

CASTA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF TRANSIT IN COLORADO

2010 marks CASTA's 25th year of incorporation. The organization will be celebrating our accomplishments and successes over the years, and we hope you'll join us.

Where were YOU in 1985?

Internationally:

- South Africans still live under the Apartheid, and the Berlin Wall still was still standing.
- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and de facto leader of the Soviet Union.



Nationally:

- In January, Ronald Reagan is sworn in for his second term.
- At Superbowl XIX, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Miami Dolphins 38-16.
- Coca-Cola changes its formula and releases the New Coke. In the face of overwhelmingly negative response, the original formula is back on the market in less than 3 months.
- Back to the Future opens in American theatres
- Microsoft Corporation releases the first version of Windows, Windows 1.0.
- The Internet is only used by scientists and academic libraries. Al Gore had not yet invented the World Wide Web.
- Email protocols are standardized, paving the way for more popular usage.
- Top pop song: Everybody Wants to Rule the World by Tears for Fears.

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RTD Board Names Phil Washington New General Manager

Reprinted with permission from RTD Denver

The Regional Transportation District Board of Directors voted on December 15, 2009, to enter into contract negotiations with Phil Washington to serve as the agency's new general manager and chief executive officer.

Washington has been the interim general manager since the departure of long-time GM Cal Marsella in July. Prior to his appointment to the interim position, he served as RTD's assistant general manager for administration for the past nine years. His responsibilities included overseeing the finance, procurement, information technology, human resources, treasury and disadvantaged business enterprise departments.

Washington was one of three finalists announced by the board last week. The



other finalists were British Columbia Rapid Transit Co. president and CEO Douglas Kelsey and former top United Airlines executive Sean Donohue.

The decision by the board follows a six-month nation-wide search and extensive public input process locally.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, here we are, already into 2010 and things have continued to move forward in the world of Transit in Colorado.

Aside from the plethora of acronym funded projects across the state, CDOT and several transit agencies are benefiting from the Federal stimulus funding through ARRA and TIGER funding sources. Reporting timelines are beginning to creep up so we should be hearing about the successes we have had here in Colorado shortly.

Our friends at CDOT are experiencing quite a bit of a change these days having begun the recruitment process to find a Director for the Aviation Division. Director Travis Vallin has made the move to the private sector showing the quality of the staff at CDOT. More interesting for the Transit folks in Colorado, this process may give us some insight into the process that CDOT will be using to find a Director for our new Division of Transit and Rail. Stay tuned for those results!

Also, are you aware of the remarkable achievement at CDOT that will be celebrated this year? Yes, our Department of Transportation is celebrating 100 years of existence. So, it took us 99 years to become a full partner but we will be able to join the centennial celebration and help CDOT move into its second 100 years. Remarkable achievement! I can't wait to see how CDOT will mark the event at our conferences!

And how would you celebrate 100 years of existence? That's a remarkable achievement for any transportation agency. But a centennial celebration is something that will require a great deal more. Let us know how you would celebrate such a major milestone if it were your time. It would be great for CASTA to celebrate this major event along with CDOT.

And the RTD has a new General Manager.



I have had the chance to meet Phil Washington at one or another meeting but I am definitely looking forward to hearing how Phil plans to move the RTD forward. He's already taken a strong realistic approach with the financial problems with FasTracks which is definitely appreciated. He has quite a set of challenges ahead of him and we definitely wish him the best in his new position.

So, we've already had quite a list of changes, events, improvements, and challenges and it's only the beginning of 2010. I'm not sure about you, but I'm definitely feeling positive about the things that are coming down the pike. Sure, we've got a lot of challenges, some locations facing bigger challenges than others, but the overall sense is that things are moving forward in a positive manner.

If you have one of those success stories, whether via ARRA, TIGER, or your own ingenuity, I know that I would love to hear about it, so be sure to send your information to CASTA so we can share your experience with the rest of your peers.

The first newsletter of the new year has hopefully brought a smile to your face and given you some information of note and value so please, return the favor by sharing with us. With so much possible and so much happening, we need your help to hear about it all! ▪

With positive thoughts,
Rob Andresen, President

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICY SHIFT TO HIGHLIGHT LIVABILITY

In a dramatic change from existing policy, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today proposed that new funding guidelines for major transit projects be based on livability issues such as economic development opportunities and environmental benefits, in addition to cost and time saved, which are currently the primary criteria.

In remarks at the Transportation Research Board annual meeting, the Secretary announced the Obama Administration's plans to change how projects are selected to receive federal financial assistance in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts and Small Starts programs. As part of this initiative, the FTA will immediately rescind budget restrictions issued

by the Bush Administration in March of 2005 that focused primarily on how much a project shortened commute times in comparison to its cost.

"Our new policy for selecting major transit projects will work to promote livability rather than hinder it," said Secretary LaHood. "We want to base our decisions on how much transit helps the environment, how much it improves development opportunities and how it makes our communities better places to live."

The change will apply to how the Federal Transit Administration evaluates major transit projects going forward. In making funding decisions, the FTA will now evaluate the environmental, community and

economic development benefits provided by transit projects, as well as the congestion relief benefits from such projects.

"This new approach will help us do a much better job of aligning our priorities and values with our transit investments" said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "No longer will we ignore the many benefits that accrue to our environment and our communities when we build or expand rail and bus rapid transit systems."

FTA will soon initiate a separate rulemaking process, inviting public comment on ways to appropriately measure all the benefits that result from such investments. ■

Be sure to join CASTA for a special panel presentation and workshop on livability initiatives in downtown Denver on May 4, 2010! Check out Page 4 for more information on this special session at CASTA's Spring Training Conference.

CONNECTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO TRANSIT REAPS BENEFITS FOR AGENCIES AND FAMILIES

There is a growing movement to better connect transit and affordable housing nationwide and in Colorado, and to reward communities forging these connections. The combined costs of housing and transportation consume around 60 percent of low to moderate-income families' gross household income. Thus, if you can lower both costs at the same time, you can dramatically improve your family's quality of life. Better connections also benefit transit agencies through documented increases in ridership and fare revenue flowing from affordable versus market rate units. Other benefits include the potential for shared parking, more efficient connections between employment and workforce, and more vibrant and sustainable transit-oriented development.

FRESC and Enterprise interviewed 24 transit agencies across the country including several in Colorado, and documented nearly 5,000 units of affordable housing through transit agency joint development

policies and programs and this is what they discovered:

- At least nine transit agencies have joint development policies that include affordable housing, and six others have implemented practices of including affordable units in projects even in the absence of a written policy
- At least 3,408 affordable housing units have been created through joint development
- At least 1,813 additional units are in various stages of planning and development

Although the research was focused on rail agencies and those leveraging transit agency-owned land to build affordable and workforce housing, bus only-projects were also documented in King County, Washington. Transit agencies serving Eagle County and Breckenridge have altered service routes and provided other

non-land forms of support that made affordable housing near transit possible in these smaller communities.

These findings are timely given the recent Interagency Partnership between United States Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the introduction of a Livable Communities Act in Congress. While the federal effort has just begun, it's clear that one intention is to align federal policy and incentives in ways that support planning and implementation by regions that are committed to creating affordable and sustainable communities.

The benefits and methods agencies are using to connect affordable housing to transit will be provided in a forthcoming report by FRESC and will be available online at www.fresc.org. ■



CASTA SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE

May 4-7, 2010
The Curtis Hotel
Denver, CO

Join us in downtown Denver for CASTA's Spring Training Conference. This year marks CASTA's 25th anniversary, so don't miss out on the celebratory hoopla and merriment that shall mark this auspicious occasion.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- Advanced Mobility Device Securement
- FTA Drug & Alcohol Training
- FTA Grant Development, Management & Reporting
- Leadership Luncheon with Cal Marsella, former General Manager of RTD
- Livability Panel & Workshop
- Maintenance Technologies & Greening Your Shop
- Hands On Driver Training
- Scheduling & Dispatch
- Safety Training & Rural Transit
- Transportation Coordination Symposium
- Violence in the Workplace
- Tour of RTD District Shops

SPECIAL CONFERENCE EVENTS:

CASTA HOSTS SPECIAL SESSION TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEW LIVABILITY INITIATIVE Tuesday, May 4, 2010 @ 1:00 p.m.

This special session will include panel presentations from representatives of our major partners in the livability initiative including HUD, EPA, FTA, and more. Panelists will include both federal and local partners. Immediately following will be a workshop and case study of successful partnerships that have been established by your colleagues in Colorado. Invite community partners that you feel should be included in our discussions, and come prepared to ask questions and engage in discussions to create fruitful partnerships within your community.

PARADE OF PRESIDENTS and WELCOME RECEPTION Tuesday, May 4, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.

Come meet the faithful transit warriors who kept CASTA moving forward through the years while rubbing elbows with your colleagues in Colorado transit. The recipe for this special event includes equal parts history, hilarity, networking, reflection and celebration of transit achievements in Colorado. This is a networking event that you don't want to miss!

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION SYMPOSIUM Thursday, May 6, 2010 @ 8:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.

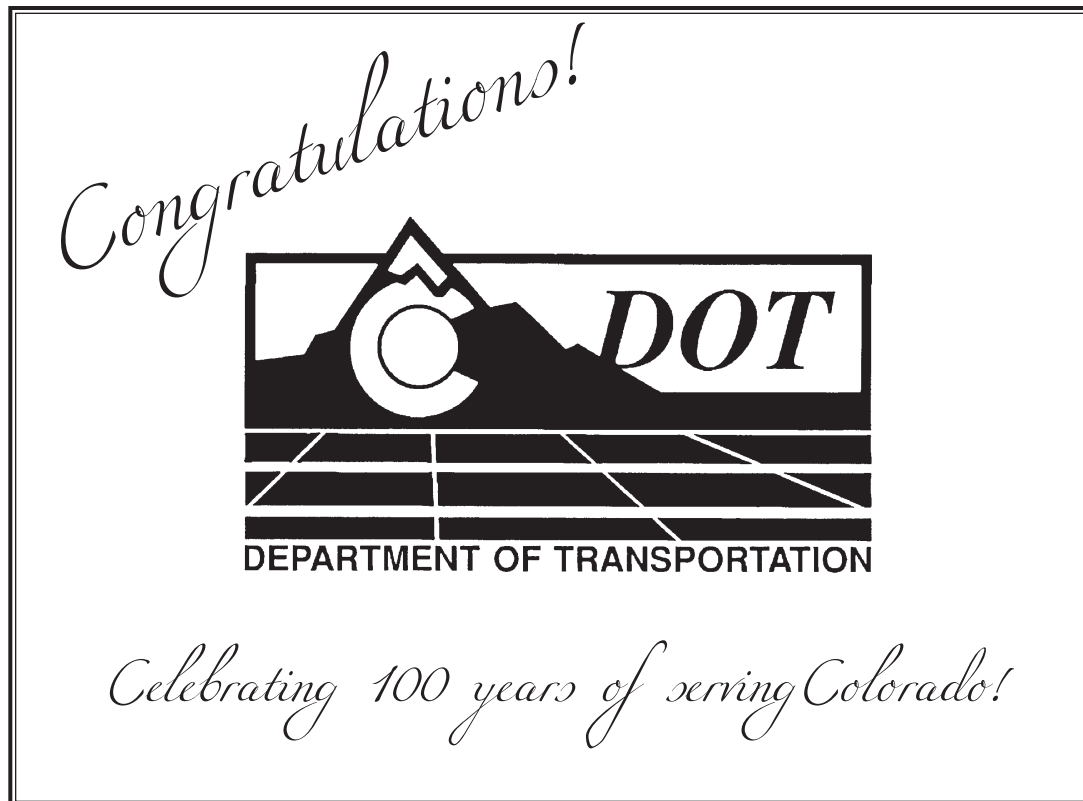
The Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) is partnering with CASTA to bring in national, state, and regional speakers to address the topic of transportation coordination. The symposium will feature speakers from the Federal Transit Administration Region 8 office, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Community Transportation Association of America, and Easter Seals Project ACTION, among others. A panel of experts will highlight examples of what communities are doing across the state.

CASTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Join us in thanking Sherre Ritenour for serving on the CASTA Board of Directors. Sherre Ritenour retired from Mountain Metropolitan Transit in December 2009, and as a result, resigned from the CASTA board. We appreciate the contribution of hard work and expertise she brought to the board over the past few years. The board has appointed Peter Tregillus to serve the rest of her term.

Peter is the Programs Developer at Southern Ute Community Action Programs (SUCAP). His duties include working on public transit, Head Start/Early Head Start, alcohol substance treatment, job training, senior services, youth development, mental health, occupant protection and safe routes to school. Despite his wide ranging job responsibilities he has been involved with CASTA for a number of years.

Peter enthusiastically shares that "part of my purpose in serving on the CASTA Board, is to serve as a voice for transit providers in the southwest part of the State. The other part is to do what I can to maintain CASTA as an effective voice and resource for transit providers in Colorado." ▪



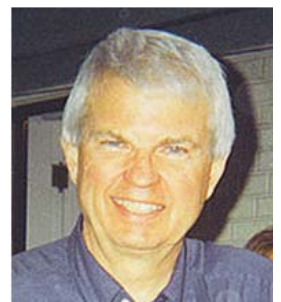
CASTA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS continued...

In Colorado:

- The statewide population hits 3.2 million (there are over 5 million Coloradans today)
- Dick Lamm is serving his third term as Governor
- The state reels from the "Oil Bust" of 1982, leaving many without jobs and real estate market plummeting.

In Transit:

- The FTA is still called the Urban Mass Transit Program Authority (UMPTA) garnering the dubious honor of one of the more unflattering acronyms.
- The RTD-Denver light rail system is just a gleam in transit planners' eyes
- Tom Mauser had not yet started working at the Colorado Department of Highways (CDOT).



Look for more information on CASTA's Silver Anniversary, including a reunion of past presidents at our Spring Training Conference, May 4-7 in Denver. ▪

FTA ADMINISTRATOR PETER ROGOFF ANNOUNCES \$304 MILLION FOR DENVER UNION STATION REDEVELOPMENT OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION HUB WILL CREATE JOBS

DENVER – FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff announces federal funding for Denver Union Station, the centerpiece of the Regional Transportation District's FasTracks transit expansion plan.

The Department of Transportation approved a \$151.6 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan and a \$152.1 million loan application under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program (RRIF) for Denver Union Station.

These loans, which constitute 64 percent of the nearly half billion dollar project cost, will help transform Denver Union Station into a true multi-modal transportation system, connecting light rail, commuter rail, buses, streets and public spaces.

"Denver Union Station will be a model of a seamless, interconnected system that joins transportation options at one location," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "When completed, this regional multimodal hub will reinvigorate downtown Denver and serve as an example of what we are trying to accomplish across the country with our sustainability and livability goals."

In addition to the TIFIA and RRIF loans, Denver Union Station has already received \$28.4 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"Together, our multi-pronged federal investment in the Gold line, the East line, and Denver Union Station will mean huge mobility improvements for the people of Denver and its suburbs," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "The loans are a great example of how critical federal funding can advance transportation projects and create thousands of jobs that will have a big impact in Colorado's recovery."

