

<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, March 28, 2024. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Vice-Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present were:

Doug Proal	Ed Gutierrez
Mike Cafasso	Mark Aliff
William Thiebaut	Harry Hochstetler
Chris DeLuca	Dennis Flores
Charles Hernandez	Regina Maestri
Roger Gomez	Sarah Martinez

Members Absent:

Zach Swearingen	Joseph Latino
Eppie Greigo	
Danya Esgar	

.Also Present Were:

Aaron Willis -CDOT	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Carla Sikes	Hannah Haunert -PACOG MPO
Scott Skinner	Patrick Vigil-CDOT
Don Bruestle Planning Commission	Isabel Rollins -Grant Navigator
Sabina Geniso, Pueblo County	Mayor, Heather Graham
Dillion Goodman PACOG MPO	Carmen Howard
Lindsey Jaquez-CDOT	Geoff Guthrie-CDOT
Sarah Skinner -Pueblo County	Jason Nelson -CDOT
Rob Frei, CDOT	

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

PACOG Chair, Mark Aliff called the meeting to order at 12:18

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 February 22, 2024, Meeting
- 2 A Resolution approving an exemption for the PACOG from the audit requirements for fiscal year 2023

- 3 A resolution appointing a Citizen representative to the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee(EPAC)

All three items were approved by a formal recommendation made by Mr. Mike Cafasso with a second on the recommendation made by Mr. Chris Deluca

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

1. Chairperson's Report: A) Lunch Appreciation: Mr. Aliff thanked the City of Pueblo for the catered lunch.
2. Manager's Report: (Ms. Carmen Howard) covered the following items under her report.

A, ADA minutes

B. Grant Navigator report

Ms. Howard presented the ADA committee minutes as an information item. The minutes were included in the March meeting packet for review. She then gave the floor to Ms. Isabel Rollins to cover the Grant Navigator report, which is also part of the March 2024 packet.

C. Performance Measures for PM1 – the Highway safety targets, a Federal requirement – Ms. Howard turned the item over to Ms. Cosyleon from the PACOG MPO for further discussion.

The agenda item included a Presentation from CDOT's Division of Transportation Planning. Mr. David Swenka from CDOT gave an overview of the performance numbers (PM1) topic and at the end of his presentation and Board discussion, a call for the resolution was made and it was motioned by Ms. Regina Maestri and seconded by Mr. Harry Hosteler that the PM1 targets from CDOT would be adopted for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments. The resolution was approved to adopt the PM1 targets. Mr. William Thiebaut voted against the adoption of the PM1 targets as he said he thought they were not strict enough.

***Next on the regular agenda were the following items:***

3. Commissioner Terry Hart was in attendance to give the CDOT update for March. The transportation Commission had eight topics on their agenda for March. An amendment was made to the current budget, there were minor changes made to the risk management section and the IT division line items. The final 2025 budget plan was adopted by the CDOT Transportation Commission (TC). 2025 budget consists of \$830 million going into capital construction, \$530, million going to maintenance and operations, \$360 million in suballocated funding, \$68 million to multimodal programs, 136 million to administrative services, and \$193 million going to debt service. The roll forward funding for 2024 and previous years was \$1.646, billion. These funds are programmed in projects but not spent yet. The next item was a briefing from the CDOT office of environmental justice and equity. This presentation was to help educate the new 6 members on the commission as well as a refresher for the other 5 members. The next

