

**Minutes of the  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
February 11, 2016  
8:30 a.m.**

**Community Room of the Municipal Justice Center, 200 South Main Street**  
Agenda Items Marked with \* indicate additional materials were included in packet

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

*Chairman: Scott Hobson*

*Time of Call: 8:40 a.m.*

*MPO Members Present: Scott Hobson, Reyna Quintana*

*TAC Members Present: Alf Randall, Dan Centa, Darrin Tangeman, Don Bruestle, Michael Snow, Pepper Whittlef, Wendy Pettit*

*CAC Members Present: Kristin Castor, Salvatore Piscitelli, Alan Nelms*

*Others Present:*

**2. Introductions and Public Comments (non-agenda items only).**

*Introductions of the current TAC were made to benefit Alan Nelms who was appointed as a Citizen-at-Large member in December of 2015 by PACOG.*

**3. Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 14, 2016**

*Motion to Approve: Salvatore Piscitelli*

*Second: Kristin Castor*

*Unanimous*

**4. CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Regular Agenda Item(s)**

*There were no Policy Notifications for February.*

**5. CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Administrative Notification**

*There were no Administrative Notifications for February.*

**6. Prioritization of 2040 LRTP Trail Projects\***

*The three lists of trail projects were looked at and discussed. Dan Centa noticed that the City's list has bridges listed as a separate item and asked if this was needed or if they should just be included in the accompanying trail project. Scott Hobson replied that the bridges could be incorporated into the project itself, but that any crossing of the Arkansas river is highly significant and therefore should be left separate. Pepper Whittlef suggested possibly putting major bridge crossings in parentheses and Wendy Pettit said that this could allow the possibility of looking at different funding sources.*

*One of the projects in Pueblo West has a bridge which goes underneath the railroad rather than over it and Alan Nelms asked why we would go under rather than over. Scott stated that it depends on the grades of the area and other factors to make the new trail ADA compliant. Wendy added that working with the railroad is very difficult and cost prohibitive.*

*Dan Centa asked to have the bridge over Sweetwater Creek listed separately on the Pueblo West list. He also suggested making the lists of the three entities look the same and delete the date on the Pueblo West list as it is not on the other two. Scott stated that we needed to add the Arkansas river trail project to the County list. In addition, Alf Randall stated that we should consider adding the start*

and stop points of the Bessemer Ditch project. These locations are from the Salt Creek trail to Nichols. He suggested leaving off the bridge crossings as he wasn't sure of their exact location.

Scott Hobson complimented everyone on getting these lists put together and mentioned that this was the first time something like this has been added to a long range plan for PACOG.

