

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2016

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Brown, Chairman, at 12:16 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera  
Ed Brown  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Judy Leonard

Ted Lopez  
Roger Lowe  
Buffie McFadyen  
Steve Nawrocki  
Lori Winner

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio  
Frank Latino  
Tony Montoya

Chris Nicoll  
Sal Pace  
Bob Schilling

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong  
Michael Cuppy  
Scott Hobson

Dan Kogovsek  
Louella Salazar  
Greg Styduhar

#### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported there were four items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the four Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Brown asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like any of the items removed or discussed that are on the Consent agenda.

It was moved by Steve Nawrocki, seconded by Terry Hart, and passed unanimously to approve the four Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of January 28, 2016 Meeting;
- A Resolution Approving Contract EIAF No. 9034 Region 07/Community Development Services 2016, Between the State of Colorado for the Use and Benefit of the Department of Local Affairs, and the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG), and Authorizing the Chairperson of PACOG to Execute Same;

- A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization to Include Program 1637 - PACOG Organizational Restructure Study and Implementation and Authorizing \$30,000 of Funds to be Transferred to the Pueblo Area Council of Governments for Said Program; and
- A Resolution Approving the FY 2016 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Delegation Agreement for Regional Land Use Planning and Administration, and Authorizing the Chairperson of PACOG to Execute Same.

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

(A) Plaque Presentation to Outgoing PACOG Chair

Chairman Brown presented a plaque to the 2015 outgoing chair, Terry Hart. Mr. Hart stated he appreciated the honor of serving as chair. He felt a lot of good work was done and there is a lot of work which still needs to be done with respect to PACOG's organizational restructure.

(B) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Brown thanked the Colorado City Metropolitan District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Armstrong reported the February 4, 2016 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) minutes were provided to the PACOG members in their packets. The next EPAC meeting is scheduled on April 7, 2016.

This being an informational item, no formal action was taken.

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND RNC CONSULTING, LLC. FOR CONSULTING WORK INVOLVING WATER QUALITY PLANNING, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO EXECUTE SAME**

Mr. Jeff Woeber, Planner II, Pueblo County Planning and Development Department, reported PACOG functions as the water quality planning agency to establish water quality policies and plans in the region, per Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. For many years PACOG did not have dedicated staff or funding resources strictly for water quality planning. A few years ago, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division informed us that PACOG was eligible for annual water quality planning grant money through the Environmental Protection Agency called 604(b) funds. PACOG's existing Water Quality Management

Plan at that time was old and outdated, so an RFP was done and Mr. Russell Clayshulte was hired as a consultant. Mr. Clayshulte was DRCOG's water quality environmental resources manager for many years and is currently the watershed manager for the Bear Creek Watershed Association in the West Denver metropolitan area. The Water Quality Management Plan, which was drafted, was adopted by PACOG and approved by the State Water Quality Control Commission. Mr. Clayshulte has been working to put together wastewater utility plans, which are specific to each of the six permitted publicly owned treatment facilities in the County. He is currently completing this project, with the Colorado City/Rye facility plan being finalized soon. At that time, an overview will be given of the wastewater utility plans project to PACOG.

Mr. Woeber stated the new focus on the Plan will look at the State 303(d) listings and related monitoring and evaluations (M&E) of water bodies, which are primarily stream segments (i.e., Fountain Creek and Arkansas River in Pueblo) that exceed certain limits or criteria for various pollutants. The CDPHE will ultimately have requirements on what to do to lower the amounts of pollutants in any given water body, but it will be very beneficial to begin to get a handle on this issue involving Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) planning and strategies. We can develop our own recommendations and strategies for monitoring and/or implementation. This is the new element, which will Mr. Clayshulte will be working on, within the scope of services in the contract.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Buffie McFadyen, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving an Agreement for Professional Services between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments and RNC Consulting, LLC, for Consulting Work Involving Water Quality Planning, and Authorizing the Chairperson of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments to Execute Same".

