

Minutes of April 3, 2008 Joint Meeting
Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)

TTC Members present: Bill Moore, Todd Ahlenius, Dave Cockrell, Alf Randall, Jeff Woeber, Dan Centa, Scott Hobson, Pepper Whittlef, Brenda Broyles; and CDOT– Wendy Pettit and Ann Skinner.

CAC Members present: Chuck Pelto, Bill Davis, Brian Lucas and Shirley Ozzello.

Others present: JD Garvin, PCC President and Rose Marie Ibanez–UTPD support/minutes.

Mr. Moore called the regular joint meeting of the TAC to order on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 8:39am in the Pueblo City Council Chambers.

(1) Approval of the minutes of the January 3 and special January 15 meeting. (No meetings in February and March)

Motion to approve: Mr. Davis
Second: Ms. Ozzello
Unanimous

(2) CDOT Region 2 requests three policy amendments to the PACOG MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the MPO area. The attached spreadsheet further details the amendment requests. Presented for approval by Wendy Pettit, Region 2 Planner.

- a. **Red Creek Springs and Pueblo Blvd (SH 45) Intersection Right-of-Way – to transfer \$150,000 for the purchase of Right-of-Way property to allow for the construction of turn lanes from SH 45 on to Red Creek Springs Road and a turn lane from Red Creek Springs Road on to SH 45. The total in the right of way phase will be funded at \$200,000 with addition of the \$150,000.**
- b. **This amendment entails the addition of funding from the current allocation from the FY2008 to 2011 Off-system Bridge Program. There were three awards made in December 2007 to the Pueblo area, the Union Avenue Bridge, the 11th Street Bridge and the Crow Cutoff Road Bridge in the County.**
- c. **This amendment entails the addition of funding from the current allocation from the FY 2008 Safe Routes to School Program. Region 2 proposes the following revisions to the FY 2008 Safe Routes to School Program. There was a safe Route to School Project awarded in February 2008 for the Pueblo area, the Pueblo West Metro District: Sierra Vista Trail and Bridge Project in the amount of \$249,698.00.**

a. Ms. Pettit said that the total in *right of way phase* would utilize these funds to purchase property at the intersection of Red Creek Springs and Pueblo Blvd (SH45) and in the area of the Loaf & Jug and Jackson Hewitt. The purchase of the right-of-way would allow for the construction of turn lanes from SH 45 on to Red Creek Springs Road and a turn lane from Red Creek Springs Road on to SH 45. The funding will also repair the impact to the respective landscaping and signage in the intersection.

b. Region 2 proposed the revision in allocating additional funds to the FY2008-2013 Bridge Off Program for three bridges with *unsafe sufficiency ratings*. Mr. Centa reported that the W. 11th Street Bridge replacement project is funded over \$3M and would start in fall of 2008. Any project savings would be added to the rehabilitation of Union Avenue Bridge and that the Crow cut-off Bride is also a replacement.

c. Mr. Cockrell thanked Ms. Pettit for keeping the FY 2008 Safe Routes to School Program on schedule. The Pueblo West Metro District project will include 4,360 feet of paved pedestrian/ bike path along and a 90-foot pedestrian bridge to divert pedestrian/bike traffic away from a busy section of Spaulding Avenue. He said that the CDOT contract (FY2007-08) for Belmont Neighborhood Schools Bike/Walk project (awarded in FY2006-07) is ready to be processed and signed by City Council.

Motion to approve: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Saling
Unanimous

(3) Presentation of the 4th Quarter 2007 and Annual 2007 population and housing growth statistic/maps.