The Denver Union Station project is a 50-acre public-private development venture in lower downtown Denver. The intermodal transit development project will serve as a regional multimodal hub that will improve transportation and reduce congestion in the downtown area. Transportation elements include an underground bus terminal with 22 bays, a light rail station for current and future light rail routes, a commuter rail station that will serve Amtrak and possibly a ski train, and public plazas to integrate transit service. Construction is estimated to take four-years to complete.

The East Corridor and Gold Line commuter rail lines are part of Regional Transportation District's (RTD) FasTracks expansion program of major transit investments in the Denver region. These projects, which were included in President Obama's budget request to Congress, will both feed into Denver Union Station.

By 2030 ridership is expected to reach 43,400 weekday boardings with 11,450 daily new riders. The total project cost is \$479.4 million.

The project will be implemented by the Denver Union Station Project Authority (DUSPA), a non-profit, public benefit entity formed by the city in July 2008, through a partnership of RTD, City and County of Denver, Colorado Department of Transportation and DUS Metropolitan District. DUSPA is the applicant for the TIFIA and RRIF loans and will receive various revenue streams to use both as security for the loans and for funding construction. RTD will assist with the construction management of the transit improvements and will own and operate the facilities after the construction period.

The TIFIA and RRIF programs provide Federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance and the development of railroad infrastructure. These loan programs can help advance qualified, large-scale projects that otherwise might be delayed or deferred because of size, complexity, or uncertainty over the timing of revenues. ■

INTRODUCING MOUNTAIN METROPOLITAN TRANSIT'S INTERIM TRANSIT DIRECTOR

Craig Blewitt, AICP; was appointed as the new Interim Transit Director of Mountain Metropolitan Transit (MMT) on December 28, 2009. Mr. Blewitt comes to MMT with over 20 years of experience in working for the City of Colorado Springs in various capacities: most recently as the City's Comprehensive Planning Division Manager. He brings extensive past work experience working interdepartmentally at the City of Colorado Springs, with area business leaders, neighborhood groups, local officials, and the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. MMT is currently governed by the City of Colorado Springs City Council. Its primary source of local funding is from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) which collects a 1/10 cent dedicated area sales tax for transit in the Pikes Peak Region.

Join us in welcoming Craig to the CASTA family! ■

PHIL WASHINGTON continued...

Before joining RTD, Washington had a distinguished 24-year military career, retiring as a decorated active-duty U.S. Army soldier, having attained the rank of Command Sergeant Major, (E-9). He is the recipient of numerous military honors and citations for outstanding performance of duty and leadership. Washington holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Columbia College and a Master of Arts degree in Management from Webster University.

"It speaks volumes about what an exceptional agency we have that following an exhaustive nation-wide search, the best candidate for the job was right here at RTD," Chairman Lee Kemp said. "Phil has clearly demonstrated to us over the past six months that he is more than ready to lead this agency forward." ■

Advanced Seminar on MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and the Environment, and the National Transit Institute are pleased to sponsor an Advanced Seminar on Managing the Environmental Review Process, to be held February 22-23, 2010 in Oakland, CA.

The goal of this seminar is to support the efficient and effective management of environmental processes in the development and construction of transit and multi-modal projects by providing current information on federal requirements, identifying best practices, and facilitating the sharing of information and insight among advanced practitioners.

Diana Mendes, a Senior Vice President of AECOM, will be facilitating the seminar. Ms. Mendes is a national expert in environmental review and project development, and has completed award win-

CDOT UPDATE

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will be accepting applications for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5304 funds for 2010 (49 U.S.C. Section 5304 – Statewide Planning). CDOT released a Notice of Funding Availability for 2010 funding and an application in early February, 2010, which will be due back to CDOT by 5:00 p.m. on March 24th, 2010.

