

## **South-Central and Northwest Tour**

---

***South-Central and Northwest tour.*** During the committee's South-Central and Northwest tour, the committee traveled over 750 miles and traversed over six mountain passes: Hoosier, Vail, Dunckley, Ripple Creek, Rabbit Ears, and Berthoud. In addition, the committee undertook the following activities:

- transportation stakeholder meetings in Colorado Springs and Craig;
- a tour of the Transportation Technology Center, Inc., facilities in Pueblo;
- an en route tour of the Flat Tops Scenic Byway;
- a tour of a Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Maintenance Facility in Meeker; and
- en route tours of various highways.

***Stakeholder meetings in Colorado Springs and Craig.*** The committee visited Colorado Springs and Craig to hear from transportation stakeholders in the regions. The committee heard about issues ranging from "the gap" on South I-25 from Castle Rock to Monument to rural transit, as well as Safe Routes to School and preferred transportation funding methods. In addition, the committee stopped in during the Northwest Transportation Planning Region's meeting on Thursday, October 26, in Steamboat Springs.

***Transportation Technology Center, Inc.*** The committee stopped at the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI), a 52-square mile research and testing facility located 21 miles north of Pueblo. TTCI is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads that conducts research, testing, and safety standard specification for the international railway industry, as well as emergency response training. The committee toured the facility's rail dynamics laboratories, test tracks, security and emergency response training center, and transportation security services areas.

***Flat Tops Scenic Byway.*** The committee toured the Flat Tops Scenic Byway, an 82-mile byway between Yampa and Meeker that crosses through the Flat Tops Wilderness and climbs over two of Colorado's least-traveled passes: Dunckley and Ripple Creek. Colorado has 26 designated scenic byways. CDOT, directed by the Scenic and Historic Byways Commission, works with various local governments, federal and state agencies, local tourism groups, and private citizens and businesses to develop byways that have scenic, ecological, cultural, and historic attributes.

***CDOT Maintenance Facility – Meeker.*** Committee members received a tour of the workings of a CDOT maintenance facility in Meeker. The committee learned about snowplow operations on the western slope and about specific pieces of equipment used at the facility.

***En route highway tour.*** Throughout the tour, the committee traveled on the following roads:

- Interstate 25 between Denver and Pueblo;
- US 50 between Pueblo and Canon City;
- State Highway 9 from US 50 to Interstate 70;
- Interstate 70 between Frisco and Wolcott;
- State Highway 131 between Interstate 70 and Yampa;
- the Flat Tops Scenic Byway;
- State Highway 13 from Meeker to 10 miles north of Craig;

- US 40 from Craig to Empire; and
- Interstate 70 from Empire to Denver.

By traveling the roads listed above, the committee had the opportunity to experience their conditions and learn about the specific issues faced on various sections of the roads. The committee specifically traveled on State Highway 13 north of Craig, the only road connection between Interstate 70 and Interstate 80 on the western slope, to hear about the issues of truck travel and safety between Craig and Baggs, Wyoming.