

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, September 24, 2015, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Terry Hart, Chairman, at 12:22 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Michael Colucci
John Cordova
Nick Gradisar
Terry Hart

Ted Lopez
Steve Nawrocki
Sal Pace
Bob Schilling

Those members absent were:

Ed Brown
Dennis Flores
Judy Leonard
Roger Lowe

Buffie McFadyen
Eva Montoya
Tony Montoya
Chris Nicoll

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad
Scott Hobson

Dan Kogovsek
Louella Salazar

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported there were three items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the three Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Hart 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 Nick Gradisar, seconded by Michael Colucci, and passed unanimously to approve the three Consent Items listed below with the corrections to the minutes and resolution:

- Minutes of August 27, 2015 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and File August 2015 Financial Report); and
- A Resolution Recommending to the Colorado Department of Transportation Commission that the New Location of the CDOT Region 2 District Administrative Offices and Other Associated Facilities Remain within Pueblo County.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Hart thanked the Pueblo Board of Water Works for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) PACOG Budget Committee Report

Chairman Hart reported the PACOG Budget Committee met on September 17, 2015. He stated the Committee discussed analyzing of the structures of other jurisdictions. There is a proposal for a potential grant to assist with this project. He stated he would like to defer to Item No. 6 on the agenda for this conversation.

MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no Manager's Report.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 TO THE STATE OF COLORADO, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS ENERGY AND MINERAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE FUNDING - ANNUAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS COMPETITIVE GRANT CYCLE, TO FACILITATE REGIONAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE CAPACITY OF PACOG TO PROVIDE REGIONAL SERVICES, AND AUTHORIZING THE PACOG CHAIRPERSON TO EXECUTE SAME

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported the above resolution authorizes the submittal of a grant application in the amount of \$30,000 to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance funding. This is a cycle which is open to councils of governments throughout the State. In discussion with the PACOG Budget Committee, they were looking at other councils of governments and other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and how they are structured. The local DOLA representative, Lee Merkel, felt it could be a potential project which we could apply for funds to assist PACOG to do this. He stated the application is for \$30,000, with an additional \$30,000 in matching funds from the urban transportation planning funds. He stated there may be a need to do an amendment to the work program to cover all the items. Staff has reviewed this with the Federal Highway Administration and CDOT staff and they are in support.

Mr. Hobson reported the scope of the project is to look at completing an organizational restructure study that might include implementing changes to the PACOG policies and bylaws. It would provide a blended team approach where PACOG staff, the PACOG Budget Committee, and PACOG would be involved in the process of coming up with suggestions and ideas. It has been divided into four major work tasks: (1) assessment review of the current operations and how they compare with other COGs around the State and other MPOs; (2) look at five MPOs outside of Colorado that are of similar size to Pueblo, noting our MPO is a unique size (i.e., 160,000 people in the MPO boundary with 135,000 being in the urbanized area) and it is not as large as Colorado Springs,

Fort Collins, or the Denver metropolitan, but it is larger than Grand Junction. There are other MPOs around the country, which are similar in size to the Pueblo MPO, noting it would be beneficial to look at how they are structured; (3) have the consultant provide draft recommendations on potential restructuring; and (4) go to a final recommendation phase which would be provided to PACOG, and any changes would then go to the consultant who would draft the bylaws and policies. It is expected to be completed within a 6-8 month period. If the resolution is approved, staff will be submitting the application on October 1st. Notification of whether PACOG receives the award should be known sometime in November.

Chairman Hart thanked staff for hustling to get this application done. He stated this project would help PACOG critically analyze who they are and where they are going. It is a good opportunity to find a way for PACOG to move forward.

It was moved by John Cordova, seconded by Bob Schilling, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Authorizing the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) to Submit a Grant Application in the Amount of \$30,000 to the State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Funding - Annual Council of Governments Competitive Grant Cycle, to Facilitate Regional Efforts to Increase Capacity of PACOG to Provide Regional Services, and Authorizing the PACOG Chairperson to Execute Same".

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Hart stated Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the Region 2 Transportation Commissioner, issued the following comments in his email:

- CDOT's safety enhancements on SH 165 between Colorado City and Rye including adding a westbound left-turn lane at Applewood Drive, an eastbound left-turn lane at Crow Cutoff road, and installing both centerline and shoulder rumble strips;
- A resolution requesting \$5 million from the legislative Capital Development Committee for fiber and connected vehicles infrastructure from I-25 Pueblo to New Mexico; and
- A resolution appropriating \$2.5 million annually to the Safe Routes to Schools program beginning in FY 2016 (CDOT will be reviewing the geographic representation of the membership on the SRTS advisory committee that makes recommendation to the Transportation Committee for grant awards).

Mr. Thiebaut's email also indicated the September revenue forecast by Legislative Council staff predicts a transfer from the State general fund of about \$106 million in FY 2016-17 for SB 228 transportation and transit projects (a portion of this money could be used for projects in Southern Colorado). The Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast (the Governor's office), however, is predicting no SB 228 general fund transfer for FY 2016-17. CDOT is evaluating this discrepancy in setting its FY 2016-17 budget.

Ms. Ajin Hu, South Program Engineer for the Colorado Department of Transportation, reported Pueblo Boulevard and SH 45 construction started on Monday, September 21st. The project includes construction on the northbound ADA ramps, curb and gutter, and sidewalks. Work will be suspended in November and resume in May. The southbound

portion on the ADA ramps, sidewalks, and curb and gutter will happen next season. There will be daytime lane closures because of the ADA ramps.

Ms. Hu stated that night-time work will be occurring on the Dillon flyover interchange project starting October 1st to the end of October. There will be single lane closures during this time. Chairman Hart asked if the closures start at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Hu replied the lane closures would be from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Ms. Hu stated work is being done on the Indiana Avenue exit on I-25. The west portion of Indiana will be reduced to 11 feet for construction next month.

Ms. Hu stated four design-build teams were interviewed yesterday for the new CDOT headquarters facility. Recommendations were made to management and the contract should probably be awarded next week. The chief engineer was in Pueblo on Tuesday and he was given a tour of the potential sites. The future site has not been decided yet. Mr. Gradisar asked if the potential sites are a secret. Ms. Hu responded it is public information. One of the sites is on Pueblo Boulevard by the YMCA and the other is on the north side by Kohl's.

MPO STAFF REPORT:

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported there were three administrative amendments to the PACOG FY 2016-FY 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the MPO/TPR Area. The amendments include: SH 96 Signal Project in the amount of \$750,000, State Highway 45 at Lehigh Avenue and SH 45 at Hollywood Drive Signal Project in the amount of \$1,000,000, and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Capital Awards for Calendar Year 2015 for bus replacement in the amount of \$385,000. The replacement of the traffic signal at SH 96 and Abriendo Avenue is being moved from FY 2016 to FY 2019 to be included with the SH 96 paving project. The replacement of the traffic signals at SH 45 and Lehigh and SH 45 and Hollywood, which includes overlays, is being moved from FY 2017 to FY 2018 to be included with the SH 45 paving project. The FTA 5310 funds are for the purpose of a new bus by Pueblo Transit, noting these funds were awarded in January 2015.

Mr. Colucci stated people are driving around the light at Hollywood and Pueblo Boulevard, noting it takes a long time to change. Mr. Hobson replied they could make sure to look into it. He stated Ms. Hu informed him that when CDOT replaces the signal that the timing mechanism also gets changed.

(B) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Hobson reported they are getting closer to a final version on the Long Range Transportation Plan, noting the finance chapter is the last chapter which needs to be completed. It should be done within the next week. Once completed, the full Plan will be released and a comment period will occur. Staff is looking at conducting a public hearing on the Plan at PACOG's October meeting. After the hearing, there is a 30-day comment period. He stated approval of the Plan should occur at the combined November/December PACOG meeting, which is held the first part of December.

Mr. Pace asked what PACOG's role in the process is. Mr. Hobson replied the MPO develops and approves the MPO Plan for the 25-year period for our region. The Plan covers all major highways (State and Federal) and from collector level roadways up through principal arterial roadways. They look at where roadways may need to be improved, where roadways can be extended, and where the designated funding over the 25-year period could be allocated towards the projects within the Plan. Currently, most of the funding is Federal and State funds. There are very limited local funds available. Staff works closely with CDOT. They also look at multi-modal projects. In transit, there will be an aeronautics section for proposed improvements to the airport that would utilize State and Federal funding. They would also look at potential transportation alternative projects such as trails, etc. Mr. Pace asked what the best way to interject into the process is. Mr. Hobson responded staff could provide all of the chapters. The projects that are going to be in the 25-year Plan mirror what are in the 2016-2019 TIP, as well as the 10-year Plan which is part of this program. All of this information has been previously shared and reviewed. Staff can share the information with him and guide him to chapters that might be of most interest where he can look at specific projects and how the funding might be divvied out as far as the different projects.

(C) West Pueblo Connector--11th to Downtown, Request for Proposals

Mr. Hobson reported the request for proposals to hire a consultant for the West Pueblo Connector project was advertised on September 3, 2015. This project primarily focuses on the west segment connector between 18th Street across the rail yards and then to 8th Street. This is the most challenging part of the project. At least 50% of the funding for project includes this segment. The plan will look at an alternative for linking from 18th Street across the rail yards and the best way to connect into 8th Street. In the long-term, they would also like to connect the roadway corridor adjacent to Midtown Shopping Center under 4th Street and over to the Union Avenue District. For our purposes, we would like to focus on a connection into downtown. He stated 24th Street was previously developed and Tuxedo Boulevard is already in place. There is an alignment developed between the City and County for the segment through the Honor Farm from Pueblo Boulevard to Purcell Boulevard.

Mr. Schilling stated he thought 11th Street goes across. Mr. Hobson replied 11th Street will be part of it, noting this is where the crossing will occur, but they are going to have them start at 18th primarily because of the new Urban Renewal project area which goes out to 18th Street. He stated 11th Street is very important to this project.

Mr. Hobson stated they had a pre-bid meeting on September 16th. There were four firms that attended, and they all seemed to be consulting firms that would be capable of doing the project. The deadline for the RFP submittals is September 30th. Transportation staff is looking at having a committee of City and County staffs review those proposals and make a recommendation on the consultant company. Since it ties into the budget, the City will award the contract. Everything will be done through the delegation agreement with PACOG.

Chairman Hart asked if it is likely that the railroad crossing would be above grade or below grade rather than at grade. Mr. Hobson answered with the main line tracks going through, there would probably not be an at-grade crossing. Staff's thoughts are that it would be an above grade overpass.

Mr. Hobson reported there are several property owners on the west side for the alignment from 18th to 11th Streets. The railroad is a significant owner. On the north side corridor east of the railroad, the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo abuts into it. There are a couple of other property owners as you approach 8th Street such as the Pueblo Chieftain building. Landownership and the potential of securing properties and the costs associated with it will be analyzed as part of the alignment. He noted the span of the bridge will also be a key factor in terms of widening.

(D) CDOT Transportation Summit

Mr. Hobson reported CDOT is hosting a transportation summit on Wednesday, October 28th in Denver. There is funding available within the MPO transportation budget to pay for individuals to attend. He stated they would like invite members of PACOG to attend the summit, noting the cost would be covered. He stated staff would send out more information to the PACOG members so they could figure out if they would like to attend. Chairman Hart encouraged Mr. Hobson to send this by email and provide the information, and then they could get back to him. Mr. Hobson stated if the 10 seats are not filled up with staff and PACOG members, then the invitation would be extended to the Transportation Advisory Committee members.

WRIGHT WATER ENGINEERING PRESENTATION ON FOUNTAIN CREEK
(EVENING PRESENTATION)

Chairman Hart reported this is a follow up to a conversation held at the last PACOG meeting. At that meeting, Mr. Nawrocki brought up a point that he would like a conversation going on at the PACOG level to take a look at what the issues are on Fountain Creek and what we might be able to do collectively. Mr. Pace pointed out that maybe we should have a presentation made by Wright Water Engineering. County staff has made contact with Wright Water Engineering who said they are willing to come and make the presentation. They said that truncating the presentation would be difficult because it is a complex issue, noting if it was shrunk too much that it would lose its value. They felt it could be shrunk to two hours with presentation, questions, and comments. County staff went back to them and said in order to get the maximum opportunity to do that that it would probably wipe out a PACOG meeting and if they could do an evening presentation instead. They said they would be happy to do this. He stated if this is acceptable to everyone what he would like to do is ask County staff to work with PACOG members and Wright Water Engineering and any others who are players in the presentation to see if we can find an appropriate date and time.

Mr. Nawrocki felt this would be ideal, and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. would be an appropriate time. Mr. Schilling asked that it not be done on a Monday when City Council meets.

Mr. Pace stated other entities could also be invited. Chairman Hart stated when they spoke with Wright Water Engineering they were asked if they could do the presentation twice. They were told they would be willing to do it once for free. Chairman Hart stated anyone who has ideas about other entities or individuals who should be at the meeting to please let County staff know and they could be invited. Mr. Schilling asked if this is going to be a public meeting. Chairman Hart replied yes. Mr. Schilling asked if it would be placed in the newspaper. Chairman Hart responded they would notify the newspaper.

Mr. Nawrocki asked where the meeting would be held. Chairman Hart stated they talked about where the most appropriate place would be and it was decided that would depend on how big of an audience they expect. He stated the Arts Center or Pueblo Convention Center might be possibilities. Mr. Nawrocki suggested the training room at the Pueblo Police Department, noting they have the technologies available. Mr. Cordova suggested having it in this conference room. Mr. Azad suggested the City Council Chambers. Chairman Hart stated he wanted to make sure the facility has the technology so that folks could see the presentation and hear clearly what is being said.

Chairman Hart stated they would make sure the presentation is done sometime in October. Mr. Nawrocki thanked the County for setting this up.

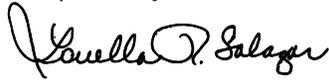
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, it was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Steve Nawrocki, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015, 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