

Eastern Transportation Planning Region

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023

Opening

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region as called to order at 9:30am on September 11, 2023 in Akron, Colorado by Commissioner Weaver.

Roll Call / Introductions

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison in remembrance of 9/11.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on June 5, 2023 was distributed. Motion made by Commissioner Hofmeister, seconded by Commissioner Laybourn and approved unanimously as distributed.

Discussion Items

Jamie Grim discussed HB23-1101 TPR Study. Vehicle miles traveled and population are two of the main factors being reviewed for the TPR boundaries. New IGAs will need to be drafted. IGA and Bylaw templates will be available for viewing. Each TPR may customize their bylaws. The Town of Otis brought up their culvert concerns on Hwy 61, north of Otis. Since a disaster declaration was declared for Washington County the culvert repair being covered by FHWA may be a possibility depending on how the agreement reads. Rich Christy said he would look at the culvert issue and requested pictures. Gary Beedy was appreciated for his years of service as District 11 Transportation Commissioner. Motion was made by Commissioner Roberts to appoint Gary Beedy as an ETPR member, seconded by Commissioner Ewing. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jefferson moved and Commissioner Leerar seconded to appoint Gary Beedy as a STAC representative. Motion passed unanimously. Neysa Bermingham emphasized the firm deadlines for funding to be obligated and spent with the ARPA Funds. If the deadlines are not met then the funds go back to the government. Updates were given on the walk/bike improvement project with the Town of Limon. No ARPA Funds are being used for engineering to shorten timeframe of project. Revitalizing Main Street Grant is a primary state funded and a grant application is needed. The funds may be used for on/off sidewalks, pedestrian/bike structures, signs, benches, pocket parks, trails and restrooms were a few items mentioned. \$250,000 per application/match 10% total project. Application deadlines are last Wednesday of the month and one award per year. Funding only pays for construction. CDOT to review applications before submitting was suggested. Josie will send email with information.

MMOF Meeting Report

City of Wray continues with the design phase.

Phillips County is in the bid stage with one bid from Simon. Would like for local contractors to be able to bid projects; James Usher will look in to this.

Commissioner Weaver reported the ADA Sidewalk Corners on Wray's main street hold water and puddle and would like CDOT to look in to this.

Informational Items

Megan Vasquez has been appointed as the new District 11 Transportation Commissioner. Six new Transportation Commissioners have been appointed by the Governor. Heather Paddock reports that both lanes from Bethune to Burlington and west lane from state line to Burlington is part of the upcoming 52.5 million project. Commissioner Hofmeister inquired about extra signs available for the Sterling rest area. Heather Paddock said she would check with maintenance. Commissioner Richardson presented the STAC Update with information on the TPR study and re-distribution discussion. STAC reviews and recommends to Transportation Commission and then they decide.

Community Roundtable

Counties voiced their concerns about the need of communication on road closure notifications to city and county emergency responders. Exits and entrances lacking appropriate signage to communities from the interstate along with overpasses were a group discussion. Commissioner Weaver suggested for counties to email projects to Commissioner Richardson or himself. All agreed that the budget for CDOT maintenance needs to increase. Josie Thomas mentioned the ETPR Inactive Projects Report which will be presented quarterly. Plan updates to begin Summer 2024.

Public Input

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Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm by Commissioner Weaver. The next quarterly meeting will be in-person at 9:30am on December 4, 2023 in Limon, Colorado.