## **7. CDOT Updates – Wendy Pettit**

- FY 20 Addition to the TIP/STIP\* - Wendy discussed the 2017-2020 list of FASTER and RPP projects. She stated that nothing has changed in the PACOG area. She then stated that Ajin Hu with CDOT would like to ask the TAC if out of the \$1,450,000 in 2015 for the I-25 project, the excess funds could be moved and used for preliminary design for the next phase of the I-25 project from Highway 50 B to 29<sup>th</sup> St. Salvatore Piscitelli asked if there were going to be any noise walls installed with this I-25 project and Wendy replied that yes, there are several sound barrier walls being installed. Scott Hobson then added that currently, in the 2020 funds, there is \$250,000 programmed for the US 50 access management plan. He said that what Ajin is suggesting is taking that \$250,000 and adding it to any cost savings from the current I-25 project, then programming that money into 2016 funds to help the I-25 project move along more quickly. Wendy added that Ajin wants to be ready if the SB228 money starts coming into CDOT so that they can jump right on using it. Scott stated that he feels that using this money for the I-25 project would be most beneficial but wants to know the TAC member's opinions. Pepper stated that she doesn't really see the point of an access management plan. Wendy stated that that plan originally started when a large employer was talking about coming into Pueblo, but that fell through and is now not coming in the foreseeable future. Therefore, she also feels that the money would be of better use in I-25. Pepper agrees with this statement. Wendy stated that she thinks we will have around \$750,000 to put towards the I-25 project design which would make up more than 30% of what will be needed for the full design. Scott stated that this is the first time this has been brought up and asked if we wanted to wait a month or go ahead and make a motion to move this. Pepper stated that she would move to approve that the Highway 50 access management money be moved to the 2016 RPP and combined with the I-25 corridor excess funds to use for the I-25 design from Highway 50 B to 29<sup>th</sup> St. Don Bruestle seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Wendy stated that she would move funds to then create a TIP amendment when total funding amounts are known.
- Transit Town Hall Meetings\* - Wendy Pettit stated that Karen Rowe wanted to ensure the handout provided in the packet was seen. She stated that on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 there would be a meeting in the Police Community Room for Pueblo Transit to look at transit projects throughout the state. Kristin Castor asked if the meeting would include anything on the Southwest Chief and Wendy replied that it is something that could be brought up at the meeting. Scott stated that they will look at the Bustang and the logistics of stops in Pueblo as well as extending transit service into rural areas. Kristin then asked if the proposed Bustang stops will be incorporated into the current transit study. Scott stated that they would be looked at but they wouldn't be Bustang only stops.

## **8. CDOT FAST Act Information Memo\***

Scott stated that at the STAC meeting they handed out a survey for ranking the FAST Act priorities. He said that he wanted the TAC members to fill out their priorities. Alf Randall asked where the roads were on the survey, and it was stated that the category names "Block Grant Program" was equal to roads. Scott asked if the members could fill out the survey and scan and send it back to us. Michael Snow stated that he could send the survey out electronically so that they don't have to scan anything. Alf asked if they were looking for a personal opinion or an opinion of who each member is representing. Scott stated that since we are all here representing different entities, we should fill out

*the survey as that representative and not as an individual.*

*Alan Nelms wanted to know where we were with getting passenger rail in Pueblo. Scott stated that it is currently listed in the 2040 plan, but there is no funding currently available for it. In addition the rail is in need of serious upgrades to make it passenger rail compatible.*

*Alf mentioned that he doesn't see anything regarding roads in the memo that was included with the survey. Pepper Whittlef also noted that highway traffic safety has very few items listed within it in the memo. Michael Snow stated that this memo and survey is just to show the new items with an intro of the FAST Act which is why it seems that there are items missing. Alf stated that that may be true, but the priorities list doesn't provide for roads or real issues and he does not feel comfortable ranking these items and then having money be put towards these items that may or may not be real issues. Michael replied that it seems that maybe we need more information on the subjects before filling this survey out. He then also pointed out that on the last paragraph of the first page of the memo, there is a sentence that makes it seem like this is just an intro to the FAST Act and to see which areas are of most interest to discuss in further detail later on.*

*Scott asked that the members fill out the survey if they feel so inclined and return them so that he can take them back to the STAC.*

## **9. Staff Reports:**

- Chambers/United Way Survey – Scott Hobson mentioned that both of the Chambers of Commerce and the United Way are putting out a survey for the public to rank their interests for parks, roadways, social programs, etc. He stated that this will not assign any funding but is only looking at what they should focus on. Darrin Tangemen stated that this survey should be announced and out online the day of the meeting. Scott stated that there will need to be more detailed follow up surveys put out before anything else happens and that this survey is not a statistically balanced survey.
- FHWA – National Performance Management Measures: Assessing Pavement and Bridge Conditions for the National Highway Performance Program\* – Scott Hobson mentioned that the attached memo from CDOT on the FHWA Performance Program mainly looks at the bridges and pavement conditions in Pueblo. He said it is important because they can take money off of the top of federal funds to then require us to get our pavement and bridges up to standard. Scott discussed the PD-14 Pavement Metrics which were shown in the attached PowerPoint. Scott pointed out that for PACOG, the off system NHS, which has 1.96 miles of roadway, is 55% acceptable and 45% poor condition. He then went on to look at the bridge PowerPoint which broke out the bridges into good, fair and poor. For PACOG, there were 14.5% in poor condition which is significantly higher than the other MPO's. Scott stated, however, that many of these bridges are in the current I-25 construction and once that project is finished, this should move them to good condition rather than poor, bringing our totals in line with the other MPOs. Alan Neff asked why we are so high in the poor category. Michael Snow replied that it is a matter of timing and funding for I-25 in Pueblo. He said the environmental impact statement took a great deal of time.
- FASTER 2017 and FTA 2016 Transit Capital Funding Recommendations\* - Scott Hobson noted that per the attached document, the only capital project for 2016 from Transit funds is \$55,300 to use for a new bus.
- Public Participation Plan Review – Scott Hobson stated that a review of the Public Participation Plan is listed in our work program. He said that the MPO staff will look at the current plan and review it, then compare our plan to that of CDOT to see if there are ways to make it any better.

*It will then be brought to the TAC for input.*

- *Senate Bill 09-228 Transfer Scenarios FY 15 – FY 17 – Scott Hobson stated that the economic forecasts from the Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budget (OSPB) and the Legislative Council Staff (LCS) were released and as long as nothing happens to adjust the funds, this year there will be around \$100,000,000 available to CDOT to use for the I-70 viaduct project. Originally, the thought was that there would be \$1,000,000,000 available to use over a 5 year period; however, this has been backed off to just under \$200,000,000. In FY 2017-2018 it is forecasted that there will be no money to use as the TOBOR revenue will be too high, thus not allowing use of SB 090-228 funding. Michael Snow noted that these amount will be revised as dollar amount change and grow.*
- *Safe Routes to School Grant Applications – Scott Hobson informed the TAC that there were two grant applications that were sent to the state for the Safe Routes to School grant money. There was one put in by Pueblo West for Swallows Charter Academy and the second was put in by the County for North Mesa Elementary. These will be under review, but it was noted that it may not be until June or July when the money is dispersed.*
- *West Pueblo Connector Update – Scott Hobson stated that the second meeting with Matrix was held on February 2, 2016. This meeting was primarily focused on seeing what information has been gathered and what information still needed to be collected for the consultants. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on March 2, 2016 at 10am in the planning conference room. Scott noted that anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.*
- *Job Recruitment Update – Scott Hobson said that there are four qualified candidates for the Transportation Program Manager position which will be interviewed on or around the week of February 22, 2016. He noted that representatives have been invited from Pueblo West and the County to be on the interview panel. Scott then went on to state that for the second position, the Transportation Technician, there were two eligible candidates. He said that one of the two was the same person who was just hired as a planner for the City Planning Department and therefore, only one candidate remains that is qualified. Both of these positions will be completely paid for out of the MPO funds and Scott would like to have both positions filled by March of 2016.*
- *Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) Update – Scott Hobson simply informed the TAC that the CPG was approved at the last PACOG meeting.*
- *Transit Study RFP Update – Scott Hobson stated that we are currently working with City Transit to get a scope of work put together for the Transit Study RFP. He said that the draft scope of work would come to the TAC for their input before it went out for bids. Reyna Quintana stated that she wasn’t sure if that was feasible given the current timeline of events for the RFP. Scott replied that he feels it is very important that the TAC has some say in the scope of work as this is a PACOG funded study. Therefore, he stated that we need to meet with Earl Wilkinson and Brenda Broyles to revise the schedule and allow for TAC/PACOG input. Reyna said that she would set a meeting up with both Earl and Brenda to do so.*

**10. Items from TAC members or scheduling for future agenda items**

*None*

**11. Adjournment**

Chairman Scott Hobson adjourned the meeting at 10:40am