

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MARCH 22, 2018

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at the Pueblo City-County Health Department, 101 West 9th Street, Third Floor Conference Room, Room C. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Judy Leonard, Chairwoman, at 12:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera
Mark Aliff
Ed Brown
Dennis Flores
Nick Gradisar

Terry Hart
Frank Latino
Judy Leonard
Sal Pace
Bob Schilling

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio
Robert Ferriter
Terry Kraus
Ted Lopez

Tony Montoya
Chris Nicoll
Garrison Ortiz

Also present were:

John Adams
Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad

Cynthia Mitchell
Louella Salazar
Kallene West

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Chairwoman Leonard asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like an item removed or discussed that was on the Consent agenda. There were no other additions or amendments.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of February 22, 2018 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file December 2017 Financial Report);

- A Resolution Approving Previous Wastewater Utility Plans Which Were Submitted to and Approved by the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Which Are Located Within Pueblo County, Colorado; and
- A Resolution Approving an Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year 2017 for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, State of Colorado.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairwoman Leonard thanked Pueblo School District No. 60 for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) Plaque to Outgoing Chair

Chairwoman Leonard presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Tony Montoya, PACOG's outgoing 2017 chair, who was not in attendance today. The plaque thanked him for his service. She stated Ms. Salazar would make sure to give the plaque to Mr. Montoya.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

(A) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported the PACOG members received in their packets the minutes of the January 4 and February 1, 2018 ADA Advisory Committee meetings. This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairwoman Leonard read into the record the following comments from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the State Transportation Commissioner for the Pueblo region:

At its March meeting, the Transportation Commission, acting as the Bridge Enterprise Board of Directors, adopted a resolution appropriating \$3.288 million for the construction of the bridge at State Highway 96 over Rush Creek in Pueblo County.

- The Commission adopted a resolution approving CDOT's budget allocation plan for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of approximately \$1.625 billion. Notably, the General Assembly may appropriate additional general fund revenue for 2018-2019 to CDOT which may alter the budget allocation plan in a positive way (yesterday the Joint Budget Committee agreed to set aside \$500 million from the general fund for transportation; last night the State Senate debated SB 18-1 which provides additional one-time money, and long-term money, for transportation).
- Pueblo area projects that are poised to benefit from additional State revenue include: U.S. 50 West, the New Pueblo Freeway, and U.S 50 East.

Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT Region 2 Director, distributed a document showing a traffic shift on the new configuration of I-25 (Ilex) happening on Thursday of next week (March 29th). The northbound direction will be switched onto the new bridge and the southbound traffic will be shifted over. The northbound bridge will be demolished after the switch is made. Once this is done, the new portion will be built. The goal is by the end of this calendar year to have the final configuration for the southbound lanes. The traffic shift should take place during the day and be done by 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Schilling asked when the bridge on Santa Fe Avenue over the Arkansas River would be done. Ms. Rowe replied it should be done before this summer. She stated with old bridges once they are uncovered you find more problems. You also have to go through the Historical Society and State Preservation Office making sure the bridges keep their historic integrity (e.g., paint color, etc.). Negotiations are done with the contractor on the work. Mr. Schilling asked what color would it be painted. Ms. Rowe replied it would be the same color, as much as it can be matched. The work should be done by this summer.

Mr. Flores stated he noticed once the northbound and southbound lanes are done that there is a big gap. Ms. Rowe replied the document doesn't show the final configuration, noting where it shows the demolition of the northbound lanes that is where the new southbound lanes will be built. She stated the new interstate is a little higher than the old one. Once everything is done, the interstate will be the same height.

Mr. Pace asked about the barrier on the east side of the construction area. Ms. Rowe responded this is a noise barrier. It is required according to Federal noise regulations. She thought all of the noise barriers for the project have been completed. She stated CDOT tries to make them look nice for a reasonable cost. Mr. Pace stated the County Commissioners are about to spend a lot of money at Runyon Field and he thought this would look aesthetically better.

Ms. Rowe reported the move to the new Region 2 CDOT headquarters will occur from April 6-8. The headquarters are located behind Kohl's on the north end of Pueblo. The portions of CDOT who will be moving include: materials lab, heavy equipment facility, and storeroom. The traffic operations will be moved the following week. She stated the heavy mechanics who work on snowplows will be located at the site, noting it is not an active maintenance yard. There are active maintenance yards on the south end of Pueblo (Monarch Lane) and one on U.S. 50 West. These two yards will be used for snowplowing during winter storms. The new headquarters repairs the snowplows, and also has the signals, striping, and pavement marking group. This is a daytime facility and has normal business hours. The State Patrol will be moving in the new headquarters, but want to build another communications tower before moving in. This will be a 9-1-1 and State Patrol dispatch center and CDOT will have a partial facility in with theirs, noting it is one of the first ones in the State where the two entities are co-located. At the current time, there is no grand opening date scheduled. CDOT is looking at doing something with elected officials possibly at the end of May. CDOT wants to wait until the State Patrol is moved in so that a tour can be done showing both facilities. She stated there is a "Remembrance Day" scheduled on April 11th to honor those who died in the line of duty, noting there is an engraved stone at the new facility. She stated CDOT's old headquarters is getting appraised, and it will be sold except for 902 Erie which is where the tower is located.

Ms. Rowe stated there is a Statewide ballot measure, which has been submitted by the Denver Chamber of Commerce. CDOT is not leading this, but has been asked for a list of projects if there was an increase in sales tax. CDOT's budget allows for the maintenance of the existing system and to have a little money to do safety and other minor improvements (i.e., guardrail, passing lanes, intersection improvements). There is no money for added capacity at this time. The measure would allow for more funding to CDOT and would provide transit with some funds. Local transit areas would go through CDOT to obtain the transit funds. Transportation funds would also be available to cities and counties.

Ms. Rowe stated there is transportation funding at the State Legislature. She cautioned that Senate Bill 267 is being looked at and could possibly be taken away. If this is done, this would be a net loss for capital improvement projects.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Terry Hart reported the STAC meeting was held on February 23rd. He stated President Trump rolled out his initial plan for infrastructure, but there is not a lot of detail in it. It is unknown how much of this money will go into transportation, utilities, or communications. He stated he should know more at the next STAC meeting, which is scheduled tomorrow. He stated STAC had understood that the big effort which had went into infrastructure would have a very large Federal financial component. Instead it is using a smaller leverage of Federal money in order to attempt to leverage state and local funds. The rough figure is 80% local/state and 20% Federal. If you are a state or community that has a lot of money you might be able to come up with the money, but if you aren't, which is the vast majority of America, then it will have to be figured out politically. There are various discussions going on at the State Legislature on the revenue which is expected and how that money is going to be utilized. Will a portion be utilized for transportation and, if so, how much of it?

Mr. Hart stated the STAC did discuss the development and refinement of the projects lists Statewide. The projects lists would be utilized for any kind of discussion for project money. There was discussion about the ballot question from the Denver Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on the performance measurements on the national freight system. Staff is looking at what that means to our community and making sure of our needs.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on the development of the FY 2019 budget at the State level. Mr. Thiebaut's report indicates those numbers are being finalized. The budget is being prepared with the worst case scenario with the possibility of expanding it if new revenues come in. The ballot measure will not be known until November and what kind of impact it might have on FY 2019 or if it has to wait until FY 2020.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING BETWEEN THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, PUEBLO TRANSIT, AND THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the FAST Act requires review and update of all agreements with CDOT and the transit agencies. The memorandum of agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by PACOG's attorney. Yesterday, it went to the transportation board who also approved it. Once done, the document will be sent to CDOT, and Pueblo will be in compliance with the FAST Act. The document outlines how we do business at the MPO level and the relationship they have with CDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the transit agencies for transportation in the metropolitan planning area (i.e., Pueblo and Pueblo West). He noted through the TPR the entire Pueblo County is done.

Chairwoman Leonard questioned under "Introduction and Responsibilities" why the Town of Boone is not listed as a PACOG member. Mr. Adams stated this would be corrected before it is sent to CDOT. (Note: It was found that this document was correct and the correction needed to occur in the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)).

