MPACT 64

Metro Mayors Caucus — Progressive 15 — Action 22 — Club 20
Transportation

MPAC 64 Transportation
August 20, 2012 Meeting

Notes:
Attending:

- Randy Grauberger
- Matt Applebaum
- Bob Murphy
- Rick Pilgrim
- Terri Binder
- George Wilkinson
- Russ George
- David Foy
- Dale Hancock
- Betty Clark-Wine
- Jim Gunning
- Paul Alexander
- Herman Stockinger

Peter Kenney

Paul Alexander, Regis University

- TBD on transportation
  - Transportation got the most support of all the TBD issues
    - Maintaining our current system received very strong support
    - Rural Road Safety also very strong support
    - Interregional transit got strong support in early meetings but when presented in the context of the stste budget support went down below 50%
    - Relieving congestion got low support, particularly in the rural areas
      - It may be that people realize that Colorado congestion is not as bad as many places in the country
      - It may also be that people don't believe you can solve congestion problems
  - Demographic and political balance in the regional meetings was pretty good if not perfect
  - The summits in June were probably less balanced
  - Many comments that whatever revenue sources we use for transportation need to capture fees from visitors to the state as well as residents
  - Need to remember that a vote for something in the metro area or I-70 corridor would kill future funding in rural areas

Herman Stockinger , CDOT

- CDOT starting on a statewide education effort
  - People don't know that their taxes are the same per gallon no matter the price per gallon
  - People don't know how much or how little they are paying for transportation in Colorado

    - Presentation will be available for any group all around the state
    - Utah spends $1B per year on capacity projects from general funds – we are way behind them
- How do we pay for what we need
    - Statewide increase in transportation revenues
    - Urban areas
        - Propose to go to the legislature to create a regional districts in metro areas governed by local government officials
            - Statewide tax increase won't pay for metro areas' needs – metro transportation districts may be the answer
            - If created by the legislature this could avoid many small districts
        - Managed lanes in urban areas may be part of the answer
- CDOT asking if there is a springboard off of TBD to get new revenues

Discussion Among Task Force Members

- Statewide fuel tax increase in 2013 and possibly legislation for urban areas in 2013 but tax increase in later years
    - One more bite at the gas tax could take us out 20 years
    - VMT fees may take 20 years to put in place but we need to start developing the concepts and process now.
- There could be a three part path forward
    - Statewide revenues
        - Do we need an initiative or referendum?
    - Regional districts, and
    - Managed lanes for additions of new capacity
- Polling at this point may not be helpful because we will be polling an uninformed audience
    - Some initial fundraising is needed
- How can our four organizations help with the education effort?
    - Schedule presentations for city council meetings, county commissioners' meetings, any other public meetings in our communities
    - Will CDOT prepare package of materials that supporters can take to community meetings?
        - Yes – CDOT will prepare the 1 minute elevator speech, the 3 minute explanation and a presentation for a group
    - There are 100 CDOT employees being trained to be "ambassadors" in the education effort
        - Overall strategy is being formulated
        - The strategy will be to get the right person to the right place – that will often not be a CDOT person – in many cases a local person will be the best presenter for a local group
        - Materials will be ready in the next two weeks
    - People who attend these presentations can sign up to participate in the outreach efforts
    - Need a three phase approach

        - First, we can probably all agree on the part of the message about the need
            - CDOT is good at this phase of general education on the basics
            - The needs in each region are well known in that region
            - Remember that this is a multi-modal problem
        - Second, our principles are slightly different from TBD, and from the Transportation Commission, and we need to all get on the same page; these should be reviewed and refined as needed.
        - Third, we go to the public
            - We need to think like the voter – examples:
                - Utah is very good at getting public support – they take a recognizable piece of the problem and then ask for the money and complete it a quickly as possible so you have a success to point to then you go and select the next piece and ask for the support with a winning track record
                - Denver model was to offer the voters a menu of improvements in the Better Denver campaign (A through I)
                - 60, 61, & 101 opposition is another good model – all the opponents were on the same page with talking points and message
    - We have a short timeline to get back to the governor before November 15
    - We need to identify and involve the other key interest groups
    - This group has a strong voice and can influence others
        - CCI
        - CML
        - Motor Carriers
        - Move Colorado
        - CCA
        - Environmental community

Strategies to move forward

- ***Priorities for spending***
    - Multi-modal to include some form of:
        - Roadway improvements
        - Bicycle and alternative transportation modes
        - Inter-city transit funding
    - System preservation and annual maintenance
    - Safety (already making progress with FASTER)
    - Criteria for project selection in the STIP
        - TPRs, MPOs, STAC, and the Transportation Commission already have a detailed review process

        - Should honor this system
    - New capacity should be tolled (and some old capacity to provide equity)
- ***Priorities for revenues – MPAC 64 endorses the multi-part approach that is being discussed by CDOT and others. MPAC 64 proposes four actions to be considered and adopted and forwarded to CDOT and others for new transportation revenues:***
    1. Statewide revenues need to be considered first before regional districts. A statewide gas tax increase is proposed and should be supported by MAPC 64:
        A. Do this in 2013
        B. Sources (as described in the TBD process):
            a. Index motor fuel tax
            b. Increase motor fuel tax by $.10 per gallon
            c. MPAC 64 suggests phasing in the increase over a period of years
    1. Regions need partnerships with CDOT through some mechanism. MPAC 64 supports development and approval of a mechanism that enables local regions to create a regional transportation authority in partnership with CDOT to raise revenues and to implement multi-modal improvements in the region. Regions will be required to propose a list of improvements, a time line, sources and uses of revenues and a governance structure.
    2. We agree that implementation of additional through capacity in congested corridors should be considered for revenue generation in the form of "managed lanes".
    3. The increase in gas tax needs to be balanced with the start of a process to thoroughly examine and propose a fair and equitable way to have users of hybrid, alternate fuel and electric vehicles pay their fair share as well. We have to be thinking about high mileage vehicles and electric vehicles all of which have the same impact on the system as low mileage vehicles that pay more

- Sales taxes aren't user fees
    - It hurts municipalities to use up sales tax capacity
- The legislature creates regional districts and the governance boards then those groups can decide to go to the ballot for authorization of new taxes and fees
- Avoid talking about statewide fuel tax increase and regional district tax at the same time – voters will only think about being taxed twice

Next Steps

- Take these ideas back to respective boards
- Meet again early October – will send a Doodle poll to pick the date