

**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 3, 2025**  
**9:00am**

**Location of Meeting:**

Village of Chama Chamber, 1512 State Road 17, Chama, New Mexico

The regular meeting of the Commission of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad was called to order at 9:02am by Chairman Billy Elbrock.

Present at Meeting: Commissioner Billy Elbrock, Commissioner Scott Gibbs, Commissioner Smith Casford, Commissioner Graybill. Commissioner Elbrock determined a quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for the meeting was distributed. Commissioner Smith Casford requested that Item 6-7 be switched in order, and that the presentation of the audit be tabled. Commissioner Gibbs made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Graybill. Approved 4/0.

**Approval of Minutes from Regular Commission Meeting on February 15, 2025:** The minutes of the February 15, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting were distributed via email. A motion was made by Commissioner Graybill to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2025 meeting and, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs. Approved 4/0.

**Superintendent's Report:** Attached as Addendum A

**Marketing Report:** Attached as Addendum B

**Financial Report:** Attached as Addendum C

**General Managers Report/Summary:** Attached as Addendum D

**Local Affairs Report:** Attached as Addendum E

**Capital Projects Report:** Attached as Addendum F

**Tracks Across Borders Byway Report:** Attached as Addendum G

**Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Report:** Attached as Addendum H

**New Business:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Graybill and seconded by Commissioner Smith Casford to approve the FY25 Commission Budget. Commissioner Gibbs: yes; Commissioner Smith Casford: yes; Commissioner Graybill: yes; Commissioner Elbrock yes. Approved 4/0

**Old Business:** none presented

**Public Input:** none

**Executive Session:** Chairman Elbrock announced there was no need for an Executive Session

**Actions following Executive Session:** no Executive Session

**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Graybill, seconded by Commissioner Smith Casford.  
Approved 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on Saturday, August 2, 205 at 9:00 am, Antonito, CO, location to be determined.**

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**Kim Smith Casford, Secretary**

## **Superintendent's Report: Marvin Casias**

The railroad has experienced significant developments this winter. The passenger cars are nearly ready for the opening day, with plans to move these cars across on the 21st (a trainset to Chama). There is ongoing work on the new coach (526), addressing some siding issues, and painting is scheduled for next week. Equipment for brush cutting has been prepared, with Mark from forestry set to commence brush cutting at mile post 295.3, progressing westward until funds are depleted. The entire track is operational, although rocks were a primary concern. There is minimal snow on the road to Osier, which will be cleared by Monday or Tuesday to allow the road to dry out and subsequent work to begin at Osier.

A substantial quantity of motor car parts has been sourced from Texas, with the final load available for retrieval next month, adding two more vehicles to the fire force. The brush cutting team will be onsite next Wednesday, with equipment staged at mile post 305. The team will camp there to monitor the equipment overnight, and on weekends, the equipment will be stored in Antonito for security. A night watchman may be required at the staging area.

Regarding trackside activities, phone booths have been relocated for the friends, and a section of track has been constructed at the CRF. The fire plan has been developed and communicated with the forest service, pending further action on the Long Creek culvert repair to determine the railroad's involvement.

Locomotives: The FRA was in town last week, and all boiler inspections were satisfactory. Some running gear work remains, which will take time, but several locomotives should be ready for the opening day. There is considerable interest in the status of locomotive 114 (the diesel from Alaska); the oil cooler and water pump installation will occur shortly, followed by a complete electronics test, with the objective of operational readiness soon to facilitate ballast movement.

Commissioner Graybill noted that Colorado provided \$500,000 in funding for fire mitigation, expected to be completed around June 15-20, with all final efforts to conclude by year-end. GM Beaudette highlighted that the boilers are over 100 years old. Commissioner Gibbs expressed gratitude to Marvin for his cooperation with the Rio Grande and Carson national forests regarding fire mitigation plans. Marvin acknowledged the collective efforts of several railroad members to accomplish this task.