Section 5304 funds can be used for a wide variety of transportation planning activities, including: transit technical assistance, planning, research, demonstration projects, special studies, training and other similar projects. These funds are not available for capital or operating expenses of public transit systems. Recent projects have included transit feasibility studies, studies looking at bike and pedestrian connectivity to transit routes and stations, intermodal facility assessments,

and transit operating plans.

CDOT anticipates the availability of approximately \$318,674 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010. These funds require a 20% local match and are available to public bodies or private nonprofit organizations applying through a willing public body. Applicants must submit a brief application identifying the type of planning study, the anticipated cost, and an anticipated scope of work.

To view the Notice of Availability of Funds in its entirety, please visit http://www.coloradotransit.com/pdf/5304_NFA_2010.pdf.

Applications must be submitted on line to CDOT's transit website. The online application and associated signature page is available at www.dot.state.co.us/App_Transit/. ■

ning projects recognized by the American Public Transportation Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She brings to the seminar over 25 years of experience in implementing sustainable transportation solutions, combined with a decade of serving as an NTI instructor.

Who Should Attend

This is not an introductory course. It is intended for transportation professionals from transit agencies, MPOs, and DOTs with a minimum of three years experience in the environmental process relative to project development.

The seminar is **FREE** for public transit agency and government employees involved in planning or reviewing transportation projects. A registration fee of \$295.00 applies to consultants and contractors.

Seminar Topics Include:

- Streamlining and Stewardship for Success
- Coordinating, But Not Confusing, Section 106 and Section 4(f)
- Managing NEPA and New Starts Interface
- Addressing the NEPA and State Environmental Requirements
- Enhancing Environmental Documentation
- Managing Mitigation
- Future Challenges

Register Today!

Register online at www.ntionline.com. From the home page click on Multimodal Transportation Planning and then Advanced Seminar on Managing the Environmental Review Process. For more information, contact NTI Program Coordinator Ginny Stern at 732-932-1700 ext. 226 or e-mail her at gstern@nti.rutgers.edu. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on events visit

www.coloradotransit.com and click on

Conferences and Training.

- **Advanced Seminar on Managing the Environmental Review Process**
February 22-23, 2010
Sponsor: FTA, NTI
Location: Oakland, CA
- **Certified Safety & Security Manager**
March 17-18, 2010
Sponsor: CTAA
Location: Providence, RI
- **Coordinated Mobility**
March 17-18, 2010
Sponsor: CTAA, NTI
Location: Providence, RI
- **Transportation Solutions**
March 17-18, 2010
Sponsor: CTAA
Location: Providence, RI
- **Transit Rail Incident Investigation**
March 29-April 2, 2010
Sponsor: TSI, RTD
Location: Denver, CO
- **Pre-Trip Inspection**
April 2010
Sponsor: CASTA
Location: Frisco, Pueblo, Stratton, CO
- **CASTA Spring Training Conference 2010**
May 4-7, 2010
Sponsor: CASTA
Location: Denver, CO
- **Community Transportation EXPO**
May 23-28, 2010
Sponsor: CTAA
Location: Long Beach, CA
- **Defensive Driving Train-the-Trainer**
June 2010
Sponsor: CASTA
Location: Frisco, CO
- **Bus Collision Investigations**
June 29-July 2, 2010
Sponsor: TSI, RTD
Location: Denver, CO
- **Post Accident Investigation**
July, 2010
Sponsor: CASTA
Location: Durango, Greeley, Frisco, CO
- **CASTA/CDOT Fall Transit Conference & EXPO 2010**
September 14-17, 2010
Sponsor: CASTA & CDOT
Location: Beaver Creek, CO
- **APTA Annual Meeting**
October 3-6, 2010
Sponsor: APTA
Location: San Antonio, TX
- **Principles of Transit Mangement**
November 2010
Sponsor: CASTA, SURTC
Location: Glenwood Springs, CO
- **19th National Conference on Rural Public & Intercity Bus Transportation**
October 24-28, 2010
Sponsor: TRB, FTA, RTAP
Location: Burlington, Vermont

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