

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MAY 25, 2017

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, May 25, 2017, 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. Tony Montoya, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera  
Ed Brown  
Robert Ferriter  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Frank Latino

Judy Leonard  
Ted Lopez  
Tony Montoya  
Steve Nawrocki  
Sal Pace  
Lori Winner

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio  
Terry Kraus  
Chris Nicoll

Garrison Ortiz  
Bob Schilling

Also present were:

John Adams  
Joan Armstrong  
Dan Kogovsek

Louella Salazar  
Greg Styduhar

#### **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.

Chairman Montoya asked if there were any 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 additions or amendments.

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

- Minutes of April 27, 2017 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file April 2017 Financial Report).

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Montoya thanked Pueblo School District No. 70 for providing lunch for today's meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

There was no Manager's Report.

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' MPO/TPR TO THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF AND FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION**

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported at the last PACOG meeting, discussion occurred on appointing a representative to the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission. He was named by PACOG as the interim representative. This resolution would be appointing a PACOG member to be its representative on this Commission.

Mr. Pace stated he will be seeking one of the appointments from the Governor as a rail advocate on the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission. He stated Mr. Hart has expressed interest in serving as PACOG's representative. Mr. Hart stated he saw this as a natural fit with what he was doing with the State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC). He stated if Mr. Pace is not successful in obtaining the Governor's appointment, he could step in and do this. He stated he would be working closely with Mr. John Adams, the MPO Manager.

It was moved by Sal Pace, seconded by Nick Gradisar, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Appointing a Representative from the Pueblo Area Council of Governments' MPO/TPR to the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission" and appointed Mr. Terry Hart to serve as its representative.

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

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

At its May meeting, the Transportation Commission:

- Approved the FY 16-17 National Highway Freight Program projects list. The New Pueblo Freeway improvements mentioned in his April comments are part of the list.
- Began discussing: How to refine the Tier 1 Ten-Year Development Program list from a "ballot list" to an updated list that invests SB 17-267 transportation monies of approximately \$1.88 billion over four years for projects that are in the "Strategic Transportation Projects Investment Program" and are designated for funding in the Tier 1 grouping.

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT, reported the Tier 1 Ten-Year Development Refined Program list has not been completed. There is \$1.88 billion over four years for the projects, noting 10% goes to transit and the remaining portion or 25% goes to rural counties' projects. CDOT will contribute \$50 million and the State contribute \$100 million to pay for the bond annually over the next 20 years.

Ms. Hu reported there are two projects, which are going to construction. The first is Pueblo Boulevard between Goodnight and U.S. 50, noting traffic will be shifted next week. It is a 144-working day contract, but it also says that the work may be finished by the end of this year. The second project is Highway 50 westbound from the railroad crossing to the top of the hill past Pueblo Boulevard. This will start in the middle of June and is a two-season construction project. CDOT is working on the design from the top of the hill to Purcell because CDOT had a savings last month (\$5 million), which will allow the work to be extended to the west, as much as possible.

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

Mr. Terry Hart, PACOG STAC representative, reported a STAC meeting was held on May 19, 2017, in which he participated by telephone. He stated discussion occurred on the last minute work that the Legislature did, noting it is frustrating because we have been talking about a conservative amount and how much money we need in the State to meet our minimal requirements, which is \$9.2 billion. The compromise the Legislature was working on was \$3.1 billion, but it failed in the last few days of the Legislative session. It was tied in with the Hospital Provider Enterprise question, which was also a major issue. It resulted in a \$1.8 billion allocation of funds. This created problems with the Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists. Tier 1 is completing the construction of the Ilex project on I-25 and getting the planning work done north of it. It would also finish the work which is being done on Highway 50. If you have to shrink a \$3.1 billion list down to \$1.8 billion and you are setting aside a percentage for transportation and setting aside a percentage for rural counties, it's going to be a food fight. We have been talking strategically about that we have to be at the table and we have to be "shaking our sabre". He stated I-25 through Pueblo is the oldest stretch of highway in the State, which has not been reconstructed, and it is also one of the most dangerous stretches of any highway system per capita in the State of Colorado. It has to have a high priority, but there is a giant sucking sound when it comes to transportation issues because it goes to where the population center is or the Denver metropolitan area. He stated these are very big ticket items, noting the I-70 projects are multi-billion dollar projects. He stated there were several steps which were outlined at STAC on how they are going to go through the process of trying to develop the list. The original discussion was that CDOT staff try to take a stab at what the list would look like. There has been a lot of push back from elected people on STAC who are saying it is going to be a highly political issue. There was a discussion about a subcommittee putting together the original draft. He stated there is a bad habit in the State that when we have compromise that once the list is developed that we say "we're done", when, in fact, we have a \$9.2 billion need Statewide. He stated if any of our projects are shrunk or get booted that it would be difficult to get them back on the table.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on the freight survey, and trying to line up projects that impact freight. One out of three jobs in the State of Colorado are associated with freight. It is important to Pueblo with I-25 and the work we are trying to do on Highway 50.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on the Bustang and the new efforts being made to extend it, as well as the RFP which would be going out on the vans that would feed Bustang. There are potential routes on the vans and Pueblo is hooked into the process. Vans will be coming to and through Pueblo from the east, west, and south and hooking up to Bustang, which is down to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on technology and infrastructure expansion. The technology could include possibly having driverless vehicles driven by a series of computers systems. Discussion occurred on converting over to electric vehicles, which would require electric charging stations up and down the major corridors. A lot of focus is being emphasized on this, noting it would have an economic impact on the State's viability.