#### REPORT ON MEETINGS WITH TOWNS OF BOONE AND RYE

Chairman Brown reported Mr. Hart and he were given the task to meet with the Towns of Boone and Rye to discuss with them of possibly becoming members of PACOG. Mr. Robert Ferriter, mayor of Boone, was in the audience. Chairman Brown asked Mr. Ferriter if Mr. Hart and he could meet with him after the PACOG meeting to discuss this further. Mr. Ferriter replied that would be fine.

Ms. McFadyen stated Boone is experiencing very serious water quality problems. She stated Mr. Ferriter is running unopposed for the mayor of Boone. She commended Mr. Ferriter for running, especially with all the water quality problems which are occurring. Mr. Ferriter thanked Ms. McFadyen for her comments.

#### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT, stated there was nothing to report.

Chairman Brown reported the following comments were received from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, Transportation Commissioner:

- The Transportation Commission at its February meeting discussed SB 228 general fund transfer forecasts. It appears that in FY 2016-17, an additional \$106 million in

general fund monies will be transferred to CDOT for projects and programs, including transit. What projects and programs will be funded by the Transportation Commission remains a question for discussion.

- SB 228 transfers should not be confused with available TABOR surplus monies. Whether or not these surplus funds will be returned to Colorado taxpayers, in whole or in part, remains a question to be debated by the General Assembly. Of course, the Governor will weigh in too. To the extent that these monies are not returned to the taxpayers, it is not clear whether or not transportation projects and programs will be funded by these monies. There also is talk among a variety of people in the State about the feasibility of a legislative referendum or citizen initiative to raise revenue (gas tax, sales tax, etc.) for transportation projects and programs.
- Finally, there is talk about the State borrowing several billion dollars for transportation projects and programs. Repayment of the debt service is of concern. Some argue that debt service can be repaid out of Asset Management funds, a fairly stable stream of money. These are funds used to maintain our current highways and assets. Using these funds to pay debt service will harm rural area highway projects and programs.

Mr. Aguilera stated Mr. Leroy Garcia, State Representative, asked the City Council to send a letter to CDOT about getting some money from them to fix the on- and off-ramps on I-25. Mr. Hart stated that Mr. Garcia has also been working on finding funding for improving the entrances and exits to the City.

#### STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Ms. Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, PACOG STAC Representative, reported there is push by the Upper Front Range (i.e., Greeley, Loveland, Fort Collins) to do a TRANS-2 bond program for capital projects that could include the U.S. Highway 50 project in Pueblo County. The interest and debt which would be used to pay the bond back would come out of our existing Asset Management money. She felt this would hurt us more than the money it would take to do Highway 50. She stated she couldn't understand why those who are pushing the legislation want to put us into debt. She stated hopefully this will go away so we don't have to fight and waste resources for something that is impractical.

Ms. McFadyen stated under the Development Program the I-25 (City Center Drive) to 13<sup>th</sup> Street and also I-25 to Monument are listed as potential projects funded in a TRANS-2 bond program. Another project on the list is the widening of U.S. Highway 50 going westbound to Pueblo West. She stated it is important that the projects have been started and we will continue to work on these projects. Mr. Aguilera asked if they are funded. Ms. McFadyen replied yes, they are in the funding plan. Mr. Hobson stated in the Transportation Improvement Program there is continued funding for U.S. Highway 50 for a third lane westbound between Wills and McCulloch. There is no funding in place for funding north of the Ilex project on I-25, noting it is in the Development Program and, if funding should become available, that would be a priority project that would be eligible to receive funding. Ms. McFadyen stated it is our No. 1 project. She stated when the monies become available; Mr. Thiebaut will fight for it. Mr. Hobson stated there is another Development Program project, which is widening U.S. Highway 50 east of Pueblo to the Kansas line.

