



## Meeting Minutes

# Transportation Solutions Steamboat Smokehouse

Time:

\*\*\*\*\***3:00 p.m.**\*\*\*\*\*

Date: January 8, 2009

### 1. **Introductions**

Present: Dave Ruppel, Diane Mitsch Bush, Danny Mulcahy, Joe Kubala, Walter Magill, Katie Kolbe, Bob Larson, Kathleen Titus, Laura Anderson, John Spezia, Nancy Stahoviak, Philo Shelton, Towny Anderson, Tracy Barnett, Mike DeGross, Janet Fischer, Rob Perlman, Tom Sullivan, Jonathan Flint, Jim Gill, Fred Duckels, Craig Asfill, Jim Clark, Mike Gill, Tracey Rogalski, Tom Earnst, Van Pilaud, Tony Connell, Brandon Gee, Steve Callahan, Joe Cashen

Staff: Meagan Coates, Sandy Evans Hall

### 2. **Review Minutes**

The minutes for the Transportation Solutions meetings and the small group meetings are posted on the Chamber website for review. Please email any corrections to [Meagan@steamboatchamber.com](mailto:Meagan@steamboatchamber.com).

### 3. **US 40 NEPA Study Update—Laura Anderson**

The NEPA project is a partnership between Routt County, CDOT, the City of Steamboat Springs and the Federal Highway Administration with Jacobs Engineering as the consultant. Transportation planning, traffic engineering, environmental planning and engineering are the four main components of the project.

The US40 improvements are based on the background studies that reviewed alternatives for congestion solutions. The project encompasses 12<sup>th</sup> street to the urban growth boundary. The needs include meeting existing and future operational needs along Hwy40, providing access control consistent with the access control plan, and promoting alternative modes of travel along the corridor by providing attractive mobility options. The project goals are to address safety, connect off highway circulation, provide for phasing, support economic viability, compatible with local planning, adoptable and supportable, consider natural and human environment, minimize right of way, practical and financially realistic, consider entire highway system, and incorporate context sensitive solutions. The project must meet state and federal requirements in order to qualify for future funding.

Alternatives include widening, managed lanes, transit improvement, improving pedestrian and bike access, demand management. The recommendations will be developed based on the public input and analysis at open houses. The first **open house for the NEPA Study will be January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Future meetings include April 28<sup>th</sup> and sometime in September. The

recommendations will be presented to the public for input. The study information is available at [www.us40west.com](http://www.us40west.com). The hope is to complete the study within the year.

#### 4. Issue Area Updates and Recommendations

**a) Congestion on Hwy 40**

The group will utilize the NEPA study data and make recommendations and also will review the Boulder congestion pricing alternatives. The group will also review the alternative routes from previous studies to evaluate feasibility and the level of congestion reduction would be provided. The group will present 3-4 major alternatives for re-routing traffic.

*Next Meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. at Village Inn*

**b) Local Transit / Parking**

The group is focusing on parking and mobility downtown and in the mountain area. The shuttle stops have been implemented and are being utilized. The group is working with the City to address problems with collecting parking fines downtown. City Council has approved the parking enforcement plan. The group will identify parking zones to determine the next priorities.

*Next Meeting: January 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at First National Bank of the Rockies*

**c) Regional Transit – S. Routt transit study**

The group will finalize the survey for large employers and employees for feasibility of van services. The final draft report will be reviewed and is available on the County website.

*Next Meeting: TBD*

**d) Pedestrian and Bicycle Access**

The group has been able to add crossings and signage to the City improvements plan. In addition, a grant was submitted to for Safe Routes to School that would allow for additional crossings near the schools. The group is working to improve recreational opportunities and access and increase the safety of crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. The group identified their top 3 recommendations with a ranking process as follows: create dedicated funding sources, improve the core trail, extending the core trail as recommended in the area plan, upgrading the bike friendly status.

*Next Meeting: January 26<sup>th</sup> Pedi/Bike at 5:15 p.m. at the Sarvis Creek Room, Routt County Courthouse*

**e) Rural roads**

The group will work with the road improvements list that was developed by the County while taking into account the increased costs to maintain the level of service.

*Next Meeting: TBD*

**f) Air Service / Airport**

The YVRA transportation solutions priorities are airport safety, air service funding, and air service marketing. Because the LMD is utilizing reserves to fund air service, it is critical to evaluate additional funding mechanisms to continue access to air service in the region. The recommendation from the group is to form an RTA and dedicate funds generated to air service/airport.

**Update from Diane Mitsch Bush:**

As part of the economic stimulus package, a tiered system was identified by the Northwest TPR including Highway, FAA, Transit, and Related transit categories that will receive dedicated funds (\$258M for Colorado, region 3 will receive between over \$3M to \$58M). The NW TPR ranked the number one project as state Hwy 13 for energy and tourism traffic. It appears that all of the potential projects (Hwy 131, 40, 139) will be funded.

**5. Open House – schedule and format**

At the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, we can review dates and locations for the open house presentations. The open houses will be in the presentation format as well as in an expo format. In addition, the group can present at Rotary, the Chamber Board, and any other public meetings by request.

**Adjournment**

**Future meeting dates:**

Full Group: February 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Smokehouse

January 12<sup>th</sup> Parking/Transit at 3:00 p.m. at First National Bank of the Rockies

January 13<sup>th</sup> Hwy 40 at 7:00 a.m. at Village Inn

January 26<sup>th</sup> Pedi/Bike at 5:15 p.m. at the Sarvis Creek Room, Routt County Courthouse