

**Minutes of the
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
July 14, 2016
8:30 a.m.**

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman: Scott Hobson

Time of Call: 8:36 a.m.

MPO Members Present: Scott Hobson, John Adams, Hannah Haurert

TAC Members Present: Dan Centa, Don Bruestle, Joan Armstrong, Michael Snow, Pepper Whittlef, Wendy Pettit

CAC Members Present: Kristin Castor, Salvatore Piscitelli

Others Present:

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

No introductions or public comments were made.

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

Motion to Approve: Pepper Whittlef

Second: Salvatore Piscitelli

Unanimous

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

There are no Policy TIP Amendment Notification for August.

5. CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Administration Agenda Item(s)

CDOT Region II has Notification of one (1) Administrative Amendments of Roll Forward Project Funding to the PACOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the MPO/TPR area.

Notification: No Action Required

Project Name: I-25 Through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865

Project Location and Description: **Ilex RAMP Project**

Federal Program Funds: **\$827,899**

State Matching Funds: **\$172,100**

Local Matching Funds: **\$**

Other Project Funds: **\$**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$999,999

6. CDOT Updates

Scott Hobson asked how many TAC Applications were received from our area. Wendy Pettit said that there were 19 applications, 4 from the City, 3 from Pueblo West, and 1 from the County. Michael Snow asked the total for the request, Wendy said there were \$4m worth of requests. Region 2 had \$3.6m over 3 year funding. There are 6 applications that were updated. Scott said that there will be

a meeting on Monday night to approve the resolutions. It will be sent after it has been signed in a PDF file.

Scott Hobson wanted to know about the next round of Safe Routes to Schools. Wendy Pettit said that Leslie Fairbourne is in the process of re-evaluating the application contact. There is a Region meeting in September. Scott asked about the application being due in September, Wendy said that it will be the same schedule but will check for sure. Scott wants to look at which project are ready to go. Dan Centa said that they have submitted one but needs to be updated. He wants to strategize what is more important. Scott said that he wants a meeting with Pueblo West, District 70 and Pueblo County for the North Mesa Project.

Wendy would like us to brainstorm about a RPP list and needs to happen before the end of the year. Scott Hobson asked if October would work and Wendy said yes. Scott informed us about the improvement along the Interstate and the only funding is from RPP, it has the most flexibility. There are options of redirecting that money other than I-25 but would take away money from the RPP.

7. West Pueblo Connector Update of Alternatives*

Scott Hobson said there are 8 alternatives, located in the packet. There are 3 facilities operated by Department of Corrections (DOC). We have received correspondent back from DOC which is also in the packet. Alternative A-1 was a viable plan with existing 18th St Bridge to 17th St that follows to Francisco to the south with either route to 8th St & Blake or Midtown Cir. Don Bruestle asked if the current 18th St Bridge is adequate enough and has the capacity for what we are planning. Pepper Whittlef said that we do not have the numbers but she feels it is not adequate enough and would need to be widen. Don also asked about the ADA slope. Pepper said it does meet the requirement. Scott said that would require upgrades to the existing bridge. Dan Centa had a concern about the Midtown Cir roundabout and if we were to look at the continuation of that street, it would not have a good flow. We would need to decide which section would better improve instead of having the two shown. Scott concern was about the active rail spur with the connection to Midtown Cir. The Pueblo Chieftain does not get a lot of activity but it is still being used, this will be a cost factor.

The second alternative (A-2) is not different except that it eliminates a roundabout at Hood Ave and 17th St. Dan suggested that the reverse curve be moved to the east instead of wiping out a block of houses. Don Bruestle had a concern about adding roundabouts and advised against it. Wendy Pettit and John Adams said that people are more accepting of them once they are put it. Dan Centa also added that the traffic flows freely for the one in Pueblo West.

The third alternative (A-3) adds another bridge along 17th St and takes away the roundabout at Hood Ave & 17th St. Don Bruestle wanted to know what the State Hospital thought. Joan Armstrong said they did not like it. Pepper Whittlef suggested that 18th St as one direction and 17th St as another direction so that a smaller bridge can be built.

The fourth alternative (A-4) follows the 18th St alignment with a roundabout at Hood Ave and follows it to the south and loops around the corner of the State Hospital across their gasoline farm and a level 5 DOC facility. Don Bruestle asked about the yellow line. Pepper Whittlef said it is the connector to D St. Joan Armstrong would like a map with different colors. Pepper said that it can be done when the others are taken out. She said that there is a problem with this alternative because the road on Hood Ave by San Carlos is directly to the east and would hamper that expansion.

B-1 alternative, Pepper said that it goes right through the State Hospital and is not a preferred plan.

B-2 alternative crosses at a new bridge at 15th St paralleling along the railroad tracks, this route still goes by the level 5 DOC Facility and goes through the fuel yard. Don Bruestle asked about the concerns

from the State on the proximity. Pepper Whittlef said that there are issues but the State has not identified them. The other issue is the road is right by the exercise facility along with complex easements. Maybe moving one of the curves away.