item on the TC agenda was an update on electric vehicle projects, the status of projects underway, the move to electrification of heavy equipment such as busses, and trucks utilizing electric options, an update on the targets that have been set for EV purchases and usage in Colorado was given, and the status of the purchases and uses of EV options nationwide was given. An update was also given on the charging infrastructure in the state and the nation as well. The next topic was employee housing, the Mountain areas in Colorado are expensive to live and work in the area, so the TC and CDOT have been subsidizing the employees needed in the area with housing to make the positions more attractive and to help keep employees in the jobs. The next item on the agenda was bridge and tunnel enterprise budget. It was adopted and the revenue bonds were discussed. The bonds will be issued in 3 stages, that will allow for adequate funding to meet the 10-year plan for bridges and tunnels. The greenhouse gas requirements were discussed as an overview to bring the new TC members up to date on the policies and needs to meet the greenhouse gas targets set by the state. The newly adopted Colorado freight plan was discussed as well, the last item was the approval of a new interchange on SH 76 on the north end of Denver, there is not any CDOT funding being allocated to the project. It is funded with local funds and BNSF funds. This new footprint will allow the trains to transfer their freight to truck in an easy and efficient manner to aid the freight movement of goods throughout the state and region. Commissioner Hart also gave a briefing on the rest areas north of Pueblo. CDOT received addition federal funds and has allocated 10 million dollars to the efforts of rebuilding the rest area. The new facilities should be built with the new interchange at exit 108 as it is designed, there will be a committee created to help with design, amenities, etc. The \$10 million dollars will not completely build the facilities, but it's a start.

Mr. Patrick Vigil gave the CDOT Engineering project update along with Mr. Jason Nelson to cover the CDOT traffic projects update. The CDOT listing of both programs along with their status are also included in as attachment in the March Packet.

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

March 2024 Meeting Update by Ms. Wendy Pettit covered 8 specific topics from the meeting. The meeting note details are attached in the March packet as well.

- a. State Legislative updates: very busy season there are 60 bills under consideration for transportation this legislative season.
  1. Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Bill, dealing with the chaining of commercial vehicles in inclement weather
  2. Distracted Driving was moving forward to appropriations
  3. Broadband deployment in CDOT right of way was being discussed
- b. Federal Legislative updates: Federal transportation funding bill was approved by Congress, with no major funding changes noted.
- c. The second public hearing on HB 23-1101 was on March 11, 2024
- d. FY 2025 CDOT Budget was presented before submission to the Office of State Planning and Budget. STAC recommended adoption of the Budget as presented.
- e. CDOT winter maintenance update was given by Director of Maintenance and Operations. He stated 30% of their budget is spent on winter services, staffing shortage remain an serious problem, the Joint Operations team on the in the I-70 corridor has helped out with the staffing shortages, CDOT has a program to promote jobs to the 18- to 21-year-old populations. The new program had offered heavy

equipment training as well as money for college tuition, and CDL courses which has led to 92 percent of retainage of the employees coming out of these programs.

- f. Hope Wright the rest area and building assets manager gave an update on the rest areas situation. The Pueblo rest areas that are closed will be rebuilt in the near future with dedicated asset management funds.
- g. The Federal Land Access Program was in need of a new representative from the STAC members. John Liosatos from PPACG was nominated to fill the vacancy to help with the committee's project awards and plan development.
- h. The Bi-annual TPR training and orientation session will be held on April 4, 2024 at 8:30 am for new TPR administrators and current administrators.

5.

**MPO Staff Report**

(Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager)

- a. Travel Demand Model – A presentation on the travel demand model for the Pueblo area was given by Wilson and Company. Mrs. Maureen Paz de Araujo is the staff person from Wilson and Company that works on the on-call Contract for the PACOG MPO support which is covered an allocation of funds from the Consolidated Planning grant the MPO receives from CDOT. She gave an overview of the process used by the model, the process utilized for developing specific data out puts, the greenhouse gas conformity modeling, travel patterns for all modes, and land use information. This model also includes the transit services in the area. The MPO staff has been trained to use the model for scenario planning. In May 2024, the greenhouse gas information will be brought to the agenda for adoption.
- b. CDOT Region 2 requests the following administrative amendments to projects in the FY 2023 – 2027 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program\*

Please see PACOG UTPD packet in the March meeting attachments for the detail on the administrative changes that were submitted.

- c. Other Transportation Matters -The MPO had no other items for the meeting.

6. The last of the regular items were presented. The vacancies on the Citizens Services Advisory Committee were voted upon for March 2024 appointments and collected for 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

**ADJOURNMENT was made by Mr. Aliff at 1:15pm (WJP):**

***The next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is to be held on Thursday, April 25, 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