

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

DECEMBER 8, 2022

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Larry Atencio, PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Larry Atencio  
Mike Cafasso  
Barbara Clementi  
Chris DeLuca

Epimenio Griego  
Harry Hochstetler  
Vicente Martinez Ortega  
Garrison Ortiz

Those members absent were:

Dennis Flores  
Heather Graham  
Ed Gutierrez  
Regina Maestri

Sarah Martinez  
Doug Proal  
Lori Winner  
Chris Wiseman

Also present were:

Eva Cosyleon  
Sabina Genesisio  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek  
Lorrie Marquez  
David Russell  
Louella Salazar

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were four items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

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.

It was moved by Mike Cafasso, seconded by Epimenio Griego, and passed unanimously to approve the four Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of the October 27, 2022 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (receive and file October 2022 Financial Report);

- A Resolution Retaining the Services of McPherson, Goodrich, Paolucci, and Mihelich, PC to Perform Bookkeeping Services for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments for FY 2023; and
- A Resolution Adopting the State Fiscal Year 2023-2027 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR); Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**PACOG BUDGET HEARING**

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding its proposed 2023 budget. A notice of the public hearing of the proposed budget was published in the Pueblo Chieftain on November 23, 2022.

Chairperson Atencio opened the public hearing.

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUDGET FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Mr. Garrison Ortiz, a member of the PACOG Budget Committee, reported that the PACOG Budget Committee met on November 28, 2022. He stated that there are no major changes to the revenues and expenses and that the membership contributions are the same. He added that the only substantial change to the budget is the addition of \$100,000 under the office of Economic Development and International Trade for the Grants Navigator position. The funding for the position will pass through from the State of Colorado for the upcoming fiscal year.

Chairperson Atencio asked if there were any comments from the public or members. Hearing none, Chairman Atencio asked for a motion.

It was moved by Vincente Martinez Ortega, seconded by Mike Cafasso, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving a Budget for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) for Fiscal Year 2023".

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PUEBLO COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE FY 2023 WORK PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR SAID WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Garrison Ortiz, a member of the PACOG Budget Committee, reported that there are no substantial changes from the previous year. He asked Ms. Louella Salazar if she had any comments to add. Ms. Salazar reported that the work plan stayed the same. She added that the Water Quality Management Plan and the Watershed Plan have a little bit of extra money than they have had in the past.

Chairperson Atencio asked if there were any comments from the public or members. Hearing none, Chairman Atencio asked for a motion.

It was moved by Vincente Martinez Ortega, seconded by Epimenio Griego, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development to implement the Fiscal Year 2023 Work Program".

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' (PACOG) FY 2023 MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

Mr. Garrison Ortiz, a member of the PACOG Budget Committee, reported the items are reflected in the revenue section of the budget and are unchanged.

Chairperson Atencio asked if there were any comments from the public or members. Hearing none, Chairman Atencio asked for a motion.

It was moved by Vincente Martinez Ortega, seconded by Mike Cafasso, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving the Pueblo Area Council of Governments' (PACOG) FY 2023 Membership Contribution Schedule for Administration and Insurance Activities".

Chairman Atencio closed the public hearing.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Atencio thanked the City of Pueblo for providing lunch for today's meeting.

B) Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing Member (Chris Wiseman)

Chairman Atencio commented that Mr. Chris Wiseman was absent from the meeting and asked that the County Commissioners please give him the plaque and extend PACOG's appreciation for everything he has done for the citizens of Pueblo County and the City of Pueblo.

C) Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing PACOG Recording Secretary

Chairman Atencio presented Ms. Louella Salazar with a plaque, flowers, and card in appreciation for her many years of service to PACOG. He stated how important the staff is to PACOG and that Ms. Salazar has been the heart and soul of PACOG for many years, and she will be missed and hard to replace. Ms. Salazar thanked everyone for the recognition of the plaque, flowers, card, and cake. She stated that she has enjoyed the opportunity of working the PACOG members over the years and will miss being part PACOG. Mr. Scott Hobson, City Planning and Community Development, asked to express his appreciation to Ms. Salazar for her assistance to the MPO and all the members of PACOG. Mr. Ortiz thanked Ms. Salazar for her 39 years of service to PACOG; she is dearly appreciated. Ms. Howard expressed her gratitude to Ms. Salazar and stated that she is an exceptional staff member. Ms. Eva Cosyleon thanked Ms. Salazar and stated she will be missed. Mr. Gradisar thanked Ms. Salazar for her insight and helpfulness with PACOG.

D) Selection of PACOG Nominating Committee for 2023 Officers

Chairperson Atencio requested volunteers to serve on the PACOG Nominating Committee to select the slate of 2023 officers. The following persons volunteered to serve--Vincente Martinez Ortega, Garrison Ortiz, and Harry Hochstetler. Ms. Salazar will schedule a meeting of the Committee sometime in January. The slate of officers will be presented at the February 2023 PACOG meeting for its consideration.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

### A) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Howard reported that the meeting minutes of the October 2, 2022 and November 3, 2022 ADA Advisory Committee meetings were included in the PACOG packet.

This being an information item, no formal action was required.

### B) 2023 PACOG Meeting Date Schedule

Ms. Howard stated the 2023 PACOG meeting date schedule was included the members' packet. She asked that members please note that the January 26, 2023 meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be held on February 23, 2023.

This being an information item, no formal action was required.

### C) 208 Watershed Plan Survey

Ms. Howard reported that JDS-Hydro Consultants distributed a survey to gather information regarding the development of a 9-Element based nonpoint source watershed plan to evaluate water quality within the Upper Arkansas Basin and other tributaries within Pueblo County, and to identify interested parties as well as to PACOG. Development of a plan will enable the watershed to be eligible for Section 319 grant funding to finance projects geared towards protecting the Arkansas River and its tributaries from nonpoint source pollution. The survey is designed to help define which watersheds and contaminants would be most beneficial to study through a 9-Element nonpoint source watershed-based plan and most advantageous for the Pueblo community. Mr. Doug Schwenke, the consultant, is available on Zoom to answer any questions. There were no questions posed. Ms. Howard encouraged PACOG members to fill out the survey.

## A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SITE APPLICATION FOR UPGRADE OF AN EXISTING WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY TO REPLACE AERATION EQUIPMENT AND DECREASE CAPACITY AT THE ARKANSAS POINT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY AT LAKE PUEBLO, PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO

Ms. Howard reported that the site application for the upgrade of the existing wastewater treatment facility application was submitted by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) regarding the improvements to decrease the capacity and replace equipment at the Arkansas Point Wastewater Treatment Facility at Lake Pueblo. The consultants who helped with the application attended the December 1, 2022 EPAC meeting. EPAC has forwarded its recommendation to PACOG for approval of the resolution. She stated that the suggested improvements are good, and they will decrease the capacity due to the site being overbuilt. The site was originally designed as a discharging facility; however, it has never been used in that manner. The site has always been used as an aeration facility, and the upgrades are sorely needed.

It was moved by Mike Cafasso, seconded by Vincente Martinez Ortega, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving a Site Application for Upgrade of an Existing Wastewater Treatment Facility to Replace Aeration Equipment and Decrease Capacity at the Arkansas Point Wastewater Treatment Facility at Lake Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado".

### HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Josh Johnson, Pueblo County Emergency Management Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Pueblo County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. He reported that the Plan was created as a five-year Plan that expired in 2019. Synergy Disaster Recovery has been contracted to work in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office to update the Plan. The Plan will provide sustained action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk hazards to people and property. The Plan will focus dollars, energy, and resources to the whole community. He reported that FEMA grant applications require a community to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place or to have a plan in process. The reasons for having a mitigation plan are to prepare our community to act on projects when they present themselves, to receive grant funding, to break the cycle of disaster, damage, reconstruction, and to avoid repeated damage. He gave an example of the Beulah Fire Department not having the funds to purchase a generator for their new fire station. The Department was unable to apply for a grant for a new generator due to the outdated Mitigation Plan. He stated that they are trying to break the cycle with hazard mitigation to improve the infrastructure before disaster strikes. The goals of updating the plan are to increase communication, increase grant funding resources, increase public engagement and support, and obtain FEMA approval. He stated that it is very difficult for law enforcement, fire, and EMS to plan mitigation for the entire community. He reviewed the different mitigation grant opportunities which include Post Fire Mitigation, Flood Mitigation, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. He also stated that funding has increased over the years as noted on the PowerPoint graph. He mentioned that from historical surveys taken show the top three hazards that Pueblo County faces are droughts, wildfires, and winter weather. The local governments they have identified to adopt the Plan are the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, Town of Boone, Town of Rye, Pueblo West Metropolitan District, Colorado City Metropolitan District, Pueblo Board of Water Works, St. Charles Mesa Water District, Beulah Fire Protection District, and Rye Fire Protection District. Pueblo County is requesting that elected officials and representatives of PACOG encourage their staff members to attend and participate at the Hazard Mitigation meetings. They also asked that they provide requested information and data, foster involvement across the entire organization, assist with community stakeholder involvement, review sections of the draft plan, and adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan. They hope to have the final Plan sometime between June 2023 and August 2023.

