

**MINUTES
SOUTHEAST TPR
SECED OFFICE
LAMAR, COLORADO
APRIL 24, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chair, Stephanie Gonzales at 10:08 a.m.

ROLL CALL

TPR Members (In Person or Online):

County/Municipal members attending in person or online:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spike Ausmus (Baca Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Butler (Baca Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shiloh Freed (Baca Cty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Shupe (City of Las Animas) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim MacDonnell (Bent Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Sykes (Bent Cty) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blaine Arbuthnot (Crowley Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roy Elliott (Crowley Cty) | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danelle Berg (Otero Cty) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Davidson (City of La Junta) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Knabenshue (Otero Cty) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Cook (Prowers Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Crespin (City of Lamar) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Grasmick (Prowers Cty) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lex Nichols (Otero Cty) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Buxton-Andrade (Prowers) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Staff (In person):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Gonzales (TPR Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bev Middleton (Admin Asst.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charity Markus (Mobility Mgr.) |
|--|---|--|

CDOT / TC / Local 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) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Sparks (CDOT South Program Engineer) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lindsey Jaquez (CDOT) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lachelle Davis (CDOT Local Agency-Region 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Jagow (CDOT Region 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Roger Graham (CDOT-RE Lamar) |
| <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"/> Don Scanga (CDOT Local Agency-Region 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Vigil (CDOT Local Engineer) |
| <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) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jamie Grim (CDOT OPGR) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Armendariz (Local Government CDOT HQ) | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy McLoud (KCEDF)-ONLINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Sanchez (PEP & BCEDC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallie Harmon (PEP) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christine Coffield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Duffy (Ports to Plains Alliance) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Kiely (Ports to Plains Alliance)-ONLINE | |

ADMINISTRATIVE – MINUTES

The minutes of January 24, 2024 were reviewed. Ron made motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Wendy. Voted on and approved.

CHAIR / STAC REP REPORT – INFORMATIONAL

Local Project Progress Updates were reported under CDOT Progress reports in the transportation planning section.

Mike Duffy and Joe Kiely, from Ports to Plains Alliance were in attendance to give an update of the activities of the Alliance. Mike reported that he attended a Washington DC fly-in where he got the opportunity to visit with representatives and senators regarding the Ports to Plains Corridor. Congress did agree to pass legislation for I-27. Joe reported they were able to get FY 24 appropriations of almost \$30 million dollars including projects in Texas, New Mexico and Nebraska. Currently working on FY 25 appropriation requests for about \$24 million. Only one that is for northern Colorado between Nebraska border and Hwy 14 on Hwy 71, which has to do with

a hazardous waste material processing plant to allow for better movement to a waste site as they seem to be doubling in size. It is a project that would take about \$5 million to address.

The interstate designation was approved for Texas and New Mexico. It will make the connection with I-25 at this point which will increase traffic on that corridor.

Wendy asked if there are any plans to include Southeast Colorado for the bypass through Lamar? Joe responded that it would be something that would have to be prioritized in the region at the county and municipal level to get that reviewed. Mike stated that in order to alleviate the congestion that I-25 will experience, Hwy 71 should be a focus and identified as priority for the corridor. Jean asked for clarification to the connection with Hwy 71 and Mike explained that it would come from Texas on Hwy 287 through our region and connect to Hwy 71 at Limon.

Joe stated a feasibility study must happen in order to get the process started. Rob Frei, CDOT stated it is not at the region level. It must be completed at the executive management team level. Shane Ferguson, Region 2 director stated that he can initiate the conversation at the TC level.

Joe stated he would forward the scope of work to be distributed. The problem is that the project is expensive and as such only projects that have the potential and funding to be built should be prioritized. Wendy voiced the concern that hazardous materials come through our region every day, which could be catastrophic should an accident occur downtown.

Terry Hart, Transportation Commissioner representative for the southeast, stated it is a chicken vs egg problem. He reminded the TPR that it was once approved but at the local level it was stopped. Once that happened, it no longer had the same support at the State and Federal level. But now, cost to build it is significantly higher and would take the majority of allocations statewide to support.

Further discussion was held, with all parties agreeing to start the conversation at the management team level to get a feel for what can be done to get the review process started again.

The board thanked Mr. Kiely and Mr. Duffy for their reports.

CDOT PROJECT UPDATES
ENGINEERING, TRAFFIC

The following is a list of projects that are in progress, starting or getting ready to start around the region. Jennifer Sparks CDOT R2 office reported the following for Engineering and Jason Nelson reviewed the Traffic projects:

SE TPR CDOT Project Updates April 2024					
Engineering					
PCN	Description	Scope	Phase	Schedule/Status Update	Approx. Budget
23698	US 287 Concrete Panel Replacements	Replacement of deteriorated concrete panels on US 287 from Oklahoma border to Springfield	Closure	Project completed and in close out process.	\$2.5M
24193	SH 96 Surface Treatment Eads to Sheridan Lake	Overlay of SH 96 from US 287 junction to Sheridan Lake	Closure	Project completed and in close out process.	\$17M
24198	SH 194 Surface Treatment and Drainage Improvements	Overlay of SH 194 from MM 10.1 to 20.1, with drainage improvements at US 50 junction interchange	Closure	Project completed and in close out process.	\$7.6M

20909	US 287A Park Street - South	Full-depth highway reconstruction with concrete paving	Closure	Project completed and in close out process.	\$18.5M
21400	La Junta SH 109 Bridge Repairs	Bridge preventative maintenance repairs to substructure and superstructure	Construction	Nearly completed. Minimal areas for repair remaining.	\$5M
20907	SH 385 Realignment and New Structure	New concrete box culvert on realigned section of SH 385 North of Granada	Construction	All original scope of work completed. Emergency repair of separate structure on US 385 (K-27-A) was added to the project.	\$7.5M
20912	US50 PUEBLO TO KANSAS TEIS/ DRAINAGE	Drainage improvements for existing irrigation ditch along with a concrete box culvert replacement	Closure	Project final walkthrough was held on March 18th. Project has been accepted and is being closed out.	\$2.8M
23558	Region 2 Bridge Bundle Design Build	Multiple structure replacements in Region 2 on US350, CO 9, and US 24.	Construction	Five of the nine structures on US350 are substantially complete. Work continues on structures at MP 10.289, 48.744, 50.58, and 69.82. Planned completion Spring 2024.	\$43M
23592R	US 50 Surface Treatment, Drainage, and ADA Ramps	Asphalt overlay, drainage feature replacements/improvements, and ADA ramp upgrades on US 50 through Las Animas	Construction	Started project at the end of March with drainage pipe, manholes, inlets, and curb ramp work.	\$8.9M
25974	R2 SE Timber Bridge Retrofit	Add sister beams to freight and nonfreight corridor timber bridges in various locations.	Construction	Project Awarded to Meyers and Sons Construction. Construction to begin in June.	\$3.8M
25542	SH 160 Surface Treatment, Kim to Pritchett	Overlay of SH 160 from MM 423 to 451	Construction	Project Awarded to Oldcastle Paving. Construction anticipated to begin mid-April.	\$14.8M
24703	US350 MP 46.7 to 63.7 - La Junta to Delhi Rural Paving	Mill and fill with safety improvements	Design	Design in progress. FIR in April 2024. Advertisement in November 2024	\$10.1M
22225	US50B CORRIDOR SE TPR	Passing lane east of Fowler on US 50B	Design	Grant not awarded. Looking at options to improve application for future grant opportunities.	\$5.6M
25538	SH 71 Ordway Passing Lane MP 17-26	10yr Plan Project: Adding ~1 mile passing lane between the Arkansas River and CR C	Design	Design in progress. Planned advertisement September 2024. Construction Spring/Summer 2025	\$6M
25921	US50B Las Animas Str. L-24-A/L-24-D	Major structure repairs to the bridges over the Arkansas River	Design	Design in progress. Planned advertisement in June/July 2024. Construction Fall 2024 - Winter 2025.	-\$8-10M
Traffic					
25539	SH 71 Ordway Intersec Improvements at CRG & SH96	Intersection improvements at both SH71 & SH96 intersections in Ordway.	Design	Collecting Survey. Esitmated Project Kickoff/Scoping Summer 2024 Advertise Jan 2025 to March 2025 Construction Spring 2025 - Fall 2025	\$ 1M
26304	FY25 Lamar Signal Replace	Replacement of existing traffic signals at US 50B & Maple St and US 287 & Cedar St (Lamar)	Prelim Plan	Design Phase budgeted & STIP'd. Survey scheduled. Estimate scoping/kick-off Summer 2024. Advertisement Feb/March 2025 Construction Spring/Summer 2025	\$1.3 M

Lachelle Davis reported on the current multimodal projects that are in progress. The current projects include the Regional Bus Stops (in progress), Lamar Pedestrian Bridge (complete), Granada Sidewalks (RFP for design), Bent County Sidewalks (IGA completed and RFP being drafted), La Junta Arroyo Trail Construction (complete), Lamar Sidewalks (Draft IGA), Lamar Sidewalks (Draft IGA) and Pritchett Sidewalks (Draft OLA).

SE TPR CDOT Local Agency Project Updates April 2024					
PCN	Description	Scope	Phase	Schedule/Status Update	Grant \$
24021	Lamar Bus Stops	Construction and installation of 18 regional transit bus shelters and signage at designated locations in the counties of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers Counties	D	In design. Preliminary location sent to Spec units. Awaiting FIR date from local	\$364K
24022	Lamar Pedestrian Bridge (Design streetscape and install Ped bridge at Com. College)	Construction and installation of a pedestrian bridge, east side of Hwy 287 crossing the Fort Bent Canal,	C	1212 started, project complete	\$200K
25196	Granada Sidewalk Improvements	Design and construction of sidewalks along both sides of Highway 50, beginning on the west edge of town at Mimms Street to Hoisington Street and from North Main Street from Walnut Street south along both sides to Amache Road with curbs and ADA corner curbs	D	In design. Adding additional funding for unforeseen design elements	\$597K
25198	Bent County Sidewalk Improvements	Design and construction of sidewalks Carson /6 th & 5 th Streets and Moore Ave. in Las Animas, 1 st St., McClave CO	D	Design RFP advertised 3/12	\$313K
25349	La Junta Arroyo Trail Construction	Construction of the La Junta Brick & Tile Trail for off-road facilities to include pedestrians and bicyclists which will include sidewalks and pedestrian bridges.	C	Construction NTP 07/05/23; Pre- Bid 07/10/23; Bid opening 07/31/23; TLM awarded; Construction started 10/16/2023; sidewalk poured; working on ramps and rail; PED-bridges delivery 01/15/2024; Construction complete in Feb 2024; Working through finals	\$1.03M
25940	South Lamar Sidewalk Improvements	Design and construct a shared use path between Lamar High School and Prowers County Fairgrounds, and Lamar Cummunity College on Main Street including signage, sidewalk and safety improvements.	D	Draft IGA sent to local for signature 3/18	\$2.05M
25956	Pritchett Sidewalk Design	Design and Planning for sidewalks in the Town of Pritchett	D	project Created in ZJ08 07/31/2023; MMO Funds; draft docs sent LA; Waiting on draft OLA;	\$100K

Charity Markus gave a brief update with the work of the Mobility Manager/Facilitator office. CDL school is going well. Theory and behind the wheel training is going well and being utilized each month. Our regional transit efforts have slowed a bit, but we continue to work on getting our ducks in a row to have a late spring kickoff for the service. Routes to start will be along Hwy 50 east from Las Animas

BUSTANG OUTRIDER UPDATE

Geoff Guthrie gave an update for the SE TPR Outrider Route Ridership with ridership has increased over 2023 13.8% for westbound and 38% for eastbound ridership. Shows more people coming to Southeast rather than going out of the area. Coordination with regional transit is great as well as with the bus stops to ensure that we don't have two stops in one location.

Colleges are very excited that the Bustang Outrider has connections with Colorado Springs to transport international students that travel home during school breaks as well as the regional and local transits who provide valuable service to them as they typically come without a form of their own transportation.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE:

Jeff VanMatre reported on winter activities coming to a closeout. He gave an update on equipment upgrades. Contemplating Holly rest area upgrades to sidewalks, picnic tables, bathrooms. Chip seal are being pulled out of several areas in the region.

Paving plans, spot repairs being reviewed and weed spraying game plans. Heavy equipment mechanic was able to convert a tandem into a tractor that can be converted back and forth in a couple of hours. Help to solve the problem of having too many trailers and not enough tractors. Cost was only \$5,000 will increase hauling power.

Hwy 50 bridge at Blue Mesa might send some maintenance workers to help assist with that effort.

CDOT HQ UPDATE:

Kathleen Collins gave an update stating the Multi Modal Planning branch is finally fully staffed. She updated the group regarding new positions, including Tess Ritchey (formerly an intern), she will be the planning liaison for Regions 3 and 5. STAC update, April was canceled next meeting May 2, program distribution formula and revenue project and Central Federal Lands will present on how they will integrate into the 2050 Plan. It will be followed by our TPR administrator meeting which Stephanie will attend.

Bike to work month is June so state will hold theirs on June 26, 2024.

2050 Plan will be covered in the July meeting.

Rob Frei gave an update regarding the 2050 plan process which will include a combined 4P process with the counties to give update and talk priorities. The members asked for an all 6 county meeting as that is how we normally work regionally.

TC UPDATE:

Terry Hart gave an update. The TC has been working on budgets. Wrapped up FY 25 fiscal budget for presentation. Status of rest areas has been a topic of conversation. Limitations are a challenge. Dedicated funding is very small. Federal grants awarded was better this cycle.

Electric vehicles have been a discussion and the infrastructure that goes with it has been a discussion. Pros and cons being reviewed.

Employee housing has been a problem across the state. Supplementing employees for housing has been an effort that CDOT has been tackling.

Greenhouse gas efforts continue. Responses from those planning and implementing have been good regarding impact. DRCOG has given feedback.

Environmental awards to support lifespan of older bridges. Design and work that went into protecting bridges was recognized.

LOCAL COMMENTS

Lex reported bridge work is almost complete. Not much else to report.

Stephanie commented that 385 has been completed and is much appreciated.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Stephanie presented the bylaws and IGAs. Updates should occur and we need to have inclusivity for every municipality and county.

Spike made the motion and Ron seconded the motion to approve the bylaws and IGAs to send on to region for adoption.

Rob Frei pointed that CDOT should not be a voting member but more as an advisory to avoid conflict and they would not be voting on grants, etc.

Change to the motion would be to remove CDOT as the voting member.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held July 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. It will be a full slate of meetings for the day with SETran/RCC meeting at 8:30, SETPR at 10:00 a.m., SECOG at 1:00 p.m. and SECED at 2:00 p.m.

With no other business coming before the group, Spike made the motion to adjourn. Rick seconded. Motion passed at 12:04 p.m.

****Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. – Noon via Zoom and In-Person****