

**MINUTES
SOUTHEAST TPR
SECED OFFICE
LAMAR, COLORADO
JANUARY 29, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chair, Stephanie Gonzales at 9:09 a.m.

ROLL CALL

TPR Members / Guests (In Person or Online):

County/Municipal members attending in person or online:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race Chenoweth (Baca Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Bishop (Baca Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shiloh Freed (Baca Cty) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Shupe (City of Las Animas) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hemphill(Bent Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Scofield (Bent Cty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vicky Powell (Crowley Cty) | <input type="checkbox"/> Roy Elliott (Crowley Cty)-ONLINE | <input type="checkbox"/> Terry McMillan (Crowley Cty) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Lening (Kiowa Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Oswald (Kiowa Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Butch Robertson (Kiowa Cty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danelle Berg (Otero Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Denahy (City of La Junta) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Knabenshue (Otero Cty) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Cook (Prowers Cty) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kirk Crespin (City of Lamar) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ty Harmon(Prowers Cty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lex Nichols (Otero Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spike Ausmus (Two Buttes) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Oquist (Otero Cty)-ONLINE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy McCloud (KCEDF) | <input type="checkbox"/> PJ Chenoweth (BCEDC) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tallie Harmon (PEP) - ONLINE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Sanchez (SECHD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Block (La Junta Transit) | <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Coffield |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Stuart (PATS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Gallegos (Inspiration Field) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Mason (Lamar) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duane Gurule (Rocky Ford) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stacey Milenski (Rocky Ford) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve McKitrick (Wiley) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Sanchez (SEC Hospital) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Sykes (McClave) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Butler (Pritchett) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonnie DeLeon (Inspiration Field)-ONLINE | | |

Staff (In person):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Gonzales (TPR Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charity Markus (Mobility Mgr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Daigle (SETran Dispatcher) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan Alba (SECED RGN) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teale Hemphill (SECED RHA) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CDOT / TC / Guests (In Person or Online);

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Collins (CDOT HQ Statewide Planning) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geoffrey Guthrie (CDOT Region 2-Transit Liaison) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shane Ferguson (Region 2 Director)-ONLINE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Sparks (CDOT South Program Engineer) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lindsey Jaquez (CDOT) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lachelle Davis (CDOT LA-Region 2) - ONLINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Jagow (CDOT Region 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Barden (CDOT)-ONLINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neil Mauch (CDOT Maintenance-Lamar) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Asbury (La Junta) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff VanMatre (CDOT R2 Maint) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Frei (CDOT R2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darius Pazbak(CDOT) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aaron Willis (CDOT) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Nelson (CDOT) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Skinner (CDOT Transit Liaison) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Hart (TC District 10)-ONLINE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Grim (CDOT OPGR)-ONLINE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Armendariz (Local Govt CDOT HQ)-ONLINE | <input type="checkbox"/> Justin Snyder (CDOT HQ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Bardmesser (CDOT HQ) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kacey Dykes (CDOT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ajin Hu (FHWA), | <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Rajewski (CASTA)-ONLINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Todd Ausbun (Utilities & Railroad Coordinator) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Rowe (CDOT) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Duffy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Gromke (CDOT)-ONLINE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Kiely (Ports to Plains Alliance)-ONLINE | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Nelson (CDOT) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Blewitt-Stantec Consulting Services-ONLINE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page McAlexander (Governor's Office) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alyssa Dinberg (State of CO) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Topping (Senator Bennet's office)-ONLINE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Isabella Smith (CDOT) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christa Curtiss (CDOT-DTR) |

ADMINISTRATIVE – MINUTES

The minutes of October 23, 2024 were presented for review and approval. Donald Oswald made the motion to approve. Tim Knabenshue seconded, Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Stephanie gave the members the list of the currently appointed members. They were as follows:

Stephanie Gonzales, TPR Chair

Ron Cook, STAC Representative

Stephanie Gonzales, STAC Alternate

Tim Knabenshue made the motion that the appointees stay the same. Donald Oswald seconded. Motion passed.

