

Central Front Range Transportation Planning Region Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2025

Location: Colorado Springs Public Works Building, Colorado Springs, CO

Online attendees: Lucas Epp, Hannah Parsons, Lachelle Davis, Emily Haddaway, Michael Snow

In person attendees: Dwayne McFall, Leo Evans, Julie McGrew, Mary Wagner, Kathy Lowry, Roni Gordon, Andy Stecklein, Emily Borden, Jason Nelson, Geoff Guthrie, Scott Skinner, Victoria Chavez, Rick Orphan, Rob Frei, Aaron Willis, Bobby Tech, Erik Stone, Sam Cocchia, Kathleen Collins, Lindsey Jaquez, Lucas Meyer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by the Chair.

2. Administrative Announcements

Julie McGrew, currently with City of Canon City, will temporarily take on the role of CFR TPR Administrator until a permanent individual can be transitioned into the position. This will ensure continuity and facilitate ongoing project development in the Colorado Front Range Transportation Planning Region (CFR TPR).

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled quarterly meeting is set for July 14, 2025. The location will be confirmed soon, with the City of Canon City providing a venue. Attendees will receive calendar invitations with further details.

3. Project List Review and Adjustments

The committee reviewed and discussed the prioritization of regional highway and transit projects.

Changes and Prioritization:

Project 1076 (Shoulder Widening on Colorado Corridor):

This project was moved up in priority due to growing concerns from Park County regarding deteriorating infrastructure and safety. The committee acknowledged the importance of this project for both safety and future development.

Projects Removed from List:

Project 1664 (Highway 94 Intersection Lane Modification): Completed successfully and removed from the project list.

Project 2400 (Highway 115 Wildlife Fence): Removed as it has been integrated into the larger Highway 115 Pavement Reconstruction Project.

New Project Addition:

Project 1637 (Shoulder Widening on Colorado Corridor): Recommended by Chad Wright (CDOT Maintenance Operator), this project was added due to recurring infrastructure issues in the area, such as pavement failure and shoulder instability.

Approval Process:

A motion was made and seconded to add Project 1637 and remove Projects 1664 and 2400 from the list. The motion passed unanimously without opposition.

Project ID renumbering will take place to ensure accurate tracking.

4. Transit and Rural Match Funding Updates

Rural Transit Match Efforts:

The committee discussed the reduction of local match requirements for rural transit providers. Lower match requirements will help smaller, rural transit systems access federal and state funding more easily.

Transit Service Project Updates:

Project 1084: Funding secured for the planning stage.

Mobility Management Initiative (Project 1635): This initiative focuses on streamlining operations and coordination across transit providers in counties like Fremont, Teller, and Custer.

Challenges and Funding:

The group highlighted the difficulty in balancing transit needs in both rural and urban areas with available funding. Ensuring service expansion in rural areas while managing the constraints of limited budgets will remain a priority.

5. 10-Year Transportation Plan Update

Draft Plan Timeline:

The draft of the 10-year plan (covering FY27-FY36) is due for release by July 11, 2025, followed by a public comment period. The final plan will be completed by late August or early September.

Public Engagement Strategy:

Telephone Town Halls will be held across the 11 commissioner districts, with Custer County's session scheduled for May 1, 2025.

A survey targeting older adults (65+) and adults with disabilities will be distributed to understand their unique transportation challenges. Surveys will be available in both paper form and via digital links.

Plan Content and Focus Areas:

The 10-year plan will prioritize:

Safety enhancements, such as shoulder widening and intersection upgrades.

Pavement condition improvements, addressing poor pavement quality.

Multimodal transportation, focusing on improving walking, biking, and public transit options to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

The committee will review the draft plan and provide feedback. A thumbs-up for approval will be sought at the July 14 meeting.

6. Comment Submission Process

Draft Regional Transportation Plan Comments are due by April 28, 2025. Comments should be submitted using the Comment Tracking Spreadsheet provided. This will ensure that all feedback is accurately captured and addressed.

Members were reminded that they could email their comments to Aaron and Emily, especially for transit-related concerns.

7. Maintenance and Infrastructure Updates

Highway 9 at Mile Marker 75:

Chad Wright (CDOT Maintenance Operator) provided an update on foam injection work scheduled for May. The work is intended to stabilize the slope and prevent future slides, particularly during freeze-thaw cycles.

Summer Maintenance Plans:

Paving and chip seal projects are scheduled for after July 2025, contingent on funding availability. Project prioritization will depend on the total funding received.

Weed Spraying Program:

The weed spraying program is set to begin next week. It will initially focus on the Fairplay area, followed by Fremont, Teller, and Custer counties. Four staff members have been certified to handle this work.

8. Other Updates and Business

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):

The 2026-2029 STIP has been released, and a staff meeting will be held on May 1, 2025 to discuss new projects.

Transportation Commission (TC) Meeting Update:

The TC workshop and regular meeting will be held on April 16, 2025, in person.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM. Attendees were reminded to review the draft 10-year plan and submit their comments by the April 28 deadline. The next meeting will be held on July 14, 2025.