

**Minutes of the
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 4, 2015
8:30 a.m.**

Community Room of the Pueblo Municipal Justice Center, 200 South Main Street

Agenda Items Marked with * indicate additional materials were included in the packet

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman: Scott Hobson

Time of Call: 8:42 am

MPO Members Present: Scott Hobson, Reyna Ehrman,

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

CAC Members Present: Salvatore Piscitelli, Kristin Castor

Others Present: Yelena Onnen, Bill Haas

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

Introductions were done to benefit Yelena Onnen from FTA region 8 and Bill Haas from FHWA who were attending their first TAC meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 7, 2015 *

Motion to Approve: Kristin Castor

Prior to approval Michael Snow requested revised wording from "questioned" to "had questions" on Items 6 and 7 on the minutes. Changes have been made to reflect request

Second: Salvatore Piscitelli

Unanimous

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

There were no Policy Notifications for November.

5. CDOT Region II TIP/STIP Administrative Notification

There were no Administrative Notifications for November.

6. Update on City of La Junta TIGER Grant Application for the Southwest Chief Passenger Rail Service improvements

Scott shared what he knew regarding the TIGER Grant. He said the city of La Junta is submitting a TIGER Grant for rail improvements for the Southwest corridor and they are partnering with the state of Kansas and the state of New Mexico. The request is for 15 million dollars. Last year Garden City Kansas submitted an application for a TIGER Grant and was awarded the money.

Kristen Castor asked why Sal Pace asked for RTA to support the effort and what would they pay for. Scott replied that he thinks the plan is to set aside some funds for rail knowing that RTA funds would not cover the full cost.

Michael Snow stated that at the last board meeting the agenda stated Sal Pace was going to give an update. He asked if Scott could summarize the update. Scott Sal Pace was not at that meeting either so the issue was deferred to the next meeting.

7. Update on RTA

Kristen Castor spoke on this issue as she to the RTA meeting. She stated there was discussion regarding the road from Pueblo West into Pueblo. During the meeting it was stated that the drawings and design have been done for the road and thoughts are now moving toward making this road a toll road. Kristen stated that at this time she mentioned obtaining an RTA. She asked if they would be willing to raise a tax to support an RTA. The RTA would cover roads, bridges and transit. After bringing up this possibility she stated the committee decided to look into the idea. Kristen said they also look at all the barriers to having an RTA. She stated that Colorado Springs has several large groups and a structure which Pueblo does not have, making it harder to spread the word to the public in a positive way. Michael Snow asked for explanation of Kristen saying Pueblo doesn't have the structure to support getting an RTA. Kristen explained that Pueblo has several groups but none where people can devote the time needed to get an RTA going. She suggested getting several small groups together to spread positive information regarding Pueblo getting an RTA.

Scott followed up this discussion by speaking on how El Paso County and the Pikes Peak Region use the United Way to help get people on board. He stated that the United Way staff in Pueblo does not have the resources to take this on and operate like Colorado Springs does. Scott also mentioned that currently the Chamber of Commerce is focusing on the renewal of the half cent sales tax and if it is not successful they will look for another ballot initiative in 2016. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce is not able to devote any time until after the ballot issue is resolved. Dan Centa stated we should not throw out the idea of utilizing the United Way as they are a respected organization in the community.

8. Review of Chapters 1, 5 and 10 of the LRTP *

All three chapters mentioned were attached in the packet and are to be reviewed by committee members and reviews returned by June 18. It was noted that the maps and charts in the draft chapters will change. Scott mentioned that we will also send out a draft of appendix A, D and E for review. Bill Haas inquired as to what the public involvement will be and how we used public involvement in the development of the plan. He also stated that it might be helpful to get the dates of the release on the other chapters so that can be looked at as a whole rather than as individual chapters. Scott replied that public meetings will be held in July and he would speak with the consultants regarding the release of the other chapters.

Salvatore Piscitelli expressed his concern regarding how people are driving through construction zones. Some suggestions to help mitigate the issue included putting a mock police car in the construction zone and outreach to the public on educating that construction season is underway. In addition, the idea of utilizing social media to get info on construction and road closures was discussed. It was stated that an email from Bill Haas should be send to Wendy and Scott to help spearhead this initiative.

9. Staff Report

-Update on St. Charles Mesa Trail Access Plan

The first meeting was held with City Planning and County Planning as a general overview to determine what was needed to establish a baseline of information. Once the baseline is established and approved, a meeting will be scheduled with the stakeholders to review the baseline and put together a more detailed scope.

-Purchase of Traffic Counters*

Fifteen Traffic Counters were purchased at a total cost of \$26,000 under the MPO funds. They will be used this summer. Testing is being done in a controlled setting to establish whether the counters can be used for bicycles. Kristen Castor gave positive feedback regarding the bike lanes and routes on Elizabeth and Greenwood. It was noted that the issue of bike lanes and routes will be discussed and included in the 2040 LRTP.

-Purchase of Traffic Count and Crash Monitoring Software *

The city has now entered into a contract with MS2 for software to handle traffic counts and crash monitoring. A P.O. is being set up to obtain the software. Data will be taken from the past 5 years to put into the system and then training will be held to learn the software. Once more information regarding what the software can and cannot do is obtained, it will be brought to TAC. Pepper mentioned that we might use CDOT's "scrubbed" accident data. Kristen Castor inquired what would need to be scrubbed. Pepper replied that the data from the Police department is generally wrong or incomplete, and has to be corrected.

10. *Items from TAC Members Or Scheduling Future Agenda Items*

Kristen Castor brought up the impact of flooding on the trails. She wanted more information on the extent of the damage and plan to repair said damages. Scott said we would see about getting the information gathered and to the next TAC meeting.

Scott stated we will still be distributing LRTP Chapters as they become available and will obtain a plan/schedule of the next chapters release dates. In addition a schedule regarding public involvement will be made.

Scott discussed his obtaining authorization for two new MPO staff members. The position would be Project Manager and Transportation Technician. The plan is to have these positions filled by the end of the year.

11. *Adjournment*

Chairman Scott Hobson adjourned the meeting at 9:56am