Mr. Hart stated there is going to be a webinar on June 28<sup>th</sup> regarding rest areas. He stated Colorado has completely backed away from rest areas, noting there are members on the Transportation Commission who would like to get completely out of having any rest areas in the State. This would then divert travelers to private businesses. He stated he did not agree with this philosophy because rest areas do a lot of things, such as being the showcase for the State. He stated the rest areas in neighboring states connect you to the community. He stated more information could be obtained from CDOT's webpage.

Mr. Aguilar asked if the southbound rest area would be reopened. Mr. Hart replied CDOT is going to reopen it. The southbound rest area has had challenges with a newer, waterless septic system. The engineers are looking into the system. The long-range plan is to get it fixed and open, which might take a few months. He stated it is a waterless composting system. There are some problems with it. He stated with these types of systems, you have to do complete xeriscaping. He felt that it might not be a bad idea to weigh in with our transportation representatives, but also with the State representatives. Mr. Nawrocki stated the rest area at Colorado City brings a lot of business to the area. Mr. Hart stated he thought this is where the State was headed with rest stops. Chairman Montoya felt we are getting closer together in terms of our urban areas and the gap between places has shrunk. Mr. Hart stated the federal requirement is a minimum of 90 miles without other types of stops or a two-hour drive. He stated as the Front Range develops in Colorado, it doesn't have that anymore.

#### MPO STAFF REPORT

##### (A) CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Policy Agenda Item

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported there are two locations on U.S. 50B Bridge Asset Management-Culvert Program (i.e., U.S. 50B Bridges K-18-BY and K-18-BZ, at Mile Marker 318). The total in federal program funds is \$41,395 and the State matching fund is \$8,605 for a total of \$50,000. This amendment provides for channel stabilization countermeasures to be installed in the channel downstream to protect the bridges. Work to be included is as follows: Structure design, survey/right-of-way plans to identify easements, and environmental clearance

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the PACOG MPO/TPR TIP amendment to the FY 2017-2010 Transportation

Improvement Program regarding the U.S. 50 Bridge Asset Management-Culvert Program.

(B) Legislative Update on Transportation Funding

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported on Senate Bill No. 17-267. He stated STAC will be involved in that element of whatever the list becomes. There are eight ballot initiatives that have been titled to go on November's ballot to increase funds for transportation.

(C) Status of CDOT MPO Liaison Staffing

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, introduced Mr. Tim Kirby, CDOT MPO and Regional Planning Manager. Mr. Kirby stated Mr. Michael Snow has moved on to another position within CDOT. Interviews to fill his position have been scheduled at the end of next week. Within a month, there should be someone on board.

Mr. Kirby stated the FY 2017 mid-year review with FHWA and CDOT and the MPO staff was conducted. He commended Mr. Adams for a good job.

(D) FY 2017 Mid-Year Review with FHWA and CDOT - May 2, 2017

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported Mr. Kirby covered the review in the previous item.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino reported the Pillars of Unity are planning their first annual community/school safety conference. It will be held on June 10, 2017, at Central High School. He stated he attended the Central High School STEM award ceremony on May 17, 2017, which was held at El Pueblo Museum. Mr. George Koustas, who was the keynote speaker, was very inspiring and motivated. He was a 1961 graduate of Central High School. His roots were in Pueblo School District No. 60 schools. He talked fondly about his days at Central High School and the staff, Messrs. Sollie Raso, Ed Lesser, and John Rivas. His intent is to give back to Pueblo. He grew up on the 1300 block of Abriendo Avenue, and he remembered fondly the neighborhood and the different City businesses, which were available at that time. He took a drive around the City and he said it "hurt" to see some of the areas where he grew up in. He remembered those areas as vibrant areas and well maintained. He had memories of people not having a lot, but what they had they took care of it. He saw The Blocks, Goat Hill, etc. and found them to be blighted areas. He spoke with Mr. Ted Lopez, Jr. from the Pillars of Unity and was interested in what the group was doing. He felt that anytime you can bring the community together for a common cause that he wanted to be a part of it. He is planning on attending the summit. If all works out with this year's summit, Mr. Koustas will be invited to be a guest speaker at next year's summit, which is scheduled on June 16, 2018.

