

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MARCH 24, 2016

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was 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. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Brown, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Larry Atencio  
Ed Brown  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Judy Leonard  
Ted Lopez  
Roger Lowe

Tony Montoya  
Steve Nawrocki  
Chris Nicoll  
Sal Pace  
Bob Schilling  
Lori Winner

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera  
Frank Latino

Buffie McFadyen

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong  
Sam Azad  
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 February 25, 2016 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file December 2015, January 2016, and February 2016 Financial Reports);

- A Resolution Recommending Approval of a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Site Location Application, for the Fort Reynolds Lift Station and Pipeline Project, Located Within a Portion of Sections 9, 10, and 11, All Within Township 21 South, Range 62 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Pueblo County, Colorado; and
- A Resolution Approving an Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year 2015 for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, State of Colorado.

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Brown thanked Salt Creek Sanitation District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, stated there will be a location change of the July 28, 2016 meeting due to the Regional CSEPP meeting being held in our regular location. The July PACOG meeting will be held at the Pueblo Regional Building Department's Conference Room located at 830 North Main Street. There was no objection to changing the meeting location for this meeting.

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

Mr. Terry Hart stated Mr. Brown and he spoke to the mayor of Boone after the last PACOG meeting and obtained the contact information. He stated the meeting is being scheduled and, hopefully, can be done within the next 30 days so a report can be done at the April PACOG meeting.

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

Chairman Brown read into the record the following comments which were received from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, State Transportation Commissioner:

- Adopted its FY 2016-17 annual budget of about \$1.38 billion, of which \$795.7 million is allocated to Asset Management programs (nearly 1/3 of the \$795.7 million or about \$242 million is designated for surface treatment, an important item for out-State highway maintenance, including Pueblo);
- Resolved to provide \$1 million of State match funds for a local TIGER VIII grant application to be submitted by the City of Lamar to the USDOT in order to enhance the viability of the Southwest Chief Amtrak line in Colorado; and
- Recommended projects for submission under the Federal Lands Access Program. None were located in Pueblo, but during the last cycle in August 2013, Lake Pueblo State Park road and trail improvements were selected.

Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported on the new FAST legislation. She stated the federal government provided some discretionary freight grants. CDOT will be

submitting a Statewide truck parking project. The project which was most ready to submit an application for was the Lamar route. The funding is expected annually, noting \$850 million per year will be designated for the discretionary freight grants.

Mr. Pace asked if the deadline was a CDOT or USDOT deadline. Ms. Rowe replied there is a USDOT deadline in April. CDOT has an internal deadline for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., noting CDOT will be submitting its draft grant application. Anyone can submit a grant application and it doesn't have to be CDOT. She stated CDOT can submit a maximum of three. CDOT did look at the I-25 New Freeway project through Pueblo, but we were not in a position to submit a feasible grant application. Mr. Pace asked what the criteria for consideration for the grant are. Ms. Rowe replied some of it is multi-modal considerations. It needs to fit a high freight corridor. The Lamar project was the last piece of the Highway 287 Ports-to-Plains freight corridor. She stated with I-25 there are still some pieces to go. She stated she would forward the STAC memorandum to Mr. Pace.

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

Chairman Brown read into the record the following comments which were received from Ms. Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, PACOG STAC Representative:

- Two million dollars (\$2 million) FASTER monies to be used for a transit station on the north end of Pueblo to connect Bustang Pueblo-Colorado Springs route. Expected to start in the 2017-2018 funding cycle.
- Regional Rural Bus Network Plan to study connecting the Lower Arkansas Valley to Pueblo. This is in the study phase with no definite timeframe.
- We will work to compete for funding for the National Highway Freight Program monies for I-25 through Pueblo. Currently, U.S. Highway 50 is not a designated freight corridor and we must work collectively to secure the designation.
- CDOT is making applications for Federal FASTLANE Grant Program. One of the projects CDOT has selected is the Highway 287 truck reliever route. It is likely PACOG will be asked to support this grant application.
- Reviewed the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) and the planning process. The STIP is a federally required document. It contains Statewide listing of transportation projects. It's developed every four years and works with the Long-Range Statewide Plan. The STIP is a multi-modal transportation plan CDOT formulates with coordination and input from the 15 TPRs (Transportation Planning Regions). In the draft, FY 2017-FY 2020 STIP are regionally significant projects that may continue into or are scheduled to begin FY 2020. The draft STIP will be released by the Colorado Transportation Commission for public review this month.

#### FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM GRANT FOR LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK

Ms. Monique Mullis, Park Manager, Lake Pueblo State Park, reported this project is a Federal Lands Access Program Grant. Over \$8 million was received from the grant. There was \$2.6 million that was matched from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which came from the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) money. The original project was \$10.8 million. The Park then negotiated with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), who had obligations in a memorandum of understanding on doing some road repairs from its SDS

project. CSU added a little over \$500,000 to the project. The project came out to \$11,387,000. The project is repairing 11.6 miles of paved trail in the Park and 4.65 miles of road. The GOCO money was used for Phase 2. A map was passed around showing the roads/trails being done. She stated they will be getting a complete replacement of the roads, which are scheduled to be replaced. They are fixing grades, fixing drainage, and straightening out curves. She stated the roads are being widened from 24' to 28', which gives them the Share the Road standards, noting it is important for bicyclists. The trails will be replaced with 8' concrete which is more sustainable and last longer. They will be getting two pedestrian bridges. One pedestrian bridge is being replaced, which is over the Arkansas River behind the swim beach. Another new pedestrian bridge will be erected on the north side not far from the water tower. There is one small re-route at the river, which they plan to encourage bicyclists to go to the pedestrian bridge. She stated a lot of earthwork has been done, noting all of the shoulder stabilization and excavation work is done. She stated Fagan's Gap has been widened. She stated curbing is being put in and bridge abutments are up. She stated at the current time the forms for the concrete are being erected. They are waiting for more stable weather before pouring concrete. She stated the aggregate is being brought into the park for the roads, noting a hot plant is being constructed at the park. She stated the project started November 1, 2015 and is scheduled to be completed by June 15, 2016. The contractor is RBK Construction. She stated the Federal Highway Administration was the project manager. She stated there have been delays. The trails are closed, noting they have been roto-milled. There are some areas where the roads are roto-milled and are being worked on. She stated as part of the contract, the contractor must have at least one lane open at all times. She stated there was one day in December where there was a complete closure. The contractor is allowed Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. to do 20-minute closures.

Mr. Azad asked if the trails are identifiable and are approved by the federal government as being designated trails. Ms. Mullis replied the south side trail system is the single track which goes up on the south bluffs. She stated this is not the designated trail system, noting this is what they are working with the Bureau. The trails that are getting done in this project are the existing, paved trails that are part of the Park's master plan. She stated the Bureau of Reclamation was part of this process. She stated they are on federal property and environmental processes need to be done in order to put trails or facilities. She stated this trail was built through Social Trails and it is an undesignated system. It is not approved through the Park or the federal government. They are now going through a resource management planning process to formalize and do it properly. She stated they are working with the trail groups and community. Once it is done, it can be properly marketed and maintained. Mr. Nawrocki stated it would be a significant destination.

#### MPO STAFF REPORT

##### A. PACOG 2017-2020 Transportation Improvements Program Timeline

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported at the April PACOG meeting, staff will be submitting a resolution for approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). There will be advertisement done for a hearing on the 2017-2020 TIP. It will include two new projects in 2020, which includes \$6 million for the U.S. 50 westbound

third-lane project that FASTER safety money will be added, and \$250,000 which will be shifted to use on I-25 for design work for future phases or environmental work that needs to be done along the corridor. The overall TIP will be a four-year program from 2017-2020. Annually, PACOG will adopt a new TIP that will add the next year and eliminate the previous year. There will be additional amendments to the TIP as transportation alternative projects are awarded and authorized. Those will be included in the TIP, as well as any off-system bridge funds that are awarded to Pueblo County or the City of Pueblo.