C-1 alternative is constructing a new bridge at 11th St., the road goes from 18th St to Cheyenne Ave to 11th St at a roundabout at 11th & Cheyenne across the State Hospital. Scott Hobson said that the State doesn't have a problem with moving their fuel yard at our expense. Pepper said just to use that money to build a C-2 Bridge.

C-2 misses the fuel yard and the State Hospital. Dan Centa said TOW of slope would still be a concern to the State Hospital. Adding retaining walls would have some minor encroachment. Scott Hobson said that the challenge is the corner of their property would be the rail spur. Joan Armstrong asked if this would be a good one. Scott said that this would be but the bridge would be costly. Don Bruestle asked which of the eastern alternatives with 8th St or Midtown Cir. Dan Centa said that connection to 8th St is the best. Scott said that it is the best route would be to improve flow to Downtown and connecting to 8th St would do that.

Scott Hobson said that the conclusion is A-1 and C-2 are the most viable. They strongly oppose a roadway next to the San Carlos Facility. We will keep up with the State Hospital and DOC with them providing a map of their alternatives. After that, a telephone conference would be with the consultants. This result would be alternatives would be reviewed to move forward for the public viewing. After the Stakeholder meeting, there will be a public meeting.

Don Bruestle informed us that the County Commissioner wants to get an item on the next ballot. It would include \$4.1m to be used each year over a ten year period. West Pueblo Connector is still part of the discussion. Dan Centa asked how that would get communicated to the County Commissioners. Don said that there is a meeting next month at County Commissioner's Chamber on Wednesday, Aug 16th at 1pm. Scott Hobson said that project would be on the ballot in November 2017.

8. Staff Reports:

- **Pueblo Area Wide Transit Feasibility Study**

Scott Hobson said that Nelson/Nygaard have been in Pueblo, spoke with Transit Staff and most of the Drivers. There is a survey for the riders and analysis of the future of Transit's building. They will also look at potential sites for operational and administrative building. The existing Transit Building is a prime spot for Downtown expansion. There also is a site for the connectivity of the Transit Center in Downtown. Don Bruestle asked if there is a reason why of it being in the Downtown Area. Scott said that proximity of Downtown and the drive time for the Transit Center. The distance would be nice to maintain for closeness. Wendy Pettit asked about which questions were on the survey. Scott said he does not know but will get that information.

- **Critical Freight Corridor Designations***

Michael Snow informed us that there is a new program for the freight network. The FAST ACT provides for new funding with \$15m/year for Colorado and use for the Freight Network. There are currently 1200 centerline miles already on the network. Legislation allows for additional 160 rural and 80.35 urban miles. These would be segments of roadway and not a corridor. By November or December, it will need to be decided by FHWA. Kristin Castor asked if this include safety concerns about hazardous material. Michael said safety is high priority. Scott Hobson asked about if I-25 is going to be removed from the route if we do go forward with adding new segments. Michael said correct. Dan Centa asked if they are only State Highway. Michael said he didn't think so. Wendy Pettit said that Swallows to Wills has been identified and if there was a short fall in the project, it would be pulled from the freight project.

There are specific areas that was looked at: Troy out to the Depot, The Airport and Swallows to Wills. Michael said that the Colorado Freight Network should be where we start. Scott Hobson said that we could put a segment on a project and once that is done, it can be moved to a different priority. Dan asked about the criteria for the network. Michael said there is a handout in the Packet that explains the criteria. The Rural segments will have a different criteria. Dan asked about the small volume of freight traffic and asked if it mattered. Michael said that he would assume so and it has to be paired down. A list can be made up ranked with our highest route. Scott said that there was a study on which companies were taking which routes and that would help with the decision. Michael said that Transportation needs to decide on it this November. John Adams said that Dr. Cog will release the data within the next few weeks. Michael said that CDOT still wants input on the network.

- ***Transit/School Regional Bus Transportation****

Scott Hobson said that there is information about the potential Transit Agencies integrated into School Bus System. He said that it is possible to do that and it is in the packet. There are a lot of requirements to do the combination. A school system be able to utilize the public transportation for use of students for that service or school buses to provide public transportation under certain situations. If Public Transportation Funds are to be used, the fees can't be reduced. The schools can provide a funding that could subsidize for the use of the bus system and the cost would be less. Kristin Castor asked if a pass system would be used. John Adams said that the school system would use whichever. Michael Snow asked if there are known areas this would work best. Scott said that we weren't looking for specific areas. Kristin said that the parents were involved with the route change. Scott will provide new information with the committee.

9. Items from TAC Members or scheduling of future agenda items.

- *October – Critical Freight*
- *RPP*
- *Update on PPP (Public Participation Plan)*

10. Adjournment

Chairman Scott Hobson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.