

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

AUGUST 23, 2018

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, August 23, 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
Ed Brown
Dennis Flores
Nick Gradisar
Frank Latino

Judy Leonard
Ted Ortiviz
Garrison Ortiz
Dennis Prater

Those members absent were:

Mark Aliff
Larry Atencio
Terry Hart
Terry Kraus

Ted Lopez
Chris Nicoll
Sal Pace
Bob Schilling

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad
Scott Hobson

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

- Minutes of July 26, 2018 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file July 2018 Financial Report).

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairwoman Leonard thanked Salt Creek Sanitation District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) Introduction of Adam Uhernik

Mr. Ortiz introduced Mr. Adam Uhernik, who is the County's new Public Information Officer.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Joan Armstrong reported the PACOG members received in their packets the minutes of the August 2, 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 July 5, 2018 ADA Advisory Committee meetings. This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COLORADO CITY METROPOLITAN DISTRICT/TOWN OF RYE WASTEWATER UTILITY PLAN, A SUPPLEMENT FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' 2012 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED DECEMBER 2012

Mr. Doug Schwenke, JDS-Hydro Consultants, Inc., reported his firm was retained by PACOG to update the Colorado City Metropolitan District/Town of Rye wastewater utility plan. He stated there was no previous utility plan in place. The last time any site application for this area was done was in 2001, which went before PACOG for the wastewater plant. He stated the boards of directors for both the Colorado City Metropolitan District and the Town of Rye approved the wastewater utility plan. He stated these entities share a wastewater facility, which is owned and operated by the Colorado City Metropolitan District (CCMD). The Town of Rye had its lagoon system decommissioned in 2010, as part of an American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Project, and its system was tied into the CCMD collection system at a meter interconnect on the west side of the collection system. The CCMD facility is considered a regional facility serving more than one entity. The Town of Rye is a customer to the CCMD facility and pays a fee according to its metered wastewater discharge. CCMD reads the meter and Rye is billed accordingly.

Mr. Schwenke stated the wastewater plant at the CCMD is off Greenhorn Creek. It is rated at 0.4 million gallons per day (mgd). This is the average daily flow in which the

facility is rated to collect from the collection system. Initially when it was built, it was permitted for 0.6 mgd, but at the time of construction CCMD ran out of funds so it only upgraded its facility up to 0.4 mgd.

Mr. Schwenke stated with this utility plan, PACOG can entertain and review site applications. This utility plan contains general information such as: treatment works information; available water quality data and assessments (i.e., information on the receiving stream because the facility's effluent limits are dependent upon what the receiving stream can handle, which are handled by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment); wastewater management strategies/treatment works; wastewater information such as total maximum daily loads, waste load allocations (this includes maximum daily loads), projected influent flows, watershed planning efforts, etc.; assurance that adjacent utility plans do not overlap and provides regional consistency (in this case, there are no adjacent utility plans); provides existing demographic or updated population information; and most recent service map updates/expected future expansion of service area.

Mr. Schwenke stated this document has been prepared in accordance with the 2012 PACOG Water Quality Management Plan. Page 5 of this document contains the overall 208 Plan summary table. It includes major factors influencing the Plan over the next 20 years such as population growth (potential expansion of the CCMD wastewater treatment plant, regulations on receiving stream (Greenhorn Creek), inflow/infiltration remediation, and no lift stations are planned in the future for either Rye or CCMD. He stated these facilities do not have lift stations or collection system, nor do they intend to. He stated the wastewater plant is approaching its hydraulic capacity per metered influent records. It is approaching 0.4 mgd and has met that a few times. There is some discretion as to what is the source of that--is it population growth or is it infiltration and inflow (I&I)? They do have I&I issues and there is some evidence to support that. Another item which may necessitate a site application is a change in the regulations in the receiving stream. Regulation 31 and Regulation 85 have necessitated changes in the treatment process in wastewater plants around the State. Regulation 31 may force Colorado City and the Town of Rye to address these and upgrade their treatment possibly in tandem with an expansion.

Mr. Schwenke stated Colorado City has seen a little bit of growth recently. They are an unincorporated metropolitan district. The growth has been residential. They have had some marijuana grow facilities move in and experienced an increase of flow from the commercial side. The Town of Rye has not seen a growth. Rye does have a high school, and it is the largest generator of wastewater; other than that, Colorado City is the major generator to the wastewater plant. Any growth, for the most part, will probably occur in Colorado City. A 3% growth rate is anticipated for Colorado City to the Year 2037.

Mr. Schwenke stated the amount of flow the wastewater plant sees is above what it should be seeing if it was just generated by the populace. Within the industry standards, the average of State wastewater generated per individual per day should be around 135 gallons per day. In the Colorado City wastewater plant, it is 185 gallons per day per user, which is more than the State accepted wastewater generation rate. The State is cognizant of the I&I issue as well as the excess in the wastewater generation rate. Mr. Kogovsek asked if this is due to groundwater. Mr. Schwenke responded the State has mandated that Colorado City conduct an I&I study, which should determine where the infiltration is coming from. There are some thoughts that it is coming from the water plant, which is at

Beckwith Reservoir, where they do backwash. Some of the backwash goes to the wastewater plant, some water is run down the wastewater plant, but there are also areas that infiltrate into the collection system where the pipes might not be as tight and the manholes may not be as tight. The State has given them until 2020 to address these and to begin the actual remediation to reduce the I&I.

Mr. Schwenke stated Greenhorn Creek is not on the State's 303(d) list of impaired streams, although they are looking at dissolved selenium, which is a big constituent issue in the Pueblo area and Pueblo County. Other concerns which are being monitored are E coli, ammonia, and metals.

Mr. Schwenke stated Regulation 85 does not apply to Colorado City's wastewater plant because it discharges 0.4 mgd. However, Regulation 31 is slated to come down the pipe near 2027 and if it reduces the limits for phosphorus and nitrogen, then Colorado City would have to meet the limits if they are implemented. They will be given time by the State to meet these regulations. He stated between 2020 and 2027 Colorado City will have a good idea on what they must do with its expansion and its effluent limits. He stated the State has an incentive program if wastewater facilities are able to meet these or higher limits for phosphorus or nitrogen, they will extend their compliance schedule by a month. He stated he didn't know if Colorado City is intending to participate.

Mr. Schwenke stated a compliance evaluation inspection was conducted in October 2017 in Colorado City. There were instances in 2011 where they had biomass die-offs, which were created by one of the commercial entities on the hill (Purina plant). It is suspected the Purina plant was putting stuff in the wastewater collection system, which their wastewater plant could not handle. They had to do an industrial use survey, which is a precursor to a treatment program. Colorado City is continuing to complete its I&I study as mandated by the State's compliance schedule which is 2020. When there have been times when the inflow is excessively high, they can bypass to their old lagoon system. The State indicated the lagoon system should not be used until it is lined. The facility does not have much in the way of UV redundancy. It is a means to disinfect the way the wastewater has been treated. SCADA should be upgraded and functioning. They are getting in place an emergency response plan should they experience any other untreated discharges in Greenhorn Creek.

Mr. Schwenke stated Colorado City does not have a lot of funds in place to do the jetting of all 69 miles of collection lines, which is required. However, they did clean and jet about 7 miles. He stated the wastewater treatment plant projections seem to support the assumption of high I&I presence. They are working on sealing their collection system, instead of expanding their wastewater plant.

Mr. Flores asked when the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment decommissioned the wastewater lagoon in Rye—what were they really saying? Were they saying it reached its useful life or is it getting too dangerous? Mr. Schwenke replied probably both. The State does tend to favor regionalization facilities and lagoons are becoming passé and are not as effective as a mechanical plant. The Colorado City plant is a reactor plant and has the capability (when properly sized) to meet all these effluent limits. Rye had a lagoon system, and decommissioned its lagoon when the ARRA program was done. Mr. Flores asked who is going to remediate this lagoon. Mr. Schwenke replied it has already been done, noting it has been decommissioned and abandoned according to State statutes.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Adopting the Colorado City Metropolitan District/Town of Rye Wastewater Utility Plan, a Supplement for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments' 2012 Water Quality Management Plan Adopted December 2012".

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2019 FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) AS THE DESIGNATED METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) FOR THE PUEBLO URBANIZED AREA

Mr. Scott Hobson, Assistant City Manager for Community Investment, reported the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a two-year work program, which involves the Consolidated Planning Grant for transportation planning that is received by PACOG. After the first year, staff goes back to the work program and enters the numbers and expenses and looks at modifications to the work program which were approved for the second year of the grant. There are four main areas in the work program: (1) program administration and coordination, (2) data collection and management (i.e., travel demand model, traffic counts, accident counts), (3) transportation plans, performance measures, and scenario plans, and (4) short-range planning and programs. He stated the primary change in the work program is Section 4, short-range planning and programs, which includes the contract services for special projects. The relocation of the Pueblo Transit Management and Operations Facility is included in the work program at a cost of \$100,000. The second area is the station location alternatives evaluation, which accommodates the re-instatement of passenger rail service in Pueblo, at a cost of \$35,105.10. The third area is allocating funds for the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan at a cost of \$150,000. The Long Range Transportation Plan covers a 20-year timeframe and is done every five years. It identifies needs and future projects within the PACOG area.

