



Meeting Agenda

**Transportation Solutions
Steamboat Smokehouse**

Time:

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

Date: November 6, 2008

1. Introductions

Diane Mitsch Bush, Jonathan Flint, Mike Radliff, Jim Gill, Fred Duckels, Joe Kubala, John Spezia, Jayson Belyea, Stacey Charlton, Mike DeGroff, Joe Cashen, Bob Larson, Kathleen Titus, Towny Anderson, John Eastman, Philo Shelton, John Fielding, Tracy Barnett, Walter Magill

Staff: Meagan Coates

2. Review Minutes

A motion to approve the October minutes was moved by John Spezia and seconded by Jim Gill. All were in favor, no one opposed.

3. Update on Blue Ribbon Panel, Rocky Mountain Rail Authority – Diane Mitsch Bush

The Blue Ribbon Panel met last week in Steamboat and was well attended. Please watch for the final recommendations to be released in the coming months. A legislative package will be designed to include transportation issues. CDOT staff will work to gather comments from the open house meeting to provide to the public for review. The information will be posted on the Transportation Solutions website.

Federal funding has decreased in 2008 for the state of Colorado as part of the Highway Users Trust Fund. Gas tax revenues have decreased and construction costs have increased, leading to less funding available. Senate Bill 1 was passed in 1997 and when there is a surplus in the state general fund, the additional monies will be put into the CDOT budget. House Bill 1310 is another funding source but there is limited funding available. Pressure is needed to guide politicians and legislators to work on transportation issues. Suggestions for new funding are user pay/fee based approaches instead of sales tax based systems. Visit the CDOT website or the Blue Ribbon Panel site.

The Rocky Mountain Rail high speed passenger rail feasibility study began this year and is fully funded. The 46 jurisdictions in Colorado along I-25 & I-70 including Routt County have contributed to the study. The consultant that was selected is doing an excellent job focused on rail technologies and speed levels tested in revenue markets and addressing issues of mountain climates and terrain. In addition, Quandel Associates and Tems are researching easements throughout the designated corridors to align and update the information. The financial portion of the project is being developed based on rider ship and fare structures. The social-environmental studies are being researched in focus groups for the affected communities. In June 2009, the study will be released for review. Please contact Diane for additional information.

The South Routt Transit Needs and Feasibility Study is available online at the county website. The final recommendation is a subscribed (\$6 per day) vanpool service and funding sources are being addressed. The Commissioners will review the study and make recommendations in Oak Creek. The public process began in January 2008. A fifty percent match is required which would mean \$10-11k from Steamboat at the current cost. The grant will be submitted in June and will be available for use in January 2010.

4. Issue Areas Updates and next steps

a) Congestion on Hwy 40

The mission statement was adjusted to refer to traffic as movement of people and goods. The group discussed ways to present congestion issues: communicating in simple terms what the engineered capacity is on Hwy 40, documenting current traffic flow over time, and a projection for the future. The RFP selected a consultant to document traffic from 13th Street to the West Urban Growth Boundary. The process be complete within a year. A list of topics for efficiency was reviewed and posted on the website.

Next Meeting: November 18 at the Egg & I at 7:30 a.m.

Local Transit / Parking

Recommendations to add shuttle stops designated by signage on side streets in order manage the evening downtown traffic were presented. Lodging/private shuttles will utilize drop off and pick up points on side streets. The group has coordinated efforts with the City to select shuttle stops on the north and south sides of Lincoln. Design standards will be incorporated with the current base area signage. The group will address the lodging properties and shuttles to train and communicate with drivers and guests. The zones are not intended to be staging areas but suggestions for shuttle staging areas are Wells Fargo parking lot, Howelsen Hill, etc. Efforts will be made to inform downtown retailers and restaurants. The next meeting will review downtown parking management while keeping the downtown streetscape in mind.

The base area has increased the size of the pedestrian drop off area. In addition, the resort shuttles will utilize the light at Pine Grove and utilize designated spots in the Meadows lot. There will be an ad in the Steamboat Pilot & Today to describe the changes.

Next Meeting: First National Bank of the Rockies at 3pm on Monday, November 17th

b) Regional Transit – S. Routt transit study

The group is working to coordinate efforts with large employers and Steamboat Springs Transit to design vanpools. The South Routt Transit Feasibility Study has information that assists with decision-making as well as research of Front Range vanpool programs. Funding for Front Range programs comes mostly from RTAs. A survey for employers and employees was distributed for review by the full Transportation Solutions group.

Next Meeting:TBD

c) Pedestrian and Bicycle Access

The group is focusing on short-term solutions. The mission statement is being redefined. The Safe Routes to School grant is moving forward and a map with routes was designed. There is funding for striping, which will include downtown and mountain area striping for pedi/bike. The 129/Hwy 40-area intersection is being researched and short-term solutions will be implemented. A connection from Wildhorse to Rotary Park is being developed.

Next Meeting: November 17th in the Sarvis Creek Room

d) Rural roads

The group has finished their recommendations and will work to improve the roads presented on last year's ballot issue list. There is interest in forming an RTA in order to have stable funding sources.

Next Meeting: TBD

The downtown streetscape is being presented next Tuesday, November 11 at City Council at 5pm with a preview at 3pm.

Adjournment

Diane Mitsch Bush adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Future meeting dates:

December 11, 2008