Partial transcription by Sam Seiber



## **CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD**

### **May 3, 2025, MARKETING CTO/COMMISSION REPORT**

Prepared April 28, 2025, by Abigail Martinez (Marketing Manager)

#### **EMAIL CAMPAIGN**

A few email campaigns have been sent out highlighting the upcoming 2025 train season. I will continue to send out highlighting some of the NEW special offerings we have for the season as well as VOTE reminders for USA Today's Best Scenic Train Contest.

#### **MEDIA PLANNING AND BUYING**

##### **2025 Media Plan**

The goal of the media plan is to reach all segments of our target audience in an effort to generate high ticket sales for the season. Our target audiences include travel/visitors, regional areas visitors, local residents and train enthusiasts. Geographically, we are targeting specific markets including Albuquerque, other areas of New Mexico, Colorado Springs, Pagosa Springs, the Four Corners area, and Texas. We have an increased emphasis in 2025 on the Pagosa Springs area as well as Texas.

New tactics on our plan in 2025 include video advertising on the Belen-Santa Fe Rail Runner commuter train. We will have video running in train cars and at the station displays. We have added senior advertising and event participation in Albuquerque, Colorado Springs and the Colorado Western Slope. We've added additional support to run with geo-targeted digital online advertising in Pagosa Springs during the summer months to reach visitors in the area. We have also moved our effort with Colorado Tourism to run with a programmatic online campaign using their 1<sup>st</sup> party data in place of video ads running in the state Welcome Centers.

We have been steadily increasing our digital media and in 2025, we have 47.4% running in digital tactics including online programmatic (display banners and pre-roll video), social, e-newsletters, media website advertising, paid search and CTV. Where available, our placements with local media has been moved from print to digital. Other media tactics in place for 2025 include TV, radio, promotions, out-of-home, and print.

#### **DIGITAL MARKETING**

##### **Digital Programmatic Buy- Q1 Media**

Our digital programmatic buy launched April 1<sup>st</sup>. Below are metric for YTD

- Impressions delivered: 982,626
- Clicks: 10,607
- Purchases: 78
  - Top converting platform is Google ads with a total of **36 purchases**

- Followed by Meta/Instagram with a total of **19 purchases**
  - Display – Site Retargeting with a total of **16 purchases**
- Meta/Instagram ad engagements so far:
  - Page engagement: 5,762
  - Post reactions: 1,180
  - Post comments: 42
  - Post shares: 151
  - Post Saves: 103
  - Facebook follows or likes: 34

The campaign overall is ramping up and pacing very well! We are expecting conversions (purchases) to increase as the campaign progresses. Optimizations are being made to help boost conversions. We have added our special 168 Dinner and Wine and 168 Dinner & Beer trains into the overall digital marketing strategy and sales for those trains are steadily selling already.

## PR & SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

From January 1 - April 25, 2022, the C&TSRR had:

- 70 known media placements, worth an estimated \$4.6 million.
- Key placements that fueled these results were *The New York Times* March 13 story [6 Spectacular North American Train Trips](#) which ran in multiple worldwide papers, and Colorado and New Mexico stories about the new season including on KOB-TV and KOAT-TV in Albuquerque, *Los Alamos Daily Post*, *Alamosa Citizen* and *Denver Gazette*.

## SOCIAL MEDIA - Facebook

- **73,361 Followers**

### Facebook Insights

Impressions ⓘ	Engagement Rate ⓘ	Total Engagement ⓘ	Change in Page Likes ⓘ
2,354,586	4.5%	107,022	239

*Note: According to AI, the benchmark for a good engagement rate for Dining/Hospitality/Tourism on Facebook is 0.9%*

## Most Popular Facebook Posts:



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic ...**  
Mar 12, 2025 12:00 PM

Volume up for the sweet sounds of #484 crossing Cascade during the



Clicks	Reactions	Comments
7511	12708	330
Shares	Reach	Impressions
1150	258831	264207



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic ...**  
Jan 4, 2025 12:00 PM

Thanks @betterbyrail for the "Quick Steam + Whistle edit of #484." No.



