

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for September 12, 2018

9:30 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:30 Lincoln County 4-P meeting with the Colorado Department of Transportation in order that the CDOT can present an update on recent projects in the county, present general information on the CDOT and entertain comments/questions/concerns

1. Approve the minutes from the August 31, 2018 meeting
2. Approve the minutes from the September 6, 2018 meeting
3. Old Business
4. New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met in the jury assembly room at 9:30 a.m. on September 12, 2018, for a 4P meeting with the Colorado Department of Transportation. Those attending were: Chairman Doug Stone, Commissioners Ed Schiffers and Steve Burgess, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel. Several representatives from CDOT, Lincoln County municipalities, the Road & Bridge foremen, and various others also attended.

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order and gave the floor to CDOT Region IV Director Johnny Olson. Mr. Olson went over the Project Priority Programming Process (4P) booklets provided to the group by CDOT, touching on how the ten-year development program fits, ideas for the federal funding and CDOT asset programs and pass-through funds, how CDOT builds a project, and Colorado's transportation planning process. He described the top projects in the region, associated cost estimates, and regional priority funding. Regarding federal funding, there is \$755 million available statewide, but the money has specified purposes.

There are two 2018 ballot initiatives: Proposition 109, which concerns bonding repaid by the General Fund; and Proposition 110 regarding a 20-year sales tax increase of 0.62%. According to Mr. Olson, Proposition 109 requires the expenditure of eighty percent of the funding in the first three years. If there are projects that aren't ready and are still in the design stage, three years will not be long enough to complete them. If Proposition 110 passes, counties and municipalities will receive a twenty percent increase in funding. Spending requirements will be flexible as long as they are for transportation-related projects. The town of Hugo could see an additional \$36,000 in the first year, while the county's first-year allocation might be around \$1.7 million. Mr. Burgess wanted to know when the money would start coming in since the commissioners would need to show it in the 2019 budget if remittance begins in 2019. Mr. Olson said he would assume it would be similar to the gas tax, and one of the other CDOT representatives confirmed that distribution is monthly beginning in January.

Gary Beedy commented that at least increasing sales tax puts the money back in the communities; whereas, Proposition 109 is legislative. He found it hard to believe that the legislature would allow the funding to continue for twenty years. Joe Kiely spoke up to say that the Colorado Municipal League supports Proposition 110, as does Lincoln County Economic Development and the town of Limon. He hoped that the county commissioners would support it as well. Mr. Beedy wanted to know if the Board has held discussions regarding what improvements the county would make with the increased funding, and Mr. Olson suggested taking a list of projects to the communities to help voters understand the importance of supporting the proposition.

Town of Hugo mayor Tom Lee read the letter from the town board requesting a street light at Hwy 40/287 and 9th Avenue, which is the most-used entrance into the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and county shop. Trustees are concerned with safety since there is quite a bit of traffic at that intersection. Mr. Olson said they would complete a lighting study and that they might need to install more than one street light. He added that it would take some time, but

they would look into it and he would use safety money if they have it. Mr. Stone also provided the letter from the commissioners supporting the street light installation.

Town of Limon administrator Dave Stone said that the most common complaint from Limon residents is that there is no stop light to handle the flow of traffic at Hwy 24 and 9th Street, which is out by McDonald's in Limon, roughly two hundred feet south of Exit 359. Other issues are that there are no shoulders on State Road 71 north and no turnout lanes by the softball fields on State Road 71 south. Gary Beedy spoke up to say that the softball fields are an issue because many young drivers use the facility, and he is concerned for their safety.

Mr. Schifferns asked about truck parking signs at Bovina, and Bob Johnson spoke about the signs posted on highways regarding plows not operating between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Secondary roads have fourteen-hour coverage; they tend to plow beyond that timeframe to benefit fire and rescue and law enforcement personnel. Steve Hoffmeister spoke up to say that it affects tourism in the mountains too. Region IV has the most lane miles per employee than any region in the state, so coverage comes down to resources, according to Mr. Olson. The fourteen-hour rule has actually been in place since 1986, but it wasn't until 2012 that posting of the signs occurred due to safety reasons. He added that they would do what they have to do, but eighty lane miles per employee makes it difficult.

Mr. Burgess asked about the progress on the new CDOT shed in Limon, and Mr. Johnson told him that they hope to have it finished by next winter.

When asked about the freight diversion study on State Road 71, Heather explained that they'd received the results in March, but the Hwy 385 discussion came up at the same time. They will share the results and set up a meeting with the technical advisory group. They are also doing a lot of data collection on State Road 71 to determine the priority sections of the road.

Joe Kiely asked about the progress of the request for passing lanes on Hwy 287, and Mr. Olson said everything comes down to dollars. They asked for \$6.8 million and were allotted \$4.2 million freight dollars for the project. They did passing studies, but the results didn't meet the FASTER safety requirements regarding head-on accidents or run-offs. However, they are willing to add some RPP money into it if they have it available. The plan is to build two passing locations contingent on funding.

The group discussed striping on County Road 109, and then Mr. Olson concluded the meeting by saying they would use the information they'd gathered to build the next four-year plan.

The meeting in the jury assembly room ended, and the commissioners returned to their meeting room.

Mr. Schifferns made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 31 and September 6, as submitted. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Stone called for old or new business, and Mr. Burgess said he'd asked the town of Limon to have their trash truck weighed. They haven't submitted the weight slip yet. He also emailed Mark McMullen regarding the liner at the landfill. Mr. McMullen had contacted Mr. Piper to see if there would be a problem with the county using W.W. Enterprises. The Board agreed they would have no issues with using the company, but in the past they have had a terrible time getting Mr. Wernsman to respond to certain requests.

The fair board discussed bleachers for the new building at their last fair board meeting, and Mr. Schiffers said that they decided they should wait a year or so to determine what size they need. Mr. Burgess said he spoke with Travis Taylor about electrical needs for the new building.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Stone adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2018.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Douglas D. Stone, Chairman