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Transportation Planning and Programming between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, Pueblo Transit, and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

MPO STAFF REPORT:

(A) Draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the MPO does an annual development project list for a four-year period. This is the draft of the 2019-2022 TIP for the area. One of the requirements is a Public Participation Plan needs to go out for a 30-day comment period. Once those comments are received, they will be incorporated into the Plan and brought back to PACOG for approval. Staff is requesting approval to advertise the Plan in the newspaper for the 30-day comment period.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the advertisement of the Draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the 30-day comment period.

(B) Request for Consolidated Planning Grant Funds for "Pueblo Transit Relocation Study"
- City or County Requestor

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported there was discussion at the January meeting on the possibility of PACOG using Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funding to finance a transit relocation study for the existing Pueblo Transit Center at the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk. At that time, the County representative mentioned they would be willing to fund the study. Since that time, it has been found out that the amount of involvement that goes into receiving Transit Administration funds is very lengthy and involved. Last month, an amendment was done to the CPG on the carryover funds from the 2016-2017 program,

which is approximately \$404,000. Some of the funding is identified to update the Long Range Transportation Plan, which is a Federal requirement that is done every five years. Staff is doing it every four years so they can be in sync with the Statewide Transportation Plan. There are funds which have been identified up to \$100,000, which can go towards funding the transit relocation study. The request is whether to amend the Unified Planning Work Program to include the study.

It was moved by Mr. Pace that the study be laid over to next month's meeting. Discussion occurred.

Mr. Hart asked Mr. Adams what is being requested of PACOG. Mr. Adams replied that the County had requested that a transit relocation study be done on that property for economic development purposes, noting it is a prime location of redevelopment. He stated there are CPG funds available which can be placed towards the study. Messrs. Pace and Hart stated they would like to see it laid over to next month's meeting. Discussion continued. Mr. Azad reminded PACOG that at some point we should go in and initiate the study. He stated this area causes issues as the growth of the downtown area happens. He felt it is important to look at and assess the location and possibly relocate the transit center. Mr. Pace stated he didn't want to stop this from happening if this is the preference of the City. He stated he didn't want people to be voting on these resolutions and spending the CPG funding down on behalf of the County. Mr. Flores stated one of the things which has come up on this issue is the need for the City to accelerate not only looking at the Transit Center but other obstacles to expand the Riverwalk. He asked how much money is being asked and who will be responsible. Mr. Adams replied PACOG receives on an annual basis CPG funds. These are funds which carry out the transportation planning within the area. Through the years, funds have been accumulated due to staffing levels, etc., noting he is not asking for additional funds because the funds are available. He wanted to know whether PACOG wanted to use those funds to apply towards this study. Mr. Azad stated one-third of the CPG grant is designated for transit planning, noting in the past we haven't spent a whole lot of transit money and there is carryover in the 2016-2017 program. Mr. Flores questioned if this would be enough money to complete the study. Mr. Adams responded the Consolidated Planning Grant comes from two funding sources: Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. It is called "consolidated" because it is blended together so it is easier for reporting, etc. In the past, we have not obligated a lot of funding towards transit planning. He stated this study is eligible for funding. In addition, we are responsible to assist with economic development and this would be a prime example. Mr. Gradisar asked how much would the study cost. Mr. Adams answered staff does not have a hard number, but there is \$100,000 in the budget which can be applied towards the study. Mr. Pace thought he saw a quote of \$55,000. Mr. Gradisar asked why do we want to spend that money on moving the transit center. Mr. Schilling stated it needs to be moved eventually. Mr. Gradisar asked why can't we just move it without the study. Mr. Pace stated there are Federal Transit Administration requirements. He stated it is an 80%/20% split, with the Federal government paying most of the funds. When moving a transit center, there is a requirement for studying a location and an alternative location.

Mr. Azad stated if Mr. Pace would like this continued until next month then it could be done. Mr. Pace stated his only point was if it was based on the County's request, then don't do it on their behalf. He stated he is OK with tabling it and discussing it more next month. Mr. Hart stated it was his understanding that the City was interested in taking a

look at that facility and examining other alternative locations. He stated he also didn't know what the timing of the City was, and when they wanted to do the study. He questioned if the City or PACOG had any ideas on it. If so, if what we are wanting to do is in the near horizon and we need to move the facility because it is in a prime development spot, then as a member of PACOG he would support utilizing the funds. Mr. Flores felt it would be better to go ahead with the study.

Mr. Pace rescinded his motion.