Clicks	Reactions	Comments
1469	2475	26
Shares	Reach	Impressions
119	48607	48904



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic ...**  
Jan 24, 2025 12:00 PM

Heading into the weekend, like....  
Video by: Roger Hogan



Clicks	Reactions	Comments
755	1860	29
Shares	Reach	Impressions
99	41336	41569



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic ...**  
Jan 17, 2025 12:00 PM

Did you know #463 was once owned by Gene Autry? In 1955,



Clicks	Reactions	Comments
1586	937	54
Shares	Reach	Impressions
82	31999	32030



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic ...**  
Apr 13, 2025 6:30 PM

A rare sight of a mid-train helper in the desolate high mountain desert



Clicks	Reactions	Comments
1024	1082	19
Shares	Reach	Impressions
54	28548	29660



**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic ...**  
Mar 28, 2025 10:01 AM

BOOK TODAY: August 13-17, 2025  
- A Historic Celebration 100 Years



Clicks	Reactions	Comments
818	733	16
Shares	Reach	Impressions
80	17356	18126

## SOCIAL MEDIA - Instagram

- 5,494 Instagram followers

**Views** ⓘ  
25,891

**Engagement Rate** ⓘ  
16.5%

**Total Engagement** ⓘ  
4,278

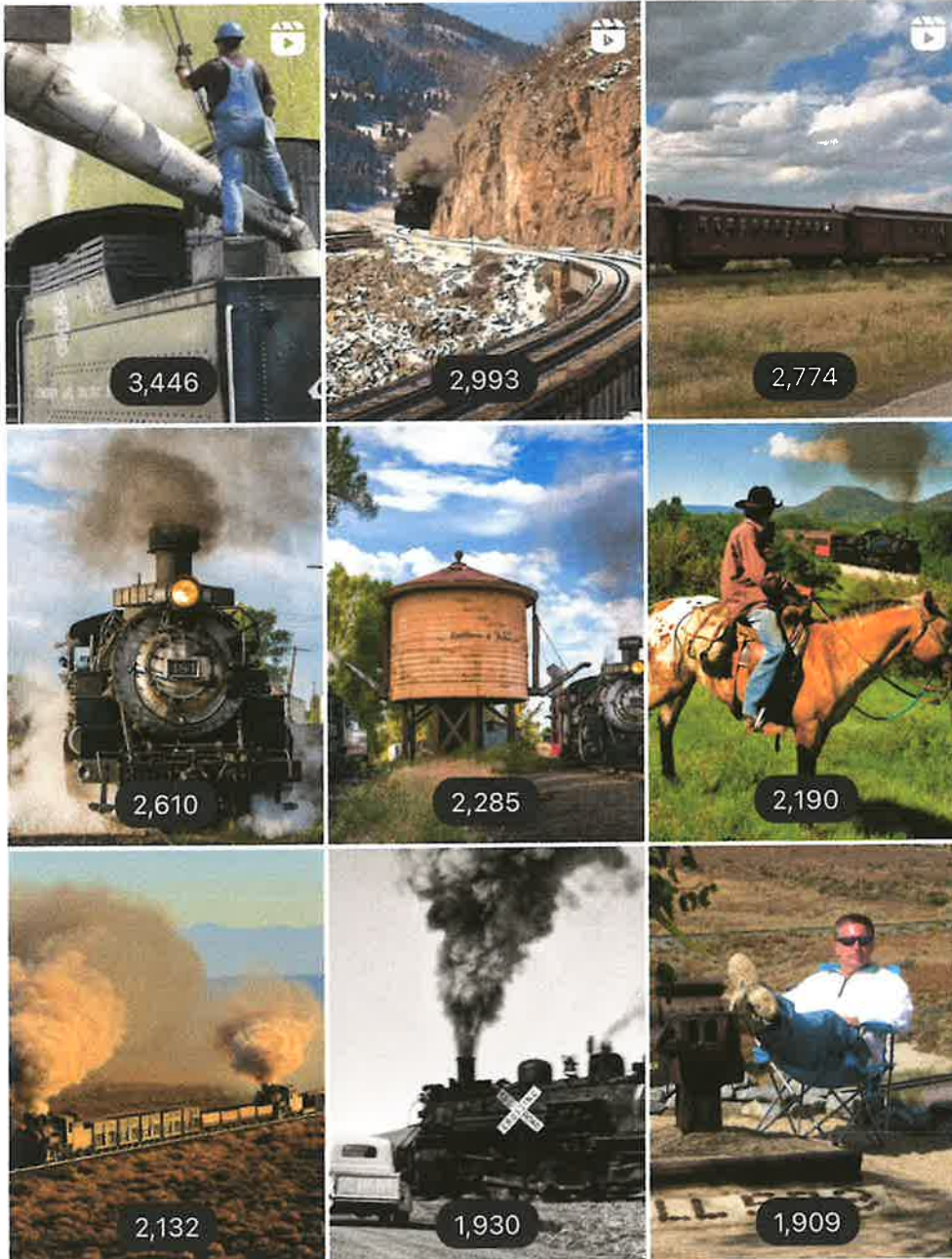
**Change in Followers** ⓘ  
45

*Note: According to AI, the benchmark for a good engagement rate for Dining/Hospitality/Tourism on Instagram is 1.9%*

**Most popular Instagram posts were:**



## Views



## WEBSITE

Website views are up YOY. In specific we are up **14.9%** YOY when it comes to NEW users. From the chart below you will see our international website users are down YOY.

Active users ▾ by Country



COUNTRY	ACTIVE USERS	
United States	74K	↑0.5%
United Kingdom	519	↓33.7%
Canada	420	↓47.4%
Germany	367	↓33.0%
China	318	↑335...
Hong Kong	252	↑1,83...
Australia	179	↓27.2%

[View countries](#) →

- Website updates coming in 2025:
  - A "how to book" video that hopefully will simplify our offerings.
  - An interactive map that guest can use to help explain various trip offerings.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- 2025 Brochures are available and include pricing. Distribution has started and I will personally be delivering them to local businesses in Chama and Antonito week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Kim and I attended a senior EXPO in Rio Rancho hosted by the Albuquerque Journal. There were about 300-375 attendants. About 90% of attendees had heard about C&T. Of the people who knew about us, about 85% had rode with us in the past. 129 entries were entered for a chance to win two tickets aboard.
