

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APRIL 26, 2018

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Judy Leonard, Chairwoman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera
Mark Aliff
Ed Brown
Dennis Flores
Nick Gradisar

Terry Hart
Frank Latino
Judy Leonard
Ted Ortiviz
Sal Pace

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio
Terry Kraus
Ted Lopez
Chris Nicoll

Garrison Ortiz
Dennis Prater
Bob Schilling

Also present were:

John Adams
Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad

Dan Kogovsek
Cynthia Mitchell
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 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 Ed Brown, seconded by Terry Hart, and passed by an 8-0-1 vote, with Mr. Ortiviz abstaining and Mr. Pace not present at the time of the vote, to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of March 22, 2018 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file January and February 2018 Financial Reports).

REGULAR ITEMS:

PACOG TRANSPORTATION HEARING

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding the proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019-2022 Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR).

Chairwoman Leonard opened the public hearing.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2019-2022 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); PROGRAM ADOPTED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM BY THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this is a four-year program (SFY 2019-2022), which is annually updated, that demonstrates the Federal funds and any significant projects that are going to be implemented within the area. He distributed updated tables providing those projects. He stated the packet which was previously provided did not show transit grants, noting the Transit Capital Grants were awarded after the PACOG packet was mailed. This is for one 35' hybrid bus that is ADA accessible and three smaller buses for the Citi-Lift which are also ADA accessible. The TIP will be sent to CDOT for its concurrence and inclusion into the State TIP.

Mr. Aguilera stated he has been pushing our local legislators about putting sound barriers on part of I-25 (i.e., Abriendo exit) and the area between Mesa and Northern Avenue. He stated we talk about beautification of the community and millions of dollars are spent on the new freeway and he felt barriers should be placed in this area to make it look more aesthetically pleasing. He stated he asked Mr. Sam Azad, the City Manager and the City Council to write a letter to the CDOT director to see if there is funding to do this. He stated there was a sound barrier placed on 1st Street (City Center Drive) and it looks beautiful, noting it blocks off Goat Hill. He stated every time he brings up the subject with CDOT they don't like it. He felt it was something the City should pursue in order to make the community look better. Mr. Adams replied it is his understanding that there is a letter in the process of being drafted to be sent to the CDOT headquarters.

Mr. Hart stated the County has been working on a study for a trail going east to the St. Charles Mesa. He wondered if it should be listed in the tables. Mr. Adams replied that was funded in FY 2018, and this is SFY 2019-2022. He stated it was listed in last year's TIP. Mr. Hart asked when the study comes back does it go into the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Adams responded that is correct.

Mr. Hart stated with respect to Mr. Aguilera's concern, those are authorized by law as sound barriers and not beautification barriers, noting we need to make sure to ask for it in the "right vein". He agreed that the barriers would make the community look better. Mr.

Aguilera stated if the area had more expensive housing then the possibility for the barriers would be more likely to occur. Mr. Hart stated there was discussion in the distant past that the money went into the nice wall along Belmont and north I-25, noting it took 3-4 other walls off the list at the time. He felt this was a long time ago and Mr. Aguilera's concern was something which should be followed up. Mr. Ortiz asked if there was a cost per square foot on the wall. Mr. Hart replied no. He stated there was discussion about other walls along I-25, but he wasn't sure of the status. Mr. Aguilera felt it would be worthy for us to ask Evraz to put up a wall along the area which is close to Bessemer, which would block the weeds. He felt this would make the City look better. Mr. Flores stated he is in favor of the wall. He stated those people who live in the area deserve not having to hear the traffic and the noise pollution. He stated if we go to the State and ask them to place walls because we want to cover up unsightly sections of Pueblo, we are not going to get the funding. It has to be for the right reason, and that is that those people need to be protected from the noise from the traffic.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Nick Gradisar, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Adopting the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019-2022 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); Program Adopted Herein; and Providing for the Implementation of the Program by the Urban Transportation Planning Division".

