

# I-25 Funding Committee Meeting Notes

March 2, 2018

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Mimi's Cafe

1450 Fall River Dr, Loveland, CO 80537

## 1. Introductions

Dan Betts	Dave Clark	Julie Cozad
Tom Donnelly	Alex Gordon	Gerry Horak
Becky Karasko	Barbara Koelzer	Cody Leblanc
David May	Heather Paddock	Sandra Solin
Steve Tool		

## 2. I-25 Updates – Heather Paddock

CDOT is undertaking a Value Engineering (VE) study on I-25 Segment 5, looking at the 25 percent complete EIS to optimize the project while reducing cost. The focus will be on right-of-way and frontage roads. Specifically, CDOT will be looking at ways to reuse substructures to save ROW costs. Commissioner Donnelly requested Heather give a presentation on the VE Study results, which are due the third week in March. Becky will forward the large chart of funding and construction options for Segments 5 & 6.

A schedule for Sections 7 and 8 will be available at the I-25 Coalition Meeting on March 7, 2018. Development on the northeast corner of Boxelder Creek would like to move forward with utility relocation but it is waiting for approval from FEMA due to the land's removal from the floodplain.

The Crossroads project is expected to be open by the end of April or early May. The contractors are completing repairs on concrete in over 100 locations.

## 3. State Funding Options – Various

SB1, Transportation Infrastructure Funding, was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee on a partisan vote. Next it will go to the Finance Committee and Appropriations before going to the House. It is not expected to have a tax increase as it leaves the Senate. Solin stated they are waiting for the Economic Forecasts that come out March 20 to know what is possible moving forward. She is working with Democrats to figure out what is needed to get SB1 passed in the House. Solin is engaging with Speaker Duran.

David May and Sandra Solin discussed the efforts the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce is undertaking. They are currently looking at sales tax and general fund options. The Denver Chamber is planning to skip the legislative route and go to a vote of the people. Their polling is optimistic that voters will be interested in raising the sales tax to fund transportation and other issues. May also stated the Fort Collins Chamber has hired a Communications Director to help.

#### **4. Federal Funding Options – Various**

The Fort Collins Chamber has not hired a lobbyist yet. A US Chamber staff person visited to discuss tax reform and its impacts. Talks of raising taxes could be leveraged to have the State Legislature move now.

Steve Tool asked if there was a way to quantify the gap between what the states return to the federal government in fuel taxes and what is received in funding. Solin stated she will look into the question with Dan Betts.

#### **5. Potential Federal Infrastructure Bill Criteria - Various**

CDOT helped facilitate a meeting on February 28. A summary of the meeting was included in the packet and Gerry will bring copies to the I-25 Coalition Meeting on March 7, 2018. Betts said the infrastructure discussion is currently underway in Congress and Republicans are motivated.

Donnelly suggested new criteria could be: using old money as new money; crafting criteria based on growth of the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); “missing mile” projects; and the fact I-25 is a designated National Freight Corridor.

Julie Cozad asked if the infrastructure bill would be focused on existing roads in poor condition. Both Solin and Betts stated they had not heard that.

#### **6. Next Steps**

Next meeting – April 6, 2018 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm