

NWTPR Meeting - October 16 2025
Minutes (Approved 1-15-26)

Voting

Approve Agenda

Move: Randy George
2nd: Rebecca Kaufman
Opposed – None
Passed

Approve July Minutes (skipped/missed)

Move:
2nd:
Opposed –
No Vote

Vote/Elect Chair (Brian Cerkvenik) & Vice Chair (Jennifer O'Hearon) retain the current positions

Move: Rebecca Kaufman
2nd: Sonja Macys
Opposed – None
Passed

Approve MMOF Project – City of Craig

Move: Sonja Macys
2nd: Randy George
Opposed – None
Passed

Approve 2050 Regional Plan

Move: Rebecca Kaufman
2nd: Randy George
Opposed – 2
Passed

Next Meeting

Thursday January 15th 8:30 am (next meeting)
Virtual (MS Teams)

NWTPR October 2025 Meeting
Thu, October 16, 2025

Summary:

The quarterly session of the Northwest Transportation Planning Region began with introductions from attendees, including representatives from various counties. The agenda was approved unanimously, allowing for updates and discussions on transportation initiatives. An overview of recent developments was provided, noting that the Colorado State Legislature's special session had no impact on transportation and highlighting improvements made to over 2,500 miles of rural roads since 2021. The public comment period for the 2050 statewide plan received 28 comments, and the election of a chair and vice chair resulted in the current leadership retaining their positions for another two years.

Mark Rogers presented details on the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), emphasizing the competitive nature of the funding and the lengthy timelines for project completion. Concerns were raised regarding funding uncertainties and the potential need for matching funds. Danny Paul discussed the City of Craig's application for \$150,000 in multimodal funding for a feasibility study on a freight and passenger rail station, which received strong support from the selection committee. The motion to approve the funding was unanimously supported, underscoring the project's significance for future transportation planning.

Further discussions included the long-range regional plan and the draft for the 10-year plan, with Mark outlining the funding structure for Region 3, which is set to receive approximately \$132 million over the next decade. The meeting also addressed the Northwest TPR surface treatment program, with concerns raised about the postponement of surface treatments in Winter Park due to deteriorating road conditions. The need for further discussions on these changes and the implications for regional safety was acknowledged by a conference room participant.

Updates from various counties highlighted ongoing infrastructure projects and safety concerns, including a rise in accidents on a heavily trafficked highway. Sonja Macys shared information on transportation initiatives, including a grant application for neighborhood centers and discussions on wildlife crossings. Mark Rogers emphasized the need for transportation impact fees to manage increasing traffic effectively, and the group agreed to revisit this topic in future meetings. The next meeting was scheduled for January 15th, focusing on these critical issues.

Chapters & Topics:

Attendance and Agenda Approval

The quarterly meeting of the Northwest Transportation Planning Region was initiated, with attendees asked to introduce themselves. The list included representatives from various counties and towns, confirming a total of eight attendees. Following the introductions, Randy George moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Rebecca Kaufman, and the motion was passed without further discussion.

* Approval of the agenda and election of chair and vice chair.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Updates on the stack were provided, highlighting that the Colorado State Legislature's 2025 special session did not affect transportation initiatives. The discussion included the improvement of over 2,500 miles of rural roads since 2021 and the public comment period for the 2050 statewide plan. The meeting then transitioned to the election of a chair and vice chair, with current members expressing their interest in retaining their positions.

* Status of camera installations and funding for transportation projects.

Federal Lands Access Program Discussion

Mark Rogers discussed the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), emphasizing its focus on major construction projects and the competitive application process. He mentioned that projects can take several years from application to construction, advising caution in planning. The conversation also touched on the potential requirement for matching funds and the importance of checking the program's website for the most current information.

* Discussion on the Federal Lands Access Program and its funding.

Overview of the City of Craig's Rail Station Area Plan

Danny Paul discussed the City of Craig's application for \$150,000 in multimodal option funding to support the Rail Station Area Plan, which focuses on creating a freight and passenger rail station. He explained that the city is currently facing economic challenges due to the closure of the Craig Power Station, which influenced their decision not to propose a matching grant. The selection committee expressed support for the project, emphasizing its importance for future rail service to Craig.

* Updates on the multimodal option funding application for the City of Craig.

Updates on Transportation Planning and Funding

Mark Rogers presented updates on the long-range regional plan and the draft for the 10-year plan, indicating that the Transportation Commission will review the plans in November. He explained that Region 3 will receive about 15% of the strategic funding, with a notable decrease in available funds from previous years, primarily relying on predictable federal funding. Rebecca Kaufman inquired about the types of funding, to which Mark clarified that the funds are primarily for construction projects rather than maintenance.

Discussion on Northwest TPR Surface Treatment Funding and Project Timelines

The Northwest TPR surface treatment program and the associated funding were discussed, with a note that additional projects are planned. Rebecca expressed concern about the delay in surface treatment for Winter Park until fiscal year 2029, highlighting the poor road

conditions. Grant clarified that the project title was incorrect and explained the rationale behind the funding adjustments related to the streetscape project.

