



Rural Transportation Committee Meeting – February 24, 2020

Participants: Jim Collins (Chair), Sophie Shulman, Sarah Curtis, TJ Burr, Moira Moon, Glenn Krause, Jeff Prillwitz, Brodie Ayers, Lisa Streisfeld, and Jarett Hughes

Notes and Key Takeaways:

- Jarett Hughes provided a brief overview of the goals and timetable for committee work. The plan is for the committee to generate a set of recommendations which should support and expand rural transit/paratransit around Colorado. Committee work will run through August and, as needed, will refine and review final recommendations to be sent to the full Planning Group for inclusion in the November 2020 Action Plan Update
- Jim Collins offered insights from SE Colorado and an overview of this goals for the committee.
 - o Volunteer coordination is critical
 - o Medical trips and distance traveled are complicated issues in rural communities
 - o Intercity trips, which tend to be shorter, seem to be doing well. Intercounty and regional trips are more complicated. Jim breaks these riders into four categories: low income individuals, Veterans, Medicaid beneficiaries, and “others”. Importantly, each of these four categories has a different funding stream associated with it.
 - o Who handles the “others”? Where is the hub that handles ride coordination and dispatch?
 - Jim has set-up a volunteer dispatch center to coordinate trips and is able to utilize Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) funding due to provisions promoting job preparation and work.
- Moira Moon and TJ Burr provided an overview of the Colorado Mobility Action Coalition (CMAC), a joint effort between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies. The goal of CMAC is to support peer support, education, and mobility management. Link to [CMAC slides](#).
- CDOT staff also reviewed existing efforts in the San Luis Valley region, [Teller County](#), and [Southeast Colorado](#). Follow the links to see fact sheets.
- San Luis Valley: no local transit, need to focus on disseminating information and educating local leaders on the transit options and value
 - o Currently CDOT has an AmeriCorps Vista in Leadville and SE Colorado– this has been valuable
- Teller County: working on expanding transit/paratransit provider Envida into the area from Colorado Springs in an effort to create regionally connected service
 - o Local buy-in from city and county officials has been effective and valuable
- In general, it is critical to engage Transportation Planning Regions to de-politicize transit and facilitate buy-in from local elected officials
 - o For example, there is apprehension in NE Colorado about state-supposed transit/paratransit support



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

- Jarett Hughes provided a brief overview of issues surrounding Medicaid's non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) brokerage expansion.
 - o Currently, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is set to expand its NEMT brokerage model statewide on July 1, 2020. Local transit providers and the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies have been left out of the decision-making process and are concerned about the expansion. CDOT and CASTA are coordinating with HCPF to set-up a meeting to discuss these issues.

Action Items:

- CDOT staff to keep committee updated on non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) brokerage expansion statewide.
- Jarett Hughes to send out a doodle poll to gauge availability for a standing meeting date/time
- Jarett Hughes to coordinate with Jim Collins and Sophie Shulman about next steps