

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JULY 25, 2013

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at the Pueblo City-County Health Department, 101 West 9th Street, Third Floor, Conference Room C. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Michael Colucci, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown  
Michael Colucci  
Michael Connolly  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Ted Lopez

Roger Lowe  
Buffie McFadyen  
Eva Montoya  
Ami Nawrocki  
Steve Nawrocki  
Lewis Quigley

Those members absent were:

Sandy Daff  
Chris Kaufman

Chris Nicoll  
Sal Pace

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong  
Sam Azad  
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 Colucci 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 from the Consent agenda.

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Ami Nawrocki, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of May 23, 2013 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file May and June 2013 Financial Reports).

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Colucci thanked the Pueblo School District No. 60 for providing lunch for today's meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

(A) State Auditor's Approval of 2012 PACOG Audit Exemption

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, stated there was a letter in the PACOG packet from the Office of the State Auditor, dated May 22, 2013, accepting PACOG's application for exemption from audit for the year ended December 31, 2012.

(B) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Armstrong referred PACOG to a draft of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) meeting minutes of June 6, 2013. PACOG will be receiving in the future copies of the EPAC minutes for information purposes.

(C) Colorado Water Quality Control Commission Update

Ms. Armstrong reported when the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (CWQCC) met in June, they adopted the five Chlorophyll a standards for the Pueblo Reservoir, which was consistent with the Pueblo Board of Water Works' proposal. The CWQCC will take final action at their August meeting, noting they may have further revisions at this meeting. After the August meeting, staff will report back to PACOG on the CWQCC's final action.

**MPO STAFF REPORT**

(A) Update on CDOT RAMP Applications

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, distributed copies of the RAMP applications. He reported on the two RAMP projects for Pueblo. The first application is the segment of I-25 that is north of where the Ilex Bridge will be constructed, noting the bridge is being constructed with State FASTER bridge funds. This is from Ilex to the Thomas Phelps Creek extension of the HARP channel where the main railroad lines goes over Santa Fe Avenue. From that point to 1<sup>st</sup> Street, the bridge structures would be redone and add an additional lane in each direction. The on-ramp south from 1<sup>st</sup> Street would be redone, as well as the off-ramp north of I-25 to 1<sup>st</sup> Street. It would not involve the construction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge. The total project cost is \$33.2 million. The request for the acceleration of the RAMP funds, which is the acceleration of Federal monies which are available for transportation projects. He stated \$15.3 million of the \$33.2 million would be RAMP acceleration funds and \$10 million of that money would be State FASTER safety funds which were in the local Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) allocated for 2017, noting the \$10 million would be advanced to be able to be put into the funding to be

spent as part of this project. He stated \$6.4 million would be the value which would be provided for the devolution of roads which are roadways either the City or County would take on the maintenance from this point on from the State. Each of these applications has a list of roadways under consideration, which the either the City or County could consider taking over the maintenance, noting this list has not been finalized with CDOT and staff is working with them. As they get closer to a final proposal, staff will be meeting independently with City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. He stated the City and County would have to enter into separate contracts or agreements with CDOT to take on those roads. Staff will then come back to PACOG once those roads have been finalized between the City, County, and CDOT. CDOT has their own formula which they use to come up with the value for devolution of roads, which includes bridge maintenance, etc. He anticipates coming back to PACOG within the next month or two and would report on the devolution of roads that are going to be under consideration that the City and County would ultimately be supporting as part of the match for this application. The cash portion of the project for I-25 is \$1.2 million of the City's underground utility fund, which is part of the franchise agreement with the City where a portion of the funds collected from Black Hills Energy and are available to put underground existing overhead utility lines. The proposal would be submitted to CDOT and over a four- year period of time the City would make the payment, which would be spread over this period. These are underground and overhead lines that are immediately parallel with I-25 between Ilex and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets.

Mr. Hobson stated the second project was U.S. 50 between Wills Boulevard to Purcell Boulevard and it includes adding an additional lane (third lane) in both directions on the highway. It also includes improvements to Pueblo Boulevard and Highway 50 intersection. Jug handle interchanges would be created. The left turn movements going west to Pueblo West, instead of having to go up and crossing traffic at Highway 50 and Pueblo Boulevard, you would take an off-ramp to the north and turn onto Pueblo Boulevard, then you would be going through this intersection but you wouldn't be making a turn against traffic. There are some other operational funds that CDOT has applied for independently that would aid in improving the turn movements from Purcell onto U.S. 50. The total cost is \$30.4 million for the U.S. 50 project. The request from RAMP is \$11.964 million and devolution funds are estimated in the amount of \$5.88 million. Currently, the TIP has \$4.75 million in congestion mitigation funds earmarked between 2013 and 2017. Staff is looking at advancing those congestion mitigation funds and applying them to the U.S. 50 project. The \$1 million in operational funds would deal with Pueblo Boulevard.

Mr. Hobson stated there were 128 applications received Statewide, which total \$1.73 billion. There is about \$750 million available or 2½ times more projects than money which will be awarded. The State Transportation Commission will be hearing recommendations from the CDOT staff at their September meeting. There is a possibility they will make a decision in September on which projects will be funded. They may also table action for another month and carried over to October.

Mr. Azad asked if the estimate for the devolution of roads is correct. Mr. Hobson replied the City and County staff met and came up with roads that the staff felt the City and County might be willing to take over maintenance. The list was provided to CDOT staff and they went through the process of determining a value for each of those potential roadways. Staff has been going back and looking at what values CDOT staff has assigned to those and whether it is worthwhile for staff to recommend roads. Beyond some of the frontage roads along I-25 which CDOT is still maintaining, the value which came back for devolution was so small that those wouldn't be

recommended. There are other roads that have higher devolution values that staff would come back as recommendations to the County Commissioners and City Council. He felt staff is a week away from getting with the City Council and County Commissioners on a recommendation for them to consider. Mr. Azad asked about the Custer County portion of State Highway 78 that was included on the potential devolution list. Mr. Hobson responded most of Highway 78 is in Pueblo County, noting a small portion extends in Custer County. It doesn't make sense for the County to take on only their portion and then CDOT take on the little piece in Custer County. If this was a road that was selected, there would be some sort of agreement where Pueblo County would maintain the whole road.

Ms. McFadyen felt the rules have changed in transportation funding. PACOG needs to be proud of what we have accomplished in a short amount of time. The RAMP program was announced in February and applications were due April 5<sup>th</sup>. The RAMP application for I-25 was in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study for the last 13 years. We managed to gather the wagons and made a lot of progress between the different governments. She stated no one expected Pueblo to step up. She felt Pueblo is competitive and applauded Scott Hobson, Greg Severance, and CDOT staff, noting CDOT Region 2 staff has been very helpful in gathering the statistics. She felt PACOG should hear about the geographical distribution of the different projects. She felt the Pikes Peak region is one of Pueblo's biggest competitors for funding, as well as Denver, noting there aren't many in Southeastern Colorado. She thanked PACOG staff and CDOT staff for their efforts.

Mr. Hobson referred PACOG to the staff memorandum, dated July 16, 2013, pertaining to the RAMP applications. The Detailed RAMP Applications map, which was referenced, showed where the different applications were submitted. The blue dots are CDOT's operational projects. Those are the projects CDOT staff has submitted, which need to be done, noting these are major maintenance on existing roadways or resurfacing. The green dots are the local governments' RAMP applications. The bulk of the applications are coming from the Denver metropolitan area. There are applications in El Paso County and Pikes Peak region on I-25, and there are numerous projects along the I-70 corridor. There are also projects along Highway 160. There are very few projects in the southern and eastern parts of the State, noting this probably because there is very little local match to be available for the CDOT projects. It is a huge commitment on the part of the City to be able to provide the underground funds. If Pueblo was not able to submit these applications, then Southern Colorado would almost be off the map. The memorandum also lists the 128 projects, noting the two Pueblo projects are on Page 2. The names of the projects are provided, as well as the dollar amounts.

Ms. McFadyen felt the City of Pueblo should thank Pueblo West for their support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street application, noting both projects are almost equal in value. She stated Highway 50 West is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the State for congestion. She stated that I-25 and I-225 during their peak traffic is the same as Highway 50 West during its peak traffic. Mr. Hobson stated CDOT provides a list of the most congested corridors in the State. It is calculated on the amount of traffic versus the capacity of the roadway. Highway 50 West and Pueblo Boulevard is the 15<sup>th</sup> most congested roadway in the State based on that formula. Even though you have eight lanes in Denver and you have the same capacity for more vehicles than you have in Pueblo, the Highway 50 West and Pueblo Boulevard gets ranked on the capacity of the roadway to handle the congestion.

(B) Transportation Legislation Review Committee Field Hearings

Mr. Hobson reported the State Transportation Advisory Committee, which is a committee made up of State legislators, will be making rounds through the State to have hearings on local transportation issues. The meeting in Pueblo is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>, noting a time and location have not been set. He stated he would let PACOG know as soon as he is made aware.

Mr. Hobson stated there will be three TIP amendments presented at PACOG's August meeting, which include: (1) the Arkansas River trail Phase 4 project; (2) a roundabout at Purcell and Platteville Boulevards; and (3) a bridge project in the County for Crow Creek.

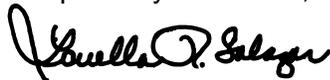
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no Transportation Commissioner/CDOT Region 2 Director report. Mr. Hobson stated CDOT staff is at a workshop in Trinidad today.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m. Chairman Colucci reminded those in attendance that the next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is to be held on Thursday, August 22, 2013. Due to a scheduling conflict at the Health Department, this meeting will be held in the conference room at the Pueblo Regional Building Department, 830 North Main Street.

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 Pueblo City Council and Board of County Commissioners to appoint members to the Pueblo Regional Building Board of Appeals, Electrical Board of Appeals, Mechanical Board of Appeals, and Plumbing Board of Appeals. The following persons were selected to fill the vacancies:

- Building Board of Appeals: Jeffrey Bailey (Engineer)
- Electrical Board of Appeals: Ron Scott (Journeyman/Electrician)
- Mechanical Board of Appeals: John Krall (Contractor) and Katherine Cox (Engineer)
- Plumbing Board of Appeals: Kenneth Gulley (Journeyman)

Both entities agreed to ratify these appointments at their future meetings.