

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APRIL 23, 2015

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, April 23, 2015, 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. Terry Hart, Chairman, at 12:17 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown  
Michael Colucci  
John Cordova  
Dennis Flores  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Ted Lopez

Roger Lowe  
Buffie McFadyen  
Tony Montoya  
Steve Nawrocki  
Sal Pace  
Lewis Quigley

Those members absent were:

Eva Montoya  
Chris Nicoll

Bob Schilling

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong  
Peter Blood  
Scott Hobson

Dan Kogovsek  
Louella Salazar

#### CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Chairman Hart 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 Tony Montoya, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of March 26, 2015 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file December 2014, January 2015, and February 2015 Financial Reports).

## **PACOG TRANSPORTATION HEARING**

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding the proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016-2019 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR)

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2016-2019 PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE PUEBLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND THE PUEBLO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION (TPR); DIRECTING THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION TO SUBMIT THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT); AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO CORRESPOND WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SFY 2016-2019 PROGRAM ADOPTED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM BY THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION**

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported a presentation was done at the last PACOG meeting outlining all the different projects included in the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP includes such projects as I-25 through Pueblo/Ilex (RAMP); U.S. 50A West from Wills to McCulloch (eastbound); U.S. 50A West from Wills to Pueblo Boulevard (westbound); U.S. 50C drainage improvements; safety improvements on East and West 4<sup>th</sup> Street; Urban, Rural, Regional, and Intercity Transit Surface Funding; surface transportation projects on U.S. 50C/S.H. 47/Pueblo Boulevard; bike/pedestrian trail projects in Pueblo West; improvements at S.H. 45 at Hollywood Drive and at Lehigh Avenue; and highway and local bridge repairs on I-25, 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and Boone Road. He noted the list includes 22 physical projects and four categories for transit funding.

Mr. Hobson reported the public hearing was advertised in the Pueblo Chieftain. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was advertised for public comments, which were identified to be received through April 22, 2015. To date, no comments have been received. He stated the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met on April 16, 2015 and reviewed the TIP and recommended unanimously that it be approved by PACOG. There is one recommended change in the TIP. He referred PACOG to the new Table 3 (Page 18), which was distributed prior to the meeting, which is a description for the U.S. 50 project westbound. Modifications were made to correct and better describe the project. The original project description was not complete and it did not include the westbound lane. He noted this is Project No. 6. He stated if the TIP is approved today that the new description for the Project No. 6 be included as part of that approval.

Chairman Hart opened the public hearing. He asked if there was anyone who would like to address the TIP. There were no public comments received. There being no comments, Chairman Hart closed the public hearing. Mr. Hobson reported there is a resolution before PACOG, which would adopt the TIP. Chairman Hart stated the resolution would include the amendment as indicated by Mr. Hobson.

It was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Tony Montoya, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Adopting the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016-2019 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR); Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Submit the Transportation Improvement Program to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); Amending the Fiscal Year 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program to Correspond with the Provisions of the SFY 2016-2019 Program Adopted Herein; and Providing for Implementation of the Program by the Urban Transportation Planning Division", which includes the amendment to Project No. 6 in the TIP.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

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

(B) PACOG Budget Committee Report

Chairman Hart reported the PACOG Budget Committee met on April 16, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to get organized and talk about the pros and cons that they have heard in the various conversations and debates PACOG has had over dues and structural questions. They discussed picking up on the issues that have been addressed in previous PACOG meetings and compare notes with other COGs in the State, particularly Pikes Peak Council of Governments and how it is structured. He stated the Committee figured they would draft a proposal and circulate it to PACOG in advance of any discussion or debate on it. This would allow everyone to put in their thoughts, questions, or concerns. The proposal would provide information on how they would change the structure and how that would affect the dues. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., in the offices of the Pueblo County Planning and Development Department. Messrs. Gradisar and Cordova agreed with Chairman Hart's report.

Chairman Hart stated they are committed to making sure that they draft a proposal and give everyone plenty of time to look at it and make suggestions or changes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

(A) Draft EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, referred PACOG to the April 2, 2015 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) draft minutes which were included in their packets. She stated the attachments to the minutes reflect some great upcoming events for neighborhood clean-up days, recyclable waste collection day, and presentations made at the EPAC meeting.

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

(B) Comments at Marijuana Meeting

Ms. Armstrong stated it was brought to her attention this morning on a Facebook post for Pueblo for Positive Impact that at the meeting last night that a member of the Pueblo County Planning and Zoning lectured the crowd for not writing checks to nonprofits to support homeless attracted by pot. She let PACOG know that no staff member or she were at this meeting; therefore, nobody made this statement. She stated she did not know if there was confusion that a staff member from the City Planning and Zoning Department made the statement. She stated she found the Pueblo for Positive Impact website and they have a section where one can submit a comment. She stated she placed her name and email and left a statement that none of her staff nor she were at this meeting; therefore, before you make comments that they should make sure that they have the correct agency before placing it on social media. She stated she left her name, title, and phone number. She stated she wanted the County Commissioners to know this. Chairman Hart asked Ms. Armstrong to let them know if she gets any response. Mr. Nawrocki felt it didn't mean anything except that someone posted it. Ms. Armstrong stated she felt everyone should know.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ajin Hu, South Program Engineer for the Colorado Department of Transportation, reported there was an open house last week on the I-25/Ilex project. She thanked the City Council and Board of County Commissioners for their support. She stated more than 130 people attended. There will be a groundbreaking done in June near the construction site, and the PACOG members will be invited to attend.

Ms. Hu stated there are two projects under construction in Pueblo: U.S. 50 and S.H. 47. On U.S.50, CDOT is not planning to have daytime road closures. On S.H. 47, CDOT is doing ramp improvements in the daytime and are avoiding S.H. 47 main line closure. There are bumps on S.H. 47, which will help so they can fix the joints. Steel plates will be placed over the gaps, noting during the daytime there will not be lane closures. There will be a press release done today to let people know why there are bumps.

Chairman Hart read into the record Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the Region 2 Transportation Commissioner's comments:

- Was advised that reconstruction of I-25 through Pueblo from Ilex to City Center Drive is set to begin in the next several weeks (grounding breaking and construction beginning in early June);
- Approved \$5 million plus for maintenance in Region 2, including several chip seal projects in Pueblo County on U.S. 50B and 50C, S.H. 78 and S.H. 96 totaling in excess of \$1 million; and
- Looked favorably on spending \$755 million on Statewide Asset Management programs in FY 2019, such as surface treatment, bridges, road equipment, walls, traffic signals, etc. This investment has stayed fairly consistent over the past few years by using RAMP funds, and can remain consistent into the future by using the TRANS debt service payments once that debt is satisfied in the next year or two. This program helps rural Colorado.

In the final days of the legislative session, the Governor and legislative leaders are coming to terms with the TABOR surplus projected to be nearly \$1 billion in the next several years. So far, about \$100 million of the surplus will be used for the I-70 East Viaduct Project and transit. Whether or not additional surplus money will be used for transportation projects remains to be seen. A Republican legislative effort to borrow \$3.5 billion under a TRANS II scheme will hurt rural Colorado as the TRANS debt service payments—once extinguished--most likely will be used to pay the TRANS II debt service instead of being invested in Asset Management programs.

Ms. McFadyen stated the TABOR funds need to be kept in the State and not refunded. The Highway 50 legislation which PACOG endorsed should have gotten out of committee, but there was one senator who didn't want to approve it. There was bipartisan support going into the committee, which was positive. She stated CDOT was thrilled with the bill. She stated there is a footnote in the long bill, which would allow CDOT to participate. She stated she spoke with Commissioner Thiebaut that if the State could find a way to maintain the funds within the State, we need to be prepared to compete for those funds. By having a comprehensive study which includes economic development, she felt it would help us to be more competitive. She stated Highway 50 is in our Long Range Transportation Plan, but we need to be working with our neighbors. She stated the issue is not dead, but we hope to get it done, noting CDOT would be involved although they didn't want to be mandated to do it. She felt CDOT knows that we aren't directing them in a negative way, but in a comprehensive way.

Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT Director for Region 2, reported they are trying to put some maps together on the new STIP, which shows where the projects are and in what fiscal years they are shown. She stated all of the projects which are going on this summer will be on the maps. Traffic Watchers will let people know what CDOT is doing, the benefits of the projects, the costs, and the schedules. Some of them are in the Pueblo area and some are region-wide. She stated she is trying to get on the City Council work session agenda. There is also a town hall meeting in Pueblo West at the end of April.

Ms. Rowe stated she has read the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program and felt it is a good document. It is easy to follow and it is simply stated.

Ms. Rowe stated that CDOT with Cash Management has said if they really waited until each fiscal year to start spending that money this is problem, noting this is how we got into the situation we are in. This is a \$1 billion surplus, and that is why we have the RAMP program to spend down this money. CDOT is going to make it more flexible and anytime starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> you can use any of the money in any of the four years. You can start to use it for design and get it ready for construction. Even though it says it will be done in FY 2019 that is not necessarily the year you have to construct it. CDOT is going towards a Cash Management model, noting they are doing more project management and inputting information and schedules to make sure that they do spend their money wisely and not putting too much money out the door which they don't have. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, we have access to this money. Her staff is working to get these projects out on the road before the fiscal year they are in. She stated she would keep PACOG updated. She stated it is also making it easier to combine fiscal years and there is different money in different fiscal years, and you can put it all into one project. For example, the U.S. 50 West project (westbound lanes) CDOT is trying to advance some of the fiscal year money to make sure to get it constructed as soon as they can. This is the four-year STIP and it is great, but the State is now trying to do a rolling four-year

plan, meaning coming July 1<sup>st</sup> FY 2017 they would like to pull in FY 2020 money. For example, she has worked with the MPOs and TPRs to come up with what the next six years would look like by fiscal year and by project so that they are ready to use that money. In FY 2018, they are planning to resurface U.S. 50C through the St. Charles Mesa. There is design money now to get going on the drainage design and improvements. Everyone is asking for CDOT to do something about the flooding, but they can't until they get the water down to the river. They are currently working on the design. There is money for FY 2020 and it should be available in FY 2017. They plan to combine the surface treatment project with the drainage improvement project to get it all done at once. The money for the drainage improvements is not in the four-year plan, but next year staff will request to adopt the FY 2020 plan.

Ms. Rowe stated they are working on a 10-year capital development program. It will be formally presented to PACOG sometime this summer. CDOT is trying to do a better job of being ready for projects and getting them off the shelf.

Ms. Rowe stated there is a plan to extend the Bustang, which is the bus service CDOT is now running from Colorado Springs to Denver. The service will start on July 13<sup>th</sup>. There are plans to possibly extend down to Pueblo, noting they are looking at where the station would be located. She stated because CDOT had never been in the transit business before, they are trying to take baby steps. Mr. Pace asked if there is an avenue where the Board of County Commissioners can participate in that plan that he is interested in doing this. He stated when FASTER is going through the legislature he has a commitment for transit and rail for \$15 million. He stated the whole debate was about Front Range rail, but he supports transit too. Ms. Rowe stated she is trying to get more involved in transit and rail. She stated she would let Mike Timlin, who is in charge of the Bustang, know about Mr. Pace's request.

