

**Resolution #TC-15-2-1**

**Approved by the Commission on February 19, 2015**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the Transportation Commission's Regular Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2015, are approved as published in the official agenda of the February 18 & 19, 2015, meeting.

**Transportation Commission of Colorado  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2014**

**Chairman Ed Peterson convened the meeting at 12:20 p.m. in the auditorium of the headquarters building in Denver, Colorado.**

PRESENT WERE: Ed Peterson, Chairman, District 2  
Kathy Connell, Vice Chairman, District 6  
Shannon Gifford, District 1  
Gary Reiff, District 3  
Heather Barry, District 4  
Kathy Gilliland, District 5  
Doug Aden, Chairman, District 7  
Les Gruen, District 9  
Bill Thiebaut, District 10  
Steven Hofmeister, District 11

EXCUSED: Sidney Zink, District 8

ALSO PRESENT: Don Hunt, Executive Director  
Scot Cuthbertson, Deputy Executive Director  
Debra Perkins-Smith, Director of Division of Transportation  
Josh Laipply, Chief Engineer  
Heidi Humphreys, Director of Admin & Human Resources  
Barb Gold, Audit Director  
Amy Ford, Communications Director  
Scott McDaniel, Staff Services Director  
Scott Richrath, CFO  
Herman Stockinger, Government Relations Director  
Mike Cheroutes, Director of HPTE  
Mark Imhoff, Director of Division of Transit and Rail  
Ryan Rice, Director of the Operations Division  
Darrell Lingk, Transportation Safety Director  
Tony DeVito, Region 1 Transportation Director  
Karen Rowe, Region 2 Transportation Director  
Dave Eller, Region 3 Transportation Director  
Myron Hora, Region 4 Representative  
Edward Archulets, Region 5 Representative  
Kathy Young, Chief Transportation Counsel  
John Cater, FHWA  
Vince Rogalski, Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)

AND: Other staff members, organization representatives,  
the public and the news media

An electronic recording of the meeting was made and filed with supporting documents in the Transportation Commission office.

### **Audience Participation**

Commissioner Peterson stated that there was no one in the audience who wanted to address the Commission.

### **Individual Commissioner Comments**

Chairman Peterson stated that this is the last formal meeting that Executive Director Don Hunt would be attending. Since there are future plans to celebrate his time at CDOT, Chairman Peterson requested that the Commissioners withhold any parting comments until a later time.

Commissioner Barry stated that her monthly Bagels meeting would take place on January 29, 2015, and that she would have a longer report next month.

Commissioner Gilliland stated that she wanted to report on the introduction of Bustang and the branding effort. The bus was at the Stock Show Parade. Amy Ford did an excellent job as the voice of CDOT. There were employees who rode on the bus and walked during the parade. They talked about what the website was. It was a very fun experience, and they heard that people were excited about the new system and asked lots of questions. The bus will be there again at the Stock Show for people to see. It was a good introduction. CDOT is off and running with that. The buses really do make an impact, especially the visual on them. She also stated that there will be a significant meeting with many of the key leaders in Northern Colorado that will be on Monday, January 26, 2015. This will be an open, exploratory conversation about transportation issues and hopefully getting some creative ideas about how everyone can participate together on working on the future of transportation in the system throughout Northern Colorado. Executive Director Hunt will be attending that as well.

Commissioner Gifford stated that she has attended several local meetings related to the I-70 East project. There is concern about whether and how CDOT will bring the financing together. There is a lot of focus on putting one foot in front of the other and moving forward. At the city level, the city has been going through a number of planning processes, small area plans that are directly adjacent to the area of the project. A lot of these plans are founded on the I-70 East project moving forward, so there is a lot of focus on this project. Ideally that will keep momentum going on a local level and encourage everyone to step up the way they need to do.

Commissioner Thiebaut stated that on his drive from Pueblo to Denver, there were twelve snow plows clearing the road after the storm. They were really doing a great job. He congratulated the snow plowers and stated that it was a very dangerous job that they were doing very well.

Commissioner Aden stated that he had continued his mission to talk to all of the members of the Western Slope legislators. According to statute, one of the roles of the Commission is to advise the Governor and the Legislature. He stated that he has been advising them. He met with Representatives Hamner, Rankin, Mitsch Bush, Coram, Willett, and Thurlow, and Senators Roberts and Scott. He has a few more, including Senator Baumgardner and newly elected Senator Donovan, to still talk to. He also met with Club 20. Bobby Peterson resigned as the Director of Club 20. They named Christian Rice as the new Executive Director; she is formerly a member of Representative Tipton's staff. She is from Western Colorado, and obviously being involved with Representative Tipton in recent years, she knows the territory well and seems very enthusiastic in her new role. He stated that he also met with Jay Seaton, the publisher of the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*. He stated that Jay is very interested in the link between transportation investment and economic development. Mr. Seaton likes to keep up to date on what CDOT is doing and is a good friend.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Hunt stated that his time at CDOT was an experience he would cherish forever. There are some big challenges ahead, including Program Management and really keeping the faith with getting the projects out and getting money out the door, as well as keeping the faith with the RAMP program. CDOT is also standing up the systems management operations and capability success. It is an infant program and will still have to earn its way by proving its benefits. There are some good foundations in program management and in operations. He stated that he is certain with diligence going forward that both would be successful.

