

<h1 style="margin: 0;">MINUTES</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</h2>
--

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present were:

Zach Swearingen	Danya Esgar
Eppie Greigo	Mark Aliff
William Thiebaut	Harry Hochstetler
Chris DeLuca	Dennis Flores
Regina Matri – City Council	
Mike Cafasso	

Members Absent:

Ed Gutierrez	Joseph Latino -City Council
Heather Graham – Mayor City of Pueblo	Roger Gomez -City Council
Roger Gomez -City Council	Terry Hart – Transportation Commissioner
Doug Proal -Pueblo West	Sarah Martinez City Council

.Also Present Were:

Aaron Willis -CDOT	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Geoff Guthrie-CDOT	Hannah Haunert -PACOG MPO
Scott Skinner -CDOT	Patrick Vigil-CDOT
Don Bruestle Planning Commission	Isabel Rollins -Grant Navigator
Sabina Geniso, Pueblo County	Lindsey Jaquez-CDOT
Dillion Goodman PACOG MPO	Carmen Howard – Pueblo County
Jason Nelson-CDOT	Carla Sikes- Pueblo City Attorney
Sarah Skinner -Pueblo County	Maureen Paz de Araujo, - Wilson and Co.
Garrison Ortiz	

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

PACOG Chair, Mark Aliff called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm

Roll call was taken, and it was determined there was a quorum present.

First items of the agenda:

The CONSENT ITEMS were first on the agenda. Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, presented the following:

- 1 Minutes of April 25, 2024, Meeting were presented for edits and approval.

The minutes were approved by a formal recommendation made by Mr. Mike Cafasso, with a second on the recommendation made by Commissioner Esgar.

1. Chairperson's Report:

A) Lunch Appreciation: Mr. Aliff thanked the Board of Commissioners for the catered lunch.

2. Manager's Report: (Ms. Carmen Howard) covered the following items under her report.

First item on the agenda was the 2025 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Plan adoption. Ms. Howard passed the floor to **Eva Cosyleon- PACOG MPO Manger.**

A) 2025-2028 Draft Transportation Improvement Program was presented for Adoption by PACOG Board. Ms. Cosyleon went over the comments received during the public comment period, she gave a brief overview of the details and how the MPO addressed the comments. The comments and the MPO replies are included as part of the permanent document being adopted and are in the PACOG packet for further review. The document covers transportation programming with federal, state, and local funding for all of Pueblo County, the MPO areas as well as the TPR areas that are in Pueblo County. The plan was approved by a motion from Commissioner Esgar with a second by Mr. Mike Cafasso.

B) Next on the agenda was the Update on 9 Element Watershed Plan activities. Ms. Howard introduced Mr. Doug Schwenke, from RESPEC, our consultant for the plan and Mr. Michael Bartolo, Ph.D. Mr. Schwenke gave an update, the activities for the plan have a shortfall, of roughly \$15,000. The update was originally scheduled to ask the PACOG Board for funding to cover the shortfall, but it has been funded by the CDPHE. The CDPHE had the funding available through the Colorado Water and Power authority to fund our activities and make the scope of work for 2024 whole. This extra funding will allow for the 4 sets of samples originally planned to happen as planned and finish the annual report. This will allow for the completion of the analysis that is needed for the 9-element plan. 2025 will also need the \$40,000 budget to complete the need sampling and work associated with the plan, RESPEC and Ms. Howard are involved in conversations with CDPHE and DOLA now on the available options for funding for 2025. In the 604B activities, the EPA has a funding source for disadvantaged communities called "closing the gap to America's wastewater gap", the program is free to participate in and the Pueblo area was chosen to participate in the program, the ultimate goal is to have funding available to help residents with failed septic systems and mitigate the pollutants in the water. The area being looked at is the St. Charles Mesa area as was reported in the last update.

Next Mr. Bartolo spoke on the water quality issues on the St Charles Mesa, 25 years ago the failed septic systems were detected, and recently the same testing was replicated in conjunction with Colorado Department of agriculture, and the same 14 well sights were sampled, 7 of the samples were analyzed at the CU Dept of Biochemistry. Certain compounds were detected that are common with failed septic systems and were very widespread on the St Charles Mesa. The results have been shared with the Health Department; Pueblo has a very instrumental part in the water quality issues along the US 50 corridor. As the larger communities take their water up stream for their municipal use,

the lower quality water that is left is a problem for the agricultural uses, and the communities to the east for drinking water and their municipal uses.

C) Ms. Isabel Rollins gave the Grant Navigator Report. She reported on the Local Infrastructure boot camps that are coming up. The items are for bridges, brown fields, etc., Pueblo County is eligible to participate. The City is not eligible as they are over 150K in population. Mr. Rollins is putting together a list of all grants that are upcoming over the next 2 years, the infrastructure funding is still available for the next 2 years under the IJA legislation. Her full report is included in the PACOG packet for further information.

