

Durango La Plata County Airport Update

- The Durango La-Plata County Airport will conduct a runway rehabilitation project in September 2022 that will close the airport to all commercial airline traffic for a 10-day period.
- Scheduled dates for the runway closure are Wednesday, Sept. 7 through Friday, Sept. 16, 2022.

Unemployment Rate Update

- La Plata County unemployment rate was 4.1% in September, down from 4.8% in August.
- San Juan County was 2.3% in September, down from 3.6% in August.
- Archuleta County was 3.7% in Sept, down from 4.4% in August.

See more here:

<https://dola-online.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=56f85bf2c38e4483ad7345fc651a6458#>

Durango Licensing

- Businesses in the city of Durango will soon be able to manage sales/use/lodgers tax licenses and make payments online. The city is in the process of implementing GovOS software, which will streamline licensing, tax filing and remittance processes. For more information, call (970) 375-5000.

Lodgers Tax

- The swift recovery of Durango's tourism economy this summer has resulted in the collection of more lodgers tax under the April ballot measure than estimated. State law requires the city to either refund the money to tourists who paid the excess tax or hold another election so voters can decide what to do with the money.
- The city had estimated \$900,000 would be collected by the end of the year but says at a minimum, \$50,000 is expected to be collected over what was estimated.

Durango Sales Tax Revenue

- Compared to historical actuals from 2015-2021 the City is ahead 22% or approximately \$6.5 million projected for Sales and Use Tax. Therefore, total Sales Tax Collections are exceeding the budgeted revenue by 14% because the City planned for a -8% reduction due to the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2021.
- Hardware & Lumber, Grocery & Drug, Restaurants & Taverns, and Misc. Retail continue to drive up the total Sales Tax Collections actuals through September.

La Plata County Sales Tax Revenue

- Sales tax collections for August show an increase of \$472,694 or 25.91% in comparison to the same period in 2020. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$1,930,348 or 20.32% as compared to the same period in 2020.
- Sales tax collections for September show an increase of \$385,223 or 19.49% in comparison to the same period in 2020. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$2,315,571 or 20.18% as compared to the same period in 2020.
- Sales tax collections for October show an increase of \$273,772 or 14.15% in comparison to the same period in 2020. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$2,589,343 or 19.31% as compared to the same period in 2020.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

- The Board of County Commissioners has not made any decisions about how to spend ARPA Funds but gave a nod to a few specific projects, including an ambulance responding to mental health crises, a new HVAC system at the Durango/La Plata Communications Center, and transportation for seniors and the disabled to get to medical appointments.
- In the bigger picture, commissioners generally supported money for libraries and capital needs related to drug and alcohol abuse.

- There was support for setting money aside for affordable housing but it's unclear if the funding may be used for that purpose.
- The deadline for presenting project proposals to the County is December 1st.
- The Board will discuss the topic again in December before having another work session in January.

La Plata County Land Use Code

- La Plata County Director of Community Development Neal Starkebaum presented some statistics about the comparison of the old Land Use code and the newly revised code. The County is trying to determine if the new code is meeting the goals laid out, including saving time and money. Starkebaum maintains that the new code is working and he has the data to prove it. Public Affairs Manager Ted Holteen is surveying people that have gone through the planning process to get their perspective.
- A report will be published in the next county magazine in May.
- La Plata County Manager Chuck Stevens has said that he's been receiving inquiries from the public and the media in relation to Short Term Rentals. It's a topic the County plans to discuss in 2022. Stevens said as soon as the Chapter 90 (oil & gas regulations) rewrite is done, the County will turn to Short Term Rentals.
- The Chapter 90 rewrite is expected to be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2022.

Regional Housing Alliance

- La Plata County Commissioners, City of Durango, and the Towns of Ignacio and Bayfield have approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County. The Alliance is now in the process of hiring staff.

Wildfire & Watershed Protection Fund

- La Plata County has joined with the City of Durango and the Durango Fire Protection District on an intergovernmental agreement to undertake aggressive and landscape scale efforts to mitigate wildfire in the county under the Wildfire & Watershed Protection Fund. Next steps are to create an advisory committee and hire staff.

Meetings attended October 12 - November 30

10/12 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	11/2 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
10/12 - 4 pm BOCC/Durango Joint Meeting	11/2 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
10/13 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	11/3 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/14 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	11/9 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
10/19 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	11/9 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
10/19 - 5pm LPC Budget Meeting	11/10 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/19 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	11/16 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
10/20 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	11/16 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
10/25 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission	11/16 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
10/26 - 9 am LAC Meeting	11/17 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/26 - 10 am BOCC meeting	11/22 - 10 am BOCC Work Session
10/27 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	11/24 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
10/28 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	11/30 - 9 am LAC Meeting
11/2 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	