Chairwoman Leonard closed the public hearing.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairwoman Leonard thanked Pueblo School District No. 70 for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) Introduction of New Members

Chairwoman Leonard introduced and welcomed new members: Mr. Dennis Prater, Town of Boone, and Mr. Ted Ortiz, Pueblo School District No. 70. Mr. Prater replaces Mr. Robert Ferriter, and Mr. Ortiz replaces Mr. Tony Montoya, respectively. Mr. Prater was absent.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported the PACOG members received in their packets the minutes of the April 5, 2018 EPAC meeting. She noted that the minutes reflect what occurred regarding the Pueblo West Metropolitan District's water quality proposal for Middle Arkansas Segments 4a, 4e, 4g, and 18b, as well as the City of Pueblo's water quality proposal request for a Discharger Specific Variance (DSV) for selenium and sulfate. This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

(B) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Armstrong reported the PACOG members received in their packets the minutes of the March 1, 2018 ADA Advisory Committee meeting. This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

PUEBLO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT WATER QUALITY PROPOSAL FOR MIDDLE ARKANSAS SEGMENTS 4a, 4e, 4g, AND 18b

Ms. Connie King, Esq., Law Firm of Connie H. King, LLC and representing the Pueblo West Metropolitan District, reported the District is proposing to update the ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards for two segments: Wildhorse Creek (i.e., Middle Arkansas Segment 4a) and Pesthouse Gulch (i.e., Middle Arkansas Segment 4g). Pueblo West is also proposing to delete the ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards and reinstate the underlying selenium table value standards for two segments: Golf Course Wash (i.e., Middle Arkansas Segment 4e) and Turkey Creek (Middle Arkansas Segment 18b). These stream segments and the selenium sampling locations are shown in Exhibit 1 depicted on the PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. King stated the Pueblo West Metropolitan District is a quasi-municipal corporation in the Colorado Special District, which provides water and wastewater services to the community of Pueblo West. Pueblo West is proposing changes to the selenium standards. Selenium is a standard which is naturally present in the streams and reservoirs in the Pueblo area due to the Pierre Shale and Niobrara geologic formations, noting these formations contain selenium. Low levels of selenium are required for human life, but elevated levels have the potential to harm fish and other aquatic life. However, several studies have shown that the natural levels of selenium in the Arkansas River are not harmful to native fish populations in the area. The cost of removing selenium is high, and a practical treatment process for the application in a domestic wastewater treatment plant is not available at this time. For Wildhorse Creek and Pesthouse Gulch, Pueblo West proposes to update the ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards based on ambient water quality site-specific monitoring data collected from 2014-2017. During the June 2013 rulemaking hearing for the Arkansas River Basin, Regulation #32, the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) adopted ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards for Pesthouse Gulch (acute standard = 389 mg/l selenium and chronic standard = 369 mg/l selenium) and Wildhorse Creek (acute standard = 2,376 mg/l selenium and chronic standard = 2,110 mg/l selenium). These standards were based on a combination of dissolved and total recoverable selenium data collected by Pueblo West and the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) from 2009-2012 and a regional conversion factor developed by Pueblo West from data sets collected by the City of Pueblo. In the Statement of Basis and Purpose language for the June 2013 Rulemaking Hearing, the WQCC required Pueblo West to collect dissolved selenium data in order to confirm the conversion factor derived standards for these segments or replace the standards with a dissolved fraction-based standard in the next review cycle. This review cycle is five years.

Ms. King stated from 2014-2017 Pueblo West collected quarterly samples at the assessment locations for Pesthouse Gulch and Wildhorse Creek. They were analyzed for dissolved and total recoverable selenium to generate data to confirm the regional

conversion factor used by Pueblo West in the June 2014 Rulemaking Hearing. The conversion factor calculated in Table 1 using the 2014-2017 dissolved and total recoverable selenium data is 0.95, which is approximately the same as the regional conversion factor 0.961 that was used by Pueblo West in the June 2013 hearing. Therefore, the conversion factor derived selenium standard for these segments has been confirmed. During the December 15, 2017 meeting that Pueblo West had with the WQCD to prepare for the June 2018 Rulemaking Hearing, the WQCD suggested that Pueblo West use the 2014-2017 dissolved selenium data to proposed updated ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards for Pesthouse Gulch and Wildhorse Creek. In response to the WQCD's suggestion, Pueblo West used the 2014-2017 dissolved selenium data to calculate the proposed updated ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards for Pesthouse Gulch and Wildhorse Creek. In the June 2018 hearing, based upon the dissolved selenium data collected by Pueblo West from 2014-2017 at the assessment locations from Pesthouse Gulch and Wildhorse Creek, Pueblo West proposes that the WQCC adopt updated ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards for Pesthouse Gulch (acute standard = 523 mg/l and chronic standard = 446 mg/l) and for Wildhorse Creek (acute standard = 2,221 mg/l and chronic standard = 1,952 mg/l).