D) Mr. Garrison Ortiz gave a presentation on Southern Colorado Institute of Transportation Technology (SCITT) housed at CSU Pueblo. Governor Jared Polis created the 'Southern Colorado Institute of Transportation Technology' in 2022. The role of the institute is to conduct and facilitate education, training, and research on issues related to the safety, security, and innovation of intermodal transportation. The institute also serves as an information exchange and repository for the most current information pertaining to surface transportation education, research, and related issues, including the economic development of transportation technology in Colorado and nationwide. He introduced his colleagues in the program, they are as follows:

- Dr. Chad Kinney, Director of ICR at CSU Pueblo
- Dr. Md Rashad Islam, PE, Director of SCITT at CSU Pueblo
- Dr. Hasan Faisal, Faculty at School of Engineering at CSU Pueblo

Mr. Ortiz and his team gave information on three programs the SCITT groups are working on and need additional funding. They are as follows:

- Plastic Pollution to Plastic Solution in Asphalt Pavement
- Waste Hemp Fiber in Asphalt Mix
- Cold Asphalt Mix for 365-Day Paving

The complete presentation and the white paper are included in the PACOG packet for more detailed information.

E) Mr. Ted Lopez gave the EPAC Minutes and Report. Mr. Lopez gave the citizens environmental group report. They meet every month at 5:15 to 6:30 on the first Thursday of the month. Recently an application was received from Mr. Joe Latino, that application will be included in next months PACOG Packet for action to appoint Mr. Latino to the committee. (Since last month, Mr. Latino has withdrawn his application.) Mr. Lopez went over the EPAC responsibilities and their recommendation process to PACOG, he also went on to say the EPAC is looking at future projects they received to weigh in on, the recycling activities both in the City and County are being reviewed, Mr. Doug Schwenke has also shared his reports and findings with EPAC on a regular basis for their input, they are reviewing Agriculture land preservation strategies as well. He also went on to say, they also review conservation easements, and have been given information on the new commercial development happening at SH 47 and Dillion Drive where a lift station will be installed and will connect with the City of Pueblo to service wastewater needs.

Next on the regular agenda were the following items:

3. Neither Terry Hart nor Shane Ferguson were in attendance to give the CDOT update. The CDOT region 2 update for May was given and the regional engineer for the pueblo area, Mr. Patrick Vigil along with Mr. Jason Nelson for traffic projects. The CDOT project listing of both programs along with their status are also included in as attachment in the May PACOG Packet. The main

highlight of the engineering report was the closure of the right lanes south of Eagleridge for concrete slab replacement. Mr. Nelson spoke about traffic projects. The 36th Lane and US 50 is completed. There is a preliminary discussion on Baxter and US 50 needs, and CDOT has funds to make improvements. Pedestrian facilities make up about one-third of facilities in the state, Pueblo and the City of Colorado Springs will have their ped facilities looked at in detail for mitigation of Ped facilities. Councilor Flores asked Mr. Nelson about the new signage installed to give information on advanced warning to give the travelling public information on the next intersection. Mr. Nelson said it took time to get the signs down to Pueblo, but they are common all over the state. The rest areas were discussed with Mr. Nelson again this month, but he did not have any new information to share.

4 **State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)**

May 2nd, 2024, Meeting report was given by Wendy Pettit. The main topics from the meeting were the closure of US 50 at the Blue Mesa reservoir and the changes to the MMOF programming for new projects. The Central Federal Lands Program Manager gave a brief overview of the need for the program to be included the 2050 long range transportation planning efforts that are about to start. The Manger of the Transportation Development branch from CDOT also gave a brief presentation on the 2050 planning efforts. He said the policy Directive 14 information will go to the transportation commission in May for information and action in June to get the planning activities underway. The notes from the meeting are included in the PACOG Board packet for further details.

5.

MPO Staff Report
(Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager)

- A) The 2021 Top 25 High Crash Locations and Fatal Locations was moved to the June 2024 meeting due to time constraints.
- B) Ms. Cosyleon gave a brief overview of the Pueblo area's June Bike Month activities. The MPO created a bingo card for Bike month, there will be a festivity at the Fuel and Iron building in June, completed Bingo cards can be turned in for prizes, there were several activities also on the calendar such as a scavenger hunt, and a community bike ride are a couple of the activities planned. There are many partners this year to support the biking activities, Southern Colorado Runners, Subaru of Pueblo, Pueblo Chamber, and the Pueblo Conservancy Group, are a few of the sponsors.
- C) Other Transportation Matters – No other matters were brought forward for discussion.

- 6. The last of the regular items were presented. The vacancies on the Citizens Services Advisory Committee ballots were distributed and were voted upon for May 2024 appointments and collected for tally and confirmation.
- 7. Next New Business was called for with no new items brought forward.
- 8. Future Agenda Items: Travel Demand Model Presentation for the MPO – TPR area, the 2021 Top 25 High Crash Locations and Fatal Locations

ADJOURNMENT of the regular meeting was made by Mr. Aliff at 1:15pm

The PACOG Board went into executive session upon adjournment: The Board had a conference with the PACOG Attorney for the purposes of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24 6 402(4)(e), regarding potential changes to the Grant Navigator contract. (WJP):

The next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is to be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at the PUEBLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 101 WEST 10TH STREET, FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM the meeting will be held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY PACOG AT (719) 553-2259 AT LEAST TWO (2) WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

* Denotes additional materials are attached.

** Denotes material to be distributed at PACOG Meeting