#### B. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported at the April PACOG meeting a public hearing will be held for the adoption of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. A roadway corridor preservation plan map, which goes beyond the 25-year period, was added to document. It looks at future corridors and where roadway alignments might be needed in the future. The City and County have been involved in identifying those future roadway corridors. In addition, the trails priorities which were reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Committee have been included as priority projects within the Plan. The buses and the vans section needs to be updated to accurately reflect the age and mileage on these vehicles.

#### C. Status of New Staff for PACOG MPO Activities

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, introduced Ms. Hannah Haurert, Transportation Planning Technician. He stated Ms. Haurert has 3½ years experience in taking care of the crash monitoring accident database information, as well as doing traffic counts both in the City and County. She will assist in putting together the transportation packets, agendas, and the meeting information which goes to PACOG, as well as the Transportation Advisory Committee. She will also maintain and upkeep the transportation portion of the PACOG website.

Mr. Hobson reported on the status of the Transportation Program Manager recruitment. He stated interviews were conducted for four candidates for the position. Mmes. McFadyen, Leonard, and Whittlef and he were on the interview panel. The interview panel has made a recommendation on whom to offer the position and they will be working with the City's Human Resources Department to make that offer. It is anticipated by mid-April to have a decision made on accepting the job and, hopefully, in late April to early May for the person to start work.

#### D. PACOG DOLA Grant - RFP for Consultant Services

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported this is the PACOG study on its organizational/restructure/implementation, which \$30,000 was received from the Department of Local Affairs, with a \$30,000 match from PACOG transportation planning funds. A pre-proposal meeting was attempted through Skype, but it didn't work out successfully. The consultants who wanted to participate were contacted individually and questions were received from them. An addendum was issued to the RFP that answers the questions that were provided by the consultants, noting it was placed on the website, as well as being sent directly to the consultants. The RFPs are due next week. As

those RFPs come in, staff will schedule a meeting with the PACOG budget committee to be able to review them. Based upon the budget committee's recommendation, it will be brought to PACOG at the next meeting.

Mr. Azad asked that he be notified of the next PACOG budget committee. Ms. Salazar stated she would let him know when it is scheduled.

#### E. 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Project Applications

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported this is a three-year call for projects (i.e., 2017, 2018, and 2019). CDOT is accepting initial applications and the deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. CDOT will review the applications and in August the final applications will be due. Special districts, counties, and cities are all eligible to apply for these funds. We compete against projects that are submitted by Canon City, Lower Arkansas Valley (i.e., Lamar, La Junta) and others. The City of Pueblo is looking at potentially submitting two or three projects. One project would be doing additional landscaping and lighting along West 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the downtown corridor from Main Street to Greenwood Street. Another project is working with the Pueblo Conservancy District on potentially submitting an application for looking at trails and bridges associated with the reconstruction of the Arkansas River levee. This would include a planning grant followed up with a construction application for a trail on the reconstruction section of the levee. The other project is a continuation of the Northern Avenue streetscape on the north side of it from the Safeway store to Cambridge Street. He stated Pueblo West and the County potentially will be submitting projects.

#### F. Other

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, referred PACOG to the CDOT Discretionary Grants Program memorandum, dated March 16, 2016.

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported the summary of the State Transportation Commission meeting held February 17-18, 2016 was included in their packets.

Mr. Nawrocki asked if the executive director for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs has been to Pueblo. Mr. Hobson replied he was not sure, noting he would invite him to a future PACOG meeting.

#### PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

This item was continued to the April 28, 2016 meeting.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the

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Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louella R. Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

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Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS