

Minutes for SCITT Governing Board Meeting
January 29, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Zoom only, <https://csupueblo.zoom.us/j/6214223110>

Members:

Ms. Kari Gonzales (Chair), Ms. Ann Rajewski (Vice Chair)
Dr. Dave Lehmpuhl, Ms. Kat Papenbrock, Ms. Lisa Staes, Mr. Nick Hinrichsen (absent), Mr. Ruben Pena, Ms. Sara Cassidy, Dr. Steve Cohn, Ms. Wendy Martinez (absent) (alphabetically).

SCITT Director: Dr. Md Rashad Islam

Invited Guests: Mr. Michael McMaster, Mr. Armando Valdez, Dr. Elena Sidorova, Dr. Saqib Gulzar.

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Dr. Islam.

- 1) Approval of Meeting Minutes for 2024/10/30 – Ms. Gonzales
 - a. Ms. Gonzales asked if there were any comments or changes that needed to be made to the October 30th minutes. There were none.
 - b. Motion to approve: First – David Lehmpuhl, Second – Ann Rajewski
 - c. All members motioned in approval for the minutes of this meeting.
- 2) New Business – Dr. Islam
 - a. Revision of Bylaws; Dr. Islam and Mr. McMaster will be taking in all members concerns regarding the bylaws within the following months, having them addressed and revised. Then these possible changes will be discussed and approved in the next meeting. During this meeting (1/29/2025), Mr. McMaster answered some questions that came up regarding the bylaws and its specific language.
 - b. State/Annual Training; this was held the previous year but not in 2024. This training is mandatory so Dr. Islam asked Mr. McMaster if he would hold training during the next meeting on May 14th. Any make-up time will be scheduled as needed.
 - c. State Funding; Senator Hinrichsen informed Colorado State University Pueblo's System Office via email that state funding is not a good idea for next year.
- 3) 2025 Budget – Dr. Islam and Ms. Gonzales
 - a. This budget is from July 2024 to June 2025.
 - b. Dr. Islam presented the budget to the board and explained in detail where funds are being sourced and allocated. For this year, a large portion of funding is coming from Colorado State University Pueblo, and next year's budget will include more funding from the grants and less from the University.
 - c. Mr. Valdez spoke about the University's aim of finding more grants and state funding for SCITT's operations moving forward.
 - d. Mr. Pena suggested the institution look for some rail-related bills passed last year that he believes would be relevant in providing more funding to SCITT, and for the board to create a subcommittee which works on finding funding for the institution.

- e. The board discussed the recent pause in federal grant funding. The board concluded that the budget is acceptable as it is, however, spending should be cautious and if there is any political changes another meeting will be scheduled to discuss any changes as they relate to SCITT.
 - f. Motion to approve: First – David Lehmpuhl, Second – Ruben Pena. All members motioned in approval for 2025 Budget.
- 4) Update and Ongoing Activities – Dr. Islam
- a. Ms. Wendy Martinez from the Office of Economic Development has joined the governing board.
 - b. Continuation of three active research projects; Climate Change and Extreme Events, Seatbelt Monitoring and Violation Reduction, and Wildlife Collision (through School of Engineering).
 - c. Several grants under contract processing currently; Railway Division CRISI Grant, Hydrogen Refueling, Workforce Development for Railway Industry, and new CRISI Grant. With the new memo from the government, these contracts are at risk. Dr. Islam explained a little more about these projects to the board.
 - d. Two grants being submitted by end of January; National Summer Transportation Institute, and Comprehensive Risk Assessment of Transportation Infrastructure in Pueblo, CO. These projects are being led by SCITT staff member Dr. Saqib Gulzar.
 - e. Dr. Islam is preparing contracts in hopes of recruiting two more faculty member to work on the grant projects, however he will be cautious due to the recent federal funding memo.
 - f. SCITT attended the Transportation Research Board annual meeting.
 - g. SCITT regularly attends the City of Pueblo Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) meetings which are held monthly.
 - h. SCITT has been maintaining and updating the website and other social media platforms.
 - i. From the Climate Change grant, SCITT will be hosting the Southern Colorado Transportation Conference (SCTC) again on October 6th, 2025.
 - j. Regarding Academics, the undergraduate certificate in transportation engineering has been approved for CSU-Pueblo campus. This program still needs final approval from the state, and then promotion and advertisement for it may begin.
- 5) Next Meeting Schedule – Ms. Gonzales and Dr. Islam
- a. Next meeting on May 14th, 2025 at 11:00 am.
 - b. Strategic Planning meeting to be held after (tentative in August)
- 6) Action Items – Ms. Gonzales and Dr. Islam
- a. Dr. Islam will report changes to the current budget, if any
 - b. Dr. Islam will propose the next budget (2026 Fiscal Year)
 - c. Mr. McMaster will hold a training session during the next meeting (05/14/25)
- 7) Public Comments
- a. No public comments were made during this meeting.
- 8) Meeting Close – Dr. Islam and Ms. Rajewski
- a. Motion to approve: First – David Lehmpuhl, Second – Steve Cohn. All members have motioned in approval for the closing of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.