Manitou Springs Mobility and Parking Board Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2025, 5:00 PM

Location: Memorial Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829, and via Zoom
Board Members Present: Cory Sutela (Chair), Karl Stang (Vice Chair), Pamela Smith, Luke Harper Prince
Board Members Excused: Rolf Jacobson, Bill Koerner, Joy Porter
Staff and Liaisons Present: Natalie Johnson (City Council Liaison), John Crawford (Mobility and Parking Director), James Kelemen (Mobility and Parking Supervisor), Ben Schmidt (City Engineer)

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1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair Cory Sutela.
- Quorum was established with Cory Sutela, Karl Stang, Pamela Smith, and Luke Harper Prince present.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

- Roll call confirmed the presence of Cory Sutela, Karl Stang, Pamela Smith, and Luke Harper Prince.
- Excused absences: Rolf Jacobson, Bill Koerner, Joy Porter.

3. Introduction of New Staff and Guests

- **John Crawford, Mobility and Parking Director**:
    - Background: 24 years in parking and mobility, starting with ferry services in North Carolina, followed by roles in parking management, including four years as Parking Manager for Colorado Springs.
    - Vision: Excited to integrate various mobility systems with parking solutions to meet the board's goals and bring innovative solutions to Manitou Springs.
    - No questions from the board; welcomed by Chair Sutela.

- **Jenna Gallas, Executive Director, Visit Manitou Springs**:
    - Background: Eight years as Event Manager with Visit Manitou Springs, recently appointed as Executive Director.
    - Remarks: Expressed enthusiasm for collaborating with the MAP Board to enhance community events and mobility.
    - Chair Sutela welcomed her input and encouraged ongoing participation in MAP Board meetings.
- **Ben Schmidt, City Engineer**:
    - Background: Grew up in Manitou Springs, with experience in oil and gas, transportation, city engineering, and multimodal projects.
    - Vision: Emphasized incorporating bike and pedestrian infrastructure into city projects, aligning with the community's advocacy for multimodal access.
    - Chair Sutela noted the synergy of new staff across streets, traffic engineering, and mobility functions, expressing excitement for collaborative efforts.

4. Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Karl Stang to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Pamela Smith.
- Approved unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Discussion on April 2025 minutes:
  - Karl Stang requested two amendments:
    1. Pike Ride update (page 5) should note increased ridership due to additional stations and hubs, not just favorable weather, compared to March of the previous year.
    2. Mountain Metro report should correct references to "James" to "Jacob" as the presenter.
  - James Kelemen confirmed these changes could be made.
- Motion by Karl Stang to approve the April 2025 minutes with the noted changes, seconded by Pamela Smith.
- Approved unanimously.

6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- No public comments were received, either in-person or online.

7. City Council Liaison Report

- **Natalie Johnson, City Council Liaison**:
  - Congratulated the board on the 20 mph speed limit initiative, noting staff's progress on addressing El Paso near the ball field.
  - Clarified that the URA area is not a CDOT road, which may have implications for future planning.
  - Announced new street signs being installed to improve navigation.
  - Highlighted transit updates:
    - Route 3 bus will be free starting in September 2025, with three buses reducing wait times to approximately 10 minutes, extending to downtown Colorado Springs.
    - Route 33 will add a third bus in summer 2026, eliminating Route 36, to maintain service frequency with the extended route to the Dillon Mobility Hub.

- Noted discussions on a downtown Residential Parking Permit (RPP) adjustment, allowing parking from 5 PM instead of 7 PM and extending stays until 9 AM. This may bypass MAP Board review but members can provide input at council meetings.
- Karl Stang thanked the council for the speed limit and free Route 3, suggesting a joint MAP Board-Council session to clarify roles. Natalie Johnson committed to raising this with the mayor.
- Chair Sutela emphasized promoting Route 3 to reduce parking demand, suggesting partnerships with the Chamber.
- John Crawford noted the potential to use underutilized Colorado Springs parking garages for events, with shuttle services via Route 3.

8. Goal Review

- **Goal 1: Develop Scope for Micro-Mobility and Bike/Ped Master Plan**
  - Discussions with John Crawford ongoing to define the scope and issue an RFP for a consultant. Budget allocated; action expected soon as new staff settle.
- **Goal 2: Collaborate on Bike to School/Walk to School Day**
  - Supported May Bike to School Day; Potential for August community events (e.g., Day of Friendship).
- **Goal 3: Regular Feedback with Mountain Metro**
  - Progress made with last month's presentation; good communication established.
- **Goal 4: Update RPP**
  - On pause to allow new staff to acclimate; to be revisited later in 2025, possibly by August.

9. Staff Presentations

- **Pike Ride Update (James Kelemen)**:
  - Increased ridership in April 2025 compared to April 2024, attributed to additional stations and favorable weather.
  - Higher transactions and revenue in paid parking noted.
  - Two Pike Ride stations from Fields Park to be relocated to the Dillon Mobility Hub, maintaining a station at Lulu's.
- **Mountain Metro Update (James Kelemen)**:
  - No specific data questions; Karl Stang suggested correlating Route 33 ridership with weather as a potential analysis.
- **SeeClickFix Report (James Kelemen)**:
  - 10 requests in April, all resolved, primarily vehicle parking complaints in RPP areas.
  - One work order completed to clear debris from rear diagonal parking spaces on the 500 block of Manitou Avenue.
- **Infrastructure Updates (James Kelemen)**:
  - City Council approved:
    - Rate increase in the 400 block of Manitou Avenue from $2 to $5 for all-day parking.
    - $5 all-day parking rate for the Dillon Mobility Hub.
    - 40-cent convenience fee for mobile pay transactions.
  - Proposed special event rate (up to $20) for visitors, separate from vendor rates, to simplify parking during events. Feedback sought:
    - Jenna Gallas noted the $8/day vendor rate for events like Coffin Races works well, reserving significant spaces (600-1000 blocks). Suggested tiered pricing for attendees (higher closer to downtown) to manage demand.
    - John Crawford clarified vendor rates support event logistics (e.g., loading zones) and proposed visitor rates aim to simplify parking for attendees.

        - Karl Stang supported tiered pricing to encourage carpooling and alternative transport, noting limited curb space.
        - Chair Sutela emphasized clear messaging to set expectations and encourage non-car options.
        - Discussion on preventing event organizers from buying all spaces at low rates (50 cents/hour) for resale; John confirmed monitoring through the special event process limits this.
        - Proposal to be discussed at a City Council work session in the second week of June 2025.

10. Requested Updates

- **Ruxton Plans**: No new updates; James Kelemen to follow up for the next meeting.

11. Mountain Metro Route Changes

- **Current Route 33**: Pickup/drop-off at Hiawatha Gardens Lot and Cog Railway bus stop.
- **Proposed Changes (effective September 26 or 28, 2025)**:
    - Route 33 will no longer serve Hiawatha Gardens Lot, instead traveling down Manitou Avenue, turning left onto Garden of the Gods Place, stopping at Fields Park, and picking up at the Dillon Mobility Hub (initially on-street, later within the lot).
    - Two downtown stops planned for visitor convenience.
    - Route 36 to be eliminated; third bus added to Route 33 in summer 2026 to maintain service frequency.
    - Peak season extended to March-October based on ridership.
- **Dillon Mobility Hub**:
    - Opens June 16, 2025, with paid parking, Pike Ride stations, and public bike racks.
    - Temporary layout until final phase (2-3 years out); buses will not enter the lot until then, requiring transfers from Route 36 to Route 33 at Hiawatha until fall 2025.
    - Marketing plan in development, including ribbon-cutting event.

    - Historic Dillon Motel sign's future unclear; no removal plans known.

- **Concerns**:
    - Luke Harper Prince emphasized marketing the route change to incline users via Colorado Springs and Incline Friends, as the reservation system lacks enforcement but limits access.
    - Karl Stang noted potential underutilization of the Dillon lot until the new Route 33 is in place, suggesting incentives (e.g., "Manitou bucks") to encourage use during the transition.
    - John Crawford confirmed early service (5:58 AM start) for incline users and coordination with Colorado Springs for marketing.

12. Board Correspondence

- No board correspondence raised.

13. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Karl Stang, seconded by Luke Prince.
- Meeting adjourned unanimously at approximately 6:32 PM.