- Cumbres & Toltec also attended the Rio Arriba County Day at the legislature in March 21<sup>st</sup>. This was the first year we had been invited to attend and host a booth. We did a ticket giveaway and distributed many of our reusable bags. A total of 206 entries were entered for a chance to win 2 tickets. We also received a business award for enduring serve and commitment in Rio Arriba County.





### **Summary:**

#### **HPA:**

The Balance Sheet of the HPA Fund shows Total Assets of approximately \$1.78 million, which represents an increase of about \$346K from prior year. This increase is primarily driven by the growth in Total Current Assets, specifically the intercompany Due To HPA, which accounts for the 7% HPF from ticket revenue in CTO. Total Liabilities have seen a minimal increase of \$10 compared to the prior year. Consequently, the Balance Sheet concludes with total Liabilities & Equity of \$1.728 million, marking an overall increase of \$346K from prior years.

Regarding the Profit and Loss Statement for the HPA Fund, we observe a rise in Total Income of \$5,685 compared to the previous year. This increase is attributed to the growth in the HPF derived from Operation Revenue. Notably, Total Expenses decreased significantly by approximately \$180K following the completion of the Historic Car Building's construction. As a result, the Net Income (NI) is approximately \$285K, reflecting an increase of \$185K from the prior year.

#### **Commission:**

The Balance Sheet of the Commission Fund shows Total Assets of approximately \$1.79 million, which represents an increase of about \$463K from prior year. This increase is primarily to the bank account balances and the intercompany transfers. Total liabilities have also increase from prior year of about \$147K, the increase is the intercompany due to the other intercompany. This concludes the balance sheet with total Liabilities and Equity of 1.790mil, a total increase of about \$463K from prior year. The Profit and Loss statement reflects an increase income of about \$23k from prior year – primarily from the license plate fee income and the increase in the General Fund Support from New Mexico. Total expense within the Commission Fund show a decrease of about \$182K from prior year. These decreases fall under payroll expenses of \$91K and professional fees of \$131k. The Commission's NOI and NI have increased from prior year.