Update on Funding and Transit Expansion Discussions

The implications of the \$6 million deduction from statewide funding were discussed, clarifying that it affects all regions before percentages are allocated. Jennifer O'Heron expressed interest in expanding bus services in Rio Blanco County, but it was indicated that the focus is currently on maintaining existing services rather than expanding. There is a recognized need for assistance with weekly trips, particularly for veterans, but daily bus services are not feasible at this time.

Approval of the 2050 Regional Plan

The approval of the 2050 Regional Plan was a key topic, with Mark Rogers expressing frustration over the process and the need for timely resolutions. Rebecca Kaufman motioned for approval, and Randy George seconded it, although some members, including Jennifer O'Heron and Melody Villard, voiced their disappointment regarding the lack of timely resolution distribution. Ultimately, the plan passed with a split vote among counties.

* Review of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and its implications.

Updates on Infrastructure Projects and Community Safety

The importance of addressing safety concerns on the west side of Berthoud Pass was emphasized, along with an eagerness for the return of traffic cameras. Brian Sirkvenic from the Town of Fraser mentioned the capacity project and the bike park's soft opening, while Randy George raised questions about traffic signal updates in Granby. Limited information on the intersection discussions was provided, indicating a need for further updates.

* Exploration of partnerships for trail development and connectivity between communities.

Updates on Infrastructure and Safety Concerns

Chris Nichols raised concerns about a highway that remains dangerous due to accidents, with 3,000 vehicles using it daily. Doug Overton discussed the status of bridge projects in Rio Blanco County, mentioning the need for repairs on County Road 5 due to a melted culvert from fires and the urgency of addressing a failing bridge. Jennifer O'Hara inquired about engineering discussions related to County Road 5's bridge.

Updates on Transportation and Infrastructure Projects

Sonja Macys discussed the momentum gained on design projects and the submission of a grant from the Colorado Energy Office to support build-out efforts. She mentioned ongoing conversations with the Public Utilities Commission regarding the Hayden Station closure and the potential transfer of assets, including a rail spur. Additionally, she noted the formation of a Regional Transportation Authority to improve safe commutes in the area.

* The status of the Hayden Station and potential asset transfers related to its closure.

* Updates on various infrastructure projects including resurfacing, safety improvements, and traffic signals.

Discussion on Transportation Impact Fees and Future Planning

Mark Rogers highlighted the absence of impact fees in northwest TPR areas, stressing the importance of connecting developments to existing road systems rather than relying solely on state highways. Sonja Macys echoed this sentiment, sharing her experiences with insufficient developer contributions in Steamboat Springs. The group agreed to include this topic in future agendas for further exploration.

* The importance of transportation impact fees and their implementation by counties and towns.

Action Items:

- * Daniel Paul will continue exploring a partnership with Moffett County to build a trail on the east end of Craig along the highway.
- * Brian Cerkvenik will retain the current positions of chair and vice chair for the next two-year term.
- * Danny Paul will provide an overview of the Rail Station Area Plan for the City of Craig.
- * Danny Paul will submit an application for \$150,000 of multimodal option funding for the Rail Station Area Plan.
- * Mark Rogers will send a list of the cameras that have been removed to the relevant parties.
- * Brian Cerkvenik will distribute talking points regarding the camera situation to elected officials.
- * Rebecca Copeland will arrange a meeting with Grand County and CDOT for maintenance and engineering before the snow flies to ensure communication and issues from last year are addressed.
- * Doug Overton will check in with Pete Lombardi regarding the engineering discussions on County Road 5's bridge to gather necessary information.
- * Sonja Macys will follow up with the Public Utilities Commission and Xcel regarding the closure of the Hayden Station to discuss potential asset transfers.
- * Matt Phillips will submit the final plans for the West Steamboat Trail to CDOT for approval and anticipate advertising for bids in early November.

Key Questions:

- * What is the expected funding amount for the next round of the Federal Lands Access Program?
- * What is the status of the multimodal option funding application for the City of Craig?
- * What is the timeline for the completion of the Rail Station Area Plan for the City of Craig?
- * What is the timeline for the construction of the passing lanes between Craig and Steamboat Springs?
- * What are the implications of the commission approving the statewide plan without the regional plan resolution?

* What updates can be provided regarding the traffic signal at the intersection by City Market and the fairgrounds?

Participants

Andy Paul
Bowman, Barb
Brian Cerkvenik - Fraser
Bryan Richards – Hayden
Chris Nichols
Doug Overton - Rio Blanco County
Erin Kelican
Grant Anderson - CDOT
Hope Hunt
Jamie Grim- CDOT
Jennifer O'Hearon Rio - Blanco County
Jessi Spencer - CDOT
Jonathan Flint
Justin Kuhn, CDOT
Karen Berdoulay, CDOT
Mark Rogers -CDOT
Matt Phillips - Steamboat Springs
Melody Villard – Moffat County
Michael Buccino - Steamboat Springs
Phil von Hake - CDOT
Randal George - Grand County
read.ai meeting notes
Rebecca Kaufman – Winter Park
Roland Wagner - CDOT
Sonja Macys – Routt County