RCC/LCC Report – Charity Markus

Stephanie informed the board that the SETran Operating Procedures, Code of Conduct and FTA Drug Alcohol policies were provided in the online version for review. They were not included in the printed packet but would be in the official board packet book. Charity mentioned that some of the operating changes were more to reflect the deviated fixed route and the connections with the local services to make smooth connections. We updated items such as the number of bags a rider can bring on a bus, the number of trainings that a driver must have per FTA, and all of the rates are now included in the procedures. Stephanie asked for approval of the three documents so that they can be uploaded on the SETran website for easy access.

- Mike Lening made the motion to approve the policies. Steve Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Charity gave a brief report on the CDL training school that we have in place. There were 168 CDL students enrolled and 298 CDL students who have completed their training.

SETran routes have now increased from 2 routes to now 3 routes to meet the demand for return trips during the day, mainly for Walmart trips. We began service April 15, 2024 and it was a slow start, but now have consistent riders 161 riders average for the month, 1854 riders for the year, drove 58,000 miles and drivers drove 3,654 hours.

CHAIR / STAC REP REPORT – INFORMATIONAL

Terry Hart, Transportation Commissioner, gave a brief presentation to the board highlighting the budget work to the FY25/26 budget, with updates to the revenues and financial information for consideration of approval in June. He mentioned revenues are down. HUTF money and federal money is down. In the process of adjusting that to be reflected in the new budget. The current budget year, adjustments are being made to transfer to support a federal grant that will be coming out to match \$5M to a \$21M grant for geo-hazards with avalanche control. There was a fuels impact enterprise program, in which Otero County is involved, and was more of an educational process to know where we are and how much money is collected and focuses on the safe transfer of fuels. Considering the adoption of a speed/safety camera program that would install speed cameras in work/construction zones to help protect staff. The bridge and tunnel enterprise ten-year funding was reviewed for future adoption. Working on a public/private initiative to free up more corridors for the transfer of electric transportation systems. Renewable energy is produced in one location but used in another location and coordinating the use of CDOT right of ways to create a way to move the power more efficiently. Legislative report was provided to the TC. Greenhouse gas plans were presented, recognitions of folks who worked on the Hwy 50 bridge, and finally the Statewide 2050 plan progress report was provided to TC with discussion for handling amendment requests to PD14.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Crystal Armendariz provided the legislative update which included a review of the following bills that are being or have been introduced this session that CDOT is monitoring:

* HB 25-1007 Paratransit Services requirements for transit agencies and creates a paratransit task force under CDOT.

* SB 25-069 Tire Chain Traction Control Device Permit which has CDOT administer a permit system for vendors to administer traction devices for vehicles.

* SB25-051 Regional Transportation District Operating Costs which changes the definition of “operating costs” to mean all operating expenditures, excluding depreciation.

*HB 25-1048 State Tax Expenditure & Grant Database which creates an online database management by the DOR that includes information on all qualifying state tax expenditures and state grant opportunities.

*HB 25-1039 Commercial Vehicle Muffler Requirements requiring CDOT to include language in all construction contracts stating that a contractor’s or subcontractor’s CMVs that enter a public project site must comply with the new muffler requirements.

*HB 25-1046 Increase Maximum Number of Transportation Planning Regions which increases TPRs from 15 to 16. Jamie Grim then provided the update that the bill was introduced and failed. The question was raised then regarding the consolidation of the two regions as was being proposed and if that would remain the plan or if things would stay the same? Jamie explained that the TC will take a look at the boundaries and decide on whether things will remain the same. Terry then explained the issue has not been revisited at this time at the TC and he is unsure if action, if any, will be taken in regards to the study recommendation.

With no further questions, Stephanie and the members thanked Terry for his report and his support of the Southeast.

Region 2 Presentations

RPP Funding Discussion/Approval

Rob Frei presented the Regional Priority Programming (RPP) which is allocated to the planning areas based on a formula. Rob presented the FY 2029 addition of funding to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) which included the Hwy 50 Passing Lanes between Las Animas and Hasty at an amount of \$4.85M and \$350K to US 287 Safety Improvements.

