

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JULY 26, 2018

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, July 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
Judy Leonard
Garrison Ortiz
Dennis Prater

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio
Terry Kraus
Frank Latino
Ted Lopez

Chris Nicoll
Ted Ortiviz
Sal Pace
Bob Schilling

Also present were:

John Adams
Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad
Dan Kogovsek

Cynthia Mitchell
Louella Salazar
Kallene West

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

- Minutes of May 24, 2018 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file April, May, and June 2018 Financial Reports).

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairwoman Leonard thanked Town of Boone for providing lunch for today's meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Joan Armstrong reported the PACOG members received in their packets the minutes of the June 7, 2018 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee meeting. 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 May 3, 2018 and June 7, 2018 ADA Advisory Committee meetings. This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY 2019 PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' RURAL PLANNING GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,400 FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. John Adams, MPO Program Manager, reported this is an annual grant which is received, and provides for transportation planning projects outside the urbanized area, but within Pueblo County. It includes staff attending the State Transportation Advisory Committee meetings, etc. It is a 100% grant paid for by the State.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Dennis Flores, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving the Acceptance of the FY 2019 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Rural Planning Grant in the Amount of \$7,400 from the Colorado Department of Transportation".

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairwoman Leonard read into the record the following comments from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the State Transportation Commissioner for the Pueblo region:

- Aside from continuing to maintain the transportation system in Southern Colorado, the Transportation Commission has approved or continues to work on approving the following major endeavors:

PROJECTS:

Among the projects in Southern and Southeastern Colorado in line for funding are the following Pueblo area ones:

U.S. 50 West: Pueblo to Pueblo West	\$ 45 million (additional to what has been spent so far)
U.S. 50 East: Widening	\$ 40 million
I-25: City Center to 13th Street	\$230 million
I-25: Dillon Interchange	\$ 7 million

TRANSIT:

Bustang/Bustang Outrider (Connectivity to Pueblo)	To Be Determined
Pueblo Park/Ride & Transit Center (to enhance regional/local transit)	\$3-10 million

RAIL:

Maximize Freight/Passenger Services	To Be Determined
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More details will unfold depending on the success/lack of success of the anticipated sales tax initiative that may appear on the November ballot (raising state sales tax by .62 for transportation projects).

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT Region 2, reported the four projects mentioned in Mr. Thiebaut's report would be on the ballot, with the increase .62% in sales tax, which was initiated by the Denver chambers of commerce. The list was provided by CDOT. There is another list provided by Fix Our Damn Roads, noting this list was not provided by CDOT. This list included Highway 50 and Purcell and the other was the expansion of Highway 50 East to four lanes.

Ms. Hu stated CDOT should be getting funding in August to start design work on the Bustang park-n-ride. The primary location will probably be located north of the new Pueblo CDOT headquarters off the I-25/Dillon interchange. They are working with other entities on the money for the design work.

Mr. Aguilera stated there should be sound barriers placed on I-25 off Mesa and Abriendo Avenues. By not having these sound barriers, it diminishes the appearance of the City. The City wrote a letter to the State CDOT Director and was told there was no likelihood that Pueblo could get this. The City plans to go to the Governor and ask if he could assist. He stated the State puts sound barriers everywhere from Colorado Springs to the Wyoming border. The City of Pueblo is asking for a couple of blocks of sound barriers and gets turned down. He couldn't understand what is good for everybody else in the State isn't good for the City of Pueblo. He stated it isn't that much money, noting millions of dollars are spent in Denver. He stated all Pueblo wants to do is improve the look of the City and keep on getting the same response. Ms. Hu replied she would email Mr. Thiebaut for him to respond back to him.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Terry Hart, PACOG's STAC representative, reported the last meeting was held on June 22, 2018, and he was not able to attend. The primary conversation was concerning the ballot question that has been referred by the Denver chambers of commerce. There was discussion about the various projects listed and projects which could potentially be available if the ballot question passes. There was also a conversation about the multi-modal element, which includes transit and rail. He stated that this is one of the major issues which is going on at a Statewide basis, and discussion occurred on how it should be paid. It has been said that this should pass because it provides new revenue and the State is significantly short of revenue. The other faction states we shouldn't have new taxes but simply bond. He encouraged everyone to pay attention to it. He stated he personally thinks we need new revenue, noting he didn't know how you could bond something if you don't have new revenue to pay for the bonds. Bonds simply borrow money, and if you are going to be borrowing money and you don't have new revenue then you will have to use existing revenue and we are already in the short end of the stick with our existing revenue.

Mr. Adams stated this is Ballot Issue 153, which is an increase of .62% in sales tax. Those signatures for the ballot question need to be in by August 6th. If it doesn't make the ballot, CDOT, STAC, and State Transportation Commission will have to go back to the drawing board and try to figure out what to do.

Mr. Gradisar questioned, at this point, if either of the ballot questions have been submitted. Mr. Adams replied he looked yesterday on the other ballot issue and he did not see where it has been submitted with signatures and he also didn't see when those signatures were due. He stated he thought that signatures are at 2% in each district.

Mr. Aguilera asked if someone is taking the leadership to pass the ballot. Mr. Hart responded it is basically driven by the Denver Metropolitan chambers of commerce. These chambers of commerce were disgusted with the Legislature and said they were going to try their own method for funding. He stated if this is not successful on a Statewide basis, the Denver chambers of commerce indicated they would figure out a way to do their roads themselves. Because of the fact that the vast majority of the population is in the Denver metropolitan area, if that happens it leaves all of us adrift. He felt we need to figure out how to do this Statewide. Mr. Adams stated at the last STAC meeting there was discussion about Denver and Northern Front Range going their own way if this does not get on the ballot.

Mr. Flores stated there has been discussion that the two ballot issues could be in conflict and asked for an explanation. Mr. Adams replied Ballot 153 is a sales tax increase, and the other ballot issue is a bond on the existing revenues. The conflict would be that there is no new revenue coming in. He stated there is a \$9 billion need in transportation projects Statewide, and the .62% increase will generate \$7 billion. Mr. Flores asked what would happen if they both make the ballot and they both pass. Mr. Adams stated if they should both pass, the one which passes with the larger margin is the one that gets adopted.

Mr. Hart stated STAC has discussed that Colorado is being compared to neighboring states, such as Utah, which is more conservative from a tax perspective, and who passed a similar bill several years ago. It is working well for them.

Mr. Aguilera stated he observed a lot of construction on C-470 in Denver. Mr. Hart agreed, noting there are a lot the jobs on that construction. He stated that I-70 north of Denver is a \$1 billion project by itself.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Transit 10-Year Development Program (Capital Transit Projects in the Pueblo MPO/TPR Study Area)

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the Transportation Advisory Committee identified several capital transit projects in the Pueblo MPO/TPR. The most notable one is the relocation and construction of a new transit maintenance facility, which is currently located at the Riverwalk. A consultant will be brought onboard to do a relocation of it. It is supposedly going to be paid out of Senate Bill 18-01 or Senate Bill 267 money.

It was moved by Garrison Ortiz, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the Transit 10-Year Development Program (Capital Transit Projects in the Pueblo MPO/TPR Study Area).

(B) FY 2019 Scope of Work

Mr. Adams reported the FY 2019 Scope of Work was done by staff in July and will be submitted to the State so they can start working on their contracts to be in place by the local MPOs by October. The three items that were added this year are: (1) finishing up the transit relocation study, (2) looking at a site assessment for a possible passenger rail station, and (3) the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The other item is developing a bicycle plan. The Unified Planning Work Program will be provided at the next PACOG meeting, which will provide more detail on those projects.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the FY 2019 Scope of Work.

(C) CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Policy Agenda Item (CDOT Region II requests for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Transportation Alternative Program Roll-Forwards into FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Plan

Mr. Adams reported this is an administrative modification to the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Plan. Two of the items are currently under construction. These projects are being rolled forward, as well as some other projects. This is being done administratively.

This being an administrative modification, no formal action was taken.

(D) November 2018 Ballot Initiative Update

Mr. Adams reported this item was previously discussed. He stressed the importance of the ballot initiative.

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

(E) Update of Transit Administration and Maintenance Relocation Study

Mr. Adams reported the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program was amended to get a consultant onboard to do a relocation study for the transit facility. Two requests for qualifications were received: Stantex and HGF Matrix. The review committee has gone through the requests and are now looking into references.

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

(F) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Adams reported another request was received from the Division of Transit and Rail for an administrative modification to the Transportation Improvement Program. This would entail realigning funds that go to SRDA for the purchase of a vehicle. This matter has been taken care of, but he requested approval that the matter has been done.

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

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Aguilera stated on Tuesday a group made up of United Way, the Boys and Girls Club, the City, the Police Department, and other agencies approved the idea that on Fridays during the school year there would be free transportation for all children in School District No. 60. This will begin when school starts and will go throughout the school year. This will be a great opportunity for the children to go places, since School District No. 60 students will be off on Fridays this school year. He felt it was a good deal for the community.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 23, 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