

Minutes of August 6, 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, Earl Wilkinson, Brenda Broyles, Pepper Whittlef, Alf Randall, Jeff Woeber, Rick Morgan and CDOT– Wendy Pettit

CAC Members present: Debbie Rose, Chuck Pelto, Dale King, Rob Leverington, Brian Lucas, Eppie Griego and Bill Davis

Others present: PPRTC – Ray Krueger, CDOT – Marissa Robinson and David Miller, City Planning – Bill Zwick, Scott Hobson, Kelly Grisham, UTPD support/minutes – Rose Marie Ibanez

Mr. Moore called the regular joint meeting of the TAC to order on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 8:35 am in the Pueblo City Council Chambers.

- (1) Introductions.**
- (2) Approval of the minutes of the regular July 2, 2009. Presented by Rose Marie Ibanez, Secretary to the TAC.**

Motion to approve: Ms. Rose
Second: Mr. Leverington
Unanimous

- (3) Standing Item) CDOT Region 2 notification of an administrative amendment to the PACOG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the MPO/TPR area. CDOT Region 2 proposes the following revisions to the FY 2008 to 2013 Transportation Improvement Plan with regard to the US 50 bridges in the Pueblo TPR. Details for TIP amendment requests are attached in letters and spreadsheets.**

Bridge on System Program Pool – information item

CDOT Region 2 proposes the following revisions to the FY 2010 St. Charles bridge project, SPB5151.

Last month CDOT Region 2 asked for additional \$750,000 to be added to the project due to the increase in the engineering estimate to take the project out to ad. Due to further unforeseen cost escalations, we are asking to add another \$355,000 and to roll forward \$100,000 from the design phase to the construction phase. Presented by Wendy Pettit, Region 2 Planner and Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.

Ms. Pettit said they are hopeful that the project bid comes back below the new estimate increase because pool funds will be at a zero balance going forward.

- (4) 2010 Hazard Elimination Program– decision item**

CDOT Region 2 requests an amendment to the FY 2008 to 2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the fiscal year 2010 Hazard Elimination program. Details for the TIP amendment requests are shown in the attached letter and spreadsheet.

In the Pueblo West area a new project located at Purcell Blvd. and Spaulding Avenue will be added to the HES program to install a new traffic signal, total budget is \$321,780. The funds will be added to the Region 2 HES Pool. Presented by Wendy Pettit, Region 2 Planner and Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.

Ms. Pettit reported that the Purcell/Spaulding project was missed last month and even though it is about a month behind it will be completed in conjunction with the road-widening project there. The project met 8 of the 10 requirements for a new traffic signal.

Motion to approve: Mr. Davis

Second: Mr. Griego
Unanimous

- (5) **Review and recommend priorities for five FY 2010 Transportation Enhancement Program grant applications in the PACOG region to the PACOG Board. Staff review with suggested priorities and details on the grant applications are attached. Presented by Todd Ahlenius, Senior Planner**

Recommend Ranking High #1 Priority

Santa Fe Streetscape Phase 2 project goal is to continue the streetscape improvements north from the 6th Street to 8th Street in conjunction with storm water improvement and asphalt overlay. Phase 1 – streetscape project section between 5th St and 6th St was completed in 2007. Phase 3 (not part of this request) – one block between 4th and 5th Street will also infill the basements of the buildings in the direct area. The city in cooperation with the Downtown association secured funds for the Phase 1 portion of the project. The Phase 2 project estimates costs \$473,500. The request is for \$350,000 to add to local matching funds as described in the application.

Motion to approve: Ms. Rose
Second: Mr. Pelto
Unanimous

Recommend Ranking High #2 Priority

The Northern Avenue Trail Replacement and Streetscape Project – Phase 1 will complete trail reconstruction and medium landscape from Vinewood to Lehigh Ave and Vinewood to Hollywood and is scheduled to begin in September 2009 and to be completed by July 2010. The trail is designated as a Multi-use Trail (off-street) in the PACOG 2035 LRTP and adopted by PACOG January of 2008. The applicant's purpose is to widen the existing trail, provide an improved surface by replacing the cracked asphalt with concrete (8' wide) on the existing trails with a smoother surface that is safer for the pedestrian, bicycle users and fully handicap accessible. This project is beneficial to the Pueblo citizens and as key link to the Colorado State Fair Grounds that brings visitors throughout the year. Phase 2 of the project will include the remainder of medium landscape and trail construction from Lehigh to Prairie Avenue, and will begin approximately September 2010. The total cost is \$543,878. The request is for \$350,000 to add to local matching funds as described in the application. A clarification was requested to keep this continuity in the scope of the project in order to complete the trail from Cambridge/Moore to Prairie. Ms. Pettit suggested inserting a provision in the contract document that if TEP funds do not cover this portion of the trail, the City of Pueblo is not required to complete it with any additional city funds. The City of Pueblo is in the process of identifying funding for extending the trail from Roncalli Middle School to El Camino.

Motion to approve: Mr. Rose
Second: Mr. Whittlef
8 in favor and 6 opposed

***Note: Northern Avenue Trail Replacement and Streetscape Project carried as #2 Priority.**

Recommend High Ranking #2 Priority

Pueblo Eastern Gateway Landscape Project Phase 2 improves the aesthetical enhancement of the motorist's highway driving experience in creating a welcoming gateway into the City. The Highway 50B/47 interchange is heavily traveled and connects motorists to their destinations within the city. The first Phase scheduled for 2010 completion was funded with FY09 CDOT TEP funds plus America Recovery Reinvestment (ARRA) funds for the shovel ready project. The City

installed drip-irrigation and planted 342 trees along the edges of the interchange. Phase 2 is for completing the mitigating runoff and preparing the soil for planting western native grass (limited maintenance) inside the tree buffer areas. The total cost is \$437,500. The request is for \$350,000 to add to local matching funds as described in the application.

Motion to approve as #2: Mr. Pelto
Second: Mr. Davis
4 in favor and 8 opposed

***Note: By default, the project will be ranked as High Priority #3**

Recommend Medium Ranking #4 Priority

Bessemer Historical Society request for funding for aesthetical landscaping, replacing broken asphalt in the parking lot, non - accessible curbs, restoring historic street lighting and protective fencing. The total cost is \$226,906. The request is for \$186,906 to add to local matching funds as described in the application.

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

#5 Application withdrawn

Pueblo West Metro District withdrew their application for the Pueblo West's Phase III trail from the TEP process due to external reasons and too many uncertainties (reapply next year).

- (6) Discussion and review of the attached re-authorization principles and making a recommendation to the Board as to whether PACOG should formally endorse/adopt them. (Note: The Board will not meet until September 24, so if members want additional time to review, a final recommendation can be delayed until the September 3rd meeting). Presented by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.**

Mr. Moore reviewed the federal (re) authorization principles that change the way we do business by reducing the number of inflexible silos that limit transportation funding. The long-term funding solution is that congress would create a new long-term, dedicated, and sustainable funding source for transportation. He said that the *under-theme* is to return discretionary back to the state and locality. Colorado believes Congress should consolidate the nearly 110 current federal programs into 10 broad programs as the National Blue Ribbon Panel suggested.

Motion to approve: Ms. Rose
Second: Mr. Wilkerson
Unanimous

- (7) Discussion of federal (re) authorization proposals from Secretary LaHood on behalf of the Administration and from Chairman Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Information only presented by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.**

Mr. Moore reported that the Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has suggested that Congress approve an 18-month SAFETEA-LU extension to maintain current funding levels. The current highway bill expires on Sept. 30. Repealing the section 10212 of over \$8.5 billion in rescission can help to maintain flexibility for the states to put a long-term funded bill in place. The rescission would result in real program reduction for all states

- (8) Open discussion. Mr. Ahlenius and Ms. Pettit reported that TE funds are available to contract the printing of 50,000 bike/trails maps (item presented last month).**

- (9) Meeting adjourned at 10:33**