- Donald made the motion to approve the FY 2029 funding to the STIP and Tim seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

There was not a report on the multimodal options funding (MMOF). Geoff Guthrie indicated that only a small amount of funding is available for this round. Discussion to be held at a later date on how to move forward with MMOF.

(See recording: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ylw2Qt8GRzIB6Lx9exvt0rHok17al26L/view?usp=drive_link)

A robust discussion was held regarding the SE TPR 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and the planning process. This was the 3rd planning meeting during which priority projects from the last meeting were reviewed, marked on the list as completed and a new list formulated. Aaron Willis began the conversation giving another overview of the planning process for the new members of the board.

Aaron reviewed the Project Identification and the meeting purpose, which included a refresher, recap of meeting #2, update to the activities that occurred (member review of projects) between meeting #2 and the current meeting #3. The purpose would be to rank our priority projects to be part of the appendix.

Aaron gave an update on the how Regional plans feed into the Statewide Transportation & Transit Plans and the 10-Year Plan and 4-Year Stip. The last planning process was very interactive and had stakeholder and community input.

New guiding principles include Advancing Transportation Safety, Fix Our Roads and Sustainably Increase Transportation Choice, which are all part of the Policy Directive (PD) 14. The CDOT Funding Priorities are driven by the PD 14 & Regional Needs and should help with Project Identification in the 10-Year Plan. Other Funding Opportunities are driven to help fund TPR Vision/Goals that help identify TPR Priorities.

Aaron reviewed the Vision, Goals and Focus Areas of the SE TPR. During TPR Meeting #1 and #2, we decided TPR Ranking Criteria should include PD 14 Advancing Transportation Safety, Fix our Roads, Sustainably Increase Transportation Choice, but also include economic vitality/freight and cost effectiveness. SETPR Project prioritization framework was reviewed.

The TPR members then went through the list of priority projects. After lengthy discussion, the TRP members decided to allow additional time to review the identified priorities. Commissioner Knabenshue stressed the importance to each county/municipality member to review the priorities on the list. The date of February 19, 2025 was set as the cut off date for review by each member. The TPR members then respectfully asked that the CDOT representatives return in February to review the project list. The group scheduled the next meeting of the TPR to be held February 26, 2025 in-conjunction with SECED's meeting to then complete the exercise of ranking the projects.

TPR members thanked the CDOT for their patience while we work through this process.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Stephanie introduced Page McAlexander from the Governor's office who is the Thriving Communities Program (TCP) program manager and Alyssa Dinberg, the Director overseeing the Thriving Communities Program. Page explained the partnership with SECED through the grant award and indicated she had met some of the members already through outreach efforts. She went on to explain the program and how it fits well with the efforts already being made by TPR through CDOT to enhance transportation and transit needs. The TCP program is more on a level that focuses on identifying grant capacity challenges per community and per county. She then informed the board that they have grant consultants through Stantec, who offers grant writing, technical assistance, engineering expertise to help guide communities and counties in the pursuit of federal funding opportunities. Page and the TCP program is focused on first identifying the challenges and then connecting people to tangibly address the need through grant applications.

She went on to explain that more individualized outreach would be coming in the next few months. The end goal is to get lists of projects identified, local roads, curbs, sidewalks, studies, etc. They must be transit related. Alyssa added that the consultants can also help with State funding opportunities.

Stephanie thanked Page and Alyssa for their presentation and encouraged members to be ready to meet with Page and Morgan to brainstorm for projects needed in their communities.

CDOT REGION 2 PROJECT UPDATES

Jennifer Sparks with Region 2 reviewed the list of projects that are being worked on in the region. She gave an update to which projects were in the design phase, construction and/or have been closed. The following was the list that she went over.

