

August 21, 2018
Amtrak Meeting

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this date at 1:00 p.m. at the International Bank with the following County members present:

William Sauble, Chairman
Landon Newton, Vice-Chairman
Roy Fernandez, Member
Mary Lou Kern, County Manager
Rayetta M. Trujillo, County Clerk
Joana Apodaca, Financial Specialist
Jared Moreno, Information Technology Manager
Linda Gallegos, County Assessor
Terrence Kamm, County Attorney

Chairman Sauble welcomed and thanked everyone for attending this meeting. Chairman Sauble stated he would like to have a successful meeting and would like to be able to move forward with the Tiger IX Grant. Representatives from Colorado and Kansas spoke regarding the repairs that were completed with the Tiger Grants from their states. Individuals from the various Congressional Districts to include New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado spoke regarding the support for the continued operation of Amtrak between Raton and Albuquerque and their support of the Federal Funding to be used for the project. Representatives from Amtrak made a presentation with the Route Map from Chicago, IL to Los Angeles, CA and stated the 283-mile segment owned by BNSA Railway needs to have Positive Train Control (PTC) installed prior to January 1, 2019, as there are safety concerns. The representatives stated the capital cost to install PTC on this portion of the track would cost approximately \$30.3 million and the estimated annual PTC operating costs for this portion would be \$7 million. The representatives stated due to the PCT issue, Amtrak is considering busing passengers from Raton to Albuquerque. Concerns were raised regarding the safety of the passengers who would be traveling by bus. Segment 2 from Trinidad to Lamy was discussed and the 200-mile segment owned by BNSF Railway needs approximately \$50 million in capital infrastructure to maintain the current class of track and service schedule over the next 5 years. The Amtrak representatives stated Amtrak will require PTC for Segment 2 which the estimated capital cost to install PTC on this portion is \$23 million and the operating costs is 3.5 million. Segment 3 from Lamy to Albuquerque to Isleta is an 82-mile segment owned by NMDOT, the Amtrak representatives stated the segment hosts ten commuter trains/day, local freight and two Amtrak trains a day. Representatives stated that no PTC has been installed on this segment, but NMDOT has applied for the CRISI grant to fund the PTC implementation. It was also mentioned unless the FRA grants and MTEA are received by the end of 2018, Amtrak cannot operate over this segment and will suspend service until NMDOT comes into compliance with Federal law and FRA regulation. Several scenarios were discussed, FY 18 Baseline – no change in current SWC service; Option #1 – LA – ALBQ; bus service; Chicago to Dodge City, KS; Option 2 – LA – ALBQ; bus service; Chicago to La Junta; option 3 – new operating slots and schedules for Options #1 & #2. The representatives went over the initial operating cost estimates for alternatives and the initial estimated total financial impact for alternatives vs. current Southwest Chief. The representatives went over the proposed bus schedule stating the proposed the passengers headed to Albuquerque would arrive 28 minutes later than the current train schedule and would arrive in Dodge City 7 minutes later. A question was raised as to why once the funding goal was reached, why was Amtrak requesting more funding. After further discussion, Chairman Sauble stated he has ALS and in his condition, he would not be able to ride the bus to Albuquerque and he was not in favor of busing passengers. Chairman Sauble questioned the safety of the passengers on the bus vs. the train. It was a consensus of the Municipal, County and State representatives they are not in favor of the busing, due to the safety and the losses the businesses will suffer.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



COLFAX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

William E. Saults

Chairman

James L. Newton

Vice Chairman

R. J. Farney

Member

ATTEST:

Dayette M. Phillips
Clerk of the Board