Meeting Minutes

Conference Call

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Members Present

Dave Anderson, Adams 12 Todd Coffin, Lake

Pascal Ginesta, Steamboat - EXCUSED Nancy Clark-Lutz, Calhan

Evalyn Parks, Salida Terry Ruddick, Thompson

JoAnn Runge, Yuma Lonnie Douglas, Moffat

Ernest Williams, West End George Ansley, La Junta – EXCUSED

Tom Hartless, Fowler Paul Alvarez, Adams 14 (Metro Alternate)

Susan Miller, CDE Bob Peterson, Florence

Frank Phillips, Boulder Valley – GUEST Clyde Pearson, Ignacio

Nancy Bullard, Akron – GUEST Patrick Davis, Bayfield

Patrick Reinhart – WeldRE4- EXCUSED

Susan brought the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and roll call taken (see above)

Action Items:

Susan asked if there were any additions/deletions to the agenda. Susan will change the day, date, and time to reflect the re-scheduled meeting. Evalyn asked that we add discussion about who is eligible to be a member of the council and what happens if there is not a replacement for a region when the current member’s term expires. JoAnn made a motion to accept the agenda with the changes in the date and time, seconded by Paul Alvarez. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Susan asked if there were any additions/deletions to the TAC meeting minutes of the September 16, 2016 meeting. Lonnie D made a motion to approve, seconded by Evalyn. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Susan acknowledged receipt of Scott French’s resignation as the Metro region member as he is retiring at the end of the school year. Susan will send a letter of appreciation to Scott for his service on the TAC. Due to Scott’s resignation, that leaves a vacancy in the metro region.

Susan explained that in March 2014, David Anderson was appointed to complete the remainder of Nita R’s term. That term expire in March 2017. Per the by-laws, Membership/Composition/iv, Mr. Anderson is eligible for a regular four-year term, and David has expressed his interest to for a four-year term. JoAnn made the motion to approve David Anderson for a four-year term as a regular member, representing the Metro Region. Lonnie seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Susan also explained that there is still a vacancy in the Metro region, and per the by-laws, Membership/Composition/vi, it states that “preference given to active alternates”. Therefore, Paul

Alvarez has expressed his interest for a four-year term as a regular member.

This leaves vacancies for the alternate in the metro region. Susan had received a letter of interest for the metro region from Jamie Seib and Frank Phillips from Boulder Valley. She indicated that Jamie had sent her an email withdrawing her interest, leaving Mr. Phillips as the only letter of interest at this time.

Nancy made a motion to approve Paul Alvarez for a four-year term, representing the Metro Region, and also approve Frank Phillips as the alternate representative for the metro region. Dave seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Susan stated that she had sent out a summary of the New Entry Level Driver Training to members as an informational tool. It has not been shared with all of the districts as the compliance date is not until 2020 and her intent is to have further discussions with the DMV, TAC and within CDE about the impact of this new regulation and how we can assist with the implementation. Lonnie mentioned that he had received notice that there has been a petition filed for reconsideration of the new regulation. He will forward it to Susan and she will pass it on to all TAC members. She will keep members updated as she is informed, and encourages everyone to share any information they might receive as well.

Susan informed the group that she attended a meeting recently with districts and human resource departments in the metro area regarding the regulations related to ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). There are very specific requirements, and one of them is transportation for a foster student that may be placed in a different school district, based on where the foster home is located. The cost of transportation can not be a consideration when determining the placement of these students. Therefore, the regulations require that there be agreements between human resource agencies and districts regarding the particulars of the placement. Susan encouraged members to share information regarding ESSA and to make an initial contact with those making these placements regarding transportation options. Susan will send members links for additional information about ESSA.

Susan informed the group that she met with the CSPTA Executive Board to discuss the transfer of the responsibility of the Special Education Manual and the Driver Trainer from CDE back to CSPTA. Susan has met with the CSPTA Trainer and Special Education Committees several times over the past 3 years. After discussion with her supervisor, CDE believes that they were really the group that did the primary development of these two documents, and therefore, credit should be given where credit is due. Susan expressed, on behalf of CDE, that when revisions are made to these manuals that prior to releasing revisions they would be vetted through CDE to ensure that CDE is in agreement and endorses them. Paul stated that the Trainer Committee was grateful to have that responsibility given to them.

Susan asked if there were any concerns regarding the release of the CDE clarifications that were sent to districts recently. There was substantial discussion and concern regarding retarders in Type A school buses. Dave A. stated that he strives to be current on current vehicle options and he is not aware that it

is even possible to put a retarder on a Type A gasoline vehicle. Ernie agreed, and asked if this requirement applies to white and yellow Type A vehicles. Terry indicated that he also agreed that he was unaware of that possibility and also stated concern regarding what impact this would also have on coaches and others that drive these vehicles regarding training and the cost associated it. Susan asked that some of these questions be forwarded to her for discussion at CDE and also to be discussed at the Technicians Meeting. Noting that this is what is in current legislation, the need to have some of our legislation updated.

Susan gave an update on the status of the streaming videos, and is still working to offer something to districts in the future.

It was requested to give an update on seatbelts. Susan stated that a legislator from Tennessee has presented a bill to require all school buses nationwide be required to have 3-point securement. Some Colorado districts have already started to spec new vehicles with the “seat-belt ready” seats that provide options for some of the new products that are available. This will be on-going and Susan will forward anything she receives regarding any movement on these.

Cost saving strategies for school districts was also requested to be discussed. Susan asked if anyone was aware of any training/ideas that have assisted districts. Susan stated that one of the very best trainings she attended was on Asset Management and encouraged members to attend similar training if it is every offered. It was suggested that maybe something similar could be offered at the Summit.

There was discussion regarding attracting and maintaining good applicants. Members shared a few things that have been successful for their districts.

It was requested to discuss the possibility of implementing a state bid for purchasing buses and equipment. David A. indicated that this has been attempted several times over the past few decades unsuccessfully. Members stated that they are “piggy backing” on other contracts to reap some cost savings and it has worked for them, agreeing that it seems to be unfeasible at this time.

Susan explained that she had forwarded a DRAFT copy of some suggested changes to the council’s bylaws and due to time constraints if members would please look it over, and make notes so that it can be discussed in greater length at our next meeting. Also, to add some language regarding who can be members (mechanics, trainers, etc.) and what the process is when there isn’t anyone to replace an outgoing member.

Susan asked if members thought it would be a good idea to develop an application for people that are interested in applying for membership. Nancy agreed that it would be easier to compare “apples to apples” of applicants. Susan is also going to put together a document, to be signed by members, indicting what their responsibilities are as a member of TAC. We will review at the next meeting.