

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Chair, Stephanie Gonzales at 9:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**TPR Members / Guests (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Shupe (City of Las Animas) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim MacDonnell (Bent Cty)                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Sykes (Bent Cty)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blaine Arbuthnot (Crowley Cty)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Roy Elliott (Crowley Cty)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Terry McMillan (Crowley Cty)             |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Kirk Crespin (City of Lamar)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Grasmick (Prowers Cty)               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lex Nichols (Otero Cty)            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Buxton-Andrade (Prowers)       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Oquist (Otero Cty)-ONLINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cindy McCloud (KCEDF)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Sanchez (PEP & BCEDC)                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tallie Harmon (PEP)           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Sanchez (SECHD)              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Block (La Junta Transit)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Coffield                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Stuart (PATS)              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Gallegos (Inspiration Field) | <input type="checkbox"/> Phil Hemphill (Bent County)              |

**Staff (In person):**

- Stephanie Gonzales (TPR Chair)       Robin Daigle (SETran Dispatcher)       Charity Markus (Mobility Mgr.)

**CDOT / TC (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Jagow (CDOT Region 2)-ONLINE              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Barden (CDOT)-ONLINE                       |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darius Pazbak(CDOT)                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aaron Willis (CDOT)                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Nelson (CDOT)-ONLINE                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Skinner (CDOT Transit Liaison)             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Hart (TC District 10)-ONLINE             | <input type="checkbox"/> Jamie Grim (CDOT OPGR)                                      |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Rajewski (CASTA)-ONLINE                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tess Richey-ONLINE                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Rowe (CDOT)-ONLINE                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christa -ONLINE                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Gromke (CDOT)-ONLINE                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Kiely (Ports to Plains Alliance)-ONLINE    |  |

**ADMINISTRATIVE – MINUTES**

The minutes of April 24, 2024 were tabled and will be approved at the next meeting.

**RCC/LCC Report – Charity Markus**

Charity Markus, Mobility Manager/Transit Director, introduced Ann Rajewski from CASTA to talk about the NEMT (Non-Emergency Medical Transit). CASTA has been working as an advocacy agency to work for agencies through the re-credentialing process as many agencies were taken by surprise that they are being required to go through the process. A statewide brokerage is being proposed again. She discussed the challenges that it created the last time there was a statewide brokerage, which ultimately saw an increase in costs. In addition, it could also affect the current services that utilize NEMT funding that are providing valuable transit service to those that need it locally. HCPF is trying to implement the statewide brokerage to minimize fraud.

She asked if anyone would like to voice their concern to drop their comments in the chat or reach out to her as today was the last day for voicing those concerns.

Stephanie stated that SECED had applied to become a brokerage but then the moratorium was put in place for approving new agencies. So that is on hold until further notice.

Ann gave a review of legislative discussions such as SB 24-230 imposes fees on oil and gas production to be used on Clean Transit Enterprise with goals to maximize transit ridership by expanding transit service, increase frequency and improve system-wide network connectivity.

Funding will be distributed as follows:

70% Local Transit Operations Cash Fund

20% Rail Funding Program Cash Fund

10% Local Transit Grant Program Cash Fund

It is a very exciting opportunity for funding that will be available for transit. Discussion followed. The board thanked Ann for her presentation.

Charity and Robin presented a report on Free Fare July and August. Free Fare began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and was already showing a big increase in ridership. The purpose of the program was to encourage ridership and exposure to transit. They reported it was going well.

## **CHAIR / STAC REP REPORT – INFORMATIONAL**

Terry Hart gave a brief presentation to the board highlighting the kickoff to the planning process and any updates to PD14 and anything that drives that process. The TC has been working on budgets and then looking at any legislative acts that cause budgetary issues. The distribution formulas are being reviewed. TC has had a Bustang update and the Gunnison/Blue Mesa bridge has been a priority to get it open, especially to local traffic. Cost estimates for that project is \$110 million. The TC has been having many discussions on the legislative process and issues such as proposing an additional TPR – making it a 16<sup>th</sup> TPR. Wendy expressed that it will be introduced and is being sponsored as a bill. The vote had been delayed to the November TC meeting. Further conversation took place with funding being discussed as a concern from the region. The MPOs have expressed their concern that with an additional TPR, there would be a dilution of voting power with an unfair advantage leaning towards rural. Terry was not sure what impact that would have on the funding distribution. Terry finished with giving an update about small business diversity contracting.

### **Planning**

Geoff reminded the group about the upcoming dates for the kickoff to the planning process. The first meeting was listed in the agenda as August 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Please make every effort to be involved in that meeting and give feedback to help guide the update to the regional plan.

### **HQ-CDOT Update – Long Range Planning**

Darius Pakbaz, CDOT's Director of Transportation Development, gave an overview of the planning process that will be coming up on August 26 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. with a request to the group to give feedback on how best to cultivate the conversations that are necessary to develop a good regional transportation and transit plan. It was a lengthy presentation with participation from Shane Ferguson, Region 2 Director who explained the funding allocation to Region 2 and what that equates to for our Southeast TPR.

(see video beginning at 0:59:29 <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cLX2sv1ZGWrJhiriwiselRjQvppEFmIF?usp=sharing>)

The meeting purpose was to establish a set of guided conversations that will help the TPR develop the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, identify items that affect our region and make a plan on how to address those items and set the stage for updating the next 10-year plan.

The goal is to accomplish this planning process over a period of strategically planned meetings. This process allows the regional plan to develop which will then feed into the Statewide Transportation and Transit Plans, identifying priorities for each region throughout the State to ensure projects are identified and subsequently eligible for funding.

It was stressed that it is imperative to have feedback so that it is not a top-down approach for identifying these priorities. The plans belong to the Southeast TPR and as such should be a good reflection of the needs and wants for the region, not something that is just developed by the State for the region.

Planning factors included both State and Federal priorities, such as safety, preservation, modal connectivity, environment, land use, freight, transit, and economic vitality to name a few. Improving existing infrastructure and safety of that infrastructure is a guiding principle.

Darius reviewed some of the completed projects from the current 2045 plan which is why we must now update the plan to identify new projects and priorities. A review of demographic data was also given, indicating that there is a decline in the region for employment as well as population. The Southeast is identified as a region of disproportionately impacted communities. Also reviewed were the fatalities and serious injuries that have occurred on our highways as well as crash data from wildlife collisions.

Asset Management was reviewed which included review of drivability life of highways and the conditions of bridges and culverts and roadways that are in poor condition.

Mobility was discussed at length and a request to the group to report transit data locally and regional would help in decision-making for the region. It is important to share what changes are influencing the region with travel patterns. Things to consider are economic changes, demographic and income or any new/planned centers for housing and jobs.

A review of the 2045 Focus Area showed the following as top priorities. Road Conditions, Freight and Rail, Regional Transit, Sustainability and Environmental Mitigation. Darius asked the group to start considering if these are still the priorities and focus of the region. Should other focus areas be considered or should the prioritization be moved around.

There is a lot to consider as we move into the planning process and participation is imperative to creating the new plan.

### **MMOF Projects Presentation**

(see video beginning at 2:17:12 <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cLX2sv1ZGWrJhiriwiseIRiQvppEFmlF?usp=sharing>)

Michael Snow reviewed the Multi-Modal Options Fund, helping to prepare the TPR for the next round of project selection. He reviewed the matching requirements as well as the contracting and oversight by CDOT. He reviewed the projects that have been awarded, completed and those still under contract. He also reviewed the projected TPR allocations for the entire state by year.

Michael gave some food for thought for the planning process regarding the call for projects. He gave the members a lot to think about for making the program successful. He shared the information for program guidance

at the [www.codot.gov/programs/planning/grants/mmof-local](http://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/grants/mmof-local) and asked that we forward questions or concerns to him directly.

The members thanked CDOT for their presentations.

Other handouts that were in the packet can be found at

**PLANNING MEETING – AUGUST 26, 2024**

Stephanie again stressed the importance of being involved in this next round of planning and let the board members know that there would be a meeting on **August 26, 2024 at SECED at 1:00 p.m.**

Stephanie also reminded the board that SECED is currently working on the update to an accessible site (both ADA and language) that would be the official website for the TPR. It is located at [www.secoq.colorado.gov](http://www.secoq.colorado.gov).

**Next Meeting**

The next quarterly meeting will be held October 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. It will be a full slate of meetings for the day with SETPR at 9:00 a.m., SECOG at 1:00 p.m. and SECED at 2:00 p.m.

With no other business coming before the group, Tim made the motion to adjourn. Rick seconded. Motion passed at 11:55 a.m.

**\*\*Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. – Noon via Zoom and In-Person\*\***