

<h1 style="margin: 0;">MINUTES</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</h2>
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A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, August 24, 2023. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Larry Atencio, PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present were:

Larry Atencio	Ed Gutierrez
Barbara Clementi	Zach Swearingen
Daneya Esgar	Epimenio Greigo
Harry Hochstetler	Dennis Flores
Sarah Martinez	Chris DeLuca
Doug Proal	

Members Absent:

Mike Cafasso	Heather Graham
Regina Maestri	Lori Winner
Vincente Martinez Ortega	

Also Present Were:

Terry Hart, Transportation Commissioner	Eva Cosyleon
Laurel Jones, CDOT	Sabina Geniso
Carmen Howard	Nick Gradisar
Don Bruestle	Jennifer Sparks
Jason Nelson	Geoff Guthrie
Lindsay Jaquez	Hannah Haurert
Isabel Rollins	

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, summarized the Consent Items for PACOG Board. The draft minutes from the July 27, 2023, Board meeting were approved and there were no financial reports this month.

Chairman Atencio asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like an item removed or discussed that was on the Consent agenda. There were no other additions or amendments. The motion to accept the July 27th minutes was made by Harry Hochstetler and a seconded by Dennis Flores and the action passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

REGULAR ITEMS:

1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT-

A)Lunch Appreciation - Thank You to Pueblo City Council for Providing Lunch

2. MANAGER'S REPORT (Carmen Howard)

Manager's Report: (Carmen Howard)

Ms. Howard had nothing to report this month.

The Grant Navigator, Isabel Rollins gave a brief overview of her current activities, and she gave information on a survey for the region she is developing to help direct her efforts. The survey will help to identify more information on priorities for the Pueblo area. She talked about the available federal funding programs as well, and she's looking for strengths and weaknesses in the process. She is working with DOLA and OEDIT for match funds for grants and investigating their program offerings and will have a standing update item on the PACOG agenda moving forward.

Transportation Commissioner or CDOT Region 2 Report (Terry Hart or Shane Ferguson)

Terry Hart gave a brief overview of the CDOT transportation Commissioners Meeting. Mr. Hart stated the transportation commissioner's agenda was light due to the fact the Governor's office still has not appointed the new commissioners for this period. The agenda consisted of three main topics. The new fuels impact enterprise, the CDOT project awards budget, and Greenhouse gas reports for the North Front Range area.

The new fuels impact enterprise has the transportation commission board as its governing board and the enterprise adopted the new fee structure set by the legislation that created the enterprise and the new fee replaces an old fee charged to the fuel haulers, they will be charged with the new structure beginning September 1, 2023. The proceeds from the fee will be used to increase the safety of hauling fuel in Colorado, the tracking of vehicle emissions and grants will be written for the hazmat corridors The especially highly impacted areas and the balance of the funds will be available to other parts of the state.

The CDOT budget conversation for CDOT region 2 was based on the Filmore-Garden of the Gods project, the bids have come in higher than the engineering estimates, an approval and an allocation of funds was necessary to move the project to award.

The North Front Range submitted their plans to meet their Greenhouse gas emission budget for the next decade as required in state statute . Their plan clearly demonstrated they would meet their requirements and Mr. Hart said they did a great job showing their direction for their area. Their plan was adopted by the Transportation Commission. The north front range received many comments on ways to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the comments also included the continued expansion of I-25 north. There were votes both for expanding and other commenters thought that expansion would be counterproductive to expand I-25. The transportation Commissioners approved the North Front Range plan.

Jennifer Sparks, the CDOT Region South Program Engineer, also gave a brief overview for the CDOT projects underway . She submitted a worksheet with the details.