Ms. McFadyen stated that CDOT is not enthusiastic about TRANS II legislation. She stated the money could be put into Asset Management. She stated there is a stretch in north Pueblo County on I-25 where there are a number of box culverts. She stated there is nowhere for oversized campers, trailers, or tractor trailers to get off in emergency situations because of these box culverts. She stated they are not considered bridges under the Federal Bridge Program because they aren't wide enough. She stated PACOG needs to take this issue on before the State can deal with it. She felt they need to prioritize. Ms. Rowe stated there are a lot of needs. Right now the funding it fits under is the Regional Priorities Program. She stated there is a new program coming out called Operations, and it might fit under this. Ms. McFadyen stated the one-way box culvert on Exit 108 is not falling down but if it rains it floods. She stated it is scary to drive through. She felt it is important for PACOG to recognize this problem and bring it to the attention of the State. Ms. Rowe stated it is important to keep bringing it to CDOT's attention. She stated Operations doesn't fit into a lot of these other categories, noting it is not safety, it is not congestion, it's not Asset Management, or it's not improvements. She stated there are a lot of things that fall under Operations. For example, if a ramp meter was to be installed in Colorado Springs that would fall under Operations. At the current time, it wouldn't fall under safety funding. CDOT is trying to set aside money along those lines. She felt a box culvert is an operational issue. There aren't a lot of accidents per se, but it is just not good with the one-way situation. She stated when FHWA was here, she drove them through it and they were surprised and scared.

Ms. Rowe stated there would be a maiden voyage for the Bustang, and she wondered if anyone at PACOG would be interested in receiving an invitation. They would all get in the bus and drive up to Denver. Mr. Pace replied he would be interested.

MPO STAFF REPORT:

(A) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update--Process and Status

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported on the process and status of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. In the PACOG packet was a memorandum from Maureen Paz de Araujo, the Lead Consultant from HDR, Inc., with respect to the Travel Demand Model and the Long Range Transportation Plan. We have been working on the Travel Demand Model since April 2014. There is a validated model for 2010 and 2040. The maps and description give an idea of what process is going to be done in analyzing roadways. The first page shows the a.m. peak traffic volumes. The map shows in red which areas are more congested. The a.m. peak in the 2010 base shows U.S. 50 as being the brightest red, and there is a little bit of red on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street and U.S. 50C. The model shows what would happen if no improvements are done between now and 2040. U.S. 50 would be bigger and a brighter red, but other roadways on the system such as Pueblo Boulevard and S.H. 47 would be much more congested. They have identified a roadway network that would be necessary to be in place by 2040. A Travel Demand Model has been run for a 2040 scenario with the projected build-out. What they do in the 2040 scenario is take the estimated increase in population and the estimated increase of new jobs and they assign the population and jobs to transportation analysis zones. It is projected based on future census data and where people will live and where people will work. The diagram which shows the 2040 scenario depicts the Pueblo Boulevard extension north, the Joe Martinez Boulevard connection, the linkage from Pueblo Boulevard (West Pueblo Connector), and other roadway improvements. It still shows that U.S. 50 will have some congestion even with the level of improvements done. He stated there was discussion at the TAC meeting on how we are justifying all these expenditures on U.S. 50 and still going to have all this congestion. As U.S. 50 is improved and the lanes are added in each direction that will attract more traffic because of the increased capacity. The other thing they are going to look at in the Long Range Transportation Plan as projects are developed what impact would that project have on other adjacent roadways. The best example is Joe Martinez in Pueblo West. If the Joe Martinez connection is built, the 2040 scenario shows that as you go west on Purcell into Pueblo West there would be congestion issues because you have all this traffic trying to get to Joe Martinez to connect into Pueblo Boulevard and the West Pueblo Connector. This helps us to identify future roadway improvements that may be needed as a result of improvements that are already in the Plan. He asked PACOG if they would like to have the consultant give a presentation on the Travel Demand Model. He stated as they get more information on the Travel Demand Model and future improvements for transit, trails, freight traffic, aeronautics, etc., they will have some open houses for public comment and review. Staff will probably come back at the July PACOG meeting for the approval on the Long Range Transportation Plan. He stated the TAC has seen the Travel Demand Model as more of a regional plan, so the more detail you get the less accurate it is. On different intersections, there may be glitches. PACOG indicated it would like the consultant to come in and make a presentation. Mr. Hobson asked if this could be done at the May meeting. Chairman Hart replied that would be fine.