#### **CTO:**

In review of the Operating company of the balance sheet, Total Assets have decreased of about \$300K. As you look at the balance sheet for the CTO LLC, you can see there has been some activity, such as decreasing the due froms (intercompany transfers), prepaid insurances, and inventories. Total Liabilities in CTO have increased of about \$389K, which is from the intercompany transfers as well. Total Liabilities and Equity have decreased about \$300K. The Profit and Loss statement for CTO reflects an increase of total Income of about \$51K from prior year, Operational Revenue has increased about \$27k from prior year, alcohol sales of about \$3k. Total Expenses have decreased about \$461K from prior year, we see this decrease in: Payroll Expenses, supplies and services, G&A, and utilities – Resulting in an increase in NOI and NI from prior year.

#### **Capital:**

Capital is busy around this time of year, currently APRA projects are completing the committed projects that were submitted at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Locomotive work and Passenger Car rehab are being expensed. As the beginning of the season approaches – track crew is beginning the track rehab.

*Alysia Martinez*

## **Addendum C**

## **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad**

### **General Manager Update**

**(29 April 2025)**

**General** – With the most of the winter work completed, activity has shifted throughout the railroad. During the 2024 regular season, there were 34,503 riders and the 2025 goal will be a 5% increase to 36,200. The Christmas trains carried nearly four thousand riders and we plan to increase it this year. Operations are now fully focused on startup work in preparation for the 2025 operating season. The Department reports provide more detail of the status of activities in each area.

**Railroad Operations** – Train operations throughout 2024 generally went well. Locomotives and rolling stock were reliable and relatively few challenges were encountered. Winter maintenance activity has been directed to preparing the locomotives, cars and when weather permits the track for a successful 2025 operating season. Heavy emphasis is being placed on running gear on some of the locomotives. Locomotive #463 had been heavily used and wear in the running gear had reached a point where it was used sparingly through the later part of the season. A partial rehab of the running gear to include replacement of the driver tires will be completed by mid-summer this winter. Locomotive #487 suffered a major breakdown and was out of service for the remainder of the season. It will be a major priority to be returned to service. Locomotive #489 is receiving wheel work, and the remaining locomotives are being prepared for the upcoming operating season. All locomotives and cars are undergoing mandated FRA inspections. A new coach nearing completion and will be put into operation. The track and

support structures are being prepared to support operations as weather permits. Preparation for the rehab of the Long Creek drainage system is under way.

**Business Operations** – Business Operations moved forward throughout the winter and there were relatively few problems. The Fare Harbor reservation system went live selling 2025 tickets and January and overall implementation went quite smoothly. The pricing has been increased to offset the reduced pricing experiment in 2024 and at present it is not known if this has a negative impact on ticket sales. The built-in report systems remain awkward for a complicated business such as the C&TS with demanding government reporting and audit requirements. Business analytics is problematic as well. Product pricing has been adjusted to improve overall revenue performance. The largest unknown facing the railroad remains the overall state of the economy. Recent activity from governmental actions and other factors has resulted in consumer confidence weakening and that will increase the challenge of selling tickets. Regular ticket sales went live in January and although slightly higher than 2024, appear to be roughly in line with historical patterns. Group sales are also slightly higher than last year at this time. Unfortunately, correlation with overall season performance has historically been weak, but at least ticket sales are taking place – particularly on-line.

Marketing efforts for 2025 are ongoing. Abi has presented a detailed review of where we stand currently. In 2023 we only carried 30.1K passengers during the regular season. Total ridership for the entire 2024 regular operating season was approximately 34.4K representing an improvement of roughly 13% over 2023. We are working hard to regain our core business performance as well as developing new products. The goal for 2025 is to grow regular season ridership by 5% to 36,200. Groups performance was good in 2024 and will be an

important part of the solution. Abi continues to explore many options that will return us to our path toward self-sustainability. Work is already underway to develop plans for improving performance of the 2025 Christmas trains.

