

<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 22, 2024. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Chairman, Mark Aliff at 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present were:

Brett Boston	Doug Proal -Pueblo West
Dennis Flores	Mark Aliff
William Thiebaut	Harry Hochstetler
Chris DeLuca	Ed Gutierrez
Eppie Greigo	Zach Swearingen
Mike Cafasso	Heather Graham – Mayor City of Pueblo

Members Absent:

Sarah Martinez City Council	
Regina Mastri – City Council	
Roger Gomez -City Council	
Joseph Latino -City Council	
Danya Esgar -Pueblo County	

.Also Present Were:

Sarah Skinner -Pueblo County	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Geoff Guthrie-CDOT	Jack Costello
Lindsey Jaquez-CDOT	Antonio Huerta-Sen Hickenlooper’s office
Don Bruestle Planning Commission	Natasha Hutson
Sabina Geniso, Pueblo County	Jason Nelson-CDOT
Dylan Goodman PACOG MPO	Ted Lopez
Maureen Paz de Araujo, - Wilson and Co.	Ashica Smith
Laura Leyba, ADA committee	Carla Sikes-PACOG attorney
Terry Hart – Transportation Commissioner	Chad Wright - CDOT
Scutt Skinner CDOT	Ashica Smith
Andy Karsian-FRPR	Jennifer Sparks - CDOT
Daryl Payne	Carmen Howard-Pueblo County
Bryan Wallace-PMB	

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, presented the following consent items:

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

A motion was made to accept the minutes by Michael Cafasso Hostetler and seconded by Harry Hostetler .

Next on the agenda were the regular items:

- 1 Chairperson's Report:

A) Lunch Appreciation: Mr. Aliff thanked Salt Creek Sanitation for the catered lunch.

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

A) The July 2024 ADA minutes were presented for information.

B) Mr. Ted Lopez, chair of the EPA committee was called upon to cover the report on the EPAC minutes and meetings for June and August 2024. The committee meets every other month beginning in February each year, the EPAC consultant, Mr. Schwenke has given the EPAC committee updates on the water current plan action items, Arron Martinez from the Pueblo County Health Department gave an update to the EPAC, he spoke on the tire problem information that he gave to PAOCG in June. Mr. Lopez also gave information on the difficulties nationwide on the recycling of plastics. He also gave a brief overview on the plastic recycling that has been included in the asphalt job on Silom Road. The EPA also passed information on to the EPAC to provide help with onsite water systems or septic system issues in the unincorporated areas of Pueblo County. The presentation was given by Teresa Connor. There is a stakeholder meeting taking place on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon at the Rawlins library. The meeting is being held to gather information on the St. Charles mesa area and the Baxter Road area. Mr. Lopez again stated the need for collaboration between the city and county for recycling plastics. He ended with the information on the date of the next EPAC meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

C) Ms. Carmen Howard also introduced a topic from the July Board meeting, the Board asked that the start time of the meeting be discussed to move the time to noon. There have been items on the agenda that have to be continued, and if there were at least 15 more minutes available, the whole agenda could be met. The Board discussed the option to move the start time to noon for the meeting, and it was decided by the start of the time change would take place in September.

D) Ms. Howard then introduced the RESPEC team that was presenting the information on the Dist. 70, County High project to expand their current wastewater services. Jack Costello from RESPEC gave a brief explanation on the process that would be needed to make the expansion to the current system. The location only involves the High School property, and they need to expand their processes as they are exceeding their current

specifications that were approved. The population served needs to be increased from 1000 to 1500 for the school. The Dist. 70 school district will be covering the total cost for the upgrades. The report was included in the PACOG packet for further review of the details. The EPAC heard the presentation and agreed to forward the application to the PACOG board for a recommendation to forward the application to be approved for the review process that is required for the project to be approved for construction. A resolution to move the project was prepared, and the project was motioned by Mr. Mike Cafasso and seconded by Mr. Brett Boston.

- E) Ms. Howard then gave the floor, to Eva Cosyleon from the PACOG MPO to present her resolutions for the Unified Work Plan, the RAISE Grant award to Pueblo County, and the multimodal mitigation option funds for a transit ap for a complete and integrated transit system. The first resolution presented was for the update to the Unified Planning Work Program for fiscal YEARS 2024 and 2025. A call was made for a motion to execute the changes by Mr. Bret Boston with a second by Commissioner Griego. It passed with a unanimous vote. The next resolution was for the RAISE grant inclusion into STIP and TIP. The awarded grant was voted on unanimously for inclusion in the TIP and STIP with motion was made by Mr. Bret Boston and a second by Commissioner Greigo. The last resolution on the transit ap was also unanimously voted upon for award and inclusion into the STIP and TIP. The motion was made by Mr. Harry Hostetler and seconded by Mr. Ed Gutierrez.

