

Meeting Minutes
Chaffee County Transportation Advisory Board
Thursday, October 13, 2022
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Chaffee County Commissioners' Board Room
and Via ZOOM Conference Call

In Attendance: Commissioner Keith Baker, Kate Garwood, Donna Rhoads, Brian Berger, Josh Teipel, Bonnie Davis, Jennifer Davis, Bill Almquist, Hank Martin, Thomas Brown, Wendy Rombold, Greg Laudenslager, Christie Barton, Brandon Wolf

I. Call to Order

Garwood called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

Davis motioned to approve the minutes with two additions. Rhoads seconded. All in favor.

III. Approval of September 8, 2022 Minutes

Brown motioned to approve the minutes. Garwood seconded. All in favor.

IV. Commissioner's Report -- Commissioner Baker

The next Transportation Planning Region meeting is on November 10, 2022. Some of our local projects earmarked with CDOT include a new signal in Buena Vista next year and improving the intersection at Hwy 285 and Hwy 50 in Poncha Springs. The round-about project in Salida at Hwy 50 and Hwy 291/Oak is slated for the year 2030.

Chaffee County's Road and Bridge Department have been busy working on the Granite Bridge, the tunnels on CR 371 and Crossman Road/CR 350.

V. Old Business

A. Update on Transit - Hank Martin

Martin recently attended the Colorado Association of State Transit Agencies (CASTA) conference and found it to be a good use of time. One thing they discussed was the Bustang. Although communication is improving between the drivers and area managers, there remains a lack of communication to its passengers both to and from the area. On a local note, Bonnie Davis suggested implementing a solar

sign display similar to those of CDOT's to post status updates for the patrons. Barton added that she's experienced it running late often and frequently at full capacity.

He said the Shuttle has been conducting a survey in Salida about a circular route in town which could be available to anyone. Eventually he would like to have regular routes to Poncha Springs and Buena Vista as well. Funding is the key and Commissioner Baker shared a few websites to government agencies that might have available funds. Typically grants are requested to provide data and cost analysis. Bonnie Davis offered to assist him with grant writing, and Jennifer Davis offered to write letters of support. Almquist suggested running a pilot program to help collect data and demonstrate the strong need for public transportation within Chaffee County. Martin added he has not found difficulty in finding staff, but procuring the shuttles and vans is expensive and practically elusive these days. Maintenance of the fleet is pricey as well!

Martin continues to work in the San Luis Valley to fulfill the obligations of the HOPE Grant, and the Chaffee Shuttle is also working on rebranding.

B. Discussion of Sub-Area Planning for Rural Chaffee County

Teipel reported the TAB recommendations for the 3-Mile Plan were adopted by the Town of Buena Vista. Rhoads said she and other SPOT (Salida Parks Open Spaces and Trails) members have met with the Town of Poncha Springs regarding where they would like to see trails and roads added to the area. Additionally, Berger suggested adding downward facing solar lights along the popular CR 120 path. SPOT's members are also dissecting sub-areas of Salida to determine where new trails may be needed. Garwood is encouraged by this activity and hopeful that we are setting new standards of connectivity for roads, transit, telecommunications, and trails for future subdivision development.

C. Land Use Code Update

Garwood noted we are moving into the Module Two discussion. Many of the TAB members will be participating with meetings and input.

VI. New Business

A. Presentation on SPOT Achievements - Donna Rhoads

Rhoads presented a PowerPoint of photos journaling the outstanding contribution of SPOT (Salida Parks Open Spaces and Trails) beginning in 1994. Over the years they have been joined by GARN, CPW, the Boy & Eagle Scouts and countless volunteers of all ages. They've successfully planned, developed and maintained trails, benches, docks and vegetation while connecting Salida through trails. Historical preservation, education and ecological restoration are continued considerations of SPOT as well. Future projects include a new sidewalk along Poncha Blvd to the corner of Holman/CR 120/CR 140, and adding an improved path along CR 140 near the old Valley View School House and beyond.

VII. Other Business

Jennifer Davis shared a transit idea from another small community in Homer Alaska. They have a program providing vouchers for people with disabilities. The vouchers are used for immediate transportation service via taxis.

Garwood said the November meeting date for TAB was in conflict with other regional transportation meetings. The Board agreed to reschedule the meeting to November 3rd.

VIII. Adjournment

Garwood adjourned the meeting at 11:19 AM.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2022

Submit by Wendy Rombold, Secretary