It was moved by Ted Ortiz, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Amending the Federal Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) as the Designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Pueblo Urbanized Area".

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) FY 2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE FULL 2018 APPORTIONMENT OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S (FTA) SECTION 5307 OPERATING FUNDS AND DIRECTING THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION TO EXECUTE SAID AMENDMENT

Mr. Bart Mikitowicz, City Transportation Planner, reported this resolution would amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program to include the 503(c) operating funds, which were allocated for 2018 for Pueblo Transit in the amount of \$2,092,862.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Ray Aguilera, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Amending the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Full 2018 Apportionment of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5307 Operating Funds and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Execute Said Amendment".

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:

- Ballot Initiative 153 (Many interested groups including the Denver Metropolitan chambers of commerce). [A random sample of signature validity is currently underway by the Secretary of State.]

In July, the Transportation Commission adopted a resolution that would make use of a portion of the sales tax increase funds available to 107 highway projects around the State totaling \$7 billion, four Statewide programs worth nearly \$500 million, and a commitment to fund approximately \$1.5 billion in pavement improvements. Additionally, 19 transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects totaling just over \$800 million were selected from a portion of the sales tax increase that would be dedicated to multimodal projects. As noted in his July comments on pages 2-3 in this month's PACOG meeting minutes, several projects in the Pueblo area are in line for funding. Lists are available on the CDOT website.

- Ballot Initiative 167 (Jon Caldara and Mike Krause of the Independence Institute) [The Secretary of State approved the initiative to be placed on the ballot.]

Bond proceeds would be used exclusively for road and bridge expansion, construction, maintenance and repair of specific Statewide projects and not for transit, administration, or indirect costs and expenses. Debt service would be paid for out of the State budget. The project list contained in the initiative will cost approximately \$5.6 billion and will need to be adjusted down to account for the \$3.5 billion actually available for construction of the improvements. Also, Senate Bill 18-01 repeals the final three years of transportation funding under Senate Bill 17-267. That law, Senate Bill 17-267, provided for an issuance of \$1.88 billion in COPs for projects around the state. The repeal would eliminate \$1.5 billion, making the net benefit of the passage of the Initiative \$2 billion, rather than \$3.5 billion. The Transportation Commission must decide on the final list of projects from the Initiative, but generally in the Pueblo area certain improvements to U.S. 50 East and U.S. 50 West are on the project list.

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT Region 2, reported there are two construction projects going on in Pueblo: Highway 50 West (still on schedule and should be finished by November) and the I-25 Ilex Project (still on schedule). The green truss bridge on Santa Fe Avenue did not get finished before the commencement of the State Fair, but it should be finished by mid-October. She stated CDOT has cleaned the trash, mowed, etc. before the Fair started.

Ms. Hu stated bids are opening today on Highway 96 from Highway 50 to Boone. The ramps are going to be paved by CDOT by the Pueblo Chemical Depot this year before winter starts.

Ms. Hu stated the Transportation Commission approved \$500,000 for the Bustang park-n-ride, noting the facility will be located north of the new CDOT Region 2 headquarters on Wills Boulevard. This is for environmental and design studies. Construction and right-of-way have not been approved. Once direction has been received from the State

headquarters, staff will come to the City and County because intergovernmental agreements will need to be done.

Ms. Hu reported the Transportation Commission also approved \$1.6 million for the design of Highway 50 to Pueblo West, as part of Senate Bill 1. Staff will be requesting a TIP amendment next month, and a consultant will be hired to do the project design.

Ms. Hu reported on the two ballot initiatives. She stated Ballot Initiative 153 included three projects: (1) \$6 million for construction on the Dillon interchange, (2) \$228 million for I-2 from City Center Drive to 13th Street, and (3) Highway 50 extension of the westbound third lane to Purcell Boulevard and an interchange. There is a fourth project related to Pueblo, which is Highway 50 East to Lamar. There is only one project on the list for Ballot Initiative 167, which is Highway 50 to Pueblo West and only includes the third lane, noting it is also on the Senate Bill 267 list. If neither initiative passes in November, the Highway 50 to Pueblo West will be funded by Senate Bill 267.

Mr. Flores asked what happens if both ballot initiatives are approved. Ms. Hu replied staff is still trying to sort this out. Mr. Kogovsek stated they will try to interpret them to the extent they are incompatible. The initiative receiving more votes will control. Mr. Flores felt, for Pueblo, Ballot Initiative 153 would be better. He questioned if the project between City Center Drive and 13th Street would move up higher on the State list. Ms. Hu replied yes. It would take 2-3 years before construction could be started because there is a lot of right-of-way acquisition which needs to happen. If the ballot initiative doesn't pass, CDOT doesn't have funding for it and it is unknown how long it would take before it gets done.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

There was no report given.

PROJECT ASSESSING LOW-INCOME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY TO LIBRARY RESOURCES IN PUEBLO PRESENTATION

Ms. Yamel Ramirez reported she served as an intern with the County's Economic and Geographic Information Systems Department, through Colorado State University-Pueblo. Her study was a low-income accessibility assessment of Pueblo City (School District No. 60) school students. The assessment pertained to poverty levels in the high schools and the kinds of resources offered. She questioned why there is a disconnection between the college and high schools, and why there is a low rate of graduate students. She stated according to the assessment, East High School and Central High Schools suffer most from economically disadvantaged students. School District No. 60 has about 80% of students that are considered at risk (i.e., on free or reduced lunch) and 5% homelessness overall in the district. She showed a PowerPoint presentation. The map showed the boundaries of the different high schools and the poverty levels. The map also showed where the public libraries are located near these schools. She stated if a lot of these students are having a hard time at home, then they probably don't have the resources to get to the library. She investigated how the public transportation system within the inner city and around these high schools work in order to get these students what they need to be successful. She stated the transportation system was not as organized as she expected, noting that it exists but it is very hard to get around. She stated buses stop running quite early and there is no Google database, which is what high school students are usually looking at to get around.

Ms. Ramirez stated that resources that are being used for interns are useful, and should be continued because it gives a “fresh eye”. It is helpful for departments to use.

Mr. Latino asked, through her research, if she had utilized the Colorado State Statute, which passed in 1995. Ms. Ramirez replied yes. She felt overall there still could be more implemented into the database for these transportation routes, and that it should be more accessible to students and people riding the transportation system in Pueblo.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Change Order for the West Pueblo Connector Study

Mr. Scott Hobson, Assistant City Manager for Community Investment, reported Contract Amendment No. 2 was issued for Matrix Consultant Group related to the West Pueblo Connector Study. The amendment was to allow for the contract to be expanded by an additional \$10,000, which would allow for the consultant to complete the final plan documents and go through public hearings on the final plan. He felt what delayed the project is the need to have some additional Travel Demand Model work done for the alternatives, which were originally drafted in the plan. The Travel Demand numbers have extended the project.

Mr. Gradisar stated it was a six-month contract, and now we are in the 31st month, and the study says we are halfway done. Mr. Hobson stated the consultant is more than halfway done. They need to integrate the different alternatives. He believed a final recommended alignment has been done, and they are putting together a cost estimate for the final plan. It has taken longer than anticipated. They were attempting to follow the Preliminary Environmental Linkage (PEL) approach for this study so that it would be more ready for Federal funding, which would possibly be available for this project. He hoped that this amendment to the contract would allow the consultant to finish before the end of the year. Mr. Gradisar asked what happens if they don't finish. Are they going to ask for more money? Are they doing more work that wasn't anticipated? Mr. Hobson replied the consultant worked on further analysis of the Travel Demand alternatives transportation traffic numbers than what was originally anticipated. The consultant is not going to get paid for the remainder of any of the funds until the project is completed, and a PEL study done that is acceptable to PACOG.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the Change Order to the West Pueblo Connector Study by an additional \$10,000 for the consultant to complete the final plan.

(B) Other Transportation Matters

There were no other transportation matters.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino reported he is a lifetime member of the National Education Association (NEA), and receives a monthly newsletter as a member. He stated the data provided in the newsletter occurred after the Parkland school shooting shows that on gun violence 74% of the people surveyed indicated they did not want teachers armed and 63% gun

owning NEA members would not agree to be armed in school. Sixty percent (60%) agreed that there could be another mass shooting in their schools, and 82% would not carry a gun to school and 67% felt that arming a teacher would make schools less safe. He stated that 77% of the NEA members felt it was too easy to access guns. Politically, it broke down to 71% of Independents, 61% of Republicans, 91% of Democrats, and 60% gun owners.

Mr. Latino complimented the Pueblo Chieftain on its articles related to Pueblo's challenges.

Mr. Latino stated when you look at schools and communities, there needs to be a proactive plan. He felt the more you make people aware, the better off we will be. It is a community-wide effort.

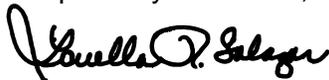
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 27, 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