Mr. Cockrell presented the summary of the Pueblo Housing Market 2008 – 2010 that was prepared for Horizon Communities & Pueblo Bank & Trust by David Bamberger & Associates in March 2008. The permits for *new for-sale* home production shows a 44% drop and *resales* are down 17%. The housing market in Pueblo reflects the rest of the country's slowdown and probably will remain slow over the next several years. He said the Regional Building permits are up because of the boom in home reroofing due to a lot of roof damage caused by a destructive hailstorm that passed through the City of Pueblo in August/07. The purchase of roofing materials and major construction projects that are going on in the area have also helped the city sales tax. He reported that the new housing job losses shifted to the GCC Rio Grande Cement Plant that is now nearing completion. Their excess labor (short term hire) has now shifted to the Comanche Unit 3. When Comanche Unit 3 is completed, their excess labor (short term hire) is expected to transfer over to the Pueblo Chemical Depot for the Chemical Weapons Demilitarization project.

(4) Status of Rocky Mountain Rail Authority (RMRA) and the consultant selection process of the passenger rail feasibility study for the I-25 and I-70 primary corridors.

Mr. Moore reported that the City of Pueblo and Pueblo County both are members of the RMRA and RMRA has a meeting this afternoon. He said there is some competition between the two corridors of I-25 front range (work commuter) and I-70 west (recreational commuter). He identified the traffic counts on the Pueblo I-25 (13th-US50B) that reflect a three-hour peak in the afternoon that mirrors the traffic on I-25 at 6th Avenue in Denver. The weekday count is 80,000 and 86,000 on Friday. The annual daily average is 72,000. The Pueblo traffic on Friday is approximately equal to the AADT Colorado Springs I-25 at Bijou. Just call or e-mail him if anyone wants the load shapes.

(5) Update on the Fort Carson Gate 19 access proposal. This is the southernmost gate to the base and is located a couple miles west of I-25 at interchange 128 (US 85-Fountain, sometime known as the Tomahawk Truck Stop interchange). Information only presented by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.

Mr. Moore said Gate 19 is an old gate on a dirt road at the south end of Ft. Carson that will be paved to connect to the activity areas at interchange 132 and Butts Air Field. He said that an extended road south could provide a more southern access connection to the north side of Pueblo West as a spin off on to Platteville. Two other options would be along the proposed Colorado Springs water pipeline where a maintenance road would be needed anyway and the Colorado Ranches road that is unlikely because of bluffs and arroyos.

(6) Discussion item on the closure of Orman Avenue between Arthur and Marilyn adjacent to the Pueblo Community College. Presented by JD Garvin, PCC President as information only.

Dr. Garvin reported that the Sheriff's Department completed a Domestic Terrorist risk assessment report in December of 2007 for the college. The report was briefed to the college in January 2008 and it contained 100 risks that needed to be mitigated. A closed campus and adding a speaker system to warn the students were listed as options to mitigate risk. He noted that it is realistic that the campus has the potential for domestic terrorist attacks, and then he gave an account of two recent incidents that were controlled by campus security. He outlined the college growth projection of 3% in the next 3 yrs, and improvement plans. He said there are several town hall meetings planned but not until after there is a recommendation by the City of Pueblo. He said that the college would cover the cost to move the bus stop.

Many committee members voiced concerns that this proposed street closing would impact the neighborhood when other options would be more feasible. The committee reported that HES funds were approved in the fiscal year/2004 for safety improvements along Hwy 96 (4th St./Lincoln/Thatcher) and additional funds probably would not be available now. Dr. Garvin said the college could not afford an extensive update of the Master Plan. The entire risk assessment report is sensitive and might not be available. The committee offered several alternatives such as tunneling, walkways and a *time-sensitive* street closing. The committee asked Mr. Moore to give some sort of a schedule in the action process. He said that the TAC could make a recommendation to the PACOG Board to approve a LRTP change, and city staff could make a separate recommendation to the Pueblo City Council. Mr. Saling suggested a traffic study should be done to aid in this process. Dr. Gavin said there is a short time line in getting a recommendation by midsummer to give to the college administration so they can present it to Governor Ritter. Mr. Moore suggested a sub-committee that would meet next week. Volunteers included Mr. Moore, Chuck Pelto, Pepper Whittlef, Wendy Pettit and another CDOT staff member for traffic counting and Scott Hobson from the Planning Department.

(7) No items were presented for open discussion or scheduled for the future.

(8) Adjourn at 10:34 am.