

Minutes of March 5, 2009 Joint Meeting
Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)

Audiotapes of all the meetings of the TAC are maintained and available for inspection and review during normal business hours (M-F, 8am-5pm) at the MPO/TPR Office at 223 N Santa Fe Ave.

TTC Members present: Bill Moore, Todd Ahlenius, Pepper Whittlef, Rick Morgan; and CDOT– Wendy Pettit and Irene Merrifield.

CAC Members present: Chuck Pelto, Laurie Clark, Bill Davis, Dale King, Eppie Griego, and Robert Leverington.

Others present: CDOT– Sheble McConnellogue and Rose Marie Ibanez – UTPD support/minutes.

Mr. Moore called the regular meeting of the TAC to order on Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 8:40 am in the Pueblo City Council Chambers.

(1) Introductions.

(2) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on February 5, 2009 presented by Rose Marie Ibanez, Secretary to the TAC.

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

(2) Standing Agenda Item – consideration of TIP amendments and CDOT administrative amendments to the PACOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the MPO/TPR area. Letters and spreadsheets are attached.

Revisions to the FY 2008 to 2013 Transportation Improvement Plan(requires action to approve/disapprove/modify)

SPB3865: The I-25 through Pueblo project has a need to fund an early right-of-way acquisition phase in the on going project. CDOT Region 2 will add \$2.250 million dollars of Regional Priority funds to the project so that the activities associated with the acquisition of right-of-way can begin in the corridor.

Ms. Pettit said CDOT is acquiring the YMCA building located on Albany Street that is in the I-25 project right-of-away. Concerns were expressed from some members of TTC that these funds could have gone to some other more urgent project.

Motion to approve: Mr. Davis
Second: Ms. Whittlef
Opposed: Mr. Pelto and Mr. Ahlenius

Roll forward project funding administrative amendments in the MPO and TPR area(s) – Information only.

SPB273R: The 4th Street Bridge’s current funding has a shortfall in the utility phase of \$20,000. CDOT would like to roll forward unused 2007 funds from the right-of-way phase into fiscal year 2009 so that the funds will be available to the utility phase of the project as the Union Pacific Railroad has another \$60,000 of projected utility expenses associated with the project.

SPN5597 Saunders Arroyo Bridge: Due to the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* funding for the State of Colorado and the readiness of the US 24 East bridge at Falcon, funding in the

Bridge on-system program has been freed up and will be reallocated to the Saunders Arroyo bridge for construction in 2010. The amount to be added to the project is \$2 million dollars.

SPB6590: This Safety Earmarked Project has an excess balance of \$790,000 dollars from the passing lane project that was constructed on US 50. The surplus is going to be allocated to another eligible safety project on US 50 East in the SE TPR area. The Earmarked funds have restrictions as to the types of projects that are eligible to be built by these types of funds. The balance from the passing lane project will be moved to a new project site that will meet the requirements as depicted by the earmark restrictions on eligible types of projects. Presented as information only by Wendy Pettit, CDOT Region 2 Planner.

(3) Presentation and demonstration of the CDOT Planning-Environmental Linkage (PEL) interactive computer program. Power point of the PEL Decision Tool guide presented by Sheble McConnellogue, CDOT Planning and Environmental Linkage Program Manager. Information only.

Ms. McConnellogue demonstrated on power point, the PEL Decision Tool that helps guide the users to identify appropriate planning studies through a series of questions about the identified transportation problem. The tool filters responses to questions that cover various factors, including the project location, funding availability, environmental and social issues within the project locations, and the desired outcome from the study. The tool generates a report that includes the recommended tasks to undertake and resource agencies to coordinate with, as part of the planning study, in order for the study to be consistent with FHWA's PEL process. Incorporating environmental concerns early in the planning phase and linking planning to NEPA will enhance and streamline the delivery of transportation projects. Comments and feedback can be sent thru the website.

(7) Updates/discussion related to RMRA, Faster (state transportation funding) legislation, ARRA (federal stimulus) law recently signed, possible rescissions, prospects for federal re-authorization after SAFETEAU-LU, development of the FFY 2010-2011 UPWP (multiple scenarios?), etc. Presented as information only by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.

Mr. Moore reported that the RMRA study is moving along with a workshop on Saturday, March 28th at Jefferson County. He will send out the workshop notice for those who want to attend. The matrix identifies 1-70 (mountain) versus 1-25.

At the state level FASTER passed the State Senate & House to increase the state vehicle registration fees and \$2 fee a day for car rentals that could amount to \$250M a year for CDOT.

Budget uncertainties for now include possible rescissions 30% up to a reduction. Planning Funds were not part of the ARRA (federal stimulus). Development of the draft UPWP FFY 2010-2011 will happen in April or later after carryover \$'s are available. The MPO's current open position will not be filled due to the City of Pueblo hiring freeze.

(8) Open discussion, items from committee members, and scheduling of future agenda items.

Mr. Davis reported that the Transportation Test Center is asking for stimulus money for a 150 mile hour passenger train and Homeland Security training for train tunnels. Mr. Ahlenius reported that ARRA provides for \$2.7M in transit funds that are to be used for new buses only.

(9) Adjourned at 10:05am.