

## **Susan Juergensmeier Joins NWCCOG as Mobility Manager**

NWCCOG would like to introduce Susan Juergensmeier as the new Mobility Manager for the NW Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC). She began her position on July 16th. Susan will be working closely with both the RTCC membership, veterans transportation task force, state Medicaid, and CDOT to help improve the transportation coordination and expand mobility options across the region. As the Mobility Manager, Susan's efforts will be initially focused on working with the RTCC to implement the One-Click One-Call Center, development of a regional billing mechanism, and working with various agencies in and outside of the region to build the awareness of and partnerships with the RTCC. [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NEW PROGRAM OF NWCCOG.](#)

Susan has an extensive background in project management. She has a B.A. in biology and education, and a masters degree in Education. Her past positions have included Program Manager for the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, Education Director for the St. Louis Science Center, Coordinator/Program Manager for a U.S. Department of Education Statewide Teacher in Service training program, Director of a Senior Center in Logan, Ohio (this included coordination of medical transportation for seniors), Manager of Group Air Travel for Vail Resorts, and most recently registrar for Keystone Science School, where Susan was responsible for coordination, registration and logistics for hundreds of students for summer camp and as well as school groups. NWCCOG is extremely pleased to have Susan join our team. Susan can be reached at 970.468.0295 x110 or [mobilitymanager@nwccog.org](mailto:mobilitymanager@nwccog.org).

## **NW Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) Awarded \$50,000 in Federal Funds**

The NW Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) was recently selected for a second grant from the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) program. This project was selected on a competitive basis through the FY 2012 Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Program (Section 5309 Program funding) and the award amount is \$50,000.

This federal grant is aimed at the development of marketing and outreach efforts and supporting project implementation for the new One-Click, One Call Center for the region. The VTCLI is designed to help states and communities build or expand "one-click, one-call" centers that offer comprehensive information on local transportation options, and other community services, with a phone call or click of the mouse. Projects funded by the VTCLI puts the information in one convenient location, providing better local coordination and improved services for veterans and non-veterans alike. The RTCC requested and will receive funding in partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation and the VTCLI awardee projects: Pikes Peak Area - Accessible Coordinated Transportation (Pikes Peak area), All Points Transit (Montrose/Delta counties) and Denver Region Mobility and Access Council.

## **Regional Economic Development Partnership Progress meeting held on July 27th**

Economic development stakeholders representing local governments, the business community, workforce and education sectors, were joined by representatives from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) on Friday, July 27th for a collaborative session on economic development in the region. The meeting began with "project triage" where the group went through the steps of triage with specific regional project ideas. An exciting new project was brought to the table and Economic Development professionals weighed in with their best practices and ideas to move it forward. This was followed by a discussion of NWCCOG's application to the USDA Rural Development's Stronger Economies Together project, a project that will bring valuable economic development training to stakeholders in NWCCOG member communities. The meeting concluded with updates from OEDIT and DOLA. NWCCOG will continue to convene these partnership meetings to keep the conversation going, and to ensure that the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and OEDIT's Colorado Blueprint will continue to be live, actionable resources for progress. For more information visit NWCCOG's Economic Development Program page or contact June Walters.

## **Regional Broadband Alignment Meeting held on July 30th**

NWCCOG convened local government technology professionals, elected officials, service providers, and representatives from the Colorado Office of Information Technology for a meeting of the minds on improving rural broadband in the region. The meeting began with a discussion on creating Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs) across the state as a way to jump start this effort. A presentation was made by Eagle Net Alliance, a Colorado intergovernmental entity which is building a sustainable network to better connect education, libraries, government and health care facilities statewide. This will be an on-going effort of NWCCOG. Please contact Liz Mullen (970.468.0295 x123) for more information.

## **I-70 Coalition Update: Advanced Guideway System Study Underway**

**by Margaret Bowes, Program Manager**

The Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Transit and Rail is conducting the Advanced Guideway System (AGS) Feasibility Study. The study is an 18-month, \$1.35 million study to determine the feasibility of a high-speed transit system in Colorado's I-70 Mountain Corridor. TYP SA|AZTEC and Jacobs Engineering are the lead consultants for the project that will evaluate alignment, technology and funding/financing for the 120-mile corridor from C-470 in Jefferson County to Eagle County Airport. This study is a critical next step identified in the Record of Decision for the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

CDOT has put together an AGS Project Leadership Team (PLT) to assist with this Feasibility Study. PLT members include Jefferson, Clear Creek, Summit and Eagle Counties, the I70 Coalition, RTD, Club 20, DRCOG, Colorado Environmental Coalition, CDOT, FHWA and others. The Draft System Performance & Operational Criteria for an Advanced Guideway System are being reviewed by the AGS PLT and the I70 Coalition Technical Committee. Team leaders continue outreach to industry to gauge interest in the project, so they can ensure responses to the RFQ they plan on issuing later this Summer.

