

<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, April 23, 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:

Zach Swearingen	Ed Gutierrez
Eppie Greigo	Mark Aliff
William Thiebaut	Harry Hochstetler
Chris DeLuca	Dennis Flores
Charles Hernandez	Danya Esgar
Roger Gomez	Sarah Martinez

Members Absent:

Mike Cafasso	Joseph Latino -City Council
Heather Graham – Mayor City of Pueblo	Roger Gomez -City Council
Carla Sikes- Pueblo City Attorney	Terry Hart – Transportation Commissioner
Regina Mastri – City Council	
Doug Proal -Pueblo West	

.Also Present Were:

Aaron Willis -CDOT	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Shane Ferguson - CDOT	Hannah Haunert -PACOG MPO
Scott Skinner -CDOT	Patrick Vigil-CDOT
Don Bruestle Planning Commission	Isabel Rollins -Grant Navigator
Sabina Geniso, Pueblo County	Maureen Paz de Araujo-Wilson and Co
Dillion Goodman PACOG MPO	Carmen Howard – Pueblo County
Jennifer Wagoner – Pueblo County	
Sarah Skinner -Pueblo County	

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 March 28, 2024, Meeting were presented for edits and approval.
- 2 Treasury report: The acceptance and filing of the year end PACOG financials was presented for action.

All items were approved by a formal recommendation made by Mr. Dennis Flores, with a second on the recommendation made by Ms. Daneya Esgar.

REGULAR ITEMS:

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

A. Grant Navigator report

Ms. Howard gave the floor to Ms. Isabel Rollins to cover the Grant Navigator report, which is also included in the April 2024 PACOG packet.

She reported on the energy funding and rebates, the processes at the state level are not ready yet, the rebates will be available in the fall, the Colorado energy office was awarded \$156 million dollars for a *Solar for All* grant. The funding will be utilized for roof top solar, or solar gardens, for low-income residents. The energy office expects to have the grants available by the second half of next year. There is a lot of support available for grant seekers right now, there are experts available through DOLA, or if there are specific items that need questions answered with regard to grants, you can contact Isabel, she can connect you with the right agencies for help and the grant funding that is available.

B The EPAC Report - Ms. Howard stated Mr. Ted Lopez could not attend today and he would be rescheduled for the May meeting to give a brief report out on the EPAC meeting. The minutes are included in the April packet for further reading.

Next on the regular agenda were the following items:

3. The CDOT update for April was given by the Region 2 RTD, Shane Ferguson, and the South Program regional engineer for the pueblo area, Mr. Patrick Vigil.

Mr. Ferguson gave a brief overview of the CDOT Transportation Commission meeting from March and April. The transportation commission is taking up the TPR boundary study in May. The region has had a busy maintenance season, the snow season was busy, the next items for maintenance are guardrail repairs, and the pothole patching. He went on to say that April is construction awareness month. He asked that the traveling public be mindful of their speed and distractions while driving in the work zones in the Pueblo area.

Mr. Patrick Vigil gave the CDOT Engineering project update for the Pueblo area. He covered the CDOT traffic projects as well. The resurfacing project through Pueblo has begun at the southern limit. They had their weekly meeting at the site and after a few days of work there have been two speeding tickets handed out for speeds at least ten miles an hour over the work zone speed reduction. The Highway 50 and 36th Lane Project is completed; The Mirror Ave. design project is about to begin. The SH 45 safety project is at FIR, the SH45 and I-25 feasibility study is moving forward for next steps for the consideration of the new growth in the area. The Drew Dix interchange improvements are also done and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be taking place April

30th at 1:30 pm. The paving project started at MP 92, in the next two weeks, the actual paving will begin at night. The paving project near Colorado City is also underway, SH 47 is also getting a minor surface treatment done, it will help increase the life of the pavement surface. This project will begin in June. The US 50 B interchange is on schedule for advertisement this summer and construction to begin in the fall of 2024. The surface treatment project on US 50 out in the Pueblo West area is scheduled for construction in next spring/summer in 2025. The US50C Drainage Improvements project is still being worked on by CDOT and Pueblo County, construction is scheduled in Fiscal year 2027. The I-25A Pueblo Interchange Improvements at Exit 108 has ongoing discussions to consider if a new rest area near this location can be built. The Consultant RFP is out now and the design is scheduled to begin in 2024. Application for National Highway Freight Program funding submitted for funding of the project.

The CDOT project listing of both programs along with their status are also included in as attachment in the April PACOG Packet.

- 4 **State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)**
April 4th, 2024, Meeting was canceled. No report.

5. **MPO Staff Report**
(Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager)

A. Pueblo Transit Transfer Routes* – Chuck Lopez

Mr. Chuck Lopez gave a presentation on the changes to the transit routes that are being implemented in May 2024. There are many changes being implemented to make the transit system for the City work more efficiently, and the changes will enable short wait times and travel time for riders. The changes will stem from two new routes being added with the ability to transfer to other routes more logistically than having to transfer downtown, this new process will save time and shorten travel, making the use of the transit system in Pueblo more user friendly and more reliable. The details of the new process are in the April packet with several slides giving the details on the changes and a map giving the layout of the new routes and their new connections.

B. 2025-2028 Draft Transportation Improvement Program* - Notice of public comment

Ms. Cosyleon gave a brief presentation on the release of the 2025 to 2028 Transportation Improvements Planning document to be adopted by the Board in May 2024. Ms. Cosyleon, gave an overview of the changes that have been made to the TIP amendment process, and the projects that are programmed for adoption over the next four years. The MPO is asking for the Board and the public to review the document and give comments on the processes, and on the projects contained in the document. The Board will be asked to approve the document at the May meeting for inclusion in the Statewide document that FHWA, FTA and the Governor's office will sign off on to be included in the CDOT statewide documents for transportation projects funded with federal funds. Once this process is complete, it will allow for the continued spending of federal funds on projects in the Pueblo area.

C. Other Transportation Matters

The Pueblo Health Department will be conducting a feasibility study dealing with Teen Safe Rides in the Pueblo area. How do our community teens get around the community? Are parents willing to allow their children get in an on-demand service geared just for teens? Pueblo transit services end at 6 pm. The study will look at the teen needs after the transit services are not running. It will focus on how to get our teens in the community safely home after sports, school, or work activities they have participated in after transit hours.

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 April 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 adoption of the 2025 to 2028 PACOG TIP, the EPAC meeting report.

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, May 23, 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