PACOG CDOT PROJECT UPDATES August 2023

PCN	Description	Scope	Phase	Schedule/Status Update	Approx. Budget
23535	I-25 at US50B Reconstruction	Reconstruction of the interchange at Exit 100A and bridges over I-25, RR, and Fountain Creek	Design	AD - May 2024 Construction - Summer 2024 through Spring 2026	\$156M
25505	US50B Pueblo Flame Straightening K-19-V	Essential repair to structure K-19-V over US50B east of Pueblo after damage from truck impact	Mtce	US 50B cross over with traffic head-to-head during day me hours. Work to be completed week of August 21	\$60K
22079	US50A Pueblo West Purcell Interchange and ponds	Construct grade separated interchange at US50A and Purcell and storm water quality features	Close	Final punch list items being completed	\$55M
24395	I-25 Pueblo Roundabout Drew Dix MP 103.9	I-25 Exit 104 interchange improvements - roundabout and east frontage road construction	Const.	Roundabout construction progress: started paving last week, new traffic configuration East frontage road structure work ongoing: girder set next week - Construction completes in anticipated late 2023/early 2024	\$14M
25541	SH47A Preventative Maintenance	Micro surfacing project on SH47A east of I25	Design	Final design in progress. AD - Winter 2023. Construction Spring/Summer 2024	\$2M
25859	I-25A Pueblo Minor Rehab/PCCP Rehab MP 92-102.6	Surface treatment project on I25 through Pueblo: MP 92 to 102.6 with striping, guardrail, and minor structure repairs	Design	Preliminary design in progress. AD - Winter 2023. Construction Spring/Summer 2024	\$20.5M
24846	US50A Overlay MP 296 to 309, Pueblo County	Surface treatment project west of McCulloch on US50A in Pueblo County	Design	Final design in progress. AD - Winter 2024. Construction Spring/Summer 2025 moved from 2024 construction to expedite I-25 through Pueblo resurfacing project	\$15.5M
24672	FY22 R2 Flatwork	Installation of a raised pedestrian median refuge island at the intersection of CO 96 & Monument Ave	Constr	Flatwork complete; waiting on traffic material supplies (RRFBs) to finish installation. Anticipated completed Sept 2023	\$390K

PCN	Description	Scope	Phase	Schedule/Status Update	Approx. Budget
25317	US 50 & CO 231 Intersections Improve	US 50 Main & CO 231 (36th Ln) & US 50 Bus & CO 231 (36th Ln) intersections. Construction of raised median/intersection islands, minor widening on US 50 (main), installation of ICWS for US 50 (main) & 36th Lane, ADA improvements at US 50 Bus & 36th Lane, and minor intersection improvements	Constr	NTP issued. Preconstruction Conference and Project First meeting schedule for Aug 30th. Anticipated construction start 9/18. Estimated Construction completion Dec 2023.	\$2.245M
25981	SH 45 & Mirror Signal Project	Intersect on signal design at SH 45 (Pueblo Blvd) & Mirror Ave	Design	Design Only project. Initial stages of Project Setup. Design - October 2023 - April 2024. Initial project pre-scoping & coordinating with consultant design team	~ \$160K
25597	SH 45 Safety Improv MP 0-6	Re-striping and lane configuration improvements from I-25 Jct to 11th Street	Design	Design Fall 2023 to Spring 2024. Ad Spring/Summer 2024. Construction Summer 2024 to Fall 2024.	~ \$1M
22169	SH 165 Safety Access Improv	SH 165 MP 27-29 (Rye). Removal of existing SH 165 access at Ent Credit Union location.	Constr	NTP issued; Construction Fall 2023. Scheduling Preconstruction Conference with Contractor.	\$72K
TBD	I-25 & SH 45 (Pueblo Blvd) Feasibility Study	Feasibility Study for the I-25 & SH 45 (Pueblo Blvd) Interchange to review and analyze alternative improvements for planned future development growth in the area	Design	Study Only. Preliminary scoping with consultant team. Study: Oct 2023 - Feb/March 2024	TBD

Mrs. Sparks again asked for a letter of support for the passing lane project that was submitted to FHWA for a FY23 MPDG discretionary grant by CDOT and Otero County. The PACOG Board agreed to submit a letter.

She also gave a maintenance update stating the CDOT maintenance forces were very busy getting the roadways cleaned up for the Colorado State Fair. The medians and shoulders of I25 have been cleaned and have been swept. The maintenance forces have also done chip sealing projects on SH 96 near Boone and on SH 78 near Beulah. Every mower CDOT Region 2 has is being utilized mowing the right of ways in the Region. They are also replacing damaged guardrail in the region. At the end of Mrs. Sparks presentation, a question regarding the letter of support for the passing lane project was asked. Mr. Atencio asked for the template to craft a letter from the Pueblo area to support the US 50 passing lane project. Mrs. Sparks said she would send the template.

