

## **February 12, 2013 Meeting — 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM Denver Regional Council of Governments — Independence Pass Conference Room**

### **Notes:**

#### **Attendance:**

##### **Via Phone:**

1. Ken Conyers, A22
2. Will Toor, SWEEP on behalf of the environmental/conservation community
3. Melissa Osse, Move Colorado
4. Elaina Wilken, CASTA
5. Jennifer Webster, DMCC

##### **At the Table:**

6. Terri Binder, C20
7. Cathy Garcia, A22
8. Herman Stockinger, CDOT
9. Randy Grauberger, P15
10. Joe Kiely, A22
11. Don Hunt, CDOT
12. Commissioner Don Rosier, MACC/MTD/Jefferson County
13. Eric Bergman, CCI
14. Tony Milo, CCA
15. Paul Ryan, MMC/Denver
16. Mayor Sue Horn, MMC/DRCOG/Bennett
17. Steve Rudy, DRCOG
18. Peter Kenney, MMC
19. Catherine Marinelli, MMC
20. Maria-Garcia Berry, CRL
21. Roger Sherman, CRL

### **REPORT BACK FROM PARTICIPANTS**

- Metro Mayors Caucus
  - MMC met on 2/6
  - Willing to continue discussing the issue of sales tax
  - Issues remain to be resolved re sunset, share-back & timing
  - No way to lockbox the dollars
  - Sales Tax would limit local and regional ability to fund own needs, so ask needs to be sized to adequately deal with local and regional issues
- MTD

- Group formed by MMC and Metro Area County Commissioners to talk about issues related to a regional district to finance multi-modal needs
- Met on 1/28/13
- Moving away from regional approach as sales tax becomes the probable source
- Makes sense to address this statewide because it is fundamental to state economy
- Critical to size it to address local needs in order to gain voter support
- CDOT
  - Didn't anticipate being at this point a year ago
  - 2014 makes more sense than 2013 given where we are in our discussions
  - Understand that education could wind up in 2014 if school finance reform doesn't work its way through legislature in next two weeks
- Club 20
  - Transportation Committee met 2/8/13 (1<sup>st</sup> time discussing sales tax)
  - Issue will go before board in March
  - Not very favorable to a sales tax increase
    - Feel like the gas tax works well
    - Like that gas tax is user fee
    - Don't think changing direction based on 1,000 person poll is a good idea
  - Feel that 2013 is too soon
- CCI
  - Subcommittee briefing 2/14/13 on polling and the status of the current effort
  - CCI and CML meeting on 2/15/13 to make sure everyone is on the same page and determine impact of member turnover on support for new funding
- CRL
  - November 2012 poll is a snapshot in time
    - Fairly strong voter support for up to \$90/year in transportation investment
    - But only get above 50% on .05 cent motor fuel tax after considerable education
    - Poll illuminated other options
  - Caution about 2013 is good
  - Need time for a proper education campaign and funder discussions
  - Would like to have more focused discussions with voters about gas tax and sales tax
- CDOT
  - Floyd Ciruli said years ago that, "Colorado will never pass a gas tax." Starting to understand why.
  - Fluctuations in gas prices and misperceptions about gas tax make it incredibly difficult to pass tax
  - Other states looking at alternatives to gas tax
  - This is a stop-gap measure as gas tax is only viable for another 10-15 years
- Metro Area County Commissioners
  - Gas tax is diminishing revenue source

- Cars more efficient, but we still have congestion and maintenance needs and the gas tax's ability to fund it is not good
    - Do we want to have to fight this battle now and again five or ten years from now?
- Action 22
  - Special transportation committee meeting next week
  - Recommendation to board on 2/26/13
  - Gas tax is recognized as a short term solution
  - Sales tax is a longer term solution
  - Want to see discussion around sales tax continue
- Club 20
  - Members understand that gas tax is flat and will go away
  - Several members mentioned VMT
  - Should we be looking at VMT now?
- CDOT
  - Several mayors have mentioned need to address long-term funding
  - Alternatives to gas tax
    - CT bill to toll entire state highway system
    - VA trying to replace gas tax with sales tax
- CRL
  - CRL asked VMT question in polling, but favorability started very low and fell even more as it was discussed
    - Education only diminishes the support for VMT
  - Asked about indexing gas tax, not about registration fees
- CDOT
  - Given that FASTER is fairly recent, fees are not being looked at seriously
  - Predict that little will be done in next two years at Federal level
    - President Obama has not expressed support for gas tax
    - Rep. Shuster is talking about gas tax but unlikely to have any increase in funding
    - An increase in gas tax is necessary just to sustain current levels of funding
    - Believes that the feds are signaling that they will be getting out of funding transportation and that it will become a (total) state responsibility
      - Will allow states to make priority decisions
- Progressive 15
  - Discussing this via conference call in two weeks – will report back to MPACT
  - Same issues are being raised as raised in this meeting
    - Surprise at results of poll
    - Concern that sales tax is municipal tax
  - Cautioned that if gas tax were chosen, despite education and campaign, fluctuations in gas prices could kill vote
  - Want to keep conversation moving forward around sales tax
- Club 20
  - After transportation matters and RAMP presentation, feel there is a need for a massive education campaign on gas tax

- Putting together a speakers bureau on the western slope to educate on the gas tax
    - Model on CDOT ambassador program
- Action 22
  - If gas tax is not viable in the long-term, then education campaign should focus on all the options
- CRL
  - Has crosstabs on the poll
  - Can breakdown responses by region
  - Transit supported statewide
  - No region said “yes” to gas tax

#### NEXT STEPS

- What information do we need?
  - CRL can attend or phone-in for A22, P15 or C20 upcoming meetings to talk about polling
- What is the right amount?
  - CDOT bottom line is minimum of \$250M/year for CDOT after shareback — since total needs are around \$772/year (per CTFIP)
  - MACC — in MTD meetings, if there is not a significant local share then it is not worth doing because of the impact on future elections to cover those needs
  - MMC has prepared some sample numbers of what a sales tax impact at various levels would produce in metro area for locals and transit
- What are the right splits? Transit/Roadways?
  - Club 20
    - Transit is not a big thing on the Western Slope
    - People on the West Slope don’t want to pay for FasTracks
  - MMC
    - Agree that \$\$ collected on Western Slope shouldn’t go to Metro Area/FasTracks
  - CDOT
    - Metro Denver accounts for 60% of sales tax statewide, so 60% of any transit dollars would go to metro area
    - Other transit needs throughout state (e.g., rail transit in I-70 mountain corridor, North Metro Rail to Fort Collins, Inter-regional bus service) and a transit split would fund those needs as well
    - Can provide spreadsheets showing contributions and distributions
  - Action 22
    - Cannot pass a statewide issue without transit in it
- Project List
  - Rate, distribution and governance need to come before project list
  - State project list is critical, but don’t want to put it out there until something real is happening
  - Need capital project lists from regions
  - Possibly also local projects

- What is the minimum rate and distribution we can accept?
- What is the governance for transit dollars?
- What is the sunset?
- Other Information needed
  - What are the deal killers?
  - What are issues/challenges that might keep us from going to the voters in 2014?
  - What would be the indicators that timing is optimal?
  - Who are our allies?
    - Need to make presentations over next 3 months get clarity around funding level and approval from each participating body
- Possible Timing
  - MMC – Not ready right now, and have heard that 2013 is “education’s year”
    - There are always reasons why a particular year isn’t great – need to move forward despite this
  - A22 - given lack of funding and messaging, 2013 is too ambitious
  - MMC
    - 2013
      - Transportation education campaign
      - Hammer out particulars (source, amount, splits, etc.)
    - 2014 - need to start branding 2014 for transportation
  - Feb - May – consensus building with partner groups
    - Only way to get transportation to top of Governor’s priority list for 2014 and top of the state’s list is unanimous support from MPACT and other partners in next 3 months
    - Economic Development Community – need to get behind the process and be able to explain it to own members
    - Toor has begun briefing conservation/environmental community
      - Anticipates transit element will be pivotal to support
    - CCA – the chairs of Colorado House and Senate transportation committees will hold joint transportation meetings on needs in Spring and possibly throughout summer
      - A presentation at one of the meetings would great
    - Need to begin communicating with the transportation planning regions
      - STAC monthly meeting is how to do this
      - CDOT would start and finish the project list with the STAC
      - MPACT briefing to STAC?
  - June — August : compile A & B project lists
  - Fall: polling
- Next Meeting – March
  - Please respond to Doodle Poll
- MMC will share info on possible \$\$ amounts via email and notes from meeting
- Adjourned at 3:00 PM