

NWTPR Meeting - July 10 2025
Minutes (Approved 1-15-26)

Voting

Approve Agenda

Move: Michael Buccino

2nd: Melody Villard

Opposed – None

Passed

Approve January & April Minutes

Move: Melody Villard

2nd: Erin Kelican

Opposed – None

Passed

Next Meeting

Thursday October 16th 1pm (next meeting)

In-Person at Fraser Town Hall

NWTPR July 2025 Meeting

Thu, July 10, 2025

Summary:

The Northwest Transportation Planning Region convened with representatives from various counties, including Grand and Rio Blanco, confirming a quorum to proceed with the agenda. The meeting began with the approval of the agenda and the minutes from previous meetings, which required corrections due to transcription errors.

Rick Ridder provided insights into the Transportation Commission's current status, highlighting concerns about the federal budget's potential impact on Colorado's transportation funding. While the Highway Trust Fund remains stable, Ridder noted possible cuts to grants and program dollars, affecting ongoing projects in the northwest region. Mark from CDOT presented the Region 3 10-Year Plan, detailing a fiscal framework of approximately \$900 million for the first four years, with a focus on safety, road maintenance, and transportation options.

Updates on specific projects were shared, including the Bell Pass project aimed at improving I-70 traffic flow and safety, which faces significant funding challenges. Brian Cerkenik reported on the MMOF projects, confirming that three projects would retain funding despite previous losses, and mentioned a budget of around \$522,000 for future initiatives. Grant Anderson and Justin Kuhn provided updates on various road projects, addressing contractor issues and scheduling challenges while maintaining optimism about timely completions.

The meeting also covered jurisdiction updates, with discussions on safety improvements and deteriorating road conditions in various areas. Sonja Macys highlighted the formation of the Regional Transportation Authority for Route County, set for a ballot in November 2025, and the efforts to secure additional funding. The next quarterly meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 9th, with a proposal to move it to October 16th due to a potential conflict with another meeting.

Chapters & Topics:

Welcome and Introductions

Brian Cerkenik opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and confirming their presence. Representatives from multiple towns and counties, including Ed Raegner for Grand County and Jennifer O'Hearon for Rio Blanco County, participated in the introductions. The meeting confirmed a quorum, allowing the agenda to move forward.

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Brian Cerkenik led the approval of the agenda, which was unanimously accepted after a motion from Michael and a second from Melody. The discussion then shifted to the January and April meeting minutes, where Brian explained the use of Read AI for transcription, acknowledging potential spelling errors. Melody moved to approve the minutes, emphasizing their accuracy despite minor errors.

* Approval of the agenda and meeting minutes.

Transportation Commission Update

Rick Ridder addressed the Transportation Commission, discussing the pending federal budget's effects on transportation funding in Colorado. He indicated that while the Highway Trust Fund is secure, cuts to grants and program dollars are anticipated. Ridder also mentioned ongoing projects in the northwest region, particularly on US-40, and expressed concern over the inability to meet all transportation needs due to funding constraints.

Region 3 TPR MPO 10-Year Plan Review

Mark from CDOT discussed the Region 3 10-Year Plan, detailing the transition from the long-range plan and the goals set by Policy Directive 14, which focuses on safety, road repairs, and transportation options. The draft project list is due soon, with a total of \$225

million allocated annually starting in 2027. Mark also mentioned the importance of incorporating projects from the MPO priority list and the Transit Connections Study into the new plan.

- * Updates on the 10-year transportation plan and project prioritization.

- * Updates on specific projects, including U.S. 40 passing lanes and wildlife mitigation efforts.

Funding Priorities and Project Updates

Mark from CDOT outlined the funding priorities for upcoming projects, noting that while there are additional funding sources, not all projects can be fully funded within the current budget constraints. Rebecca asked for clarification on the funding status of U.S. 40, and Sonja questioned the equitable distribution of funds across counties. Mark acknowledged the challenges in project prioritization and funding allocation.

- * Discussion of funding challenges and project scopes.

- * Funding updates and allocations for various projects.

Budget and Project Updates for I-70 Improvements

Jason Smith discussed the ongoing Bell Pass project, which includes the addition of auxiliary lanes to enhance safety and traffic management on I-70. Mark from CDOT emphasized the tight funding situation, revealing that the anticipated budget has decreased significantly, impacting the ability to initiate new projects. Both speakers acknowledged the pressing needs of various communities and the difficulty in meeting those demands with the current budget constraints.

MMOF Projects Update and CDOT Updates

Brian Cerkenik discussed the status of MMOF projects, noting that funding for three approved projects will remain intact. He outlined the budget of \$522,000 for future projects and indicated that the selection committee will review proposals from Routt County and the Town of Hayden on the 16th. Cerkenik also mentioned the need for a follow-up meeting to approve funding based on the committee's recommendations.

Updates on Road Projects and Maintenance

Grant Anderson reported on the status of several road projects, noting that Read District Hill is progressing well and is expected to be completed this year. He mentioned challenges with paving on Winter Parker due to contractor mix issues and scheduling difficulties with traffic control. Future projects include Fraser Flats paving and improvements to Bertha Pass, with ongoing design efforts for various infrastructure enhancements.

- * Public comments and feedback on ongoing projects.

Craig Residency Project Updates

Justin Kuhn from CDOT detailed the status of several projects in the Craig Residency, highlighting the ongoing US-40 and Downhill Drive signal project, which is slightly behind schedule but on track for a November completion. He mentioned the successful progress of the Colorado 13 signal upgrades and outlined future projects, including a significant

surface treatment project and the urgent need for resurfacing on State Highway 13, which has been expedited to 2027.

Jurisdiction Updates and Funding Discussions

After a break, Brian Cerkenik led a discussion on jurisdiction updates, with Mark from CDOT and Michael Snow addressing the statewide MMOF. They highlighted the remaining funds available for projects and the upcoming selection committee meeting scheduled for the 16th. Sonja Macys contributed insights regarding funding requests for station feasibility projects, suggesting potential increases based on similar past projects.

- * Infrastructure concerns and maintenance updates from various jurisdictions.

- * Upcoming decisions regarding the Routt County and Hayden projects.

Updates on Transportation Projects and Community Concerns

Brian Cerkenik discussed the progress on safety improvements in Fraser, while Michael Sobon brought attention to a collapsing culvert on US 34, with Spencer Dickey confirming that repairs are planned. Rebecca Kaufman expressed concerns about road conditions in Winter Parker and the need for patchwork, echoing sentiments about inadequate state funding for transportation. Coby Corkle also noted the importance of funding for highway maintenance and airport improvements in Jason County.

Updates on Transportation and Infrastructure Projects

Sonja Macys provided updates on the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) formation for Routt County, emphasizing the importance of securing additional funding to support transportation initiatives. She mentioned a stakeholder working group meeting on July 17 and efforts to eliminate county subsidies related to state parks and Forest Service access. Bryan Richards from the Town of Hayden reported on various infrastructure projects, including a bridge project and airport access road improvements.

Scheduling the Next Meeting and Other Business

Brian Cerkenik proposed the next quarterly meeting for October 9th, emphasizing the importance of electing a chair and vice chair. Sonja Macys pointed out a conflict with the CAS meeting on that date, prompting a discussion about rescheduling to October 16th. Mark from CDOT noted that the afternoon of the 16th might work better for some attendees due to other commitments.

- * Scheduling and logistics for the next Northwest TPR meeting.

Action Items:

- * Jennifer O'Hearon will forward Doug Overton's email address to ensure he receives meeting invitations.

- * Mark Rogers will send the slide deck from the meeting to the participants.

- * Mark will follow up with Rebecca Kaufman regarding the specific allocation for U.S. 40 Grant to Tabernash.

- * Brian Cerkenik will send out a doodle poll to schedule a one-agenda item meeting for project approvals based on the selection committee's recommendations.
- * Brian Cerkenik will reach out to Michael Snow to gather more information about the scope change and associated costs for the Hayden project before the selection committee meeting on the 16th.
- * Brian Cerkenik will schedule a special Northwest TPR meeting to approve the decision made by the selection committee regarding the Routt County and Hayden projects.
- * Brian Cerkenik will send out an invite for the next Northwest TPR meeting scheduled for October 16th at 1 PM.
- * CDOT will share a slide presentation that includes funding data and will send it out by noon.

Key Questions:

- * What is the impact of the federal budget on transportation issues in Colorado?
- * What is the process for determining the equitable distribution of funds across counties?
- * What is the timeline for the completion of the U.S. 40 passing lanes project?
- * What is the timeline for the completion of the U.S. 40 and Downhill Drive signal project?
- * What is the expected timeline for the Town of Heaton project extension and modification?
- * What is the estimated cost for the Town of Heaton project after the proposed modifications?

Participants

Allen Parker
 Angie - CDOT
 Bowman, Barb
 Brian Cerkenik
 Bryan Richards
 Coby Corkle
 Daniel Paul
 Dave Cesark- CDOT R3
 Ed Raegner
 Ed Raegner Grand County District 1
 Erin Kelican
 Ginger Scott
 Grant Anderson
 Hope Hunt
 Jason Smith (CDOT)
 Jen
 Jen MacPherson
 Jennifer O'Hearon Rio Blanco County

Jessi Spencer - CDOT
Jim Dustin
Jonathan Flint
Justin Kuhn, CDOT
Keith Riesberg
Kevin Corona
Mandi Etheridge
Mark -CDOT
Matt Phillips
Melody Villard
Michael Buccino - Steamboat Sprgs
Michael Snow - CDOT
Michael Sobon
Mike Mordi
Phil von Hake - CDOT
Randal
Randal George
read.ai meeting notes
Rebecca Kaufman
Rick Ridder
Sonja Macys
Spencer Dickey
Town of Meeker, Trustee - Browning
Town of Yampa - Sheila Symons