### 3 CDOT Transportation Information

- A) Front range Passenger Rail update was given by Andy Karsian and Ashica Smith, He went through a power point slide presentation giving an update on the current conditions for the Front range passenger rail process and challenges facing the project. The slides can be access in the PACOG packet for further detail. Or on the following link:

[https://a105ae7e-3c29-489a-a40f-ed310ed2c9ff.usrfiles.com/ugd/a105ae\\_83f07d69e13a43a7ab2cd53a252c2050.pdf](https://a105ae7e-3c29-489a-a40f-ed310ed2c9ff.usrfiles.com/ugd/a105ae_83f07d69e13a43a7ab2cd53a252c2050.pdf)

He gave an overview of the following:

- Using existing rail to expedite service to begin within the decade
  - Nine stations from Fort Collins to Pueblo
  - Long-term vision of connecting to Wyoming and New Mexico
  - Goal: Initial service start in 2029 and six round trips daily by 2035
  - Intercity rail service is faster; top speeds 79-90 MPH
  - Travel time estimate from Fort Collins to Pueblo is just over three hours (includes stopping at stations)
  - Initial conversations are based on local sales tax of \$.023 on \$100 of sales for the \$3.4B project. With a plan that this initiative will be a ballot measure in 2026 for a vote of Colorado residents
- B) Terry Hart was not in attendance to give a CDOT Transportation Commission update, but Jenifer Sparks and Jason Nelson from CDOT were in attendance to go over the CDOT project summary that was included in the PACOG packet for details on the projects underway in Pueblo County. At the end of the CDOT

south program presentation, an update on a bridge grant was given by Jennifer Sparks, The CDOT south program engineer. She went on to tell the Board about the award of a planning grant to look at the feasibility of bridge repair and replacement in two areas on SH 96 in Pueblo County. The first location is on SH 96 where the bridge goes over the Fountain Creek, the trail, and the railroad bed. The next location is where SH 96 goes over a dry creek. Commissioner Swearingen gave thanks to CDOT for the work out on Business 50 where the flooding has occurred. He went on to say the community appreciates the efforts and the joint effort between CDOT and the County has made a difference in the area, and he hopes for continued coordination. Mark Aliff also asked questions after the presentation. He asked about the development on the SH 45 corridor, he asked about the issues that are coming up with the requirements that CDOT is requiring the businesses to adhere to, Mr. Nelson went over the CDOT processes in an overview, he referred to the City for input as well to the questions at hand. The city is continuously having issues with the CDOT requirements, the new businesses are being asked to foot the bill on many improvements, and the business are not on board with the requirements they are being required to supply. The city asked how CDOT will allocated the expenses for the improvements. Mr. Nelson stated that Culvers went in without a permit for their share of the improvements, the tire shop as well. The Mayor stated the What a Burger corporate office wanted to see movement or they were considering pulling out of the project. Mr. Nelson stated there were process that need to be completed, and he suggested more communication on how and where those requirements were in the process.

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

The Open Transportation Commission position for Dist. 11 was discussed - Gary Beedy asked if a letter could be sent to the governor to fill the open position. A motion was made, and Mr. Beedy agreed to draft the letter to be sent since the vacancy is in his area.

Policy Directive 14 was discussed at length, transit planning expansions were discussed, there are differing opinions from STAC members than those of the CDOT transit team, on just how much build out is achievable, CDOT is trying to cover the Green House Gas issues with various techniques and changes to allocations to modes of travel to meet the Green House gas requirements, and transit is one area seeing a lot of change.

The strategic safety plan was discussed. Last month we had a presentation here at PACOG on the safety plan direction. Colorado ranks low in safety compared to other states. The safety targets will continue to be refined and will be brought to the MPO and TPR areas for further discussion and refinement.

Asset management funding was discussed, and as of current allocations, 50% of project funds go to asset management statewide, and the funding going to these assets will be considered for an increase in the future.

The STAC Bylaws were discussed again, and minor revisions to the bylaws were recommended with new officer elections taking place in October this year.

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

**1. MPO request(s) the following amendment projects into the FY 2025 –2028 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (PACOG TIP)\*  
 Action Requested: Informational**

- a. TIP Amend 2024.020.02 Administrative Amendment  
 Project Name: Medal of Honor Phase 2  
 Agency: Pueblo County  
 STIP Number: SR27016.013  
 Project Location and Description: North South Trail connection along Pueblo Blvd.  
 Fund Source(s):

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
MMOF	\$ (327,528.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (327,528.00)
ARPA	\$ (124,680.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (124,680.00)
Fed Earmark	\$ (1,000,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,000,000.00)
Carbon Redu	\$ (547,792.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (547,792.00)
Local	\$ (3,500,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,500,000.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (5,500,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (5,500,000.00)</b>

Note: Combining project into Connecting Communities project

- b. TIP Amend 2024.021.03 Administrative Amendment  
 Project Name: Medal of Honor Phase 1  
 Agency: Pueblo County  
 STIP Number: N/A  
 Project Location and Description: East-West trail connecting Joe Martinez and 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Fund Source(s):

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
MMOF	\$ (1,000,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,000,000.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (1,000,000.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,000,000.00)</b>

Note: Combining fund into Connecting Communities project

- c. TIP Amend 2024.049.01 Administrative Amendment  
 Project name: Connecting Communities  
 Agency: Pueblo County  
 Date: 7/30/2024  
 STIP Number: SR27016.013  
 Project Location and Description: Various locations across the county  
 Fund Source(s): RAISE

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
MMOF	\$ -	\$ 1,327,528.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,327,528.00
ARPA Fed	\$ -	\$ 124,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 124,680.00
Fed Earmark	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00
Earmark Loc	\$ -	\$ 207,876.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 207,876.00
Carbon Redu	\$ -	\$ 547,792.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,792.00
Local	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ 6,707,876.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,707,876.00

Notes: Combining phases into a single project

**3. CDOT Region 2 request(s) the following amendment projects into the FY 2025 –2028 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (PACOG TIP)\***

Action Required: Informational

Date: 08/02/2024

a) TIP Amend 2024.010.01 Administrative Amendment

Project Name: US50C & Baxter Rd

STIP Number: SR26646.999

Project Location and Description: Intersection improvements at US50 (Business) and Baxter Road

Fund Source(s): FY27 Region 2 Faster Safety Program (FAS)

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
FAS - State	0	0	0	\$1,250,000	0	0
Local	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes: Adds funding to project.

b) TIP Amend 2024.010.01 Administrative Amendment

Project Name: US50C & Baxter Rd

STIP Number: SR26646.999

Project Location and Description: Intersection improvements at US50 (Business) and Baxter Road

Fund Source(s): FY25 Region 2 Hot Spot Pool (HOT)

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
HOT - Federal	0	\$358,838	0	0	0	0
HOT - State	0	\$74,593	0	0	0	0
Total	0	\$433,431	0	0	0	0

Notes: Adds funding to project.

**4. Other Transportation Matters**

**a. Round-about Information-** The City of Pueblo will be building several roundabouts over the next year or so, and since the application is new to the Pueblo area the MPO is taking the lead along with the City in education and safety awareness for the roundabouts and their usage. The campaign will include videos, that will be posted to social media and other venues.

The 4 P meeting for Pueblo County was held last week for transportation planning, Mr. Geoff Guthrie, the planning manager for CDOT region 2 spoke on the meeting. He stated the Federal law requires that meeting be held, the information on the CDOT accomplishments is relayed, the meeting is geared to seek input from the public and planning partners for the 2050 long range transportation development for the area. CDOT Region 2 will come back with a more in-depth presentation on the process.

The Pueblo Airport is looking for a new service provider. There are 5 airlines in competition for the service. 3 of the providers are looking to provide service to the Denver area, one will provide service to Phoenix and Albuquerque, and the last will provide service to Phoenix and Las Vegas. The airport manager, Mr. Greg Predroza is looking for comments. Ms. Cosyleon provided a QR code for the board to give comments on the airport and its needs.

CDOT is holding a workshop on the Strategic Safety plan on September 10<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2:30 pm at the Rawling Library. Virtual attendance is available on September 30<sup>th</sup> at to give comment and feedback. Please reach out to Wendy Pettit for the link. 719-225-0460 or [pettitw@pueblocounty.us](mailto:pettitw@pueblocounty.us)

**Action Requested: Discussion if necessary**

\* Denotes additional materials are attached.

\*\* Denotes material to be distributed at PACOG Meeting.

5. The last of the regular items were presented were the vacancies for Pueblo Human Relations Commission and the Appeals Boards for the Plumbing and Electrical committees. Ballots were distributed and were voted upon for July 2024 appointments and collected for tally and confirmation.
6. Next New Business was called for with no new items brought forward.

**ADJOURNMENT of the regular meeting was made by Mr. Aliff at 1:32pm (WJP)**

***The next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is to be held on Thursday, September 26, 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