Mr. Latino stated as a native Puebloan he is concerned about it. He stated those who live in Pueblo now are here because they like Pueblo. He stated there are teachers, coaches, and many individuals along the education avenue that have influenced us. He stated we have a lot of good things going on in this community, but we need to create more of an awareness. This summit is an umbrella where all of us can come together

and move this in a positive light for this community. He stated in those "backroom meetings" that anything that is south of Colorado Springs is looked upon differently. He stated when they fought for the South Central League, they were fighting for this area for equity.

Mr. Ted Lopez, Jr., Pillars of Unity, reported Messrs. Joe Latino and Steve Pineda were also in attendance. The Pillars have been meeting since December 2015 and formed the day after the shooting in Bessemer at the corner of Northern and Orman Avenues. He stated they formed the group to do something about it. They meet monthly at Patrick Lucero Library on the second Wednesday at noon. The community has been invited to attend. They have had the Police Crime Task Force, Crime Prevention Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit, Dan Corsentino, and United Way speak to them, as well as others. They are trying to put all the splinters together and harness the energy and see if they can come up with solutions to help solve some of the problems in the community and with its image in the community as well as outside. Mr. Corsentino made a presentation about one year ago and suggested a community summit. The community needs to have the feeling of safety. The summit will occur on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at Pueblo Central High School, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Mr. Adam Martinez, an ex-gang member and boxing pro, will be one of the speakers. There will be breakout sessions planned. Mr. Corsentino will be making a presentation on school safety. Mr. Mark Salazar will be making a presentation on gang prevention. Moms Demand Action, which was a group started by Shannon Watts the day after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, will make a presentation on gun sense (e.g., guns in the home should be locked up). When you have weapons, you should have the responsibility that goes with ownership. There will be breakout sessions on mental health/suicide and bully prevention. Bully prevention or the No Bully program is a program which School District No. 60 received a grant which will end in June 2019. He stated the Pillars not only have meetings, but are invited to present and participate in different functions around the City. They have gone to speak to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Irving Elementary School. They are invited to participate in a planning session at Heroes Academy to listen to the plan in the change of curriculum and provide comments. He stated he attended the STEM award ceremony and when he heard Mr. Koustas speak he was inspired. He was happy that he could be a speaker at next year's summit. He stated Mr. Frank DeAngelis, the former principal at Columbine High School, will be the final speaker at this year's summit. He stated Pillars is handing out information on the summit at the different meetings they attend and contacting groups by email. He invited the PACOG members, as well as the audience, to attend. He stated if they knew of any young people who might benefit from the presentations to let them know to attend. He felt the summit will benefit the community and all of us because individually we don't know what all there is out there. He stated they are trying to make these resources available to individuals that they can use or pass on to someone else and let them know there is this help. In addition, they would like the City Council and Board of County Commissioners to issue a proclamation honoring the summit and mention the speakers. He felt this is a good start and, hopefully, it will help change the image of Pueblo to outsiders. He stated the groups he is on, noting 50% of the members are non-natives, have nothing but positive things to say about Pueblo. He stated sometimes we are our own worst enemies, and this is what Pillars is trying to correct.

Mr. Frank Latino added they met with Superintendent Ed Smith from School District No. 70, who is involved.

Mr. Joe Latino, Pillars of Unity, reported they have received positive response from Pueblo Community College, noting the Dean of Students will be in attendance. They are currently working with Colorado State University-Pueblo. It is an all-encompassing program. This is about Pueblo. These schools need to be involved. He stated Mr. DeAngelis travels all over the country for the National Safe School Network. When Sandy Hook and Virginia Tech occurred, Mr. DeAngelis was there because of his experience at Columbine. In the last week and a half, Jefferson County named a building after him, which is called the Frank DeAngelis' Martensen School for Community and Public Safety. The Wheat Ridge school closed and the building was retrofitted for community safety and trains law enforcement and first responders to train for active shooter situations.

Mr. Latino stated that Pueblo is a great place. He stated we all have a sensitivity and feeling for the community. He stated there is a lot of history in Pueblo and a lot of potential.

Chairman Montoya encouraged everyone to work with their communities and organizations to get them to attend the summit.

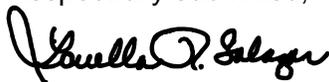
#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items provided.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 12:15 p.m., 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