The next question asked was the in reference to the needed maintenance in the school zones on US 50. The commissioner's office has received several inquiries about the mowing needed in school area. Mrs. Sparks said that CDOT would get mowers to the area as soon as they can,

they understand the urgency, but one mower is broken and, in the shop, and the others are in use. She stated she would see if she could get the school area moved up in priority.

Mr. Flores asked about the fair share conversation happening now through the program distribution process at the STAC. Mr. Hart explain the break down of the funding process. The funding process begins with a grass roots process. The different forms of funding are examined for their formulas, and distribution amounts every 5 years or so. The process is discussed on a statewide basis and then a consensus is sent to the transportation commission for approval. Mr. Hart stated that PACOG could possibly increase the funding coming to the area by pledging more local funds to projects to make the federal dollars go further.

The CDOT right way was discussed next. The topic was brought up that the I-25 interchanges in our community are brown and the green grass is gone, and they are full of weeds. Jennifer Sparks said that CDOT region 2 was working on a maintenance IGA with the City for responsibility assignments regarding the landscaping in the respective interchanges along I-25. The xeriscaping of the interchanges was discussed between the City and CDOT . Other states where water is an issue, xeriscaping is used to finish the interchange landscaping. Mayor Gradisar said for the past 3 years they have been trying to negotiate an agreement with CDOT Region 2. The topics get tossed back and forth but there has been no movement to finalize any of the topics. A few months ago, the CDOT Region 2 reps met with the city and they explored the topic of xeriscaping at that meeting. The meeting was left with CDOT Region 2 talking with the CDOT staff landscape architect to determine what interchange might be a good demonstration project, and the Mayor said, we have not heard anything more on the subject. The mayor went on to say CDOT is responsible for maintenance of the interchanges along I-25 according to federal law. Mr. Hart was asked tom follow up with CDOT on these topics for an update on the process to the City and the County Commissioners. The Commissioners would like to see accountability.

Sarah Martinez also stated the SH 45 weed management and maintenance processes were lacking also.

Next Eva Cosyleon gave the STAC update for the PACOG area. The commissioners appointed a new STAC alternate for Commissioner Mr. Swearingen. The new rep is Ms. Wendy Pettit. Eva went on to say that the STAC was working on the HB1101 process. Eva is going to ask Jamie Grimm from CDOT public relations to give PACOG an update on the process. She also stated that the STAC is continuing to work on the resource allocation process. This month was the conversations on regional priorities funds. The regional priorities funding is made up of flexible federal and state funds . The total allocated to this pool is \$50 million dollars. The last time the formula was looked at was in 2019. The current formula is made up of 50% population, 35% lane miles and 15% vehicles miles traveled. The formula was developed through the grass roots process that was spoken to earlier by Mr. Hart. The consultation is statewide, and a consensus is reached for the transportation commission to approve or come up with an alternative formula. The conversation at STAC was robust, there were many scenarios, and the final recommendation will be made at October's meeting. The STAC is leaning toward the 2019 recommendation they put forth that the transportation commission did not adopt.

Eva presented her policy amendment for TIP inclusion. The follow projects were presented for action:

a) TIP Amendment #2023.029

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Bessemer Commerce Revitalization

STIP Number: TBD

Project Location and Description:

Fund Source(s): FY23 Revitalizing Main Streets (RMS) Program Project

Federal Program Funds:

State Funds: **\$ 222,750**

Local Match: **\$ 22,275**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 245,025

Funding will be used to improve lighting, install artistic wraps on electric junction boxes on Northern Ave.

Action Required: Approve/Disapprove

b) TIP Amendment #2023.030

Administrative Action:

Project Name: **Free Fare for Better Air**

STIP Number: TBD

Project Location and Description: Ozone Season Transit Grant

Fund Source(s): FY22 & FY 23 Ozone Season Transit Grant Program

FY 22 State Program Funds: **\$ 98,995.96**

FY 23 State Program Funds: **\$ 414,898.85**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 513,894.81

This amount is for the Free Fare for Better Air for free rides on Pueblo Transit for June, July, and August.

