

NWTPR Meeting - April 10 2025
Minutes & Transcript (Approved)

Voting

Approve Agenda

Move: Rebecca Kaufman

2nd: Sonja Macys

(00:10:32) **Passed**

Opposed – None

Approve January Minutes

Move: Sheila Symons

2nd: Melody Villard

(00:11:21) **Not Passed**

Conversation after Move & Second lead to tabling till next meeting. Discrepancies in the minutes, including name corrections and speaker identifications, were pointed out by Melody, who offered to send revised minutes to the group. The decision was made to table the approval to the next meeting to allow for these corrections.

Approve Prioritization of Hwy. 40 on 2050 Plan

Move: Sonja Macys

2nd: Rebecca Kaufman

(00:45:27) **Passed**

Opposed – None

Approve Long Range Plan and Prioritization of Projects

Move: Sonja Macys

2nd: Rebecca Kaufman

(00:57:11) **Passed**

Opposed – None

Nominations for Selection Committee

(01:55:29)

Jennifer O'hearon – Rio Blanco

Brian Cerkenik - Fraser

Michael Buccino - Steamboat

Rebecca Kaufman - WP

Shane Baker - Craig

Sonya Macys – Route

Set Next Meeting

Thursday July 10th 9am (next meeting)
(02:44:28)

NWTPR April 2025 Meeting
Thu, Apr 10, 2025

Summary:

The Northwest Transportation Planning Region meeting commenced with introductions from representatives of various towns and counties, confirming a quorum for proceeding with the agenda. Participants included Michael Sobon from Grand Lake and Shane Baker from Craig, who identified Chris Nichols as the primary representative. The group briefly discussed the agenda before moving to approve it.

The approval of the January meeting minutes was initiated, with Sheila proposing the motion and Melody seconding it. Melody raised concerns about inaccuracies in the minutes, suggesting corrections and offering to submit revised versions. Consequently, the group decided to table the approval until the next meeting to allow for necessary amendments.

Updates on public comments regarding the Safe Routes to School grant were provided by a conference room participant, who also discussed the Rural Planning Assistance Program, along with the upcoming approval of the 2050 statewide and regional plan. The discussion then shifted to the Northwest TPR funding split, with a focus on prioritizing funding for Highway 40. Mark Rogers from CDOT explained the rationale for this decision, and a motion to approve the prioritization was passed without opposition.

Aaron Willis from CDOT HQ presented an overview of the regional plan, emphasizing community input and outlining timelines for comments. He also discussed MMOF projects and funding, highlighting potential reductions due to state legislative actions. Concerns were raised about the funding status for projects in Steamboat Springs, Walden, and Winter Park. Additionally, updates on construction projects in Grand County were provided, along with discussions on traffic impacts and ongoing projects, including the Highway 13 Mitigation Feasibility Study and the need for surface treatment on Highway 40.

Chapters & Topics:

Introductions and Agenda Approval

Brian Cerkenik facilitated the introductions at the Northwest Transportation Planning Region meeting, gathering representatives from different towns and counties. Key participants included Michael Sobon from Grand Lake, who opted not to list an alternate, and Shane Baker from Craig, who named Chris Nichols as the primary representative. The meeting confirmed that they had a quorum and proceeded to seek approval for the agenda.

* Introduction of representatives and alternates for the Northwest Transportation Planning Region.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

The discussion on approving the January meeting minutes was led by a conference room participant, with Sheila proposing the motion and Melody seconding it. Discrepancies in the minutes, including name corrections and speaker identifications, were pointed out by Melody, who offered to send revised minutes to the group. The decision was made to table the approval until the next meeting to allow for these corrections.

* Approval of the agenda and January meeting minutes.

Stack Update and Transportation Commission Insights

The stack update was reported on, mentioning public comments from Steamboat and Routt County about the Safe Routes to School grant. Additionally, the funding for the Rural Planning Assistance Program and the timeline for the 2050 statewide and regional plan were outlined. Insights from the Transportation Commission were then provided, noting delays in grant approvals and the impact of budget cuts on project funding.

* Updates on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Planning Plan and upcoming meetings.

Public Comment and Funding Prioritization Discussion

A discussion was initiated on the Northwest TPR funding split after public comments were not received. Mark Rogers from CDOT elaborated on the prioritization of Highway 40 for funding, citing its high traffic and maintenance needs. Concerns were raised about Highway 64 and 139, with Rogers acknowledging the challenges of addressing multiple highway needs within limited funding.

* Prioritization of funding for Highway 40 and its implications for other projects.

Prioritization of Projects for the 2050 Long-Range Plan

Brian proposed a motion to include the prioritization of US 40 in the 2050 long-range plan, which was seconded by Rebecca Kaufman. Mark highlighted the need for a timely decision, and after a brief discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. The group then moved on to discuss the overall project prioritization list and the inclusion of wildlife mitigation efforts.

* The formation of a selection committee for MMOF applications.

Regional Transportation and Transit Plan Updates

Aaron Willis from CDOT HQ introduced the regional plan, discussing its purpose and the focus areas identified by the TPR, including road conditions and transit needs. He encouraged members to review the draft and submit comments within a two-week period.

Christa Curtiss followed with a presentation on the draft transit plan, which will be included as an appendix, and highlighted the importance of addressing the transit needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities.

MMOF Projects and Funding Updates

Aaron Willis from CDOT HQ addressed the MMOF projects and mentioned waiting for Medora Bornhoff to provide updates on anticipated funding reductions. Concerns were raised by a conference room participant about the security of funds allocated for projects in Steamboat Springs, Walden, and Winter Park, while Mark Rogers from CDOT confirmed that the funds for Walden are currently secure and encouraged prioritizing projects that can proceed quickly.