Ms. McFadyen stated this morning Ms. Leonard, Mr. Hobson, and she started doing the interviews for the MPO position. She stated within 30-60 days there should be someone on board who will be full-time and focus on the MPO. Mr. Nawrocki asked how many people applied. Ms. McFadyen replied they interviewed four. Mr. Hobson stated the four highest scoring applicants were interviewed.

Mr. Hart stated he knows that the total I-25 project includes the southern portion. He asked what the status on the southern portion is. Mr. Hobson replied when CDOT completed the EIS for the New Pueblo Freeway project, the Record of Decision (ROD) that was issued for the EIS was for the section of I-25 north of the Arkansas River to 29<sup>th</sup> Street. The section south of the river to Pueblo Boulevard needs to be part of the ROD for the EIS in order to get funding in place.

Ms. Winner asked if anything is going to be done with all the debris that is hanging off of Goat Hill. Mr. Hart felt it was outside the transportation project. Mr. Joe DeHeart, CDOT, responded when they were looking at grading in the area that was one of the challenges which was given the contractor to make the slopes able to hold seed. What was found through the grading is that most of that exposed face is covered with new dirt at a slope that can hold grass, except for certain areas. There will be little left at the top, noting most of it would get covered up. He stated instead of a 50' exposure, there will be 5' to 10' left. There will be slopes that can hold seed, slopes that are more traditional, and a little shale will be exposed. The trees on people's properties will be left alone.

Mr. Nawrocki stated Mr. Aguilera and he met with downtown business people regarding the entrance to the City coming off of City Center Drive. In this meeting, the Goat Hill area was talked about and the possible redevelopment of the area (e.g., townhouses, condos). There was interest, but you would have to acquire all those properties.

Chairman Brown asked if anything would be done with stuff around the interchange as far as the vegetation. Mr. DeHeart replied the footprint of the project goes to 1<sup>st</sup> Street. What they were waiting for is the contractor to finish their landscaping design. CDOT would like to mirror the landscaping design to the north half of the interchange, noting this would be temporary because it would be removed once they do 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, but at least it would look good in the meantime. He stated he did not know if it was affordable, noting the final design has not been seen yet. Once this is done, they will know what the costs are. It is their intent to landscape that and not just put in temporary features or items to contain the erosion control.

Mr. Hart asked about the area where the exit ramp is going down to City Center Drive. It was his understanding there was a drainage problem. In the original plan there was a bunch of bushes and trees, but it was overwatered and the water ran down and started to jeopardize the foundation to the Arts Center. He stated whatever is done in the area that this should be taken into consideration. Mr. DeHeart responded he has heard the same water issues in the area. He stated he heard it as more stormwater runoff, not necessarily irrigation water. The landscaping which is supposed to be done is going to be xeriscape. If it is irrigated, it is at the cooperation of CDOT and the City of Pueblo on who is going to maintain and pay. The design will reflect whatever is decided.

Chairman Brown asked if the I-25 project would come down to two lanes. Mr. DeHeart responded the contractor cannot take the interstate down to one lane during the day, noting two lanes will always be open in both directions. There may be a closure to one lane at night. Chairman Brown stated he thought that one was going to be torn down. Mr. DeHeart replied when the new northbound lanes are ready to be open, the northbound traffic will be taken to these lanes and the bridge will be torn down. The southbound will then be built. Southbound will then be moved over and finish tearing out what was left. CDOT is looking at next year before they do the first shift. There were land acquisition complications.

Ms. McFadyen stated if anyone wants a copy of the FAST Act to let her know and she will have copies made.

#### MPO STAFF REPORT

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, referred PACOG to a memorandum dated February 16, 2016, which covers the transportation planning items.

#### A. 2020 Proposed PACOG Regional Priorities and FASTER Safety Projects

Mr. Hobson reported the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year program that includes projects that funding is in place. The TIP that was approved last year was for 2016-2019. What CDOT and the MPOs are doing is updating the TIP on a year-to-year basis. Projects will be added for 2020, noting the TIP will run from 2017-2020. Staff met with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) earlier this month and CDOT has proposed that the 2020 program for the TIP have one adjustment. Currently, in the 10-year development plan, we had a proposal to be able to provide \$250,000 for an access study on U.S. 50 West between I-25 and Baltimore. The proposal was to look at the access in and out for those businesses along that corridor. CDOT has recommended that staff look at transferring that money and not doing that project because most of the access is set up, noting there is a median, median-controlled turn movements on U.S. 50, and there are distinct locations of turn movements on and off of U.S. 50. It is unlikely that this will be able to be changed in the future. What they have suggested is that the \$250,000 be reallocated or moved to be able to fund design work on projects that are set up for the I-25 project. For example, approximately 30% of the design work for the section of I-25 between U.S. 50B (Belmont exit) to 29<sup>th</sup> Street could be done. As funding might become available for I-25 on that segment of I-25, you would be that much farther along in the design process so that you would get to construction sooner. CDOT may come back with some suggestions for using a portion of the money for that and may be some of the design money for the frontage road between the Dillon flyover and Eden exit (Exit 104). The TAC and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) have been presented with this concept and they were supportive of changing the allocation to be able to be used for design work along I-25. Staff's intention is to bring a resolution amending the TIP at PACOG's next meeting.

Mr. Hobson stated another project, which is new money, that will be brought into the TIP is \$6 million to provide additional funding for the west third lane expansion on U.S. 50 between Wills to the top of the hill west of Pueblo Boulevard. This would be funding from the FASTER safety pool. CDOT staff has submitted this request. It has to go

through an evaluation to meet specific safety criteria to be eligible for FASTER funding and it has to compete against other projects in the State. They have been notified that FASTER funds could be made available in 2020 to be brought into this project.

Mr. Hart stated the parking lot that is to the north of the highway, which goes from Lowe's to the shopping centers to the east, that the roadways are in terrible shape. He asked if this was privately owned. Mr. Hobson felt that it was, but stated he would check with the City's Transportation Department to verify whether it is public or private. Mr. Hart stated when the realignment work was done that it did shift some of the traffic on the north side of Highway 50. He stated there are potholes in the area. Mr. Hobson replied he would follow up on that, noting from their regulations standpoint they have the ability to require any type of standard improvement for the maintenance of the road.

#### B. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Hobson reported they had extended the public comment period for another 21 days, and it ended today. During that timeframe, the TAC members looked at adding two additional components to the Plan. One is the completion of a Regional Corridor Preservation Map. This is a map which identifies future roadway corridors that goes beyond the 25-year realm of their Plan. It goes out to a 50-year span for where will roadway corridors be needed. For example, U.S. 50 was converted from a U.S. highway to an interstate and if there was a need for some point in time to connect U.S. 50 to State Highway 96 to the west of Pueblo Reservoir--where would the roadway corridor be? Another example would be if there was a corridor that connected the Pueblo Chemical Depot to I-25 north of the airport. Staff is looking at including the Regional Corridor Preservation Map as a component of the Plan.

Mr. Hobson continued that the second area staff is looking at including in the Plan is more detailed, which is the Trail Project Priorities for the City, County, and Pueblo West. The plans are non-motorized portions of the Long Range Transportation Plan and includes maps of future trails corridors that could be developed. He stated these entities have never been given the opportunity to say what their priorities are. If and when they apply for grant funds or look for justification for why they are taking on a project, staff would have a basis for them to use the Plan as priorities for those trail projects. Members from Pueblo West Metropolitan District, Pueblo County Public Works Department, and the City Transportation Department have been working on this. The listing of the projects has been vetted through the Pueblo Community Active Environment, which is a nonprofit group, for them to be able to write comments on. Staff is looking at including a list of the priorities projects in the Plan. Another thing, which may be included as part of this, is which of those projects provide connectivity from one trail system to another (e.g., a trail which connects from Pueblo West to the City). These may be categorized as a higher priority project because of the linkage to the different trail systems. A listing of all the projects was included in the PACOG members' packets.

