

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JUNE 22, 2017

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tony Montoya, Chairman, at 12:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown
Robert Ferriter
Frank Latino
Judy Leonard

Ted Lopez
Tony Montoya
Steve Nawrocki
Sal Pace

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Larry Atencio
Nick Gradisar
Terry Hart
Terry Kraus

Chris Nicoll
Garrison Ortiz
Bob Schilling
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad

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 Steve Nawrocki, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of May 25, 2017 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file May 2017 Financial Report).

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Montoya thanked Pueblo West Metropolitan District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Armstrong reported the minutes of the June 1, 2017 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee were provided to the PACOG members in their packets.

This being an informational item, no formal action was required.

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:

- The Transportation Commission, acting as the Bridge Enterprise Board, approved a budget supplement for the I-25/Ilex project for bridge construction in the amount of approximately \$3.4 million. The new two-span bridge is necessary because the Union Pacific Railroad did not sell an easement to CDOT as originally anticipated in the preconstruction phase of the project. It is anticipated that a separate and unrelated schedule delay budget supplement request will be presented to the Transportation Commission and Bridge Enterprise Board in the future.
- Additionally, the Transportation Commission approved the following State highways as eligible for abandonment: a portion of S.H. 227 (Joplin Avenue) and S.H. 233 (Baxter Road). These devolutions were associated with the RAMP program. The future maintenance value of each devolution was not paid directly to the local entities (City or County) but was used as a cash match toward two RAMP projects in Pueblo, the I-25/Ilex project and the U.S. 50B widening project.
- The Transportation Commission is beginning to discuss the new transportation funding law. Among other things, the principles to be utilized by the Transportation Commission in project selection as well as the approach and methodology for repayment of the COPs issued are on the table for consideration during the upcoming months.

Mr. Pace asked how much money is being discussed on the Statewide deal on the Hospital Provider fee and the increase in marijuana taxes and what does that mean for CDOT per year. Mr. DeHeart, Resident Engineer, CDOT, replied he did not know, but he would ask and, hopefully, get answers for PACOG at its next meeting.

Mr. DeHeart distributed copies of a CDOT monthly newsletter for the members. This particular newsletter provides information on the Ilex Project. He stated there is a website on the newsletter, which interested parties can sign up to get it emailed to them.

CDOT is done with the negotiations for the Iron Phoenix bridge. There were not only construction costs, but the owner caused a delay. A new schedule had to be done. He stated CDOT wants to do a special Ilex project update for PACOG in the future. In December or end of 2018 is the time CDOT is now going to be done. Originally, CDOT said it was going to be done at the end of 2017, so the year has been shifted. Projects should last until April. CDOT will be planting trees in the springtime and possibly some last-minute paving. The special Ilex project update will detail more of what is happening. Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, stated CDOT had already, via an earlier email, requested to be on PACOG's August 24, 2017 agenda.

Mr. Pace asked what is happening on Pueblo Boulevard. Mr. DeHeart replied the contractor is making great progress on Pueblo Boulevard. Traffic is shifted on one side while the other side is being built. Once this half is done, the traffic will be moved to the other side and finish the building. There is a possibility it might be done this year or by Spring 2018. The Arkansas River up to Highway 50 is going to be concrete paved. Asphalt is being removed and the base is being prepped for concrete paving. From the Arkansas River to City Park, asphalt will be used. The Spaulding Avenue and 11th Street signals will get rebuilt. The signal at 24th Street is new, and will only be raised.

Mr. Azad reported CDOT will be making a presentation to the City Council on Monday, and wondered if there could be someone to respond to the Hospital Provider fee, etc. Mr. DeHeart responded he would let Ms. Rowe know.

Mr. Nawrocki asked what the status of the new CDOT headquarters is. Mr. DeHeart answered the move-in date is in March 2018. He stated he heard the furniture was delayed. He stated the building is progressing well and most of the exterior walls are getting sheaved in. The City is doing part of the road construction and activities and is making good progress. Mr. Nawrocki asked if the State Patrol would be done at the same time. Mr. DeHeart replied he wasn't sure if the State Patrol would be moving in at the same time.

Mr. Ferriter asked if there was any work that is going to be done on Highway 96 East in the future. Mr. DeHeart responded CDOT has an overlay project on State Highway 96 from where it connects with Highway 50 at the Airport. It does the on and off-ramps and then goes to Boone. CDOT is working on the surface treatment design. He didn't remember if it was FY 2020 or FY 2021 dollars.

Mr. Ferriter asked if he knew of any future projects on Highway 50 East, noting it is in bad condition and needs to be resurfaced. Mr. DeHeart replied the next surface treatment project is Manzanola to Rocky Ford, noting this might be next summer or the summer after. The plans are being worked on. There are some widening and curb ramps in the plans. The Tier 1 EIS which CDOT has been working on is being reviewed by FHWA. There is a legal sufficiency review. After this is done, a Record of Decision will need to be written, and then there will be conversations on funding. He stated this corridor is being looked at in the new funding which is identified in the U.S. Transportation Bill and is being identified as a freight corridor. The faster the EIS can be done, the quicker the corridor can be ready for conversations on funding.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

There was no STAC update.

MPO STAFF REPORT

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

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this TIP amendment requests additional funding for the Ilex construction phase. This funding will be added to the construction phase to cover the cost associated with the two-span bridge over Thomas Phelps Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad easement. The cost is \$3,269,267 in State funding (i.e., FASTER Bridge Enterprise 2017), noting the total needed to build the two-span bridge is \$5,104,749. There will be another amendment/modification to cover the remainder of the total cost.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Robert Ferriter, and passed unanimously to approve the TIP amendment for the Ilex - I-25 at City project, which will cover the cost associated with the two-span bridge over Thomas Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad easement.

(B) TIP/STIP Administration Modifications Agenda Item(s)

Mr. Adams reported there are three TIP/STIP administrative modifications this month. The first project is I-25 from City Center to 29th Street. The project is on the National Freight Program. This is new funding when the FAST Act was put in place. Region 2 could get \$2 million to do some of the design work on the I-25 Corridor from City Center to 29th Street. The second project is the State Highway 96 (4th Street) Lincoln from Abriendo Avenue to Orman Avenue Safety Project. The funding source is from the Safety and Hazard Elimination Program. This administrative request adds funding to the design phase activities in this project. The historic clearances for easements and the utility relocations are the areas that these funds will be applied. The total cost of the project is \$126,787. The third project is Ilex - I-25 to City Center. The total cost is \$1,835,482. This funding will be added to the construction phase to cover the cost associated with the two-span bridge over Thomas Phelps Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad easement.

(C) FY 2017 Roll Forward Projects

Mr. Adams reported this is for the FY 2017 projects, which were due to expire this month. There was a request from Region 2 to rollover these projects into FY 2018. These are Transportation Alternative Projects (TAP), which deal mostly with trails, etc.

(D) Pueblo West Transit Feasibility Study Report

Mr. Adams reported the Pueblo West Transit Feasibility Study was added to the Transit Functionality Study. The final report on the Pueblo West Transit Feasibility Study was completed in May 2017, and was presented to the Pueblo West Metropolitan District two weeks ago. The recommendation is from the consultants, at this time, is there is not sufficient population and transit dependent people to implement a transit system. The consultant's long-term recommendation is that transit will be going to Pueblo West in the future. Most likely in the next five years, the MPO will revisit this and see if the population increases.

Ms. Leonard stated she has been letting people in Pueblo West know that a study was done, but is not currently warranted. Mr. Adams stated a survey was done and 42% of

the respondents would like to have transit in Pueblo West. Most the respondents and individuals at the public hearings were from Pueblo West.

Chairman Montoya asked if this included students from CSU-Pueblo and Pueblo Community College. Mr. Adams replied yes. He stated the number of students attending the colleges is high. South of U.S. Highway 50 there were 435 students and on the northern portion of Pueblo West there were 400 students. Chairman Montoya stated when he was a student he couldn't afford transportation, so he used public transportation to get to classes. He stated comments were made in the survey that a criminal element uses mass transit. He felt these students have the need for mass transit. He stated he hoped it came up again probably in less than five years. He stated as Pueblo West grows, the population of the students would grow. Mr. Adams replied the MPO sees a task in front of them that an education process needs to happen with the public with respect to the criminal element. He stated people need to understand that transit does not cause crime. Ms. Leonard added there are also high school students that don't have transportation. Chairman Montoya stated there are also School District No. 70 students that reside in School District No. 60 and go to School District No. 70 schools. It would be cheaper for School District No. 70 if these students could use public transit. Mr. Don Bruestle stated as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee he had seen the study. He pointed out there was economic inequality, noting those students who live in Pueblo West don't have the means to go to other college campuses because of the lack of transportation.

(E) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Adams stated he was not sure what was going to happen with Senate Bill No. 267, the Hospital Provider Bill. They are looking at \$1.8 billion, but there are so many needs. When the 10-year development plan was done, it showed there was a \$9 billion need. It was then narrowed down to \$3.5 billion. House Bill No.1452 showed there was a sense of urgency because there was a schedule of which projects need to go on that list. At the current time, that is not that urgent. The bill did not identify a timeline. When you take \$9 billion and end up with \$1.8 billion, you should expect that there is going to be projects that are not going to get funded or fully funded. He stated as more information comes out that PACOG will be advised.

Mr. Adams stated there is a member on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that has not been able to attend meetings and does not want to be on the CAC anymore. Staff will be advertising for this appointment, noting this is one of PACOG's three CAC appointments. The appointment will be placed on a future PACOG agenda.

Mr. Adams informed the members that a letter was distributed prior to the meeting regarding support for the Interregional Connectivity Study. He stated this study was done in 2012 to connect Fort Collins to Pueblo and, in the future, to connect Trinidad and Wyoming. This letter reaffirms PACOG's interest in participating in the study and meetings in the future.

It was moved by Sal Pace, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously for the chairman to sign the letter on behalf of PACOG to the Mr. David Krutsinger, Transit and Rail Project Manager, Colorado Department of Transportation.

Mr. Adams stated no funding is presently being requested. CDOT wants to do the north part from Fort Collins to Denver down to Colorado Springs, but in some of their

conversations discussion has not occurred on coming down to Pueblo in the initial phase. He stated PACOG needs to be at the table arguing the point that this all must be considered as one project and it shouldn't go on in phases. Mr. Nawrocki stated he was asked why Pueblo was not involved in the high-speed transit committee. Mr. Adams stated this letter is a response that the Pueblo area is going to be at the table.

Mr. Adams reported on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., CDOT will be making a presentation at the City Council work session regarding its activities in the City. He encouraged the members to attend. He stated there is a lot of construction going on throughout the City and County, and people don't realize how much money and economic benefit it brings to the community.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino thanked everyone for their support at the community summit on June 10th. The initial feedback has been positive. Many organizations attended and want to be participants at next year's summit. He thanked the City Council and Board of County Commissioners for their proclamations. He stated next year's summit will be held on June 16th. He stated Mr. Frank DeAngelis indicated that his goal was to fill the Central High School auditorium. He has volunteered to open the program and be a keynote speaker. He stated Mr. George Koustas attended from Denver and was impressed with the plan of action that the Pillars of Unity took to get all the entities moving in the same direction with respect to community safety. In an email, Mr. Koustas stated he would like to be involved in this process.

Mr. Latino stated the issues of bullying, mental health, and community safety are the focal point of everyone's concerns. He suggested to the PACOG members to make it a point next year to hear Mr. DeAngelis speak, noting he has an important message with what is happening across the country. He stated what we are seeing worldwide with respect to terrorists indicate that no community is exempt from any of this, and we need to be proactive.

Mr. Latino commended Mr. Ed Smith, the superintendent of School District No. 70 with giving all his administrators' in-service credit for attending. Next year Mr. Smith will be extending this credit to his teachers. Mr. Latino, who is on the School District No. 60 board of directors, stated that the District will be doing the same for its administrators and teachers. He stated next year there will be more active participation from Pueblo Community College and CSU-Pueblo.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Pace stated he would like to have an update on passenger rail, as well as a focus on the November deadline with CDOT for transit funding dollars.

Chairman Montoya stated there was some discussion on cancelling the July 27, 2017 PACOG meeting. Mr. DeHeart stated that CDOT is going to have some funding requests for next month's meeting. Staff will inform PACOG if the meeting is going to be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 27, 2017, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS