collected from five states pilot projects.

CDOT is in no way looking at congestion pricing and it's not on the table for issuing of tickets for speeding infractions. Has CDOT looked at trucking industry and who this would be affected? Freight in on the list for future pilots.

5. Safe Routes to School Presentation – Jody Kliska, RTPO

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

6. Grand Valley Circulation Plan Planning Process Presentation – Trent Prall, City of Grand Junction

See powerpoint presentation. 2011 Urban Trails Master Plan was not adopted so still working with 2001 plan. Working on this update the past 6-7 months on drafting amendments proposed. There will be open houses coming up. Canals will only be utilized if there is no safe alternative along the existing road network. The connections should not be for recreational purposes. It

needs to be a transportation need not a recreational need. Terminology that this plan will serve all users' needs to be used with caution.

The plan will hopefully be adopted later this year or early 2018. Staff is coordinating with adjacent agencies on road classifications and improvements.

7. Grand Valley Transit (GVT) Strategic Plan Update and Recommendation – Todd Hollenbeck, RTPO

Received two very good proposals, planning on taking a contract before the BOCC by the end of March.

8. GVT Operations Report for January 2017 – Dan Thao, GVT
See attachment.

Staff received a complaint from a mother regarding her daughter who utilizes paratransit and that none of the GVT buses have seatbelts. FTA doesn't require transit buses to have seatbelts. For the few buses in the past that have had seatbelts there were problems (vandalism, maintenance, etc.) so discontinued having them as ordered new buses. The injury rate is very low with not having seatbelts. Staff is working with the complainant for other options for her daughter. Will keep the GVRTC apprised of any future changes.

Other Business: None

Meeting Adjourned: 4:54p.m.: Minutes submitted by Kathy Young.