Mr. Nawrocki asked if there are any plans in the near future to connect Pueblo West back into the trail system off of McCulloch. Ms. Leonard replied she wasn't aware of any plan. Mr. Nawrocki asked how far the current trail goes. Ms. Leonard replied it goes to McCulloch West. Mr. Nawrocki asked if it would be that stretch coming off of Nichol Road back to the reservoir. Ms. Leonard replied that is correct, noting part of it is owned

by the State. Mr. Nawrocki stated a parallel bridge would have to be done. Mr. Hobson stated the Governor's office recently put together a program called 16 Trails in 2016. Requests were solicited around the State for trails that the Governor's office would prioritize. Pueblo West submitted a connection along the Sweetwater drainage, which is from the middle school area along the drainage and goes underneath the railroad and connects to Lake Pueblo's trail system. He stated we met with staff from the Pueblo West Metropolitan District about the potential of applying for Federal Lands Access Program funds to help fund this connection. This is the program that Lake Pueblo used in two phases three years ago. State Parks received \$11 million to do this. The program is conducive to local match, which is an 82% federally funded program with an 18% local match. Mr. Nawrocki asked if they are scheduled to have the road redone from the Arkansas to the old sailboard beach. Mr. Hobson replied he wasn't sure what the schedule is. He stated possibly someone from State Parks could come to the next PACOG meeting and give an update.

#### C. PACOG DOLA Grant - Scope of Work

Mr. Hobson reported staff met with the PACOG Budget Committee to review the draft RFP. He went over the changes which were suggested by the Committee. On the 1<sup>st</sup> page, there was discussion regarding hosting a pre-proposal meeting. They are looking at a video meeting where people can call in. In the scope of work portion on Page 5, under the Identification of Options for Organizational Restructure, Section B, Membership, we are going to include a No. 3 which includes review of membership and dues. He stated he has one comment from CDOT staff concerning Item E3, which is Metropolitan Transportation Planning, dealing with the administrative structure management of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and the ability to have it incorporated as a function of PACOG. Since the RTA is a concept and there would have to be a vote taken for financial support, there is some concern that we may be using some federal dollars to support a future election initiative. He stated they would like to change it to administrative structure management of a transportation capital program. If a capital program was developed does PACOG have the administrative capability of overseeing that type of program?

Mr. Hobson stated the plan is to publish and distribute the RFP next Monday. There would be a 21-day period for proposals being received. If needed, the Budget Committee will do interviews. At the next PACOG meeting, there will be a resolution to approve the hiring of a consultant for this project.

Mr. Hart asked if there is any need for an amendment to the contract with DOLA since the dates were changed due to delays. Mr. Hobson replied he would check with Mr. Lee Merkel, the local DOLA representative, to see if they could be modified in the final contract or whether or not we need to ask for any extension.

#### D. Other

Mr. Hobson reported other things which were included in the PACOG members' packets was the overview of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the Senate Bill 09-228 Transfer Scenarios for FY 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017, and the minutes from the State Transportation Commission meeting from January 20-21, 2016.



PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

This item was continued to the March 24, 2016 meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

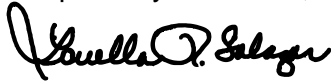
OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nawrocki stated in July there will be a two-day kayaking event held in Pueblo. He stated one of the concerns is the flow. Last year the flow exceeded what the requirements are to do the race, noting this was due to the snowmelt and the moisture. There may be a need to adjust the flow for this event. He stated he was glad to hear it may become an annual event. Mr. Kogovsek stated the City has the right to designate four weekends during the year for an event. He stated the Flow Management Committee is meeting soon, so there is a need to coordinate this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS