

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

AUGUST 28, 2014

VICE CHAIRMAN CALLS MEETING TO ORDER

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, August 28, 2014, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Roger Lowe, Vice-Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown
Michael Colucci
Nick Gradisar
Terry Hart
Ted Lopez

Roger Lowe
Tony Montoya
Steve Nawrocki
Lewis Quigley

Those members absent were:

Sandy Daff
Buffie McFadyen
Eva Montoya

Ami Nawrocki
Chris Nicoll
Sal Pace

Also present were:

Michael Cuppy
Scott Hobson
Dan Kogovsek

Louella Salazar
Greg Styduhar

VACANCY OF CHAIR TO BE FILLED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Acting Chairman Lowe stated there is a vacancy in the Chair, and read into the record Mr. Chris Kaufman's letter of resignation from PACOG. Mr. Kaufman was the former PACOG Chair.

Acting Chairman Lowe asked Mr. Dan Kogovsek, PACOG attorney, for legal advice regarding the vacancy and filling it. Mr. Kogovsek explained the resignation has created a vacancy of the Chair, and the bylaws provide that the new Chair of PACOG is to be selected by the Executive Committee. There are several options for PACOG. The options include electing Acting Chairman Lowe as temporary Chair for the purposes of this meeting and getting a report back from the Executive Committee as to who they select as the new Chair to be ratified at the next meeting, or the Executive Committee can meet now and make that selection to be ratified by PACOG. The Executive Committee consists of the officers of PACOG, which are currently the Vice Chairman and the Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Gradisar stated the Executive Committee was aware of the vacancy coming and Acting Chairman Lowe and he talked on the telephone. He stated he suggested that Acting Chairman Lowe step into the role as Chairman for the balance of this term.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Terry Hart, and passed unanimously to select Roger Lowe as the new Chairman of PACOG for the duration of this calendar year.

Mr. Gradisar stated there is now a vacancy of the Vice Chair. He stated Chairman Lowe and he could talk about it or someone could volunteer to serve. Chairman Lowe stated they were open to nominations. There were no volunteers at this time. Chairman Lowe suggested it be continued to the next PACOG meeting, and the Executive Committee will report back on their recommendation.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Louella Salazar, in the absence of the PACOG Manager, reported there were two items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the two Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Lowe 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 or discussed that are on the Consent agenda.

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Nick Gradisar, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of July 24, 2014 Meeting, and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file July Financial Report).

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Certificate of Appreciation to Chris Kaufman, Outgoing PACOG Chairman and Member

Chairman Lowe presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the PACOG outgoing Chairman, Mr. Chris Kaufman. Mr. Kaufman stated in 2009 and again in 2013 he ran on a platform for City Council that it's about Pueblo and not politics. He stated when it became more about politics than Pueblo, he felt it was time for him to leave. He stated he enjoyed his time on PACOG.

(B) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Lowe thanked the Colorado City Metropolitan District for providing lunch at today's meeting.

(C) Future Agenda Items

Chairman Lowe asked if any members had any items they would like to add to future agendas.

Mr. Gradisar stated at the last PACOG meeting there was discussion about the dues and new members. He was wondering if there was still interest in the PACOG Budget Committee coming back and reporting to the group. He stated he would like to see this placed on the next agenda. The members agreed. Chairman Lowe asked staff to place it on the next meeting's agenda.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Salazar stated the draft minutes of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee's August 7, 2014 meeting were included in the PACOG packets. Information discussed at EPAC was as follows: (1) a report from the Environmental Coordinator, Ms. Susan Finzel-Aldred, on the June cleanup in the Blende and Salt Creek areas. She stated there is a possibility for next year's cleanup to include residents from St. Charles Mesa. Discussion also occurred on the Paint Stewardship Bill, which was passed and will be adding 10¢ to the price of all new gallon cans of paint sold at retailers beginning in 2015. Discussion also occurred on the Fountain Creek Watershed "Creek Week", which will be presented today to PACOG; (2) a report from the Mr. Gene Michael of the Water Quality Subcommittee on water quality standards for nutrients; and (3) a report from the Mr. Ted Lopez, Jr. of the Solid Waste Committee on the outcome of the Recycling Conference.

This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND RNC CONSULTING, LLC FOR CONSULTING WORK INVOLVING WASTEWATER UTILITY PLANS AND WASTEWATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO EXECUTE SAME

Mr. Jeff Woeber, Planner II, Pueblo County Planning and Development Department, reported the resolution would approve the contract between Russell Clayshulte of RNC Consulting and PACOG to continue on as PACOG's water quality management consultant. This would be to assist in the completion of drafting the wastewater utility plans, which are the remainder elements which need to be in place with the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The WQMP was outdated having been written in 1993. PACOG uses this planning document as the Water Quality Planning Agency in wastewater management planning. Typically, this is in place for review and recommendation on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE's) Water Quality Control Division site applications for projects involving improvements and upgrades to wastewater facilities. PACOG staff reviews these State site applications for consistency with the WQMP and the site applications are reviewed by PACOG who makes a recommendation to the State. For many years PACOG did not

have money dedicated to water quality management planning, and, in 2010 ,when it was determined the 1993 Plan needed to be updated, PACOG began receiving money specifically for water quality management planning through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 604(b) grant funds, which are administered through the CDPHE's Water Quality Control Division. With these grant funds, PACOG was able to hire Russell Clayshulte as its consultant to draft a new revised and updated WQMP. This WQMP went through a lengthy review and approval process and was adopted by PACOG in December 2012 and approved by the State Water Quality Control Commission in March 2013. The WQMP is the guidance document, with the other necessary components being a wastewater utility plan for each of the six wastewater treatment service providers, which is Avondale Water and Sanitation District, Colorado City that also serves the Town of Rye, the Town of Boone, the City of Pueblo, Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park, and Pueblo West. These plans are specific to each wastewater district and facility and contain particulars on how to meet current and future needs for their wastewater treatment. The utility plans will mirror the type of information checklist needed in the State's application process. Mr. Clayshulte finished the Town of Boone's plan under his previous contract, which was adopted by Boone in May 2014. The Meadowbrook Mobile Home Park and Avondale Water and Sanitation District utility plans are nearly completed. The City of Pueblo has drafted its own utility plan, which is being finalized with some discussion and input from Mr. Clayshulte. Once all the plans are finalized, staff will bring these utility plans to PACOG for review. Mr. Clayshulte is also working with Colorado City staff to draft a plan. The Pueblo West Metropolitan District also needs to draft a plan. It is unclear if Pueblo West is in the process of drafting one or if they desire Mr. Clayshulte's assistance. Pueblo West is aware they need a utility plan and staff will attempt to determine their intentions in that regard in the near future. Staff is proposing to continue Mr. Clayshulte as PACOG's consultant to complete the drafting of the utility plans, as well as to be available to provide other expertise in water quality management planning. He stated Mr. Clayshulte has agreed to stay on as a consultant using this year's 604(b) grant money. He is highly experienced in water quality planning and has familiarity with the utility plans and ultimately for PACOG to have a very effective and useful WQMP. He has worked with each of the six entities while drafting the WQMP. He was the environmental director/manager for DRCOG and is currently the watershed manager for the Bear Creek Watershed Association. The proposed contract to retain Mr. Clayshulte has been reviewed by the PACOG manager and legal counsel, as well as Mr. Clayshulte, and has found to be acceptable.

Mr. Gradisar asked if these plans would be completed during the terms of this contract. Mr. Woeber replied yes, noting he wasn't sure about Pueblo West. Mr. Gradisar stated if this would be done at the cost of \$9,800, to which Mr. Woeber responded yes.

Mr. Styduhar stated with staff's documents that the CDPHE indicates that the \$9,800 that is the existing grant has to be used by the end of September. Mr. Woeber responded Mr. Clayshulte had some very serious health problems during the last grant cycle. In conversations with CDPHE staff, they agreed to shift things to next year. He stated even though PACOG will be using the money after the fact, CDPHE is willing to do this. He noted Mr. Clayshulte is in better health now and is working to finish these.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving an Agreement for Professional Services between the

Pueblo Area Council of Governments and RNC Consulting, LLC for Consulting Work Involving Wastewater Utility Plans and Wastewater Utility Management Plans and Authorizing the Chairperson of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments to Execute Same”.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR THE PUEBLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO INCLUDE SPECIFIED TASKS AND FUNDING RELATED TO ADDITIONAL 2014-2015 CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT FUNDS

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported this resolution would approve an amendment to the FY 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). There are three reasons for the amendment. The amendment was initiated in June 2014 by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to address the actual amount of carryover funds that was included in the UPWP, which was adopted in October 2013, noting it was more than was identified in the UPWP. He stated they wanted to have the full carryover funds in the FY 2014-2015 UPWP. The reason for the difference in the carryover is that staff had to project the carryover funds in the UPWP, which was adopted in October, and that was based on what expenditures they anticipated to occur by the end of December. Staff had intended to have the Travel Demand Model (TDM) underway in 2013 and it did not occur, noting over \$200,000 was carried over. In addition, there were some other special projects staff thought might be underway in 2013 which did not actually occur. Part of this was because the PACOG staff was working with CDOT developing the RAMP applications for I-25 and U.S. 50. The other reason for the amendment is to be able to accurately project what expenditures will occur in 2014 and what amount of funds staff projects to carry over to 2015, and identify the expenditures within 2015. The UPWP is a two-year plan on how transportation planning funds are going to be spent, noting the program is adopted for a two-year time period. The plan before PACOG today allocates the additional carryover funds in the amount of \$334,987. The total amount of funds which would be extended over 2014-2015 is \$1,363,655. This includes the carryover funds for 2013, the actual revenues that would be received by PACOG in 2014, and the estimated funds that will be received by PACOG in 2015.

Mr. Hobson stated the proposed amended UPWP was mailed/e-mailed to PACOG in their packet material. Some of the main changes are in Section 2.3, which is Page 14. Staff has included the work program tasks of purchasing a traffic/crash monitor software program at \$20,000 with a \$5,000 per year fee to be able to continue to have the company provide upgrades and assistance for the program. This program will take the data that is generated from the approximately 100 traffic counts done each year within both the City and County and enter it into the system to be able to analyze and generate reports for traffic volumes on a more regular basis. The system would be able to be carried on from year-to-year in order to be able to do better comparisons on changes in traffic counts. Staff tries to do on the major arterial roadways (not including the State and Federal highways) traffic counts every three years. He noted this was not included in the original work program. The second item is under crash monitoring and it provides for related but separate programs for monitoring the crash data and buying software to be able to mount it to crash data from accidents that occur within the PACOG area. This program identifies, analyzes, and provides reports with the crash data information. If staff would have to select one over the other, they would prefer the traffic counting

system to be initiated first because they would have more accurate counts. The staff generates the information through the City's Traffic Division and then they contract traffic counting through a private contractor yearly outside the City. Those numbers and figures are much more reliable than the crash data. The crash data software is only as good as the information placed into it, noting sometimes the reports received from the police officers don't have all the information that is needed to accurately put those into the software system. Staff would like to see how the traffic counting system would work first and then potentially look at securing proposals for traffic monitoring. He stated the next area is special studies. At the August meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), they reviewed the potential uses of special study funding for projects they would like to see PACOG undertake. Staff has modified the list to include additional funding to be able to update the PACOG Travel Demand Model, which would be \$185,000, and a Transit Accessibility Plan which would analyze all Pueblo Transit bus stops for ADA accessibility. Pueblo Transit has indicated that in the future there could be compliance requirements placed on the City for making sure that accessibility to bus stops met all ADA requirements. This study would analyze which areas need to be improved, what would be the type of improvements that could be accommodated for access, and a schedule and projection of what the cost would be. This does not provide funding to implement the accessibility improvements, but only a study to come up with a plan on how to initiate those improvements. This study is estimated to cost \$110,000. The third study which would be included is a scoping study with context-sensitive corridor design for the future development of the West Pueblo Connector, which is the connection from Pueblo West from Pueblo Boulevard into the City of Pueblo. The County and the City have previously identified a route from Pueblo West to Pueblo Boulevard through the City's Honor Farm property. It was felt they didn't need to do specific studies on this corridor since a survey alignment on the roadway was already done. He stated that a study of the corridor between Pueblo Boulevard and downtown has not been done. TAC recommended including the study of the West Pueblo Connector route as part of the work program. Under Section 2.6, Long Range Transportation Plans and Updates, it identifies \$100,000 in funding to be able to contract with an outside consultant to assist the staff with the completion of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). With the staffing adjustments underway and without hiring additional staff through the City, PACOG staff would probably not be able to meet the timeline to complete the LRTP without assistance.

Mr. Montoya asked about the crash monitoring program and if there has been discussion with the City police department or Sheriff's office about revising their forms so the information could be included, or is it not being placed on the current forms. Mr. Hobson stated before they would invest in a software program they would want to meet with the police department to see if they could improve or upgrade the forms so better information could be acquired. One of the issues is that there isn't necessarily a specific staff person at the police department that oversees the way the reports are generated. He stated there needs to be communication between the MPO office, the police department, and City Transportation to try and address getting more accurate reports that could be used for crash data. They probably get the right information for what the police departments needs, but staff needs more detailed information to put into the crash data, such as whether a left turn caused the crash or it was a side swipe type of accident. He stated they try to use the standardized criteria for accidents instead of details indicating what really causes them.

Mr. Gradisar asked if the consultant contract would come back to PACOG for approval. Mr. Hobson responded the City Council, under the delegation agreement, has the responsibility for approving the contracts. Staff will communicate with PACOG to make sure it is OK with hiring the consultant, etc. The actual contract to hire the consultant is through City Council.

Mr. Gradisar asked if the ADA accessibility of bus stops would be done by City staff or contracted out. Mr. Hobson replied it would be contracted out.

Mr. Styduhar asked if CDOT specifically renews the UPWP beforehand and authorizes the particular studies within. Mr. Hobson replied yes. The UPWP is reviewed and recommended by TAC. The UPWP is forwarded to CDOT, as well as the FHWA. The UPWP is approved by CDOT and by the FHWA. The UPWP will be utilized for how the staff is assigned responsibilities for their work tasks through the MPO. If the staff does not have a task in the UPWP and staff members are working on it, there is a likelihood that they would not be able to be reimbursed for time encumbered for tasks not included in the UPWP. Mr. Styduhar stated one of the amendments to the UPWP was the traffic counting program. For the prior UPWP, there was \$10,000 allocated for 2014 and \$10,000 for 2015. In the update it looks like there is an increase of \$140,000, noting it looks like most of the increase is attributable to equipment. Mr. Hobson replied yes. He stated the other thing they are proposing to include in the UPWP is the addition of new updated traffic counters that would be used for traffic counting. They are looking at purchasing up to 15 traffic counting units to replace the older ones. Mr. Styduhar asked if that equipment is owned by PACOG or the City of Pueblo. Mr. Hobson answered it is PACOG's equipment. Mr. Styduhar stated he thought this is consistent with the delegation agreement. Mr. Kogovsek replied yes.

Mr. Quigley felt this is a bookkeeping/accounting nightmare. He asked if this philosophy comes from CDOT down. He felt it has become so restrictive and confusing that at the local level when you have to do this, it becomes strictly too restrictive. He asked if this is the local selection process or is it coming from CDOT. Mr. Hobson replied it comes from CDOT. He noted it is not just PACOG that CDOT is looking at for more accountability for staying within the tasks, but it is also going to the other four MPOs. Mr. Quigley stated he is not criticizing it, but only making an observation that it is restrictive. Mr. Hobson replied on their time sheets they have to allocate which tasks are worked on.

Mr. Nawrocki asked if there has been any study on the new connector from Pueblo Boulevard and Pueblo in terms of traffic and how much it would alleviate traffic in the area. Mr. Hobson responded when the PEL study was completed for the U.S. 50 corridor, there was an analysis done on how much traffic could be diverted from U.S. 50 to this route. Mr. Nawrocki asked if at a future meeting this information could be shared. He stated instead of more money being put into Highway 50 to add more lanes, maybe there should be money spent on the alternative route. Mr. Hobson replied they would be happy to share that and also a schedule of timing of improvements that was included in the PEL study that identifies if certain improvements are not completed by certain timeframes how it will affect traffic congestion. The efficiency of roadways would drop if not completed by a certain date. Mr. Nawrocki asked that an update be provided to PACOG. Chairman Lowe questioned staff if it could be added to an agenda. Mr. Hobson stated he could do this. He added as part of the TDM they will map the baseline traffic numbers, which would include projections on future traffic out to 2040. As the

population grows and the jobs expand, noting they predict where those jobs will physically be located, then what the impact on the roadway system is.

Mr. Montoya felt the City is working on the ADA issues. He stated he participated in a survey a few years ago regarding transportation, which included where it was going, and how long it was taking for people to get around town. He felt this information should already be out. He stated the City Streets Department should have some kind of sense of what they have already done with the streets as they repave or what needs to be done to get the curbs corrected for mobility. He asked Mr. Hobson if he has looked into this, or is this what a consultant is going to do. Mr. Hobson replied when the City looks at doing improvements on a major roadway or an intersection, they try to look at all components which go into it. If there is a bus stop at the intersection, they look at not only correcting handicap accessibility, but sidewalks giving accessibility to the bus stop. There is still a long way to go to get these all corrected. The purpose of this study would be to identify the bus stops that do not have proper or adequate accessibility and come up with a plan on how to address those.

Mr. Brown asked if there is a ballpark figure on what it would cost to extend Pueblo Boulevard out to Pueblo West. Mr. Hobson responded he would go back to the estimate that was provided in the 2035 LRTP, and let the PACOG members know.

It was moved by Steve Nawrocki, seconded by Michael Colucci, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization to Include Specified Tasks and Funding Related to Additional 2014-2015 Consolidated Planning Grant Funds".

FOUNTAIN CREEK WEEK

Ms. Susan Finzel-Aldred from EPAC reported that September 27th through October 5th has been designated as "Creek Week". She stated the Fountain Creek watershed is a large portion of our area and it affects many residents and our relationship with our neighbors to the north. There is a steering committee of approximately 25 people from Palmer Lake to Manitou Springs to Colorado Springs to Pueblo. Mmes. Lois Illick, CSU Extension and Louise Boché, City Stormwater Department and she are organizing it. They are trying to get volunteer groups to come out and pick a day and section and register the group to do litter and trash pickup on Fountain Creek. This includes illegally dumped tires. The Creek has been divided up into sections for groups to work on. She stated if anyone has a relationship with their scout groups, church, or employee groups to ask if they would be interested. They have already recruited LULAC, CSU-Pueblo military students, the Girl Scouts, the Wellness Team at the Health Department, and DAV, who are committed to take a section and walk the watershed and pick up litter. Sponsors include Xcel Energy, CH2M Hill, and Lowes, who will provide bags and gloves. She encouraged groups to register at www.fountain-crk.org. She stated the cleanup doesn't necessarily have to be in the Creek or along the Creek, noting this is a whole watershed cleanup so it could be in a park which is adjacent to the watershed. She stated she is going to encourage Fountain International Magnet School to pick up trash along Erie Avenue. She stated large dumpsters will be provided, as well as bags, gloves, and safety goggles (for the adults who would like to clean up under the bridges). They have partnered with Posada, who will be going out at least two weeks ahead of the

event with the initiative to warn the homeless or transients along the Fountain Creek bottom that this is going to be happening. They are going to try to enlist their help and make them aware that this is going to be happening. She noted there are a lot of safety procedures which will be administered. A video has been prepared to watch, which includes safety and picking up litter. The City Parks Department will be helping out, and Geocycle will be taking the tires and recycling them.

Mr. Hart stated they have been trying to drive this endeavor with volunteers, noting this is not always easy to do, and that is why they rely on good organizers to make sure this happens. He thanked Ms. Finzel-Aldred for her help. He stated a few years ago Senator Ken Salazar talked about the Fountain Creek Corridor being the "crown jewel". He stated he is the County's representative on the Fountain Creek Watershed District, along with Eva Montoya from the City, Jane Rhodes, and others. He stated the District wants people to start thinking of our Creek as something other than a drainage spot, and it is actually a valuable asset for all of our respective communities up and down the Creek. The District has been working on the "Creek Week" idea for a few years. He stated they are trying to get people to have ownership of this valuable asset in our community and get involved. He encouraged any entity or organization to help.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they are targeting the bike/trail system as access points. She stated this is a large geographical area. She stated Pueblo is the bottom of the funnel, but we have a high population density and a great bike/trail system and they do want to talk to people about the wildlife benefits, the recreational benefits, and health benefits of the watershed. Instead of focusing on all the negativity (i.e., sewage leaks, homeless, tamarisks) they want to get children out there and realize that being a citizen along the corridor has some great benefits. She stated the City Council and Board of County Commissioners will be doing proclamations. She stated this could be used as a model for other communities.

Chairman Lowe thanked Ms. Finzel-Aldred. Mr. Montoya asked if the material could be sent out electronically to Ms. Salazar, who could get it out to the members. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she would do this.

GRANT TO REGION 7 TO ASSIST COG WITH FUNDING FOR A STUDY OF BROADBAND NEEDS IN THE REGION

Mr. Lee Merkel, Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), stated DOLA has a broadband initiative this year to help each of the 14 regions in the State to develop a broadband plan or strategy. He stated Pueblo is in pretty good shape for broadband, but the rural areas are experiencing some needs. He stated Pueblo is a one-county region in the State, and DOLA would like to make broadband planning available to us. There is a 75% DOLA and 25% local grant being done for communities who want to do a broadband study.

Mr. Brian Shepherd, Colorado State Office of Information Technology (OIT), reported five years ago the focus shifted onto broadband from telecommunications at the State, Federal, and local levels. Wireless technology and smart phones have revolutionized the industry. He stated a lot of their policies and planning had been based off of traditional telephone lines, and things are now shifting to broadband. The Federal and State started shifting their policies toward broadband. The State saw there were areas

in desperate need. All of the urbanized areas (i.e., Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver) are doing fine. There are some areas in the Western Slope and Eastern Plains that still have dial up. He stated with more people's children needing to do homework, tests, etc. online, it is starting to affect the rural communities. Companies couldn't run credit cards anymore. Around 3-4 years ago, through a Federal grant that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration gave out to all the states to start pushing them towards broadband planning, Colorado submitted and was awarded a grant to start figuring out how to do this at a local level. They realize the solutions are different for each area. His office started working with local stakeholders in areas where they knew they were desperate for technology and infrastructure, and they put together a local technology planning team to work on getting broadband in their community. The team consists of librarians, school officials, business owners, citizens, and anyone who understood the technology and need for their community. They started working on trying to get broadband to these communities, and working with Century Link to improve the service areas or bringing in a new carrier to bring in the new technology. These activities have been going on for several years and are now being grown into a State-wide effort. There is some telecommunications reform in the State telecommunications law and broadband laws for the first time in 25 years. At the same time in the southwest and northwest parts of the State, they started to take their idea at working at local levels (towns, counties) and saying this issue is not a local issue, but it is a regional issue. If you are going to put better infrastructure in one part of the State, you have to go through 3 or 4 different counties to do it. The Northwest COG, as well as three other counties in the area, got together to develop a regional plan. They felt that broadband is an infrastructure for a community. OIT started working with DOLA and Northwest COG and gave them a grant to do an initial broadband study about how it is affecting their areas. He noted that area of the State has various people coming in and out (visitors), festivals, etc. He stated OIT piggybacked on this and said they could replicate this across the State. He stated OIT is hearing this throughout the State, noting there are farmers who can't operate their tractors because they do not have broadband for their GIS and wireless-based equipment. OIT worked with DOLA and took this model of putting together regional plans for broadband and are offering it to the regions in the State. DOLA agreed that this was a great idea. OIT has been going around to the different regions. Region 10 (Delta/Montrose/Gunnison/San Miguel) now has a planning grant. The Jackson/Sedgwick/Yuma County/Washington County/Morgan County started working on a broadband regional plan. The Eastern Central Plains (Lincoln County) has started working on a broadband regional plan. The Upper Arkansas Valley (Chaffee/Huerfano/Custer/Lake/Park counties) is also working a broadband regional plan. They have gone out and hired consultants. He stated OIT would like to know where communities are with its telecommunications and broadband needs, where do they want to go, and do they have interested pools in the area (universities, schools, manufacturing facilities, businesses). What is their need going to be in five years when all the on-line testing comes in for schools? Once they know where they are going, the question is how do they get there? Does that mean putting in infrastructure, does it mean bringing in new technology, or does it mean new policies? Counties like Larimer County say Fort Collins is great, but outside the city there is an issue with broadband. There are serious issues with Estes Park. Pueblo, as well as other counties where there are densely urbanized areas and then a few miles outside of town it is rural, those are the areas where OIT hasn't figured out what to do with broadband. OIT is now addressing those areas, where the urbanized areas are fine but the rural areas are hurting. He stated this is not something Pueblo has to do, but OIT is working with DOLA

and PUC to coordinate this activity and take a comprehensive look at this. The DOLA funds are available, and OIT is providing the technical and programmatic expertise. He stated if this is something that Pueblo would like to do, they would be willing to make a more in-depth presentation.

Mr. Hart stated this helps the economy incredibly, even the metropolitan areas. He stated he didn't know how well Pueblo does in providing broadband service to the unincorporated areas of the County. He stated he is interested in having a conversation. He stated if the appropriate level is PACOG then that is where it needs to occur. He stated he would like the staff to engage and identify what kind of needs Pueblo might have and whether there is a need to pursue a planning grant in order to do the analysis. Mr. Shepherd replied his staff and he could come and meet with the local community leaders. He stated in Region 10 OIT had representatives from all the counties and towns to meet and discuss their problems. He stated these people weren't technical people, but were people who understood the technical issues, economic development issues, and educational issues. They brainstormed to figure out whether they wanted to go down this path. He stated OIT could come to Pueblo and meet with key stakeholders. Mr. Hart stated the St. Charles Industrial Park, which is south of the City of Pueblo, has issues. Mr. Colucci stated there needs to be consistency with Century Link and how much it wants to provide services and upgrade their lines or if they want to pay Comcast. He stated there are pockets in the City that are at a slow speed. Mr. Shepherd stated Castle Rock had the same problem when they tried to bring in high-tech companies to their business park and they could not get anything but what one would consider a DSL line. The tech companies had to wrestle with the provider to hook up to the business park. He stated OIT is trying to figure out how to help these areas. He stated in Alamosa OIT heard they want to keep their children in the area and for them to learn and start businesses in the area rather to go to Denver or out-of-state. He stated in order to do these new businesses they need the capacity in broadband to take the ideas they got at the Adams State University and implement them in the community.

Mr. Hart asked Mr. Chris Markuson, the County's GIS Director, if he might be able to help organize it and come back with a report at the next PACOG meeting to see if we should seek out a planning grant and how it will involve the entities on PACOG. Mr. Markuson stated he agreed this is an issue which needs to be addressed. He stated, for example, right across the street from St. Mary Corwin, which is in the City, there is no broadband. He stated there should be access to broadband and realistic costs to businesses which they can absorb. He stated businesses are told they can receive broadband, but it can be very costly. He felt it would advantageous for Pueblo to cooperate with the regions east of the County to provide affordable broadband. He stated he has been working with the State on this. He stated part of what they need to do in their effort is to identify who and where are we talking. Addresses and actual plotting need to be done, and GIS does play a role in this. He stated he would take direction from the Board of County Commissioners on how to do this, but any direction PACOG could provide would be helpful. Mr. Shepherd stated they have talked to Region 1, which is the far southeast region of the State, and have made a presentation to them. Raton Basin has a lot of energy and wants to move forward. He stated you can cross borders, noting the Northwest COG included Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Routt counties. The Upper Arkansas COG included Park County. Chairman Lowe asked if this could go through the County. Mr. Hart replied he did not know. He stated each of the PACOG entities may have a need. He stated he would work with Mr. Markuson to

see how they can organize this and connect it into the entities which are on PACOG and then talk about to what degree this should be a County issue, a City-County issue, or a PACOG issue. Staff could then bring it back to the next PACOG meeting

Chairman Lowe asked that this be placed on the next PACOG agenda.

MPO STAFF REPORT

- Mineral Palace Overpass

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, acknowledged that the Mineral Palace overpass project was submitted for State Capital Development Program funds. He stated Mr. Joe DeHeart from CDOT, along with the assistance from City and County, put it all together. He was happy to hear that it ranked within the top three projects that might potentially be funded through the State Capital Development Program.

- Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Hobson reported Ms. Beritt Odom with the City Transportation Department has been working with City, County, and Pueblo West staff on updating the Long Range Comprehensive Plan. The "Future Land Use Map" will provide mapping for the types of land use and the intensity of land uses. The County Commissioners will be seeing this at its next meeting. The Pueblo County Planning Commission reviewed it on August 26th and took final action on adoption or amendment of the Comprehensive/Master Plans for the unincorporated Colorado counties, and then certified a copy of the action to the Board of County Commissioners. He noted the City Planning and Zoning Commission have also made a recommendation to City Council to adopt the amendment to the Plan. City Council will be acting on this at its next meeting. The Plan will provide the intensity of future uses that will all factor into the sizing of future roadways and the traffic demand modeling for those roadways, which will be critical to use in the future for land use applications that come before the County and the City.