Funding Challenges and Project Prioritization

Mark Rogers from CDOT addressed concerns regarding the funding for Northwest TPR, noting a drop in available resources following a period of increased funding due to the pandemic. He explained the importance of timely project readiness to ensure that allocated funds are utilized effectively, and mentioned that other TPRs are facing similar challenges in project funding and selection.

* Discussion on the MMOF budget and its historical context.

Discussion on Intersection Planning and Development Concerns

Randal George expressed significant concerns about the impacts of changing the intersection at US 40 and Thompson Road, emphasizing its potential effects on local developments, including the rodeo arena. Mark Rogers acknowledged the issue and noted that the over-utilization of state highways due to development is a growing concern. He committed to obtaining further information from the traffic unit.

Budget Updates and Project Funding Considerations

Medora Bornhoff from CDOT reported on the state budget's impact on transportation funding, noting a potential \$71 million sweep from the MMOF. Existing funds for projects in Northwest TPR are expected to remain intact, but future allocations may be affected. The Revitalizing Main Streets program is set to lose future funding, although previously awarded projects will not be impacted.

* Updates on safety funding and its availability for state highways.

* The impact of proposed budget cuts on current and future projects.

Selection Committee Formation for Northwest TPR

The formation of a selection committee to manage upcoming applications was initiated, aiming for a diverse representation from the Northwest TPR. Members such as Jennifer O'Hearon and Michael Buccino volunteered, while concerns about geographic representation were raised by Sonja Macys. The committee will implement a recusal process for members involved in their own applications to ensure fairness.

Project Updates and Future Planning

Grant Anderson shared that construction on the Red Dirt Hill and Winter Park paving projects will commence in mid-May, with preliminary work already scheduled. He highlighted the shift in surface treatment planning due to the Winter Park Main Street project and mentioned the completion of the passing lane job near Welford, which will soon see re-vegetation efforts. Additionally, he noted the initiation of design work for the Fraser project.

CDOT Project Updates and Discussions

Justin Kuhn detailed several CDOT projects, including the US-40 signal project and culvert repairs scheduled for 2025. He also discussed the State Highway 13 Mitigation Feasibility Study, which will serve as a tool for future funding opportunities. Sonja Macys expressed interest in the study, highlighting the area's wildlife concerns.

Traffic Impact and Road Conditions Update

Grant Anderson expressed concerns regarding upcoming road work on Highway 40, highlighting the potential for cumulative traffic impacts. A conference room participant inquired about the timeline for the project and its alignment with a four-day work week, but Anderson noted he had limited information. The discussion also touched on the specific TPR involved, with participants confirming it is in Clear Creek County.

Member Jurisdiction Updates and Comments

Various representatives provided updates on their jurisdictions, with Justin Kuhn from CDOT emphasizing the need for surface treatment on Highway 40. Randal George, Grand County Commissioner, noted the positive developments on U.S. 40 and requested information on a developer's project timeline. Keith Riesberg from Winter Park mentioned ongoing downtown streetscape designs and ADA coordination, while Sonja Macys raised concerns about funding for a safe routes to school project.

* Coordination and communication regarding specific intersection projects.

Action Items:

- * Brian Cerkenik will compile a list of representatives and their alternates for the Northwest Transportation Planning Region.
- * Mandi Etheridge will send an email to Brian Cerkenik to confirm her appointment as the main representative and to list Toby Willie as the alternate.
- * Melody Villard will email the adjusted minutes from the January meeting back to the group for record.
- * Sonja Macys will ensure that the name correction for her department is made in the meeting minutes.
- * Sheila Symons will amend the motion to table the January minutes until the next meeting for corrections.
- * Mark Rogers CDOT will provide a full breakdown of the MMOF budget at the June or July meeting.

- * Mark Rogers CDOT will find out information from the traffic unit regarding the intersection near Granby Ranch and email it to Randal George.
- * Medora Bornhoft, CDOT will prepare updated estimates on the MMOF funding availability and provide them once the state budget is finalized.
- * The conference room participant will send an email to the selection committee members with timelines and scoring criteria for the MMOF applications.
- * Grant Anderson will email the project document shown during the meeting to Brian for distribution.

Key Questions:

- * What is the status of the Safe Routes to School grant that was not awarded?
- * What are the specific projects included in the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan?
- * What are the next steps for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Planning Plan?
- * How will the prioritization of funding for Highway 40 affect other projects in the region?
- * What is the history of the MMOF budget and how have budgets changed over the years?
- * Who should be contacted regarding the intersection near Granby Ranch?
- * What are the implications of the proposed budget shortfall on current projects?

Participants

Aaron Willis - CDOT HQ
 Admin NWTPR
 Allen Parker
 Angie - CDOT
 Brian Cerkenik
 Bryan Richards
 Chris Nichols
 Christa Curtiss, CDOT DTR
 Dana Wood
 Dave Cesark- CDOT R3
 Doug Overton Rio Blanco
 Emily Katzman
 Erik Sabina, CDOT DTD
 Erin Kelican
 Ginger Scott
 Grant Anderson
 Hope Hunt
 Jason Smith (CDOT)
 Jennifer O'Hearon Rio Blanco
 Jessi Spencer - CDOT

Jonathan Flint
Josh Hardy
Justin Kuhn - CDOT
Keith Riesberg
LISA PIERING
Mandi Etheridge
Mark Rogers CDOT
Matt Phillips
Medora Bornhoft, CDOT
Melody Villard
Michael Brack
Michael Buccino
Michael Sobon
Mike Mordi
Randal George, Grand County Commissioner
Rick Ridder
Rio Blanco County
Shane Baker
Sheila Symons
Sonja Macys