After discussion, it was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Sal Pace, and passed unanimously to utilize Consolidated Planning Grant Funds for the Pueblo Transit Relocation Study.

(C) A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program to Include the Pueblo Transit Relocation Study as Part of the FY 2018 Work Program

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, stated this resolution approves the amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program. He stated this would amend the contract with the State to include the Pueblo Transit relocation study up to \$100,000.

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Bob Schilling, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program to Include the Pueblo Transit Relocation Study as Part of the FY 2018 Work Program".

(D) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Pace reported on the Southwest Chief and the Front Range Passenger Rail Commission. Regarding the Southwest Chief, the Multi-State Coalition was successful in receiving another TIGER grant, which gets about 75% of the necessary work done.

Mr. Pace stated the other statutory responsibility of the Commission is to facilitate the further advancement of future Front Range passenger rail. The Commission was obligated to present a plan to the General Assembly by December 1, 2017. There are five distinct phases for delivery of Front Range passenger rail. Phase 1 involves public outreach, track alignment, governance, and preferred alternatives for Front Range passenger rail. It is expected that the work will be wrapped up by 2020. The Commission is formally requesting \$8.7 million over three years (\$2.9 million per year) to complete Phase 1. In 2019, they are requesting \$2.9 million to start the scoping process and track alignments (e.g., when there is passenger rail will it stop at Denver Union Station or Denver International Airport). He stated he attended the Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) meeting yesterday and talked about the Commission's request to the General Assembly. DRCOG voted to support the Commission's request as part of a larger transportation budget request. The cities of Colorado Springs and Trinidad have taken public positions of support.

Mr. Pace stated the \$500 million for transportation looks solid, noting it got out of the Joint Budget Committee with a unanimous vote. Senate Bill 1 was going to be the bill that took that \$500 million and present it to the voters with a bond question in 2018. The

compromise that got it passed was to do the \$500 million cash this year and then to go to the voters in 2019 and ask for a bond that would set aside \$250 million per year. This would allow them to see if the Denver Chamber of Commerce gets its ballot measure passed this year. He met with the Senate Speaker, who will insert the funding request of \$2.9 million into the larger \$500 million Statewide transportation bipartisan package.

Mr. Pace requested PACOG support the Southwest Chief and Front Range Rail Passenger Commission's request to the General Assembly to receive the \$2.9 million to start Phase 1. Mr. Azad asked what is the difference between the Front Range Rail and the Southwest Chief. Mr. Pace answered the Southwest Chief is a Chicago to Los Angeles Amtrak line that goes to Chicago, Lamar, La Junta, Trinidad, and Los Angeles. The Southwest Chief line was at risk of being shut down by the Burlington Northern Railroad about six years ago because there was diminished freight traffic in this part of the world. They were going to make it unusable from Kansas down to Colorado down to Albuquerque. A commission was statutorily created four years ago to work on contractual powers and with neighboring states. This commission went after some grants and worked towards Pueblo realignment issues to try and bring the track into Pueblo. The commission had a sunset last year. The bill that was passed last year took the existing commission and transferred it into the dual purpose not only to wrap up the Southwest Chief repair work, but also to place appointments up and down the Front Range. The new commission is implementing a plan to incorporate Front Range rail. Mr. Azad asked if the \$2.9 million will benefit both. Mr. Pace replied no, noting the \$2.9 million is focused on only the Front Range Rail Plan

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Sal Pace, and passed unanimously to support the Southwest Chief and Front Range Rail Passenger Commission's request to the General Assembly to receive the \$2.9 million to start Phase 1.

Mr. Hart asked Mr. Pace if he was asking PACOG for a letter of support. Mr. Pace replied that would work.

It was moved by Sal Pace, seconded by Dennis Flores, and passed unanimously to send a letter of support to the General Assembly, which PACOG's chair will sign on behalf of PACOG.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino introduced Captain Rich Goddard. He stated he thought that schools are much safer today than in 1999 when Columbine happened. He didn't believe they are where they need to be, but he felt with the amount of resources we have that they are doing pretty good.

Captain Rich Goddard stated he was with the Pueblo Police Department for 35 years, noting 25 of those years was in a command position. He stated you do a lot of work with short-term and long-term crisis problems. The first thing to do with a crisis is to define it and figure where to go for your solution. Mass school shootings have been going on since 1999. They have some commonalities and clearly are not preventable.

Captain Goddard stated many of his family members are teachers and he has grandchildren who attend public schools. He stated many people would say that the gun

control laws are not sufficient, or we need more mental health facilities in our community. These are not the problem; the problem is that people are going into schools and killing children. He stated the commonalities are that school shooters go to schools to kill people and school shooters go to school usually to die. The police always get there too late. For example, in Pueblo if a shot fires and blood starts dripping on the floor, you won't see your first police officer until 6½ minutes, noting in 6½ minutes it's over. We have to figure out a way to make that response to the shooter time compressed to seconds. Somewhere between 20-30 seconds you have to be responding to that shooter. Unfortunately, that means you have to be responding with gunfire. We can put more cops in the schools but right now District No. 60 is paying 60% of the costs for SROs. One SRO armed with a pistol is going to be one of the early casualties against a shooter with a rifle. He felt you are going to have to meet that level of force with a similar level of force. He stated he was a SWAT tactics trainer for 8 years with the police department. The baseline for any SWAT plan is they are going in there with more people, better training, and better arms. He stated this is how you win and you don't lose. He felt this is what needs to be done in schools. He stated he didn't believe District No. 60 wants to pay for the salaries for three police officers every day during the school year, but he felt they could find three teachers that are competent, capable, and willing to do this job within their own school. He stated this would take a lot of training or at least 4 days of intense training. The good news is that you are only trained in one topic, one Colorado Statute (§18-1-704) "Use of physical force and defense of a person", one weapons platform, and training for 25 yards. He stated as a firearms trainer that is easy to do. He stated ongoing training would be required. There is support for this in the community. He stated he spoke with a local gentleman who owns a gun range who said he would waive 70% of the fees for the training. He spoke with a local person who owns a police supply who would provide weapons and ammunition and body armor at cost. He also spoke with a few people who have a reputation for being local philanthropists who said they would help out. This is so controversial that it seems inconceivable until you walk into a school and see dead children on the floor. This might allow for 80% fewer deaths, noting it would only deter it but not stop it. He stated he is talking about ending it before the carnage gets too big. He stated the reason he chose three is because three people at any gunfight is a huge advantage. He stated SROs are not in a school every day. They get sick, they take vacation, and they take training. You have a SRO in a school about 75% of the time, noting 25% of the time you have nobody in the school. Teachers are pretty much there all of the time. If you have three per school, you are certainly going to have one or two there. The teachers are dispersed throughout the school and there is not going to be three people in one central location. He feels confident that no matter where the shooter is that within 20 seconds at least one teacher would be there to engage in the gunfire, and within seconds there would be two, and seconds after that three. He stated he teaches active shooter training to businesses and the emphasis to them is that you have to survive the first 6½ minutes and then you'll have help.

Mr. Latino stated a couple of weeks ago KOAA-TV covered a town hall meeting at UCCS on this issue. He stated the bottom line is the more aware people are the better opportunities we have. He stated the nationwide walkout which happened on March 14th showed that students and teachers do not feel safe. He stated the concern he has is how safe is the community. He stated we are focusing in on schools because that is where the children are at, but he noted that schools are relatively safe until they are not. He reminded the PACOG members of the Pillars of Unity annual school safety summit which is occurring on June 16th from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Pueblo County High School. He felt

we need to put together a strategic community safety plan. He stated the Pillars of Unity are trying to put together a foundation for a strategic community safety plan.

Captain Goddard stated he was at Centennial High School during the walkout on March 14th. He stated the students are terrified and feel betrayed. School District No. 60 currently uses a combination of shelter-in-place and run-hide-fight, which are the two most common methods used nationwide to a school shooter response. The problem with shelter-in-place is you are playing a death lottery. With run-hide-fight, you have to be able to run, find a place to hide, and be able to fight a person with a rifle which is virtually impossible. He felt this is not a good plan.

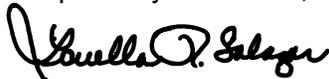
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS

JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Following the regular PACOG meeting, there was a joint meeting held between the City Council and Board of County Commissioners to make appointments to the Community Services Advisory Commission.