



Meeting Minutes

**Transportation Solutions
Steamboat Smokehouse**

Time:

*******3:30 p.m.*******

Date: July 2, 2008

1. Purpose of Meeting – Sandy Evans Hall

Today we are working to find solutions to transportation issues in our area including transit, parking, highway, road issues from Northwest Colorado Counties. We will be most effective if we have representatives from different constituencies and work together to understand the issues, explore options, and find funding mechanisms. A Regional Transportation Authority is one option to address the transportation issues and as we start this process of discussion over the next year we will educate ourselves about the costs, feasibility and look into all of our options. It is hoped that our plan can be presented to voters and as long as we remain unified, we can be successful. This should be an inclusive process with a meeting per month.

2. Introductions – Why are you here?

Nancy Stahoviak, Routt County Commissioner: Many of the County issues relate to transportation and the biggest issues surround multi-modal transit

Diane Mitsch Bush, Routt County Commissioner: As Vice President of CDOT Region and 5 County representative for CDOT STAT and part of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Authority, interested in multimode transportation issues

Kevin Kaminski: A local hoping to get big trucks out of downtown

Fred Duckels: Transportation system seems to be in crisis and needs guidance, especially hard work needs to be done getting businesses and groups involved in the decisions

Joe Kubala: Transportation Engineer in town

Jim Gill: Part of Alternative Transportation group, sees the citizen- based effort as a way to remind people to consider long- term solutions

Kathleen Titus: TIC, large number of employees commute from external areas, TIC office is in gridlock because of new construction projects on 129, interested in both short and long-term solutions

Darcy Trask: Commutes from Steamboat to Moffat and works on economic development issues

Mike Roit: Lives in south Routt

Sheryl Rivers: Hoping to work with others to develop solutions

Tracey Rogalski: Alpine Taxi, 85% airport shuttle business and heavy traffic issues need to be addressed, access plan

Karl Gills: YVMC, employee commuting issues, patient access to hospital

Janet Hruby: City Engineer, lecture from Economic Summit started initiative on transportation issues

Sen. Jack Taylor: Main Street routes are an issue, recognizing limited State funding for maintenance and growth

Geneva Taylor: Local resident, concerned about downtown parking

Mike DeGroff: Ski Area transportation and parking issues and customer impact and downtown issues

Bob Larson: From Chamber board as part of the transportation committee, capacity on Hwy 40, parking options, airport expansion, bypasses and how they impact business and citizens

Steve Elkins: Concerned citizen formerly part of Ski Corp and State planning, has road design experience

Emanuel Vital: Assisting City with pedestrian and bike access

Philo Shelton: Public Works from City of Steamboat Springs

John Fielding: leadership with Nordic skiing industry

Towny Anderson: President of Main Street Steamboat Board, on the bypass issue, Main Street is focused on traffic and overwhelms downtown and seeks pedestrian-friendly options

Dave Ruppel: Airport issues

3. Process: Brainstorm, Discovery, Prioritize, Discovery, Options, Plan

The process will involve brainstorming, discovery, prioritizing, discussing options, finding funding, and finally planning to present to voters. The process is non-linear and the goal is that next July we will have a solid plan. County and City have already developed Master Plans that we should be aware of so we can prioritize and cooperate accordingly. Data from City and County Reports should be included in discussion.

Financing should not be an obstacle for brainstorming, but at the same time it cannot be ignored. CDOT support may be imperative for our regional success. The Statewide Transportation Implementation Process and the manner in which CDOT determines projects is complex. State tax issues may come up that feature recommendations from the Blue Ribbon authority but won't necessarily address Northwest Colorado issues unless we present a well-defined plan or seek matching funds.

A year-long process is fast-paced to present the plan to the public. Timing is critical in the process and the sooner we can begin to address voters with the issues, plans, and funding, the better. An RTA is a possible funding mechanism. Collaboration is the key as sub-committees develop and educate others about their topic. This group is striving to revisit issues that have formerly been in the hands of elected officials and are now being taken up by the community.

4. If money were no object, what transportation issues would you like to see addressed?

Brainstorm valley-wide issues

- “Alternate Route” to 40 (connector road, redundancy, commercial, or bypass)
- Rail (mono and passenger)
- Airports (expansion, parking, remodel, connectivity, general aviation and commercial)
- County Road improvements
- Regional Transit
- Parking (garage, meters)
- Gondola (from town to mountain)
- Connector roads for short routes
- Bus system (regional, inter-city)
- Multi-county, Intra-county people movement (bus, rail, car, etc.)
- Eliminating commercial traffic from downtown
- Building complete streets (road, bike, sidewalk)
- Access and infrastructure for Nordic recreation

-Expanding local transit

5. Who else should be at the table? Inclusivity is key!

- Region-wide representatives, especially if we are looking to form a Regional Transportation Association – Darcy Trask and Nancy S./Diane M.B. to invite Moffat County Commissioners
- City Council members (from outlying Cities as well—Hayden, Oak Creek, Craig, Yampa) (Nancy S. and Diane M.B.)
- Energy industry representatives (COGA, CPA) – *Jack Taylor
- Steamboat 700 (invited but was not able to come to first meeting)
- School Districts representatives -*Nancy to contact Hayden and SOROCO
- Private transportation industry (airlines, bus, rail)-* Jack Taylor
- Yampa Valley Construction Trades group - *Sandy Evans Hall
- Base Area developers – *Doug Beall with Intrawest
- Retail, Financial, Realty business representatives - *PJ Wharton
- Public Safety representatives – *JD Hayes
- Seniors and juniors – Routt County Council on Aging
- Media – Steamboat Pilot-*Tom Ross/Blythe Terrel

6. Next meeting (try for once a month – full group)

Thursday, August 7th at 3:00 p.m., at Smokehouse

Adjournment

Future meeting dates:

[Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.](#)

[Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.](#)