

# I-25 Funding Committee Meeting Notes

November 8, 2019

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Candlelight Dinner Playhouse

4747 Marketplace Dr, Johnstown, CO 80534

## 1. Introductions

Bill Becker	Chad Crager	Becky Karasko
Dan Betts	Mark Jackson	David May
Medora Bornhoft	Scott James	Kristin Stephens
Dave Clark	Jeff Jensen	

## 2. Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission – Becky Karasko

Three meetings will be held next week for the North, Central, and South Segments of the corridor. The meeting for the North Segment is on Tuesday, November 12. The Commission is considering four governance options. The majority of Commissioners favor the first governance option, the creation of enabling legislation to establish an RTA-like entity for rail.

## 3. Election Results – Various

Prop CC failed 56 percent to 46 percent, which was not surprising since the measure was so partisan. Solin met with House Speaker Becker and others yesterday to discuss funding options.

The Larimer ballot measure to fund infrastructure projects, including transportation, also failed. While there was great work on prioritizing and rating projects, there was no campaign and the proposal lost its focus when non-transportation infrastructure projects were added. A more specific list over a shorter timeframe likely would have received more support.

The two ballot measures in Loveland that would have funded a mix of infrastructure and amenities failed. Potential factors in the losses for the Larimer and Loveland initiatives include too much pork, too many recent asks, a disproportionately Republican turnout, and the recent Larimer County Assessor's Office scandal.

## 4. North I-25 Updates – David May

May reported the funding commitment to Segments 7 and 8 was discussed at the NFRMPO Planning Council meeting last night. Up to \$310M had been committed by the Transportation Commission, but the most recent request from Region 4 scales back the amount to \$220M. The true cost of the project could be closer to \$250M than \$310M. The Region 4 project list also includes \$30M for SH119, which was a point of contention at the meeting. Director Lew attended the Council meeting and stated the I-25 project would be made whole. The NFRMPO will write a letter to the Transportation Commission to ensure the commitment to fully funding the project.

Jackson reported local communities are coordinating with the project team on work zone control and frontage roads.

May reported he met with Mallette, Commissioner Donnelly, and Director Lew to discuss funding options for Segment 5. One idea is to combine Segments 4 and 5 to leverage financing from tolling. At a cost of \$25K, a tolling and revenue study could be completed to assess revenue capacity. The Segment 4 toll lane would be a new lane, not a conversion from a general purpose lane.

**5. State Funding Updates – David May**

In the last month Chamber executives met with Governor Polis to discuss funding for transportation. Annual General Fund transfers of \$300M will not continue; only \$15M is identified in the budget announcement. The business community is discussing funding options.

**6. Prioritizing Funding Strategies – David May**

May stated the funding options brochure provides information on an array of funding options. The committee discussed the viability of increasing the gas tax, an electric vehicle fee, and value capture corridor. May recommended adding the Empower MPO funding option to the brochure, which would give authority to MPOs to go to the ballot to form an RTA-like entity. The proposal is backed by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. Another funding option is a gas fee, separate from a gas tax. The brochure will be revised as discussed by the committee. More time will be spent at the next meeting reviewing the funding options so the committee can identify funding sources to bring to the I-25 Coalition.

**7. Federal Funding Updates – Various**

Stephens reported she recently met with staff from the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs who said now is a good time to ask for policy changes or project funding to create positive impacts.

**8. Next Steps**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 13 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm.\*

\*The December 13 meeting was cancelled on November 25. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2020 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm.