

**Transportation Solutions Working Group: Rural Roads**  
**October 21, 2008**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Routt County Commissioners Hearing Room**

**I. Introduction**

Present: Paul Draper, Ron Roundtree, Carol Comeau, Nancy Stahoviak, Doug Monger, Tom Sullivan, Chuck Vale, Sandy Sharp

Chamber Staff: Meagan Coates, Marion Ayer

**II. Questions and further discussion of information from last meeting**

**a. Routt County's overall financial position**

County projects are not being fully funded but borrowing against the maintenance of roads so that projects can be completed in the future. Every 20 years there is overlay and every 7 years there is chip seal scheduled. The preliminary budget draft with absorption if revenues have contributed to large-scale construction projects; the equipment was not completely refunded this year. An initial goal is to continue staffing/service at the current level.

**b. Road and Bridge operations and maintenance budget deficit**

There are suggestions from Dennis Kuntz and Fred Wolf to reduce expenses except for in snowplowing; an email was distributed to the group for review.

**c. Sales and property tax comparisons with similar counties**

Property tax seems like a more viable way to raise funds for road improvements/maintenance. Private sources and property associations could raise additional revenue and the county is willing to consider all funding mechanisms. There is an option to design local improvement districts (LID) to raise tax funds for projects.

**d. Updated road improvements list**

Given increased costs, an additional \$3M per year is necessary to maintain the current level of service.

**e. Bonding for road improvements—pros/cons**

No report.

**III. Development of recommendations**

In 2009 citizens may or may not be willing to vote for tax increases. Tony Connell may present ongoing funding issues to the large Transportation Solutions group. The formation of a RTA may be a viable possibility for Steamboat and the surrounding region. The formation of a RTA would assist in clearly defining the specific projects, governance, and spending.

The committee has chosen to take an educational and information sharing stance at this point. Until the election season passes and the economy stabilizes, the group does not see a benefit in continuing to meet.

**IV. Next meeting**

The group will reconvene in 2009.

**-ASK SANDY IF SHE WANTS TONY TO PRESENT TO TS LARGE GROUP**

**-MESH 2030 OUTCOMES WITH TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

***-POST TONY CONNELL PRESENTATION FROM ECONOMIC  
SUMMIT ONLINE***