



## **Meeting Minutes for SCITT Governing Board Meeting**

**11/5/2025 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM**

Zoom only, <https://csupueblo.zoom.us/my/md.islam>

### **Members:**

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

**SCITT Director:** Dr. Md Rashad Islam, PE

**Invited Guests:** Mr. Michael McMaster, Interim President Rico Munn, Dr. Gail Mackin, Dr. Saqib Gulzar, Dr. Elena Sidorova

### **1) Introduction**

Dr. Islam confirmed that a quorum was present and Ms. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Gonzales reviewed the agenda and requested approval of the previous meeting minutes. Dr. Cohn initiated the call to approve the minutes, and Ms. Staes seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **3) Update/discussion of activities**

Dr. Islam provided an overview of the research, academic programs, and outreach initiatives at the Institute.

- SCITT has completed all tasks under the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)-funded Climate Change and Extreme Event Training and Research (CCEETR) program, which supported the two Southern Colorado Transportation Conferences. This project will conclude in December 2025.
- The wildlife collision project funded by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is nearing completion in December 2025.
- The seat belt violation project funded by the Colorado State Patrol will continue through 2027. In Monument, a camera has been installed, and the project team is actively recording data.
- A grant funded by the Department of Labor began three months ago. Under this grant, SCITT will develop three training programs: Road Materials, scheduled to start in Spring; and two others-Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics, originally planned for fall but targeted to begin in summer.

- SCITT is also working on two hydrogen technology development grants, one with the FRA and the other with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Both grants are still waiting to arrive, and SCITT is in communication with agency representatives.
- Academic programs are progressing well. The Baccalaureate Certificate in Transportation Engineering launched in Fall 2025 has five students enrolled. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Transportation Engineering and the Master of Science in Civil Engineering have been approved by the Colorado State University System Board of Governors and are currently under review by the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Both programs are expected to start in fall 2026.
- The FRA workforce development grant led by Ms. Staes is advancing successfully, supporting activities such as middle- and high-school programs, college senior projects, and master's theses.

Dr. Islam discussed outreach activities and planning for the Southern Colorado Transportation Conference (SCTC) 2026.

- SCITT representatives have visited all high schools in Pueblo Districts 60 and 70 to promote ongoing and upcoming programs. Several middle schools were also visited, and plans are underway to expand outreach to the Colorado Springs area.
- The second annual Southern Colorado Transportation Conference was held in October 2025 and attracted 253 attendees, including 93 high school students.
- Dr. Islam addressed funding for the next conference and suggested reaching out to CDOT and the City of Pueblo for potential partnerships. Ms. Gonzales recommended leveraging the university's annual conference to reduce costs and increase attendance. She also advised to check with MxV Rail's University Day and ENSCO's TTC Conference as an option.
- Dr. Lehmpuhl and Dr. Mackin discussed financial implications and potential sponsorship opportunities. Dr. Mackin emphasized the need to secure sponsors due to limited funding from Colorado State University Pueblo (CSU Pueblo).
- Dr. Islam proposed introducing a registration fee and exploring partnerships as strategies to cover costs and support planning for the upcoming conference.

#### **4) Strategic Plan Discussion**

Dr. Islam shared the draft of the SCITT strategic plan and invited feedback from members.

- Dr. Islam shared Ms. Martinez's comment via email that sponsorship was not mentioned and might fit nicely with corporate partnerships (underwriting for events/programming in addition to traditional partnerships, logo placements in exchange, etc.). She also advised creating a fundraising committee for board members to assist and an Ad Hoc committee to help with goals; fundraising, developing programming, etc.
- Ms. Rajewski emphasized the importance of including transit and multimodal transportation topics in the plan. She also proposed organizing a stakeholder meeting first (before creating subcommittee) to identify needs within Colorado's transportation industry.
- Ms. Gonzales recommended finalizing the document through a series of revisions and approvals.

- Dr. Cohn suggested prioritizing certain goals and ensuring alignment with SCITT's broader mission. He also shared many more comments via email and Dr. Islam agreed to address them in the revised version.
- Ms. Staes shared her experience with similar initiatives in Florida and offered to provide resources and connections.
- Dr. Cohn suggested collaborating with Colorado Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) for statewide outreach.
- Dr. Islam recommended establishing a subcommittee focused on fundraising and exploring partnerships with the CSU Pueblo Foundation.
- Ms. Gonzales proposed granting a one-week extension for additional feedback on the strategic plan. She then suggested voting on the feedback, and Mr. Michael McMaster recommended conducting the vote during a meeting rather than by email.

### **5) Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 28, 2026, and will focus on finalizing the strategic plan and reviewing next year's budget.

### **6) Action Items**

Members agreed on several follow-up actions that Dr. Islam will -

- 1) address the reviews and feedback on the strategic plan and distribute the members for further discussion and/or approval during the next meeting.
- 2) follow up with MxV Rail, ENSCO Inc. and others about next year's conference to help offset costs.
- 3) follow up with Ms. Staes about the collaboration strategies her Institute has been following.
- 4) hold a statewide to identify needs within Colorado's transportation community
- 5) follow up with LTAP group in Colorado to learn more and to see how to leverage
- 6) present the FY 2027 budget at the next meeting.

### **7) Public Comments and Adjournment**

No public comments were made.

Ms. Rajewski moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Cohn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.