Southeast (SE) Transportation Planning Region (TPR)					
Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Project Updates					
January 2025					
Project Control Number (PCN)	Description	Scope	Phase	Schedule/Status Update	Funding Amount in Thousands (K) and Millions (M)
Engineering					
23558	Region 2 (R2) Bridge Bundle Design Build	Multiple structure replacements in Region 2 on US350, CO9, and US24.	Landscape Establishment/Warranty	Project Complete; Currently in Landscape Establishment Period.	\$43M
23592R	US 50 Surface Treatment, Drainage, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Ramps	Asphalt overlay, drainage feature replacements/improvements, and ADA ramp upgrades on US 50 through Las Animas	Construction	Drainage and ADA ramp work remaining only at Locust. Barrier wall and traffic devices will be removed for winter shutdown period (Jan.-Mar.). Daily lane closures allowed for work during favorable weather. Paving from west end of project to 6th St. beginning Spring '25.	\$8.9M
25974	R2 SE Timber Bridge Retrofit	Add sister beams to freight and non-freight corridor timber bridges in various locations.	Closure	Construction is completed, and project is in the closure process.	\$3.8M
25921	US50B Las Animas Structures L-24-A/L-24-D	Major structure repairs to the bridges over the Arkansas River	Construction	Demolition and removal of west-most bridge is in progress. Both directions of traffic will remain on the east-most bridge during this work.	\$13.3M
25542	CO160 Surface Treatment, Kim to Pritchett	Overlay of CO160 from Mile Posts (MP) 423 to 451	Closure	Construction is completed, and project is in the closure process.	\$14.8M
24703	US350 MP 46.7 - 63.7 (La Junta to Delhi Rural Paving)	Mill and fill with safety improvements	Design	Design in progress. Final Office Review (FOR) in August 2024. Advertisement in October 2025.	\$10.1M
22225	US50B Corridor SE TPR	Passing lane east of Fowler on US50B	Design	Applied for Rural and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grants. Waiting for results.	\$5.6M
25538	CO71 Ordway Passing Lane MP 17-26	10 Year Plan (10YP) Project: Adding ~1 mile passing lane between the Arkansas River and County Road (CR) C	Construction	Concrete Concepts is awarded contractor. Construction Spring-Summer 2025	\$6M
Traffic					
25539	CO71 Ordway Intersection Improvements at County Rd G & CO96	Intersection improvements at both CO71 & CO96 intersections in Ordway.	Design	Design in progress. Final Office Review (Jan 2025) Advertise Feb 2025 to April 2025 Construction Summer 2025 - Fall 2025	\$1M
26304	FY25 Lamar Signal Replace	Replacement of existing traffic signals at US50B & Maple St, US287 & Cedar St (Lamar), US287 & Savage St (Lamar)	Design	Design in progress, Final Office Review in Jan 2025. Advertisement Feb / March 2025 Construction Spring / Summer 2025	\$1.3M

CDOT LOCAL AGENCY

Lachelle Davis, Region 2 Local Agency, reviewed the projects that are still being worked on for the MMOF program. She gave a brief project overview. They were included in the packet.

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Jeff VanMatre, Region 2 Maintenance gave a brief update on their activities. He mentioned they were very busy during the snow storm.

He spoke to their focus on a culvert replacement plan and have verified that there are 36 of them and determining their condition.

The Holly rest area is being looked at to replace plumbing but mostly it is in pretty good condition. It'll be in even better condition in about 45 days.

Hwy 287 has been treated with a material that is more specific to concrete to repair the cracks. It cost a little more expensive but will be better in the long run with the return on the investment with fewer repairs to it.

There was a question regarding main street cracking in Lamar. Jeff indicated that he would take a look at it. Another question was asked regarding the crossing control. CDOT traffic group will look into it.

TRANSIT UPDATES

Geoff Guthrie, pointed out there is a ridership report on Bustang Outrider in the packet.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held February 26, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., with TPR as part of the agenda to rank priority projects. Stephanie reminded the group that they should give there input on or before February 19, 2025. The next quarterly meeting will be held on April 23, 2025 starting at 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

With no other business coming before the group, Shiloh made the motion to adjourn. Butch seconded. Motion passed at 11:39 a.m.

****Special meeting of the TPR will be in-conjunction with SECED on February 26, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

****Next quarterly meeting will be Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. – Noon
via Zoom and In-Person****