Ms. King stated to prepare for the June 2013 Rulemaking Hearing for Regulation #32, Pueblo West collected monthly samples on Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek for two years and paid a laboratory to analyze the samples providing 48 data points. The selenium data which Pueblo West collected was used to calculate the ambient quality-based site-specific standards for selenium for Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek. The WQCC adopted in the June 2013 Rulemaking Hearing the following selenium standards: Golf Course Wash (acute standard = 1,797 mg/l and chronic standard = 1,769 mg/l) and for Turkey Creek (acute standard = 2,498 mg/l and chronic standard = 2,344 mg/l). The Statement of Basis and Purpose language for the June 2013 hearing stated: "Based upon the selenium data collected in these segments and an engineering report that concluded that the source of selenium in the Pueblo West Metropolitan District wastewater treatment plant influent and the surrounding ground and surface waters is the geologic shale formations ubiquitous to the Middle Arkansas sub-basin, the Commission adopted ambient quality-based selenium standards for these segments." However, in the August 19, 2014 letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 to the WQCC regarding the ambient-based selenium standards for Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek (Regulation #32), the EPA questioned the ambient-based selenium standards for Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek proposed by the District and adopted by the WQCC during the June 2013 Rulemaking Hearing. In response, the WQCC revised a section of Regulation #31 during the June 2016 Rulemaking Hearing on basic standards. In response to the June 2016 revision to Regulation #31, Pueblo West requested a scope of work and cost estimate from a technical consultant for a comprehensive alternative analysis and review of ambient based selenium standards for Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek to determine the extent of anthropogenic impacts, the feasibility to reverse such impacts, and the highest attainable water quality condition and use for these segments. However, the technical consultant's cost estimate was excessive. Due to resource limitations and the lack of compliance concerns on these segments, Pueblo West has not been able to justify spending this significant amount for a comprehensive alternatives analysis. During the December 15, 2017 meeting that Pueblo West had with the WQCD to prepare for the June 2018 Rulemaking Hearing for Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek, the WQCD told Pueblo West to propose deleting the ambient-based site-specific selenium standards and reinstate the underlying table value standards. In

response for Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek, Pueblo West is proposing to delete the ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards that were adopted five years ago and reinstate the underlying table value standards for selenium. For Golf Course Wash, which is designated for aquatic life and agricultural use, the selenium standard for aquatic life (acute standard = 18.4 mg/l and chronic standard = 4.6 mg/l) and for agriculture the standard is 20 mg/l. For Turkey Creek, those same standards would apply for aquatic life and agriculture. There is also a domestic water supply use assigned to Turkey Creek and that standard is 50 mg/l.

Ms. King summarized for the June 2018 Rulemaking Hearing for the Arkansas River Basin Regulation #32, Pueblo West Metropolitan District is proposing to update the ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards for two segments, Wildhorse Creek and Pesthouse Gulch, and also proposing to delete the ambient quality-based site-specific selenium standards and reinstate the underlying selenium table value standards for two segments, Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek.

Mr. Gradisar asked why Pueblo West is concerned about Golf Course Wash and Turkey Creek, noting it is not discharging into them. Ms. King replied that is correct, noting they don't have a wastewater treatment plant that discharges to those segments, but those segments are located within the Pueblo West Metropolitan District. Since Pueblo West was doing the monitoring on those segments five years ago and collected the data and saw how high those natural selenium concentrations are, they decided to propose ambient-based standards. This is the why they made the proposal five years ago, which was adopted by the WQCC. Now the rules have changed and Regulation #31 was revised by the WQCC and requires a lot of additional work and the cost of that additional work, a comprehensive alternatives analysis, is high and Pueblo West has decided not to pursue that.

Mr. Aguilera asked if there is any possibility that either of those streams could contaminate Lake Pueblo. Ms. King responded the source of the selenium is a natural source or the geologic formations. There are other parameters that are present in surface water, but she was not aware of either of those streams having any issues and they are not impaired and are in good condition for all the water quality parameters.

