

2021-06-08 LAC Report

Notebook: 2021 Reports & Updates

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Legislative Affairs Coalition Update for June 8, 2021

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)

- The City of Durango is slated to receive more than \$4M in ARPA funds.
- The money can be spent on:
 - COVID-19 expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including assistance to small businesses, households, hard-hit industries, and economic recovery.
 - Premium pay for essential workers.
 - Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.
- At a study session on May 25th, City staff recommended
 - \$1.5m be used to extend water service south along La Posta Road
 - \$300K be used to support attainable housing with staffing, equipment and office space.

Durango La Plata County Airport Update

- Director of Aviation Tony Vicari told the La Plata Board of County Commissioners the airport will emerge from the pandemic stronger than it was before.
- YTD, 2021 traffic has recovered to approximately 73% of 2019 levels at DRO, with both March and April exceeding 80% recovery.
- Passenger traffic recovery at DRO has consistently outpaced the US average since the onset of the pandemic.
- Airline seat capacity has recovered to 95% of pre-pandemic levels through April 2021.
- Looking ahead to the summer, June 2021 airline seat capacity is forecast to exceed 2019 levels by over 15%.

Durango Financial Update

- March sales tax was at 23% and 15% for the year. See the Tax Snapshot for March here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/20148/March-2021-Sales-Tax-Snapshot-PDF>
- February sales tax was at 10%. See the Tax Snapshot for February here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/20027/February-2021-Sales-Tax-Snapshot-PDF>
- Lodgers tax was at -2% in March, -39% in February.
- Staff said the numbers are a snapshot in time and not comparative year to year.

Downtown Durango Update

- A City Order was signed Tuesday, May 18 to temporarily reduce the speed limit to 15 miles per hour along the 500-1200 blocks of Main Avenue in downtown Durango.
- The reduced speed limit will be in effect until October 31, 2021, when the bump-outs are set to be removed.

LPEA Election

- Ballots for La Plata Electric Association's 2021 director elections must be received by June 16th at 4 p.m. to be counted.
- To hear the election results announced live, attend LPEA's partial virtual annual meeting on June 17th at 6 p.m.
- Read about the candidates here: <https://lpea.coop/candidates-lpeas-2021-director-elections>

LPC Vacation Rentals Update

- La Plata County Staff is moving in the direction of bringing to the board a proposal to enact a business licensing program for short term rentals, probably in the 3rd quarter.
- The county contracted with Lodging Revs to get a handle on how many rentals are out there. Lodging Revs has found over 800, mostly houses along with rooms for rent.
- Deputy County Manager Mike Segrest said it's not just about collecting money, it's also about making sure there are not untoward impacts on neighborhoods.
- When the program starts, there will likely be an advisory letter notifying property owners they are supposed to have a business license.

Volunteer Opportunity

- The Town of Bayfield has two open volunteer positions for the Bayfield Planning Commission. The commission meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Town Hall.
- Applicants must reside within the town of Bayfield corporate limits. Please send a letter of interest to Town of Bayfield, c/o Town Manager, PO Box 80, Bayfield, CO 81122 or by email: ksickles@bayfieldgov.org.

Colorado Legislation Highlights

- HB21-1271 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1271> Concerning the establishment of programs offering state assistance to local governments to promote the development of innovative affordable housing strategies in a manner that is compatible with best local land use practices, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation was assigned to the Committee of the Whole.
- HB21-1224 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1224> Concerning modifications to the provisions governing foreclosure sales of real property was sent to the Governor.
- HB21-1207 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1207> Concerning the overpayment of workers' compensation benefits was signed by the Governor.
- HB21-1198 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1198> Concerning health-care billing requirements for indigent patients receiving services not reimbursed through the Colorado indigent care program, and, in connection therewith, establishing procedures before initiating collections proceedings against a patient was passed with amendments.
- HB21-1189 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1189> Concerning additional public health protections in relation to the emission of air toxics was passed on third reading.
- HB21-1134 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1134> Concerning facilitating the reporting of tenants' rent payment information to consumer reporting agencies at the tenants' request was passed on second reading.
- HB21-1109 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1109> Concerning the broadband deployment board, and, in connection therewith, modifying the composition of the board, requiring the board to develop a request for proposal process for deploying broadband into critically unserved areas in the state, and requiring the board to give additional consideration to proposed projects that would include discounted service for low-income households was passed in the Senate.

- HB21-1008 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1008> Concerning increased options for financing forest health projects, and, in connection therewith, financing wildfire mitigation treatment was sent to the Governor.
- SB21-108 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-108> Concerning gas pipeline safety, and, in connection therewith, increasing and clarifying the rule-making and enforcement authority of the public utilities commission was passed in the Senate..
- SB21-33 - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-033> Concerning the adoption of statutory changes related to conservation easements that were recommended by the conservation easement working group convened in accordance with House Bill 19-1264 was assigned to House Finance Committee..

Durango Projects Approved

- On 5/24/21, the Durango Planning Commission approved the Boxcar Landing Conceptual Planned Development. This is for a mixed-use project on Main Avenue on the north side of Durango. The project would contain 162 units, with one and two-bedroom apartments rented at market rate. The project will be heard before Durango City Council in mid June.
- On 5/24/21, the Durango PC approved the Crader Lot 5 Preliminary Development Plan, which includes subdivision, for the 16.9-acre property south of Wilson Gulch Road, north of the traffic circle. The proposal is to create 5 developable lots of varying sizes and install the initial infrastructure to service future development of the lots. The project will be heard before Durango City Council in June.

La Plata County Projects Approved

- La Plata Planning Commission approved the Buffalo Arena temporary use permit. The permit allows Kim Crader Buffalo to hold equestrian events May 29th through September 25th, 2021 on a 65 acre site on High Lama Lane.

Meetings attended May 11 - June 8

5/11 - 10 am BOCC Business meeting	5/24 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission
5/11 - 4 pm Durango Council Study Session	5/25 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda
5/12 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	5/25 - 4 pm Durango Council Study Session
5/13 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	5/26 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
5/18 - 10 am BOCC Planning meeting	5/27 - 3 pm Joint City/County Study Session
5/18 - 11 am BOCC Special Business Meeting	5/27 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
5/18 - 5:30 pm Special City Council Meeting	6/1 - 10 am BOCC Planning Agenda CANCELLED
5/18 - 6:30 pm City Council Regular Meeting	6/1 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
5/19 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	6/2 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
5/20 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission CANCELLED	6/7 - 4:30 pm Durango SLTFAB
	6/8 - 9 am LAC Meeting