

Notes from January 6, 2017 I-25 Funding Subcommittee

Sandra S Steve T Dave C Heather P Jamie G
Barbara K Kathy G Mark Gerry H Tom N
David M

Crossroads committed to be done by the end of 2017. The climbing lane is open to traffic but will be completed with final paving in the spring.

CDOT is presenting to Loveland Council next week. Will be presenting on I-25 for direction on interchange options.

FC prospect interchange - commitments from each of the four corners and Timnath Heather Paddock noted that FHWA requires funds committed e.g. FC commits to x funds over y years. Heather working to get all of the projects committed. January 27 draft RFP out. CDOT shooting for mid-March for FHWA sign off for project to move forward. CDOT will be working on costs for widening to middle for 402 to 66. Gardner and Bennett are working on \$500M for I-25 for improvements at the federal level. It is unclear what federal program might provide the funds.

Kathy Gilliland noted that CDOT is still assuming the 10 year plan to drive investment. Looking for shovel ready projects.

Risk planning cost estimating projects included in the I-25 EIS. The original \$1.2B now up to \$4B largely due to rail. Year of expenditure has gone down. Interim improvements can add to cost or provide a means for traffic control.

NCLA Funding Options

Board looking at options of funding at various levels of government. Identifying known funding sources, what could be added to the list specifically options not currently enabled in CO. NCLA is staying focused on options for funding I-25 improvements. Polling is assessing a few funding options CO is unique because of TABOR. Options have been updated and most are still available. Bonding to finance improvements. Need to fund bonding payback as well as provide other additional funding. Replacing SB228 with a mechanism to provide 5% to transportation without a threshold or contingency. GF has been an inconsistent or variable funding. Legislators need to have GF in the mix. Colorado needs budget flexibility. Hospital Provider (HP) fee is off the table. Need transportation funding separated from HP fee.

New revenue. There are conversations on state sales tax. At 1 cent raises \$42M at .67 cents raises \$58M. Need at least 60% approval in polling for a tax increase to be successful with voters. \$1B requires .9 cents and also asking about .75 cents. Goal is \$750,000M annually. .75 would get there. Also looking at using sales tax to replace gas tax, however, would need .62 in sales tax just to replace. No new money. Also polled reducing gas tax.

State sales tax on fuel. \$750M is a big ask. DM suggests NCLA spend time to evaluate and make a recommendation. A triage - a one pager that identifies those that are not making it, those that have an option. There will be a short list of items that are viable.

Corridor funding options, etc. Mayor Norton supports approach. Look at other state's what's worked and not worked. Kathy Gilliland noted CDOT will work on whatever can get projects done. All of the different state groups need to coalesce around one viable option. Efforts around state have been successful. Need the bigger picture and everyone on the same page. David May noted that NCLA

will roll out more on media relations and education. NCLA will also update the Fix Colorado Roads materials and relaunch website to help advocate for a solution. Poll numbers on Monday. Need to elevate the issue. Need to show we've done the homework and then get a short list.

Sandra Solin reported that conversations are occurring. Polling supported by numerous groups including club 20, Metro Mayors, Colorado Springs and CCA. Need to inform legislators about options. The final solution will not be the stakeholders' decision, it needs to be a legislator's idea.

Polling - results Monday - two purposes - gauge citizens concern about transportation and mobility as a problem and what are citizens willing to support financially through- gas tax, sales tax, bonding to accelerate improvements. Testing messaging that make citizens support funding. Transit, safety, economy. Defining transit correctly and holistically. Caldera spoke on mobility and for rubber wheel transit. Need to poll what the legislators. Need to understand political viability and citizen viability. The citizen polling informs legislators. Polling is looking at tax measure for 20 years. Does it have projects? Testing support for specific project list. Also asked for I-25 and I-70 to see if they increase support.

When contractors put polling on sales tax conceptually it appeared it would pass. When ballot language polled support dropped off. A referred measure from Legislators can be cleaner than ballot measure. General public understands that transit is important but legislators do not.

Mayor Pro-tem Horak why do we need bonding if \$750M is available annually? David May noted that a specific timeline and specific list of projects is needed. Terrance group doing the polling.

Mayor Pro-TEM Horak will send bullet points on transit.

Mayor Pro-TEM Horak do we have an FC champion. Steve Toole noted they have asked but not likely. Representative Ginal on transportation committee but no depth of understanding. Need support of FC Dems to get funding. Representative Arndt supports education. Still thinks HP fee was the option. Just FC legislators.

Sandra Solin noted that the legislators need constant education. Perry Buck needs to be educated. The situation is different from last year because there is no defined solution so need to educate about the need. David May noted that there still needs to be a dedicated source from GF. \$4B in new GF \$ but none for transportation. KG transportation needs to be tied to economic development. Need \$ from general fund to support economy. Polling shows that citizens are horrified that no funds for transportation come from GF.

Dave Clark Hugh McKean working on bill for GF \$ for transportation. It was noted that he was working with Dave Williams trying to get I-25 as highest CDOT and Legislature Transportation priority.

Sandra Solin reminded the Funding Subcommittee that the items supported by the I-25 Coalition are 1) dedicate a portion of sales tax for transportation; 2) Still need bonding for acceleration of improvements funding; 3) need to support bonding, \$3.5 B for transportation. 4) Support new funding; 5) Fix SB 228; 6) The group needs at least \$750 for I-25 in addition to funding for missing mile. Protecting CDOT managed lane policy. Durand needs to feel she had the idea, while Grantham needs credit for new funding source.

Steve Tool noted that the group needs a champion like Del Grosso. Not a lot of good options currently because Hugh is new and doesn't have the credentials. Jenni Arndt could be if she is willing to be champion. Wants to put education and transportation together.