Retail and On-Board operations have been generally successful. Kalee's report provides details of where we now stand. Call backs and recruiting of seasonal personnel succeeded initially in providing staffing required to support operations, however attrition resulted in less than adequate personnel strength than needed during the later part of the season. Planning for staffing needs is underway to avoid some of the challenges encountered in 2024. Human Resources continues to work diligently to support current and future staffing needs. Retail sales have been solid with special emphasis on maximizing net contribution to overall NOI.

**Financial** – The financial situation has improved somewhat from what it was a year ago. Three of Commission business elements remain quite healthy with solid balance sheets and P&L's. Unfortunately, CTO continues to be significantly weakened by lower than planned ridership since the pandemic. Alysia has provided a detailed look at each of the business elements in her report. Within CTO, the P&L for FY 24 showed a loss, although the magnitude of the loss was not as great as had been feared. In the meantime, a major effort continues to be placed on cash management and cost control.

Much of the CTO cost structure such as insurance, meal costs, motorcoach service and a variety of G&A and utility costs are not very flexible. While all expenditures have been carefully monitored, labor and marketing offer the biggest opportunities for potential cost savings to help manage cash flow. Efforts to reduce labor expenditures were successful and resulted in significant cost reductions over 2023.

Unfortunately, the opportunities for further reductions are small and there will be increasing upward pressure on labor costs this year. Unfortunately, insurance costs meal expenses continue to be high offsetting some of last year's gains in reducing labor expenses. Overall, we must continue to build our ridership and yield performance.

Financial performance in the Capital and Commission elements of the overall enterprise is solid. Particular emphasis on utilization of ARPA funds which are most perishable is being carefully monitored. At present, actual spending of these funds has reached over \$2M and the remainder is fully obligated. All the ARPA obligations were completed by year end as required. Locomotive WP&Y #114 is now in Antonito and is completing a locomotive controls upgrade before being placed in service. Other projects receiving major ARPA support include constructing a new coach, restoration of Locomotive #492 and permanent locomotive fuel oil supply systems. The goal is to utilize the total amount of the ARPA funding source as quickly as possible so as to gain the benefits provided. The special Colorado appropriation for fire mitigation project is moving forward and will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

**Government Affairs Activities** – In New Mexico we have completed the request and pre session hearing cycle for the current legislative season. This was challenging as the Capital Outlay implementation of BFM had not gone well and it has temporarily reverted to the older CPMS. As a non-participant in the state accounting system, there have been some challenges. We had two capital outlay projects for consideration by the legislature this year. They were the base request for \$1.275M and an additional request for \$820K for the rehabilitation of the Long Creek drainage culvert. Unfortunately, the amount appropriated for both projects was a total of \$1M. General Fund support for Commission

operations was requested that included an increase from \$380K to \$394K. This increased funding was approved.

In Colorado the major task had been to work on the next “Three Year Plan”. The financial situation in Colorado is entirely different than in New Mexico, where the state faced a \$1B or greater revenue shortfall. The combined Colorado operating and capital request has been a challenge as budget guidelines from the Governor severely restricted what could be requested. We initially requested additional funding to offset the inflationary cost increases encountered over the last three years. We will not receive this additional funding, however there is agreement in the Governor’s office that we should have an annual base and can therefore avoid the three-year plan challenges.

The Governor’s budget proposed that our funding support remain flat with the previous appropriations. The Colorado legislature recently completed its session. Fortunately, our significant lobbying efforts succeeded and we received full funding. Colorado has not solved its funding problems and we will likely have a similar challenge next year.

**Summary** – An enormous amount of work took place on the railroad during 2024 and the winter work period. While there were some challenges, operations as a whole were satisfactory. Our focus now has now shifted to preparation for the 2025 operating season. We have accomplished much and I am pleased and thankful that we have the right people in place to continue to make it happen.