Mr. Hart stated he didn't understand her answer as to how Pueblo West got involved five years ago. Pueblo West, at that time, was considering a potential place to do their off run from their sewage treatment plant, and that has not changed. He wondered why Pueblo West has to do anything because they are no longer wanting to utilize either one of those streambeds and he didn't think, by law, Pueblo West has any responsibility with regard to the streambeds unless they are actually putting water or effluent into it. Ms. King replied that most people who collect data are interested in having the standards reflect the natural conditions and this is what the data from five years ago does. Mr. Hart stated then it is just a general concern of wanting to make sure that whatever the level that is set is set according to what appears to be natural conditions. Ms. King replied it would be for the standards to reflect reality. You can see the difference in the ambient-based standards and the table value standards. Mr. Hart stated we are all concerned about the quality of the water and there have been discussions on whether to tax our citizens to clean up waterways that are running through our community as opposed to doing whatever we need to do to either contribute or reduce and putting water back into the stream.

Mr. Hart asked if there have been ongoing conversations with the WQCD staff regarding this issue, and what is their position with respect to Pueblo West's proposal. Ms. King answered that with Turkey Creek and Golf Course Wash proposal, the WQCD asked Pueblo West to propose a change in the standards from the ambient-based to table values.

Mr. Hart stated because of a dual role serving as a County Commissioner and a PACOG member, he would have to abstain on the vote on this question. Chairwoman Leonard replied she also has a conflict of interest and would have to abstain from voting. Mr. Pace stated he would also be abstaining.

Mr. Gradisar asked if the actual selenium in the Turkey Creek and Golf Course Wash is higher than the table value standards at the present time. Ms. King replied it is much higher. She stated that this is basically true all over this area.

Chairwoman Leonard questioned what type of action is being asked from PACOG today. Ms. King replied they are required to present our proposals to the 208 water quality planning agency for this area, which is PACOG. Chairwoman Leonard asked if a letter is needed. Ms. King replied if PACOG agrees with Pueblo West's proposal, then a letter supporting the proposal would be appreciated. Mr. Hart stated that it isn't required, noting that PACOG can either take a position or not take a position. Ms. King replied that is correct. Mr. Hart stated it shouldn't have any decision on what the State decides to do regarding the proposal. Ms. King replied if the WQCC receives a letter from PACOG that would be part of the record.

Mr. Azad felt it would help Pueblo West if PACOG provided a letter of support. Mr. Kogovsek stated the minutes could reflect that PACOG, as the 208 water quality planning agency, supported the Pueblo West Metropolitan District's water quality proposal for Middle Arkansas Segments 4a, 4e, 4g, and 18b.

It was moved by Ray Aguilera and seconded by Mark Aliff that PACOG, as the Section 208 water quality planning agency, approve the Pueblo West Metropolitan District's proposal for Middle Arkansas Segments 4a, 4e, 4g, and 18b to the Water Quality Control Commission. The motion carried by a 6-0-3 vote, with Chairwoman Leonard and Messrs. Hart and Pace abstaining due to a conflict of interest. (Note: Mr. Flores left before the vote took place.)

CITY OF PUEBLO'S WATER QUALITY PROPOSAL - REQUEST FOR A DISCHARGER SPECIFIC VARIANCE (DSV) FOR SELENIUM AND SULFATE

Mr. Gabe Racz, Attorney, represented the City of Pueblo on the proposal. He reported the City of Pueblo is proposing a discharger specific variance (DSV) for selenium and sulfate for Lower Arkansas River Segment 1a, which is the Arkansas River from Fountain Creek to the Colorado Canal in Avondale. This variance would only apply to the Pueblo Water Reclamation Facility. The variance is a temporary standard, which would expire in 2028. The purpose of the summary of the variance is that during this 10-year period the City of Pueblo would implement an adaptive management plan to control selenium and sulfate using source control through sewer lining activities accompanied by a comprehensive long-term sampling and analysis plan to evaluate the effectiveness of that program and, also, an investigation at the water reclamation facility into treatment optimization focusing