Mr. Pace asked what the V/C ratio means. Mr. Hobson responded it means volume to capacity. It is on a per lane basis, or it is the number of vehicles that travel on a given lane over a one-hour period of time. This is how CDOT compares traffic on roadways. He stated when they did the TIGER application for U.S. 50 staff went back and researched what the V/C ratio was for U.S. 50. It ended up being the 15<sup>th</sup> most congested highway section within the State. You need to go back and say it was for the number of lanes and the number of cars per hour that travel in that lane. This is how you are able to compare this to I-25 or I-70. Ms. McFadyen stated this is important because it allows us to compete with the metropolitan areas.

Chairman Hart asked to what degree it takes into consideration future development, such as the Pueblo Springs Ranch. Mr. Hobson replied the issue came up of how much do you project if Pueblo Springs Ranch is developed into the model. They used the State demographic data for Pueblo County. They did not factor in Pueblo Springs Ranch. They instead looked at what the projections were for future population and the future projections for jobs. If and when Pueblo Springs Ranch comes on the scene, then they are going to have to look at making adjustments to the model. Chairman Hart stated when it comes on then that is when we tackle those issues. Mr. Hobson replied there was significant discussion with both CDOT and internally with his staff and County staff on whether or not that is something they wanted to include. It was their feeling that is was very speculative and it is going to take a long time if it is an area that is developed. Once there is more "teeth" to it, then we can go back and put it into the model. Mr. Quigley stated with Pueblo Springs Ranch to keep in mind that you don't want another Pueblo West.

#### (B) Update on Pueblo County Safe Routes to Schools Planning

Mr. Hobson reported there has been some interest about looking at the potential of developing projects in the St. Charles Mesa area for safe routes to schools. District No. 70 has adjusted their busing program where elementary children within a mile radius of the school do not ride buses, and middle school children within a mile and a half radius do not ride buses. Pueblo County staff has been working on this for awhile, but the project has not been formalized. As part of the delegation agreement, which was approved in December, they had in their work program the ability for County staff to be able to assist the other MPO staff in projects. They felt this is one that would lend itself to being able to incorporate the expertise of the County staff to help with the project. A scope of work has been put together. They need to look at how much time the County staff can commit to this project. They are looking into the number of hours that can be committed and the time that can be paid for out of the MPO budget for the County staff. He stated in 1996, there was a plan more focused on trails (the Arkansas River trail extension plan) that was approved by Pueblo County, which addressed trails in the area, noting it did address some on-street improvements through the St. Charles Mesa that could be developed. Staff will not be starting from scratch and they are going to look at how it might be modified and updated. The idea is to come up with a plan and some alternatives for projects and then have those projects ready to go the next time grant funding is available.

Chairman Hart stated this project is a real need, particularly along Gale Road where the Sheriff has found it unsafe for travel because it is so narrow. Mr. Hobson felt it was needed too.

(C) Purchase of Portable Traffic Counters

Mr. Hobson reported in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for this year we identified the placement of traffic counters that will be used within the City and the urbanized area. Fifteen (15) new traffic counters have been authorized costing \$26,130. It is in the PACOG budget, and the counters should be out on the streets this summer.

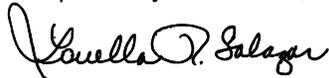
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Pace stated he would like to do an update on the Southwest Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, Nick Gradisar moved, seconded by Buffie McFadyen, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



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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 Pueblo City Council and Board of County Commissioners to appoint Joint City/County members to the Community Services Advisory Commission. The following persons were selected for appointment: Mary Agnes Leonard, Cynthia Ortiz-Fuentes, Kate Shafer, and Barbara Vidmar. These four appointments need to be ratified by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners at their respective meetings. (Note: There was a three-way tie regarding the fifth appointment between Jeremiah L. Blaha, Abel Gebre Laeke, and Michael Spahr. A tie breaking vote needs to occur that includes a vote with only those tied for the last available position. This final CSAC appointment will be rolled over to next PACOG meeting.