

NWTPR Meeting - January 16 2025 Minutes & Transcript (Approved)

Voting

Amend IGA Section 3 language to describe new voting formula that includes transit agency and include voting formula diagram.

(59.54) **Passed**

Opposed - None

Amend/Change IGA Section 5 to extend the terms of the chairperson and vice chairperson from one year to two years and describe eligibility requirements for Chair and Vice Chair positions (attend minimum of three NWTPR meetings in the previous two years).

(1:01:34) **Passed**

Opposed – (2) Route County & Town of Walden

NWTPR Jan 2025 Meeting
Minutes

Summary:

The Northwest TPR meeting commenced with introductions from attendees, including representatives from various towns and the Colorado Department of Transportation. Sonya pointed out a spelling error in the July meeting minutes, which was corrected before the minutes were approved. The agenda was also approved without any objections. Reports were shared on various projects, including the new US 34 interchange and a transit connection study aimed at improving services between Craig and Grand Junction, with results anticipated by mid-year.

Key projects discussed included the Red Dirt Hill project, which is set to begin construction in two phases, and a paving project on the 40 corridor from Berthed Pass to Winter Park, scheduled for this summer. Ongoing efforts to secure funding for additional paving projects were highlighted, particularly between Winter Park and Hot Sulphur Springs. The Frazier Improvement Study is set to begin design work, focusing on a feasibility study completed in 2020. Concerns were raised regarding the timing of the downtown Winter Park paving due to a new streetscape plan, which could disrupt recent improvements.

The meeting also covered construction projects planned for 2025, including signal upgrades and passing lanes on Highway 40. An analysis of crash data from 2018 to 2023 revealed significant hotspots and emphasized the need for targeted countermeasures to reduce risks, particularly in areas with poor road conditions. Wildlife movement studies

were discussed, with a focus on identifying safe pull-over locations for semi-trucks. The group prepared to transition to decision items, including proposed changes to the intergovernmental agreement voting formula and the terms for chairperson and vice chairperson positions.

Discussions on the 2050 Long-Range Plan emphasized the importance of member input for project prioritization. Medora presented the concept of complete projects that address diverse transportation needs, while Krista discussed updates to the regional transit plan. The conversation highlighted the complexities of securing funding for identified projects and the need for collaboration among stakeholders. Priorities for various jurisdictions were shared, focusing on safety improvements and infrastructure enhancements, with a strong emphasis on addressing deteriorating road conditions and increasing traffic concerns across the member jurisdictions.

Chapters & Topics:

Introductions and Agenda Approval

Brian Cerkenik facilitated the introductions of participants at the Northwest TPR meeting, including various representatives from towns and departments. Sonya pointed out a spelling error in the July meeting minutes, which was acknowledged and corrected. The agenda was approved without any objections.

- * Introduction of participants and roles within the meeting.
- * Approval of the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

CDOT Updates and Transit Planning

Angie (CDOT) discussed the commission report, highlighting the new US 34 interchange and public comments regarding asphalt purchases. Angie provided an update on a transit connection study focused on the Craig to Grand Junction route, with results anticipated in mid-2024. Mark emphasized the need for efficient use of transit resources and potential partnerships with other organizations.

- * Updates on various transportation projects and studies, including the transit connection study.

Red Dirt Hill Project and Paving Updates

Karen Berdoulay discussed the Red Dirt Hill project, highlighting that phase one is out for advertisement and construction is anticipated to start this summer. Plans for additional paving projects along the Hwy 40 corridor were also mentioned, particularly focusing on the section from Berthed Pass to Winter Park. The speaker emphasized the importance of securing funding for various projects in the area.

Discussion on Winter Park Paving and Streetscape Plans

Kobe from Jackson County asked about the sections of the paving project being considered, and Nick Mayer requested clarification on the downtown Winter Park paving.

Karen noted that the project is delayed due to the need to align with a new streetscape plan, which is currently under discussion. She emphasized the importance of not postponing the downtown repaving despite the ongoing planning changes.

Updates on 2025 Construction Projects and Highway 40 Developments

Roland (CDOT) outlined key construction projects for 2025, highlighting the Highway 40 downhill drive signal and a signal upgrade at Yampa 9th Street. The Highway 40 passing lanes project is moving forward, with geotechnical work scheduled for spring 2025, while a wildlife mitigation project is also in the pipeline. It was also noted there was interest from local legislators in advancing these projects due to community concerns.

Crash Data Analysis and Mitigation Strategies

Zeb White provided a comprehensive overview of crash data from 2018 to 2023, focusing on wildlife crashes across various highway segments. Key findings included hotspots for crashes, particularly on Highway 40, and the influence of road conditions on crash types. The analysis also examined driver contributing factors, revealing a trend of impairment and inexperience among drivers.

Updates and Discussion on Wildlife Movement and Transportation Planning

Mark discussed the recent wildlife movement studies and the need for safe pull-over locations for semi-trucks, emphasizing the significance of these topics for Commissioner Ritter. He confirmed that two emails containing wildlife information and Roland's document were sent out on the 8th. Additionally, Mark excused Jason Smith from the meeting due to his involvement in the Transportation Commission meeting.

Voting Formula Discussion for IGA

Brian Cerkenvenik outlined the voting formula changes for the IGA, emphasizing that each county receives one vote, municipalities receive a share based on their numbers, and transit agencies receive a weighted vote of 0.2. Sonja sought clarification on whether counties have a direct vote or if it is solely through their transit agencies, and how votes would be allocated among transit agencies. Brian confirmed that the transit agencies within a county would collectively decide their representation. The group discussed the clarity of the proposed verbiage and its attachment as an exhibit.

* Discussion of the new voting formula for transit agencies in the IGA.

Voting on Chairperson and Officers Terms

The meeting included a vote to extend the terms of the chairperson and vice chairperson from one year to two years, which was approved without opposition. Sonja raised a concern about allowing non-voting members to serve in these roles, suggesting that the items be voted on separately. Scott Marsh supported moving forward with the current proposal, and ultimately, the motion regarding the two-year term passed, while the proposal about non-voting members faced some dissent.

2050 Long-Range Plan and Prioritization of Projects

Spencer York, the new planning liaison for the Northwest TPR, led a presentation on the 2050 Long-Range Plan and project prioritization. He highlighted the need for TPR members to provide input on priority projects, aiming for consensus on the project list. The finalized list will contribute to the statewide transportation plan and inform future decision-making.

Active Transportation and Transit Planning

Medora introduced the idea of complete projects, which address the comprehensive needs of transportation users by integrating multiple travel modes. She explained that this approach not only improves project competitiveness for funding but also aids in early identification of cost estimates and funding sources. Krista then provided an overview of the regional transit plan, emphasizing the need for updated plans to meet federal funding requirements.

- * Funding and planning for pedestrian safety projects
- * The importance of active transportation and transit projects in funding discussions.

Funding Navigation and Project Prioritization Discussion

Nick Mayer inquired about the process for securing funding for projects, leading to a discussion on the upcoming 10-year plan and various grant opportunities available through CDOT. Eric (CDOT) outlined the funding routes, while Mark emphasized the importance of understanding policy directives and the limitations of project types eligible for funding. The conversation also touched on the need for local agencies to manage maintenance and upkeep of new infrastructure.

- * Funding navigation for transportation projects and the role of CDOT.
- * Coordination with CDOT on various infrastructure projects
- * The development and implications of the 10-year plan for project prioritization.

Project Prioritization and Funding Updates

Mark Rogers emphasized the need to keep projects on the priority list until they are funded and completed, referencing past issues with funding delays. The discussion included specific projects such as the US-40 improvements in Frayser and the Highway 64 bridge replacement in Rio Blanco County, with suggestions to merge or remove certain projects based on their current status. Mark also highlighted the importance of prioritizing a critical bridge for funding under the 10-year plan.

Project Prioritization and Funding Discussion

Mark Rogers led a conversation about project priorities, asking for any opposition to the current list. Brian Cerkenik suggested adding Berthoud Pass erosion control as a priority due to safety issues, and also mentioned other projects like intersection improvements and double lanes from County Road 8 to Granby. The group acknowledged the importance of aligning priorities with funding availability.

- * Maintenance concerns for Berthoud Pass and other roads

Discussion on Highway 131 Improvements and Project Prioritization

Lisa Piering raised concerns about the lack of attention to Colorado Highway 131 in project lists, stressing its critical role during Glenwood Canyon shutdowns. Mark Rogers responded by noting the difficulties in prioritizing projects and the need for a clear top-tier list, while also recognizing the importance of Highway 131. The discussion included the need for a balance between addressing multiple projects and focusing on a few high-priority ones.

* The process for counties to submit and prioritize their transportation projects.

Jackson County and Moffett County Priorities Discussion

Jackson County is focusing on improving 125 South and the bridge over the Illinois River, which has ongoing pothole issues. Additionally, they seek enhancements on Highway 14 and Highway 127 due to increased traffic and safety concerns. Moffett County's priorities include passing lanes on Highway 40 and completing a shared use path from Ryford Road to Wicks, along with addressing safety for children crossing the highway near the Boys and Girls Club.

* Highway 40 improvements and related developments

Northwest TPR Member Jurisdiction Updates

Randy discussed positive developments regarding the Moffitt tunnel negotiations and emphasized the need for improved maintenance on Berthoud Pass. The Town of Fraser is focused on a comprehensive plan that includes an affordable housing project and a new bike park, which will impact Highway 40. Meanwhile, the Town of Winter Park is preparing for repaving work on Highway 40 and is collaborating with CDOT to minimize disruptions during the summer tourism season.

* Updates on transportation projects in Grand County

Participants

In-person participants:

Brian Cerkvenik

Rebecca Kaufman

Brad Rome

Remote Participants:

Name	In-Meeting Duration
Admin NWTPR	2h 54m 30s
Matt Phillips (External)	2h 52m 34s
read.ai meeting notes (Unverified)	1h 5m 34s
Nick Kutrumbos (Unverified)	2h 51m 46s

Dave C- CDOT R3 (Unverified)	2h 52m 32s
Sheila Symons - Town of Yampa (Unverified)	2h 52m 30s
Randal George, Grand County Commissioner (Unverified)	2h 52m 33s
Bryan Richards (External)	2h 52m 34s
Dana Wood (External)	1h 7m 34s
Roland Wagner - CDOT (Unverified)	38m 59s
Angie Hainer - CDOT (Unverified)	1h 5m 24s
SCOTT MARSH	2h 52m 29s
Spencer Dickey (Unverified)	28m 51s
Mandi Etheridge (External)	2h 36m 37s
Jennie Schnackenberg (CDOT) (Unverified)	1h 8m 7s
Shane Baker (Unverified)	2h 52m 55s
Sonja Macys, Routt County, Colorado (Unverified)	2h 40m 3s
Hope Hunt - NWCCI (Unverified)	1h 19m 14s
Charles McCarthy (External)	2h 51m 21s
Spencer York - CDOT (Unverified)	2h 51m 22s
Karen Berdoulay, CDOT (Unverified)	2h 37m 25s
Zeb White - CDOT (Unverified)	1h 6m 50s
Lisa Piering (External)	2h 51m 20s
Michael Brack	5h 58m 31s
Mark Rogers CDOT (Unverified)	2h 51m 35s
Jonathan Flint (External)	2h 50m 55s
Teagan Serres (Unverified)	2h 51m 11s
Christa Curtiss, CDOT DTR (Unverified)	2h 50m 59s
Marissa Gaughan, CDOT (Unverified)	1h 17m 21s
Jessi Spencer - CDOT (Unverified)	2h 51m 11s
Erin Kelican (Unverified)	1h 27m 33s
Phil von Hake - CDOT (Unverified)	2h 50m 6s
Theresa Takushi, CDOT (Unverified)	2h 49m 10s
Melody Villard Moffat County (Unverified)	1h 23m 26s
Kaity Clark (Unverified)	41m 24s
Chris Nichols (Unverified)	48m 13s
Emily Katzman (External)	2h 46m 36s
Jennifer O'Hearon Rio Blanco (Unverified)	2h 45m 42s
Coby Corkle - Jackson County (Unverified)	2h 43m 25s
Michael Koch (Unverified)	1h 43m 37s
Michael Buccino (External)	2h 44m 25s
Mike Mordi (External)	2h 43m 35s
Erik Sabina, CDOT (Unverified)	2h 41m 15s
Jim Dustin (Unverified)	2h 35m 4s
Medora Bornhoft, CDOT (Unverified)	2h 20m 31s

Hope Hunt- NWCCI (Unverified)	57m 56s
Ginger Scott (External)	10m 54s
Roland Wagner - CDOT (Unverified)	2h 13m 4s
Brian Cerkenik NWTPR Chair (Unverified)	2h 11m 13s
Kaity Clark - CDOT (Unverified)	55m 16s
Aaron - CDOT (Unverified)	5m 45s
Kaity Clark - CDOT (Unverified)	1h 10m 16s
Ann Findley (External)	1h 37s
Angie Hainer - CDOT (Unverified)	15m 33s
Karen Berdoulay, CDOT (Unverified)	12m 25s