on selenium but continuing to gather data on sulfate. This program has been several years in the making with particular efforts being focused since the December 2015 temporary modifications hearing, including multiple meetings with area stakeholders and discussions with the WQCD and EPA. The basis for the DSV is an alternatives analysis. A PowerPoint presentation was done showing effluent selenium concentrations and sulfate concentrations over a 20+ year period. He stated the source is groundwater infiltration into the sewer system, with high concentrations of selenium and sulfate. The entire area is underlain by shales that are very high in selenium and sulfate, which travel together in this geology. As a result, there are some parts of the City that have very high concentrations of selenium and sulfate. The graphs show that the effluent quality does not meet the ambient-based standards of 14.1 for selenium and 329 for sulfate. He noted 20 years ago the City had proposed and the WQCC adopted ambient-based standard, however, those were not met by the wastewater treatment facility, and additional regulatory solutions were necessary. The City has looked at 25 different control alternatives, e.g., water quality management type of activities in addition to treatment technologies. At the end of the analysis, two alternatives remain as technically, financially, and environmentally feasible. One is source control and sewer lining in the areas of the City where there is high selenium and sulfate concentrations. In addition, testing has shown that there are some possibilities that chemical addition at the facility may be feasible to reduce selenium concentrations. More study is needed to understand how much selenium concentrations could be lowered and whether adding chemicals would create new problems.

Mr. Racz stated the primary driver or concern for eliminating most of the alternatives was financial feasibility. The City is using the EPA's guidance for financial feasibility analysis and has looked at different economic factors. Secondary indicators or indicators of the relative strength or weakness of the area's economy were used. The table shows an overall score of 2.2, with a scale 1 to 3. One of the big drivers of Pueblo is the median household income, which is below the median. He noted that the City did have some strong indicators as well. Under EPA's guidance, when your secondary score is from 1½ to 2½, somewhere between 1% and 2% median household income, it would be feasible for the community to spend. The conclusion was that the cost of water quality control exceeds 1½% of the community median household income that would create a substantial negative economic impact on the City. The factors include aging infrastructure, noting some of the sewer systems are over 100 years old and are in need of repair and replacement. Poverty rates are much higher than Colorado's average, and there is a lower cost of living growth. The City compared this threshold against other sewer rates and the concerning factor is that when the need to manage aging infrastructure is combined with the recent trends where cost increase and incomes don't increase, the projection is that the cost of water quality control over the long-term would far exceed 1½% of the median household income. Over the short-term, however, there is a possibility for the City to take action in order to control selenium and sulfate keeping in mind that they need to address nutrients, other regulatory matters, and aging infrastructure.

Mr. Racz stated the regulation calls for setting an alternate effluent limit before the facility replaces the water quality standards as the basis for effluent limits. The City has been conducting pilot studies of sewer lines and the results of one of the pilot studies has shown that there is an outcome, however, it wasn't possible to come up with a number at the wastewater treatment plant. The slides showed high selenium concentrations that are

found in the manholes next to Wildhorse Creek. While these studies are going on, the City is proposing they would commit to ongoing sewer lining in order to do source control while it is continuing to study the problem and decide what's the appropriate next step. This is a 10-year \$10 million program. With this commitment, the City can line up to 175,000 square feet of pipe area, seal up to 400 manholes, and explore chemical addition at the reclamation facility and still conduct a comprehensive sampling analysis program. In addition to those activities, it might be necessary to go in and repair caps, repair service lines, or deal with troublesome manholes. The plan is to try to frontload the sewer line activities with the maximum amount of data. He stated we need wet weather in order to get good data, noting this is when the groundwater levels come up. He asked for a resolution of support from PACOG.

Mr. Hart stated the program the City has engaged in has been admirable. He stated he liked the analysis that showed the difficulty of what might be proposed in the future. He stated that because of a conflict, he would have to abstain from voting. He wanted to note he is not opposed to the good work the City is trying to do.

It was moved by Ed Brown and seconded by Ray Aguilera that PACOG, as the Section 208 water quality planning agency, approve the City of Pueblo's request for a Discharge Specific Variance (DSV) for selenium and sulfate to be presented to the Water Quality Control Commission. The motion carried by a 7-0-1 vote, with Mr. Hart abstaining due to a conflict of interest. (Note: Mr. Pace left before the vote took place.)

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairwoman Leonard reported there were no comments received this month from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the State Transportation Commissioner for the Pueblo region.