### REVIEW OF DRAFT GRANT NAVIGATOR CONTRACT

Ms. Sabina Genesisio, County Manager and PACOG Co-Executive Director, reported that the Professional Services Agreement for the Grant Navigator position has been reviewed by PACOG Attorney Dan Kogovsek. She stated that the agreement is very much in sync with what the other COGs are doing for recruitment. She added that the contract accurately represents the scope of work, starting on Page 5, discussed at the last PACOG meeting. A decision is needed so Pueblo County can post the position on behalf of PACOG. PACOG will review the applicants and make the selection. Mr. Ortiz asked if the agreement is for a contracted employee? Mr. Kogovsek replied that they had the option of assigning the job to a City or County employee, but because the position is really specialized, he concurs with Ms. Genesisio's decision to contract the position. Ms. Genesisio added that the funding is for one year, which is another reason to look at the contract approach. She added that once the position is posted there will be a lot of interest. Mr. Kogovsek stated that PACOG will make the final approval of who is selected.

### POSSIBLE RENAMING OF PUEBLO BOULEVARD TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD

Mr. Garrison Ortiz, County Commissioner, reported the County held an outside stakeholder process to solicit input from the public as to what to name the new boulevard. During the meetings, there

was a lot of public input. All the suggestions were considered by the Board of County Commissioners; they ultimately decided to name it Medal of Honor Boulevard. He and others were approached by members of the NAACP who expressed their desire to have the boulevard named Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The naming committee at the time was chaired by Mr. Steve Nawrocki and included a good mix of representatives from the City, County, and Pueblo West. The committee made the decision that they would not entertain any suggestions where the road would be named after an individual person. The committee's decision automatically ruled out the suggestion by the NAACP. He stated that after a discussion with Mayor Gradisar and others that there is a strong desire to rename a portion or the entire Pueblo Boulevard to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The concept of the renaming is kind of loose. Most municipalities across the State generally have a Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and we do not currently have one within the City or County. He wanted to put the issue before the elected officials for more discussion. Mr. Martinez Ortega asked if anyone finds it inappropriate to name a road that is so close to the jail that disproportionately houses more black and brown people than white people after a prominent black figure? He asked if they have received any feedback about that? Commissioner Ortiz replied that it did not really seem to concern the NAACP at all. He stated that Pueblo Boulevard is a good location; it is traveled frequently; and it is a prominent roadway. He also stated that he does not think that it is an issue for the NAACP, if there were another suggestion for another roadway, they would consider that as well. Mayor Gradisar stated that there were discussions before they decided that it was not appropriate to name 24<sup>th</sup> Street after a person because of the jail. He suggested that if we change Pueblo Boulevard to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard that it be from I-25 to Highway 50 to avoid confusion of where the name changes. Commissioner Ortiz stated that renaming a road is not something that is done every day. The name change would be a challenge for staff and believes it would be worth the effort to rename the entire boulevard for simplicity. Businesses located along the boulevard would be requested for feedback. Mr. Kogovsek suggested that they get CDOT's input for the name change. Chairperson Atencio voiced his opinion that Pueblo Boulevard is iconic, and he would not like to see its name changed. He does agree that there should be a Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in our community. He suggested that the selection could be in the new development near the university or possibly rename Troy Avenue.

Commissioner Ortiz stated he wanted to bring the renaming to PACOG, since it is a transportation issue which has been discussed with Commissioner Hart. Mr. Martinez Ortega will contact the NAACP to touch base with them regarding the selection of a location for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Commissioner Ortiz reported that there is not a committee working on the selection. He also stated that the NAACP will be presenting at either a future City Council meeting or Board of County Commissioners' meeting in the new year. Mayor Gradisar commented that he has encouraged the NAACP to speak at a City Council meeting.

Chairperson Atencio addressed comments in the Zoom chatroom regarding the renaming of Pueblo Boulevard from David Russell and Barb Clementi. Commissioner Ortiz addressed the comments which referred to the operational costs to businesses with an address change. He commented that it is a very valid point and a reasonable concern especially for small businesses that may not have the funding for an address change. He added that point will need to be taken into consideration.

#### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Terry Hart, Transportation Commissioner for Region 10, echoed all the wonderful comments made about Ms. Louella Salazar. He stated that Ms. Salazar has been spectacular over the years, and he thanked her for her help and wished her well on her retirement.

Mr. Hart offered his help from the State perspective regarding the renaming of a road in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. He added that it does sound like the renaming decision lays heavily at the local jurisdiction, if there is something that CDOT can do they would be happy to help.