## **Local Affairs: Commissioner Kim Smith Casford**

As the season starts, fire risks are a concern for everyone. The RR aims to minimize any issues. Extra trains are scheduled, including two dinner trains from Antonito, two geology trains, the Friends wine train, and the big 4th of July train from Chama. The village's major celebration includes RR participation. Opening day is May 31, delayed one week from May 24 due to graduations. There will be a display in the yard on the 24th, but no running trains. The communities agree with this decision. The season will end a week later to maintain the usual number of operating days.

Partial transcription by Sam Seiber

## **Capital Projects: Commissioner Scott Gibbs**

Commissioner Gibbs acknowledged Colorado and New Mexico for their capital funding contributions, which facilitate employment during winter projects. NM is providing approximately \$1 million, while CO is contributing slightly more. Both governors have signed the appropriation bills, and this funding will assist significantly as the RR transitions into its next fiscal year on July 1.

Commissioner Gibbs noted the new coach (526) and commented on its impressive appearance, expressing a desire to ride it. Marvin mentioned Long Creek, where there is a culvert that needs replacement, costing approximately \$800,000. Without fixing the culvert, the RR faces the risk of being divided. The repair costs will be covered by the capital budget, consuming a substantial portion of the available funds this year. It is identified as a critical project.

Partial transcription by Sam Seiber

## **Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway (TABB): John Porco**

The TABB has been actively engaged since the last meeting. A new trifold brochure has been developed to replace the previous rack card used for several years. The D&S funded the production of the new trifold, which features an improved map and includes a QR code for downloading the self-guided phone application. Appreciation is extended to the C&T for providing the application.

TABB is currently working on launching its new sponsorship program in hopes of attracting new businesses and organizations to support its initiatives. Plans include the addition of new signage and other projects. A new sign will be installed at Juanita once the weather permits, and another border sign will be placed at County Road 551 (Navajo to Dulce), with the county handling the installation as requested by the state.

The byway is being promoted at various train shows, such as the one in Colorado Springs, as well as the Rocky Mountain Train Show in Denver. We are grateful to the Friends for allowing TABB to share their booth in Denver. Additionally, TABB participated in Narrow Gauge Days in Durango yesterday.

The replacement of the stock cars in Dulce remains unresolved, although discussions have been held with the RV park in Chama regarding their stock cars, which currently appear to be the best option in relatively good condition. TABB conducts monthly meetings, and appreciation is expressed for the support received from the RR, the D&S, and the Friends.

Commissioner Gibbs thanked John for the new sign at Navajo Reservoir. John noted that the sign was funded by CO. A consistent source of funding would significantly aid future planning efforts, as current funding is obtained through requests. Additional signage is desired for CO & NM, particularly the Continental Divide marker on US 64/84, which needs replacement. TABB has been collaborating with NM on this effort.

Partial transcription by Sam Seiber



## *Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway*

*555 Loma Vista Court  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147*

*[www.tracksacrossborders.org](http://www.tracksacrossborders.org)*

Greetings: The Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway connects Durango, CO and Chama, NM. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of the Colorado-New Mexico border region. More than just a road, this scenic byway offers a journey through time, weaving together stories of ancient civilizations, Native American traditions, early Hispano settlers, and railroad pioneers, all set against breathtaking landscapes.

At its heart lies the legacy of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW), which once connected remote communities and fueled the West's expansion. At each end of the Byway, travelers can ride the historic rails of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, once part of the longer D&RGW route that the Byway follows. The byway passes through the ancestral lands of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the historic Hispano churches of Tiffany and Juanita, and natural wonders like Navajo Lake and Chimney Rock National Monument. We invite you to help us preserve and share this history through our annual sponsorship program. Details are attached.


Your support will contribute to:

- Enhancing scenic byway signage and educational kiosks
- Developing historical exhibits and educational programs
- Supporting sustainable tourism and local businesses
- Improving visitor services and accessibility
- Production and distribution of interpretive brochures

**Join us in keeping this journey through 800 years of Southwestern history alive!**

**If you are interested in learning more about the Byway or the sponsorship program, please contact our Executive Director, John Porco, at 970-946-2684.**

Sincerely,

  
John Bush  
President

*A Bi-State Byway connecting Durango, CO and Chama, NM.*



## Report to the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission

Date: May 3, 2025

Please accept the following report as presented at the C&TS Railroad Commission meeting in Chama on Saturday May 3, 2025.