Ms. Ajin Hu, Colorado Department of Transportation, reported on Friday, May 18, 2018, at 2:00 p.m., CDOT will be hosting an event for Infrastructure Week on the I-25 New Pueblo Freeway and transportation funding. Messrs. Michael Lewis, CDOT Executive Director, and Bill Thiebaut, Region 2 Transportation Commissioner, will be among the speakers. CDOT will be sending out invitations.

Ms. Hu reported the I-25 Belmont interchange bridge repair work should be finished by the end of May.

Ms. Hu reported the first major shift on Ilex was done on April 29, 2018. She stated the asphalt is still bumpy because they have not done the final layer of asphalt, noting they are waiting until the end of the project in 2019. Another temporary shift will happen on May 9th. The southbound traffic will be shifted. The demolition of the old bridge is going well. She stated that the temporary off ramp will be closed, noting this will happen on May 9th.

Ms. Hu reported the paving on the Northern Avenue bridge should be finished next week. The final striping will then be done on Northern, Mesa, and Indiana Avenue bridges. The Santa Fe bridge should be finished in July. Mr. Hart stated there have been some fascinating engineering challenges with the bridge. The bridge had to be lifted in order to do certain work and it had to be rebuilt and set back down. He stated if there were pictures it would be nice to show them. Ms. Hu replied that pictures were taken.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Terry Hart reported the next STAC meeting will be held tomorrow. The last meeting was held on March 23, 2018. A presentation was made by Mr. Wade Buchanan, who is the Senior Advisor on Aging to the Governor. The Governor is working with Mr. Buchanan to go around the State and analyze some of the aging issues we are facing between all of us living longer and some of the new people moving into the State are elderly and it is causing a greater need for services that will meet the needs of our aging citizens in the State. He stated transit and automated vehicles have a major impact on seniors, as well as the types of services seniors need in order to access the services they require.

Mr. Hart stated there was a presentation on the Federal legislative report and the State legislative report. President Trump has put out a proposal on infrastructure that would require a bigger local share than Federal share. There was a discussion on the amount of money that would be coming from the Federal government and the amount that would be coming to Colorado. It indicates that approximately \$29 million in additional funds will be received by Colorado through that process. There is going to be an expansion of the TIGER funding from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion, which is good. He stated TIGER funding has been used for the Southwest Chief and for some of the highway projects in Southern Colorado.

Mr. Hart stated there is going to be an expansion of transit funding for new starts, small starts, and other types of transit programs throughout the State. CDOT will provide a bill summary to STAC members electronically. He stated the minute they get the report it changes, noting there is a great deal of movement which has occurred since the March 23rd meeting. STAC talked about Senate Bill 1 and the interesting debate going on in the Legislature about one type of proposal that is basically trying to figure out how to reconfigure the funding that is already in the State and the new funding that is available because of the improved economy. There would be no new taxes, but rather trying to utilize that type of revenue to support the transportation expenses needed. The other proposal is basically to identify new long-term sustainable funding through some kind of a tax ballot question. He didn't believe the Legislature is proposing to put any kind of a ballot question out, but the Denver Chamber of Commerce is. The ballot proposal will either be on the 2018 or 2019 ballot. He stated the long-range planning is being done to figure out where our priorities are and which projects we will be able to afford based upon how much money ultimately might be available to the State. When the amount of money is determined and if there is a ballot question and it passes or doesn't pass, all of those options are being taken into consideration to figure out what we would do and how we can hit the ground running the minute that we know what the amount of money is.

Mr. Hart stated there was an update on the Safe Routes to School program. They went over the types of activities that have been done in the past and where that program is going in the future. He stated Pueblo County has tapped into the program to work on difficult intersections around some of the schools in School District No. 70.

Mr. Hart stated there was a presentation on the network breach at CDOT. The State computer system was attacked and had to be completely taken down. The breach was not introduced into the system by opening an email or an attachment to the email. It had a different methodology. He stated the breach was something that got into CDOT's computer system and laid dormant for a long time and then something within the system

triggered it. Once it got triggered, it started eating up the files and seizing them and saying if you want to get your information back you have to pay a ransom. The State did not pay any ransom, but rather when it was detected they shut down the entire system and within a 6- to 7-week period they started isolating every place where the ransom-wear had attacked and cleaned it out and slowly went back to their most recent backup system and brought the data back up to speed. It was expensive. He stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation is involved in the case. He stated the STAC members asked CDOT to help them to try to avoid this from happening to other entities, and how to get out of the situation. CDOT agreed to let the members know.