- 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Work Plan

Mr. Hobson reported there are four major components in the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan Work Plan: the framework, data and analysis mapping, long-range transportation planning development which identifies the different components or chapters, and the integration of the Plan with the State-wide transportation system. They have identified the goals. The standards which will be used in the Plan have been presented and approved by PACOG. Completion has occurred on a significant amount of the data and updating of all of the associated economic data that upgrades the data from 2000 to the 2010 Census information. Staff is in the process of having the Travel Demand Model (TDM) finished and developed, which should be done in September. The gap analysis and future priorities still need to be done within the timeframe of getting the Plan completed. With the staffing which is now in place, they are looking at outside assistance from a consultant to help them finish the Plan. He stated they would be coming back to PACOG and City Council on how to secure assistance from a private consultant, who has experience in developing these plans. This would allow them to have the Plan completed in the same timeframe as the other MPOs. He stated the second page of Plan provides the schedule. They want to try and stay on task to

complete the items. There is a possibility that some of the items on the schedule may slip a little bit based on the current staffing. The goal is to have the Plan adopted by February 2015 by PACOG and forwarded to CDOT to be incorporated as part of their Plan. CDOT's goal is to have the State Plan adopted by June of 2015.

Mr. Hart stated that obviously staffing is going to be an issue going forward from both the City and County. He asked if the MPO has done any kind of changes to its staffing or are they trying to fill in the staffing shortages with contracted labor. Mr. Hobson replied in the short term they will be staffing with contracted labor although they have not precluded or excluded the ability of potentially discussing with the County if there could be some assistance. The delegation agreement does provide that the County offer assistance. Mr. Hart stated he hoped that no matter what happens between the two organizations, he would like to look at the best opportunities on moving forward. He stated with the need and expertise they want to have at the County level and the City level maybe now is a good time for both entities to get together and talk about what the future looks like and what they could jointly do as two entities and what they could jointly do through the MPO.

- Other Transportation Items

Mr. Hobson stated on August 11th they had the mid-year update with CDOT and FHWA. Out of this meeting, there were three things they are looking at: (1) continue to have monthly meetings with CDOT and FHWA to review the status of the work program and how they can make steps to improve the MPO's operation, (2) meeting with CDOT staff on all 2014 requests for reimbursement for expenses, noting they would be going back to January to the present time to make sure the expenses are reasonable and acceptable for reimbursement to PACOG and back to the City and County, and (3) working on an ongoing plan to be able to sustain the MPO operation, noting there is a fairly sizeable fund balance at this point. When the fund balance is spent down, there will be a budget of approximately \$350,000 to operate and sustain the transportation operation. There is a preliminary plan on staffing and integration with CDOT staff on how to make that work. Mr. Hart stated he would like to make sure that the County sits at the table when this is going on. Mr. Hobson replied they would make sure the County is included.

Mr. Hobson reported there are two Citizen Advisory Committee positions whose terms are expiring. Staff will be advertising for those positions in October. PACOG will be choosing the applicants to fill the positions sometime thereafter. Currently, the positions are held by Mmes. Kristen Castor and Laurie Clark, noting they could reapply.

Mr. Brown asked if there are any numbers of how much traffic the I-25 flyover off Dillon would alleviate traffic off of U.S. 50. Mr. Hobson stated he would come back to PACOG next month on the projected impacts of the Dillon flyover. He stated the Dillon flyover is one phase of the Eden/Dillon split diamond interchange. Staff would need to look at what would be the impacts of Phase I, which is the flyover, and what would be the ultimate impacts of having the full split diamond interchange developed in the future, which part of it will be at Platteville and the other part at Dillon.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Lowe read into the record comments from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the Region 2 Transportation Commissioner. The comments are as follow:

- 1) Karen Rowe was named Region 2 Transportation Director effective August 1, 2014.
- 2) Region 2 would like to host a groundbreaking for I-25/Ilex in late September/early October. CDOT continues to work through the bidding process on the project.
- 3) At its August meeting, the Transportation Commission took action on two items of specific interest to Pueblo:
 - It is likely that beginning in FY 2016 CDOT will receive annual State general fund transfers in the amount of approximately \$200 million for five years for the "implementation of the strategic transportation project investment program". The Transportation Commission is beginning a process of project identification, evaluation, and selection based on criteria such as a project's economic benefits.
 - The "Mineral Palace Park Pedestrian Bridge" has been ranked as one of the top three CDOT projects to be funded by the Legislature's capital development funds. The cost is about \$5 million.

Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT Region 2 Transportation Director, reported Mr. Thiebaut's email was sent before the bids were open on Ilex. She stated Ilex is a design-build contract. Three teams are selected based on their qualifications. The proposals are rated and then when they are done they open bids from the three contractors and they are selected based on a score from their proposals and their bids. CDOT gave them a guaranteed maximum price that they are not to exceed for their proposed work. When the bids were open, all three bidders came in significantly over CDOT's guaranteed maximum price. CDOT will not be having a groundbreaking in late September or early October. She stated the project is not dead, and they didn't think it would affect the construction schedule or having it done by August 2017. She stated Mr. Joe DeHeart is the project manager and he has put together a revised schedule. What CDOT needs to do is go back and look at reducing the scope of the project. For example, CDOT has a lot of lanes for what the final configuration of the freeway may look like when it goes to the south. CDOT might reduce the number of travel lanes because the freeway to the south isn't going to happen for 30-40 years or until they get enough funding. There were six bridges and the main Ilex Bridge and they are looking whether they want to increase the funds to the project or reduce the scope of the overall project. There were two funding sources for the project. There was the Bridge Enterprise which funds Ilex and 6th rehab bridges and then there was the RAMP project from Ilex to 1st. CDOT is meeting with Bridge Enterprise and talking to them about reducing the scope. The next step is to meet with Mr. Scott Hobson and the City to look at possible ways to add additional funds to the project. This would mean adding CDOT transportation funds and they will look at the sufficient funding to award the project. CDOT is now looking at selecting a contractor in December.

Mr. Hart stated he had a conversation with Mr. Thiebaut and it was his understanding that there was a significant increase in the cost. He asked if CDOT is looking into what is the cause of the increases in the cost. Ms. Rowe replied yes and no. She stated CDOT has seen a significant increase in bids around the State in all its construction projects in the last 4-5 months. Some contractors are saying it is the workforce and they are competing with oil and gas companies in Colorado and other states. Some contractors have said it is the subcontractors who are maxed out and can't do the work. She stated she did not know if the subcontractors were design-build engineers or not design-build engineers. For example, I-25 at Fillmore was estimated at \$13 million and it came in at \$15 million. Old Ranch Road, which is the Powers Boulevard project, came in \$2 million over. There was another project out east that came in \$4 million short. It is happening around the State. Ilex is a design-build project that does not have detailed cost estimates on all the bid items, so it is done on a very big picture basis. She stated Mr. DeHeart will be having conversations with the contractors to get their input. Mr. Hart stated we are coming out of the recession and all of the work is being spread thin. Ms. Rowe agreed. She stated they are going to move forward with the work and pay a little more money to get it done because it's well worth it.

Ms. Rowe stated the advertising for U.S. 50 West will be going in October. CDOT's estimate was \$1 million under the budget. It has been updated and increased on the cost items.

Ms. Rowe stated CDOT is still moving forward with Ilex and they do have funds in future years coming to the PACOG area to supplement this project.

Ms. Rowe stated CDOT has purchased all the identified and needed right-of-way around the Ilex viaduct site to accomplish the Interstate reconstruction. Those properties included Spekens, Cliff Brice, Acorn Petroleum, Wagner Rents, Trani Supper Club, A-1 Flooring, and Hobb's Flooring. She stated they did not know if other parcels are going to be affected. As far as the 1st Street viaduct, CDOT has identified five parcels that could be affected with the interstate reconstruction. Those properties are the GI Forum, the Bacino residence on River Street, the hotel on Santa Fe (The Springfield), and Blazer Electric. The design-build contractor has the responsibility to perform those right-of-way acquisitions as necessary, based on their design. Until CDOT has awarded the project to the successful design-build firm, it will not know the exact design or the needed right-of-way acquisitions because of that design. Mr. DeHeart stated the hotel property would not be a full take, but there may be some purchasing done in the back parking lot. There may be a potential through the design that no purchasing would have to be done. She stated the other properties in the area which are not identified as acquisition needed for the Interstate reconstruction include Sam's Flooring, Blazer Electric, The Taco Shop, and Pixie's Bar.

Ms. Rowe stated CDOT could do a brief presentation on how the traffic patterns will shift from U.S. 50 to Pueblo Boulevard. She stated their report shows that in 25 years Pueblo Boulevard will have more traffic than U.S. 50 if it is connected to I-25 North. There would be an interchange at Pueblo Boulevard and U.S. 50. At the current time, CDOT shows that Pueblo Boulevard would have the majority of the traffic. She stated that U.S. 50 from Pueblo Boulevard to I-25 is at capacity now, noting you can't get any wider and they don't plan to add more lanes. This traffic has to be taken to I-25 some other way. There are routes designated such as Dillon which would go around and meet the future

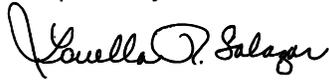
Pueblo Boulevard extension. One of the reasons they want to do the Pueblo Boulevard study is because people keep complaining at Exit 108 about the one-way box culvert. The plan is for a whole new interchange north of that so they are trying to figure out how much do they put into investing in fixing that problem versus investing on a whole new interchange once Pueblo Boulevard gets extended. There was a study done in 1998 as to what Pueblo Boulevard would look like, and CDOT would like to update it and bring it into the NEPA (environmental analysis) realm like U.S. 50 was done. Mr. DeHeart stated the 1998 plan was more alignment alternatives. Ms. Rowe stated they would like to do something more extensive.

Ms. Rowe stated Mr. Thiebaut and she will be meeting with the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board of Directors on September 9th to talk about the U.S. 50 West widening project. She stated they will also be meeting with the County on September 15th on transportation issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 25, 2014, and is to be held 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