The midterm challenge is for CDOT to prove the story. The story is frequently told that CDOT needs more funds, but it is necessary to continue to prove that CDOT is doing everything as efficiently and effectively as it can. The voters do not believe it yet. From a funding point of view, the Department pulled the last rabbit out of the hat with RAMP and cash management. The residents and drivers will notice the difference in 2017 if something is not done. Everything that has been done for the last couple years will continue for another couple years and then will come to a screeching halt. The last rabbit has been pulled.

He stated that CDOT has only started the change and transformation that will be necessary for all state DOTs to go through over the next ten or twenty years due to technology changes. These have affected everything else that people do, and it will affect the highway system as well. He stated that he wrote an article that our Workforce of the Future is a very important study. CDOT has a lot of great people but does not have the right skill set for ten years in the future. It is necessary to hire data scientists, economists, operation research analysts, systems integrators, communications engineers and logisticians. CDOT is very short on those skill sets, and so is every other state DOT. These will be imperative ten to twenty years ahead.

He stated that it is time for him to move onto other endeavors. He said that he would not miss the duties and that he would be able to walk away from the job but that it was very hard to walk away from the people. He thanked the Commissioners for the support. He thanked the staff for their support. He thanked partners like John Cater for their support.

## **Chief Engineer's Report**

Josh Laipply stated that he wanted to announce that Brett Johnson is the new Director of OMPD. He came from the Treasurer's Office and actually held Ben Stein's former position in the Treasurer's Office. They wanted to find someone with experience in public finance. Brett also has some great relationships with cities and counties that he has worked with throughout his time in the Treasurer's Office. He brings some great benefits to CDOT.

He stated that he has received a number of emails and voice mails concerning the Executive Director's Cup from the RTDs and their staff. He stated that he would have to take full credit for it being a little late. He stated that he needed to revamp the criteria to be more in line with the Action Plan that was presented to the Commission earlier and the 5+1 Initiatives. There is quite a bit of quantitative analysis that will go into it that will be announced in February. The RTDs requested that Headquarters compile the quantitative data to remove any possible conflicts of interest. That will come out next month.

He stated that he is leaving on January 25, 2015, with Johnny Olson to meet with UPR. This will be the second meeting to discuss more of a partnering looking forward. There are always some right-of-way issues with the UP, and that is the main focus. But they would like to continue to build that relationship because the UPR is part of commerce through Colorado.

## **FHWA Division Administrator Report**

John Cater stated that there were a few things he wanted to make the Commission aware of. He wanted to start out discussing inactive projects, which need to be kept as low as possible and ideally at zero. The last several quarters, CDOT has done a great job at that, hovering between .1% and .3%. The good news is that several other states have joined Colorado in that same territory. Nationally, they are below 1% of all federal aid funds in inactive projects. That is a great credit to the work that is being done around the country. That helps a lot moving forward. MAP-21 is expiring at the end of May, and this is one more way to show the transportation community that the money is being used and projects are being done as expeditiously as possible. He thanked everyone at CDOT who continue to work to keep Colorado at a very low level and keep those inactives down.

One area that FHWA will have an emphasis in the coming year will be work zone traffic control or maintenance of traffic, as it will be called. The Commission will hear a lot more about that. FHWA will be more visible on projects. They will be more involved with the people on the projects to make sure the work zone traffic control is being followed according to what is in the plan. Beyond that, they will make sure the plans that are in place are as effective as possible at moving traffic through the projects in a safe and effective manner. One of the reasons for this is that those work zones are one of the most visible places to interact with the public. The public sees work zones. The better job that CDOT can do in getting the public through in a clear and understandable manner, the less stress they have and the greater safety for both the public and the workers. Everyone should be as safe as possible. That is an area of interest that is coming. It is an area that fits a top priority.

He stated that finally, he would like to say something about Don Hunt's departure. He stated CDOT is much higher ranked among stated DOTs than it was four years ago when Don arrived. He told Don that he had done a tremendous job and had been a great partner for FHWA. It had been a pleasure working with someone who thought outside the box and took on challenges in creative ways. It has been a great pleasure.

### **Act on Consent Agenda**

Chairman Peterson entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Connell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Commissioner Gruen seconded the motion. Upon vote of the Commission, the resolution passed unanimously.

### **Resolution #TC-15-1-1**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Transportation Commission's Regular Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2014, are approved as published in the official agenda of the January 21 & 22, 2015, meeting.

### **Resolution #TC-15-1-2**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the 2015 Master Calendar of the Transportation Commission of Colorado is hereby approved as contained in the Official Agenda of January 21 & 22, 2015.

### **Discuss and Act on the 7<sup>th</sup> Supplement to the FY2015 Budget**

Scott Richrath stated that there was only one project for which he was asking approval for \$2.1 million on State Highway 21. He stated that he would entertain questions if there were any.

Under new Policy Directive 703, he stated that he would continue to come before the Commission with informational items that would have come before the Commission previously. He gave credit to Region 1 for stepping forward and saying the Surface Treatment model stated that the number should be one thing. It has not been advertised, budgeted or funds moved toward that project. Engineering boots were put on the ground to reassess the project. The actual project will be \$4.2 million. Under old Policy Directive 703, that is more than a 50% change. But this is not a project cost increase. This is a reassessment of the scope of the project. There was discussion about whether this should come to the Commission under the new Policy Directive.

He requested approval of the budget supplement, which includes the single project.

Chairman Peterson entertained a motion to approve the 7<sup>th</sup> Budget Supplement for the FY2015 Budget. Commissioner Barry moved for approval of the resolution, and Commissioner Aden seconded the motion. Upon vote of the Commission, the resolution passed unanimously.

### **Resolution #TC-15-1-3**

BE IT SO RESOLVED, That the Seventh Supplement to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget as amended be approved by the Commission.

### **Acknowledgements**

Chairman Peterson stated that he had the honor and privilege of recognizing the Executive Director at his last Commission meeting. He stated that this is the time on the agenda when we normally acknowledge CDOT employees for their great work. Don Hunt normally heads up the recognitions. However, the roles would be reversed, and the Executive Director would be put in the spotlight instead.

He stated that it would be possible to spend a lot of time recapping Don's many accomplishments during his four years with CDOT. The media has done a great job of that already. Most people in this room are already acquainted with Don's efforts to free more money for construction, RAMP, process improvement, getting more out of the existing transportation system through capacity improvements and efficiency, improving accountability and transparency in all CDOT programs, the first improvements to I-70 west of Denver in 30 years, monumental flood recovery, and Bustang. Many CDOT employees could readily recite Don's 5+1 strategic goals for the Department. Governor Hickenlooper called Don "a remarkable executive director for the Colorado Department of Transportation." Chairman Peterson concurred. Don Hunt has helped lead achievements that speak for themselves.

He stated that Don Hunt's role as a leader at CDOT goes much deeper. Media reports do not cover the many road trips he has taken to sit down and visit face-to-face with CDOT employees in all disciplines and in all parts of the state. He listened carefully. He heard what our employees had to say, and he took action. Media reports do not cover the monthly video chats Don Hunt held with employees from all over the state, the most recent of which was on January 12, 2015, to introduce the incoming Executive Director, Shailen Bhatt.

He stated that as a Commissioner, he enjoyed my business dealings and interactions with the Executive Direct. Everyone has benefitted from his ability to build consensus and to make solid business decisions based upon solid data. Managing change may be one of the most difficult parts of a leader's responsibilities. The four years of Don's leadership here at CDOT will long be known as a time of major change, certainly change for the better. However, Don also showed time and time again that he knew when to press the accelerator and when to apply the brakes.

Great leaders have great teams working for them, and that is certainly true here at CDOT. As one of his final major contributions, Don Hunt sought a person he felt would be another outstanding Executive Director, Shailen Bhatt, to take over the reins. He wanted to be sure that everything would be okay, that CDOT's established culture of improvement and efficiency would continue, and that CDOT's employees would be valued as the Department's greatest collective asset.

He thanked Don for his service, mentoring, leadership, and effectiveness. He stated that hed deserve all of the great things that would be said about him over the next month. Don said when he took over the reins four years ago that he would be a one-

term Executive Director, and it seems almost impossible that the time is over. He wished the Executive Director the best in all future endeavors and stated that there was now a better CDOT and a better state for the service Don had given.

Executive Director Hunt thanked Chairman Peterson for the kind words.

**Other Matters**

Chairman Peterson stated that there were no other matters to come before the Commission.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Peterson announced that the meeting was adjourned at 12:50p.m.

Herman J. Stockinger III  
Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Transportation Commission of Colorado

3-4-15  
Date