Mr. Hart stated there was a presentation by Transportation System Development and their basically making a shift under the system. In the past, they had focused on putting money into each of the localities that had transit systems and any interconnection. Now, they are looking at the full State transit needs.

Mr. Hart stated there was a discussion on the demands of the system and how it should plug into our planning process.

Mr. Hart stated there was a discussion on the Autonomous Mobility Task Force, who are looking at the various options. CDOT staff is looking at it and will determine what kind of proposals we should be engaging in to build up our infrastructure for the future. He stated there is a rapid shifting going from gasoline to diesel fuel vehicles and moving over towards hybrids and electric vehicles, and the amount of infrastructure support which will be required throughout the State. The questions are how do you deal with it, who pays for it, and who owns the system?

Mr. Adams stated at the STAC meeting tomorrow a lot of the conversation will deal with House Bill 18-01, which is the transportation bill. There are a lot of funding possibilities within the bill regarding transportation improvements. Mr. Hart stated we need to make sure that whatever our thoughts are of what we need in the next few years need to be in our plans and the community needs to work together to fight and lobby for funding. We need to be united in our political effort to fight for the funding.

MPO STAFF REPORT:

(A) PACOG Title VI Plan

Mr. John Adams, MPO Administrator, reported any program where you receive Federal funds you are required by the Federal government to have the Title VI process in place. Page 1 shows the Non-Discrimination Policy Statement, which says we will not discriminate based on color, age, sex, race, national origin, sex, or disability. He stated under the Organization, Staffing and Structure, a brief chart of the staffing and the primary areas of responsibility of PACOG MPO was included. Primary Program Area Descriptions and Review Procedures includes a list of the different program areas that the Urban Transportation Planning Division engages in. Under Title VI Complaint Procedures, the Federal law requires that PACOG investigate, track, and report discrimination complaints.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Terry Hart, and passed unanimously to approve the PACOG Title VI Plan as presented.

(B) Support Letter for Phase 1 Request for Funding for The Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission

Mr. Adams reported the letter was included in the PACOG packet. He stated Mr. Pace indicated he was fine with the letter as written. This letter from PACOG supports the request from The Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee for \$8.7 million over three years to complete Phase 1.

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the letter.

(C) FY 2018 UPWP Mid-Year Review

Mr. Adams reported staff meets with CDOT, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration on an annual basis to talk about how the transportation processes are progressing throughout the year. The meeting was held on April 12th. There was one note which was pointed out, noting that PACOG has been successful in completing the UPWP task and staying within budget. They are pleased how the staff has been completing their planning process.

(D) Other Transportation Matters

There were no other transportation matters.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino reported the Pillars of Unity will be having their second annual Community/School Safety Summit on Saturday, June 16th at Pueblo County High School, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Frank DeAngelis will be the keynote speaker. The next planning session will be held on May 9th from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Patrick Lucero Library. He stated this year's theme will center around students. It has been suggested to have a student panel speaking about how they view student and community safety.

Mr. Ted Lopez, Jr. stated we need to get the input of the youth and find out how they feel about their sense of safety whether it be at home, on the way to school, or at school itself. He encouraged everyone to attend. He stated our community has been very lucky that an incident has not occurred. We all need to be aware of how the students feel about their environment.

Mr. Latino talked about Initiative 93. Public school funding in Colorado is a travesty. Colorado ranks from 42nd to 46th nationally with per pupil funding. The teacher pay ranks 47th of the 50 states. The national teacher pay average is \$58,000+ and in Colorado it is \$46,000. This initiative is to get on the ballot. All 178 school districts in Colorado are supporting this.

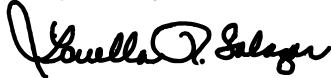
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 24, 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 Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority and Pueblo Human Relations Commission. Eileen Dennis was selected to a four-year term, which expires on May 9, 2022, on the Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors. Floyd Jaramillo, M. Patricia O'Brien, Jean Flynn Ray, and Charlotte Perez were selected to serve three-year terms, which expire on December 31, 2020, on the Pueblo Human Relations Commission. These appointments will need to be ratified by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners at their respective meetings.