**\* Friends work sessions registrations:** As of April 18<sup>th</sup>. Registrations have been light so far.

Session SS1: 3 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Session A: 15 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>

Session B: 7 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Session SS2: 1 Start Date: June 7<sup>th</sup> (Contract)

Session C: 43 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: June 16<sup>th</sup>

Session D: 28 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Session SS4: 1 Start Date: July 1<sup>st</sup> (Contract)

Session E: 11 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: July 28<sup>th</sup>

Session F: 11 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: August 4<sup>th</sup>

Session G: 14 Volunteer Sign-ups Start Date: September 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **\*Docents:**

Rich Muth, our long-time existing Docent Team Leader, has retired. Thank you, Rich, for all your work! This position has been assumed by John Porco, and Tom Stewart as co-leads.

**Returning Registered Docents This Season so far = 14** (Already had Sensitivity Training)

**New Registered Docents This Season = 2** (Sensitivity Training will be done before duty)

**Docents that qualify for Complimentary Free rides = 18**

### **\*Memberships:**

The Friends' current membership total is 1,815.

In the reporting period Jan-Mar we had 28 new members, (3 from social media, 3 from train shows, 22 other sources), Renewing memberships = 82

**\*Friends outreach activity:** We are focusing on creating fresh content on our web site, Facebook, YouTube, Dispatch Extra (electronic), Dispatch print magazine, Railroad publication advertisements, and a larger participation at more train shows. The Friends are working to coordinate / cross link all their electronic and print messaging. As a result, web site activity for the First quarter is up over 15%. Facebook is up by 3%. YouTube viewing has increased. We have print copies available of the Friends Complementary 8.5 x 11 8-page color Special Dispatch from the printer that promotes both the Friends and the C&TS RR.

**\*QUESTION:** Can the C&TSRR web site cross link / feature some Friends activity? We feature / link to the C&TSRR on our web site. This would assist us in recruiting new members, volunteers, and docents.

**\*Web Camera System at Chama** has been down due to vintage hardware that has failed. We are working to get a Band-Aid fix quickly applied with scavenged parts. An all-new webcam viewing system is in the works, the parts are on order.

**\*Special Charter Trains:**

This year the Friends have (3) Special Charter Trains planned.

Members Train with an afternoon BBQ, followed by a train ride to Cumbres and return will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Moonlight & Wine Train featuring New Mexico wines, catered dinner at Osier, and a moon lit return ride, will be on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Fall After Season Photo Charter Train features (2) back-to-back days of a vintage C&TSRR train set, many run-by shots at various iconic locations running from Chama to Antonito, and return; will be held on October 26 & October 27.

**\*Board of Directors Elections:**

This year The Friends will have (7) existing Directors that have agreed to serve another term. They are Jim Herron, Bill Lock, John Ferrell, Ian Kelly, Tom Stewart, and Steven Jorgensen. The non-returning Director is Frank Higgins. The required Ballot mailing will be going out in May.

**\*HPCC and Commission meetings:**

The next HPCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday August 1<sup>st</sup>; and the next Commission Meeting scheduled for Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Antonito, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted by Rick Marsden, President/ Executive Director



**C&TSRR-Commission**  
**Budget: Fiscal Year 2025-2026**  
July 2025 - June 2026

	<u>Total</u>
<b>Income</b>	
40000 Grants, Appropriations, Public	674,000.00
48000 Other Income	22,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$ 696,500.00</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>\$ 696,500.00</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
62000 Payroll Expenses	113,400.00
62700 Insurance	390,000.00
63700 Building Maintenance	1,500.00
64000 Supplies & Services	0.00
66010 Professional Fees	74,500.00
68000 General & Administrative	4,300.00
68300 Rent	1,200.00
76200 Utilities	9,200.00
76300 Travel & Meetings	1,400.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 595,500.00</u>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<u>\$ 101,000.00</u>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	
92000 Transfer out of Commission	101,000.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 101,000.00</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>\$ (101,000.00)</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>\$ -</u>