Action Required: Approve/Disapprove

c) TIP Amendment #2023.031

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Industrial Blvd and Purcell Blvd

STIP Number: TBD

Project Location and Description: Industrial Blvd and Purcell Blvd improvements

Fund Source(s): State MMOF

State MMOF Funds: **\$ 161,500**

Federal Program Funds: **\$**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 161,500

This is to design the intersection.

Action Required: Approve/Disapprove

d) TIP Amendment #2023.032

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Transit Youth Ride (K-12)

STIP Number: TBD

Project Location and Description:

Fund Source(s): State MMOF

State MMOF Funds: **\$ 65,000**

State Program Funds: **\$**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 65,000

This is to provide free youth rides for Pueblo Transit for 1 year. For future years, Pueblo Transit is intending to include this in their annual budget.

Action Required: Approve/Disapprove

All amendments were voted upon and were unanimously approved. The vote was motioned by Mr. Dennis Flores and seconded by Commissioner Esgar. These projects will be added to the 2023 to 2027 PACOG TIP.

Eva next presented her Unified Work Program for her consolidated Planning grant funds for the PACOG area. The plan is out for public comment now and will be brought back to PACOG next month for formal adoption. Please review and send comments and questions to Eva.

Hannah Haunert gave a presentation that was requested by the PACOG Board on teen crashes and pedestrian. Hannah went through several slides with data to show the problem areas and the issues that were emerging. The data will be used to help with the complete streets efforts that are ongoing across the county.

Next Geoff Guthrie from CDOT region 2 asked for the 2023 projects that were not budgeted in CDOT's fiscal year 2023 to be rolled into fiscal year 2024. There were several projects to be rolled into the 2023-2027 PACOG TIP. They are as follows:

a) TIP Amendment #2023.033

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Pueblo County Blvd Extension Trail

STIP Number: SR27017.001

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new shared use path along Medal of Honor Blvd

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Carbon Reduction Program (6PU)

Federal Program Funds: **\$ 539,770**

State Matching Funds: **\$**

Local Matching Funds: **\$ 112,205**

Other Project Funds: **\$**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 651,975

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

b) TIP Amendment #2023.034

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Pueblo-PURHAR-0.1 FRNT (Mel Harmon Bridge)

STIP Number: SR27001.024

Project Location and Description: Bridge rehabilitation

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Bridge Off System (BRO)

Federal Program Funds: **\$ 418,701**

State Matching Funds: **\$**

Local Matching Funds: **\$ 104,675**

Other Project Funds: **\$**

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 523,376

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

c) TIP Amendment #2023.035

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Pueblo 8th Street Bridge Rehab (pue8th2utic)

STIP Number: SR27001.033

Project Location and Description: Bridge rehabilitation
Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Bridge Off System (BRO)

Federal Program Funds:	\$ 105,000
State Matching Funds:	\$
Local Matching Funds:	\$ 26,250
Other Project Funds:	\$
TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT:	\$ 131,250

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

d) TIP Amendment #2023.036

Administrative Action:

Project Name: I-25 Pueblo North Truck Parking Lot
STIP Number: SR27020.001

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new truck parking area in north Pueblo

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 National Highway Freight Program (FR8)

Federal Program Funds:	\$ 2,280,250
State Matching Funds:	\$ 219,750
Local Matching Funds:	\$
Other Project Funds:	\$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 2,500,000

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

e) TIP Amendment #2023.037

Administrative Action:

Project Name: I-25 at US50B Reconstruction
STIP Number: SR27020.003

Project Location and Description: I-25 at US50B interchange, design & construction of three new bridges

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 National Highway Freight Program (FR8)

Federal Program Funds:	\$ 5,472,600
State Matching Funds:	\$ 527,400
Local Matching Funds:	\$
Other Project Funds:	\$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 6,000,000

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

f) TIP Amendment #2023.038

Administrative Action:

Project Name: City of Pueblo Dillon Roundabout
STIP Number: SR26644.101

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new roundabout at Dillon Dr & Eagleridge Blvd

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Hazard Elimination- Local Projects (HLZ)

Federal Program Funds:	\$ 1,593,630
State Matching Funds:	\$

Local Matching Funds: \$ 177,070
Other Project Funds: \$
TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 1,770,700

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

g) TIP Amendment #2023.039

Administrative Action:

Project Name: City of Pueblo Northern Avenue Phase 3

STIP Number: SR25079.078

Project Location and Description: New streetscape from Cambridge to Prairie and up to State Fair entrance

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 ARPA Local Multi-Modal Options Fund (MMA)

Federal Program Funds: \$ 693,494

State Matching Funds: \$

Local Matching Funds: \$

Other Project Funds: \$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 693,494

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

h) TIP Amendment #2023.040

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Joe Martinez Trail in Pueblo West

STIP Number: SR25079.079

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new shared use trail along Joe Martinez Blvd

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 ARPA Local Multi-Modal Options Fund (MMA)

Federal Program Funds: \$ 76,411

State Matching Funds: \$

Local Matching Funds: \$

Other Project Funds: \$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 76,411

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

i) TIP Amendment #2023.041

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Pueblo County Blvd Extension Trail

STIP Number: SR27015.003

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new shared use path along Medal of Honor Blvd

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 ARPA Local Multi-Modal Options Fund (MMA)

Federal Program Funds: \$ 16,926

State Matching Funds: \$

Local Matching Funds: \$

Other Project Funds: \$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 16,926

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

j) TIP Amendment #2023.042

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Pueblo County Blvd Extension Trail

STIP Number: SR27016.013

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new shared use path along Medal of Honor Blvd

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 State-funded Local Multi-Modal Options Fund (MMM)

Federal Program Funds: \$

State Matching Funds: \$ 1,435,282

Local Matching Funds: \$

Other Project Funds: \$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 1,435,282

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

k) TIP Amendment #2023.043

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Westside Trail

STIP Number: SR27016.014

Project Location and Description: Design & construction of new shared use path along Wildhorse Creek

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 State-funded Local Multi-Modal Options Fund (MMM)

Federal Program Funds: \$

State Matching Funds: \$ 850,000

Local Matching Funds: \$

Other Project Funds: \$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 850,000

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

l) TIP Amendment #2023.044

Administrative Action:

Project Name: City of Pueblo Haaff Elementary

STIP Number: SR26868.033

Project Location and Description: Safe Routes to School Grant award improvements

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Safe Routes to Schools (SAR)

Federal Program Funds: \$ 279,180

State Matching Funds: \$

Local Matching Funds: \$

Other Project Funds: \$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 279,180

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

m) TIP Amendment #2023.045

Administrative Action:

Project Name: Pueblo Downtown Multi-modal Improvements

STIP Number: SR27014.002

Project Location and Description: Safer Main Streets grant award improvements

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Safer Main Streets (SMS)

Federal Program Funds:	\$
State Matching Funds:	\$ 1,455,285
Local Matching Funds:	\$ 363,824
Other Project Funds:	\$
TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT:	\$ 1,819,109

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

n) TIP Amendment #2023.046

Administrative Action:

Project Name: City of Pueblo Northern Avenue Phase 3

STIP Number: SR25079.078

Project Location and Description: New streetscape from Cambridge to Prairie and up to State Fair entrance

Fund Source(s): FY24 Region 2 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Federal Program Funds:	\$ 351,244
State Matching Funds:	\$
Local Matching Funds:	\$ 87,811
Other Project Funds:	\$

TOTAL PROJECT FUND AMENDMENT: \$ 439,055

This administrative action rolls forward the funding programmed for this project from FY23 to FY24

A comment was made by Dennis Flores on the Truckstop parking lot expansion project. The City of Pueblo is working with a private company to develop a travel center. The freight funds that were allocated to the project are now on hold until a final direction is developed for the area. The funds are slated to stay in the Pueblo area and will be assigned to a new freight eligible project if the travel center is moved forward.

Eva Cosyleon gave an overview of the complete streets upcoming workshop. The recent walk audits to the various sites will be discussed, the findings of the audits, and the policy framework for the program will be discussed for the entire County.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:30 pm by the chair, Mr. Atencio.