Mr. Hart reported that the Transportation Commission met on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The Commission had an extensive workshop about the current 2023 fiscal year's budget and made several adjustments. Due to the increased construction costs to all scheduled projects, CDOT is building a Capital Construction Cost Escalator Fund with certain controls to help manage the increased costs. He also reported that they discussed the redundancy of the I-70 West/Glenwood Canyon project traffic flow. CDOT has approved the initial draft of the \$2.4 billion 2024 Colorado Transportation budget. The budget includes \$1.8 billion of new revenue provided by recent federal and State legislation to help with the COVID-19 recession. The draft budget will be sent to the Governor's office.

Mr. Hart reported that CDOT reviewed the Transportation Assets Management Plan which includes everything from rest stops to culverts and certain types of paved roads. They also discussed the work and improvements that are being done at the 50-year old Eisenhower-Johnson Tunnel. They discussed evolving and developing information between their freight program and the Office of Information Management. They are working to have the ability to share information at a moment's notice regarding everything happening in the State including weather and construction to avoid traffic issues.

Mr. Hart reported on the North I-25 Project. CDOT will be using an unsolicited proposal program throughout the State. The program gives a private entity the opportunity to go to CDOT and offer funding to do certain types of construction in exchange for basically managing that activity. CDOT has some P3 activities in the State. The program is in early development. There was a lot of local politics involved in the plan, which was initially rejected by CDOT. He reported CDOT amended the current budget with available funds to address certain added projects throughout the State. They also approved a \$1.2 million increase for the Highway 50 project between Manzanola and Rocky Ford. The Commission's next meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT, reported they had a bid opening last week for the I-25 and Drew Dix project. All the bids were very high. Ms. Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager; Ms. Wendy Pettit, CDOT; and Ms. Hu are working on a plan to supplement the project. Once they have a solid plan, they will present it to the Transportation Commission for approval, and then will bring it back to PACOG for final approval.

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager, reported on the STAC meeting. The CDOT Budget Office gave a presentation at the meeting. They are going to the Transportation Commission to request \$79.5 million from their program reserve for several different programs. The Capital Construction Cost Escalation Fund has been created to address increased constructions costs. The fund would ensure that enough funds are available to address the recent cost escalation and capital construction without causing undue delays to projects. She added that the intent is not to supplant existing funding resources shortfalls, but to provide an alternative funding source to avoid delays or cancellation of other projects. She reported there was a presentation at the meeting by the State Demographer. The presentation included information about jobs in the State, labor force, and population. She commented that she found it interesting that the trends showed that growth is slowing due to low birth rates, increases in deaths, and migration. These trends impact our community's economy, education, housing, transportation, and public financing. One of the key takeaways the Transportation Commission and STAC keyed in on is aging in place. She suggested

that is something that should be thought of for the future. She stated that she would like to invite the State Demographer to give a presentation to PACOG sometime next year.

Ms. Cosyleon reported that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding comes up every four years. They are going to release the RFP in January 2023 specifically for non-motorized transportation programs. The competing projects will need to meet certain criteria and will be scored by an interdisciplinary CDOT review committee. Our projects will be looked at by people from other regions. The STAC representatives were not pleased that other regions will be looking at our projects since they may not know Pueblo's concerns or problems. These concerns will be taken to the Transportation Commission.

#### STATUS ON FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT

There was no report.

#### MPO STAFF REPORT

##### A) Greenhouse Gas 101 Presentation

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager, reported that the presentation for Greenhouse Gas 101 would not be presented.

##### B) FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, Administrative Amendment

Ms. Cosyleon, MPO Manager, reported that FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Amendment has been brought before PACOG five or six times before. CDOT is requesting an additional \$592,000 of funding for permanent water quality to Drainage Pond G at the U.S. 50 West Construction Project at Purcell Boulevard. The pond was constructed per the original design, but the elevation of the groundwater was higher than expected so a portion of the pond is currently below the groundwater level. They have continued to run into problems and, hopefully, this is the last time the request will come back before PACOG.

This being an information item, no formal action was required.

##### C) Other Transportation Matters

Ms. Cosyleon, MPO Manager, reported that the MPO is obligated to post a federal report on PACOG's website about the amount of money that was brought into the region whether the funds were for Safe Routes to Schools, NHP, STG, or TAP. She suggested members review the report on the website. She commented that it is very important that PACOG knows that over \$25 million was brought into our region in the past year. She commented that she thinks it is a phenomenal amount. Not many people know how much money is invested into Pueblo County and the work that goes into making sure that the projects are continually funded. She would like to schedule a presentation to PACOG at the end of next year to review the funds received by Pueblo County.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.



FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, Chairman Atencio adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

**S**

Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Following the regular PACOG meeting, there was a joint meeting held between the Pueblo City Council and Board of County Commissioners to make one appointment to the Pueblo Regional Building Department's Building Board of Appeals (General Contractor). Mr. Royal Trivett was selected. The appointment needs to be ratified at a future meeting of each of the respective entities.

LRS/ljm