The corridor communities are starting the process to determine exact locations for stations along the corridor. The consultants and PLT members will be holding meetings with each county and town along the corridor in the next month or two. For more information on the I-70 Coalition visit [www.i70solutions.org](http://www.i70solutions.org).

## **Watershed Protection Panel Discussion at NWCCOG Water Quality/Quantity Committee Meeting on July 19th**

On July 19, 2012, NWCCOG's Water Quality and Quantity Committee hosted a panel discussion on Watershed Protection. Participants included: Scott Fitzwilliams - Forest Supervisor White River National Forest; Jeff Jahnke - Director of Forestry for DNR; Jill Ozarski - Natural Resources Advisor, U.S. Senator Mark Udall; Millie Hammer - State House Representative District 56; Mike McHugh - Environmental Permitting Coordinator, Aurora Water; Don Kennedy - Environmental Scientist, Denver Water; Peter Grosshuesch - Community Development Director, Town of Breckenridge; and Noah Koerper, Central Mountains Representative, US Senator Bennet's Office sat in for Jill Ozarski for a portion of the discussion. The purpose of the panel discussion was to: elevate the importance of watershed protection; identify problems, solutions, and barriers; develop a means to share information; address the need for certainty; and identify a means to attract more financial resources.

Front Range water providers shared their plans and actions to address watershed protection, and "lessons learned" from their experiences with wildfires. The Town of Breckenridge explained their efforts to develop a plan to protect their watershed from a wildfire. USFS and CSFS presented current watershed protection efforts at the state and federal level. Also discussed were congressional and legislative efforts to elevate the issue. The panel discussion was held in Eagle, CO at the Eagle County Building/Courthouse and was recorded by ECO TV. A copy can be found [HERE](#).

## **Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative Recognized as a Success Story by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council**

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council, established as a Federal Advisory Committee, oversees the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy, and is required by Congress to update the strategy every five years. Part of the strategy is to showcase success stories. The Western Region of the Wildfire Leadership Council is highlighting seven success stories and the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative is one of them. Here is the web link to read the CBBC write-up: <http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/files/2012/06/WRSC-CBBC-Success.pdf>

Congratulations to the CBBC!

## **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging 2012 Conference in Denver a Success**

The n4a National Conference & Tradeshow was held July 7-11 and this year's conference in Denver drew a record number of attendees! Representatives from area agencies on aging and aging services and groups across the country gathered at this annual conference to hear sessions on the Affordable Care Act, future of the aging network, evidence based wellness programs, managed care and long term supports and services, the devastating impact sequestration will have on services for seniors, collaboration efforts to address elder abuse and the role of the area agencies on aging and aging network partners in reducing health care costs. The representatives from the region who attended the conference include: Sandra Bainbridge (Summit County Caregiver & Memory Loss Support Group), Laura Dickinson (Summit County Senior Services) Jean Hammes (Alpine AAA) Patty Kravitz (Pitkin County Senior Services).

## **Key Conference on Aging Coming in August: The Years Ahead: Life for the Aging in Colorado**

Concerned senior citizens, service providers and other interested individuals will want to attend a conference to be held on August 22-23, 2012 at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction. This conference will have as its focus a timely and certainly a most important topic, "The Years Ahead: Life for the Aging in the State of Colorado". With longevity increasing and the number of retirees steadily growing in relation to other population segments, this is a topic that needs serious and sustained attention.

To register for this conference, simply write a check in the amount of \$30 made payable to the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Colorado and mail it to PO Box 20000, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5035. Registration deadline is August 15, 2012. This event is a partnership effort of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Colorado, Area Agency on Aging in Region 10, NWCCOG-Alpine Area Agency on Aging, and San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging. If you have any questions you may contact Jean Hammes (970.468.0295 x 107).