

Minutes of June 5, 2008 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.**

TAC Members present: Bill Moore, Todd Ahlenius, Jeff Woeber, Rick Morgan-PW; and CDOT–Wendy Pettit and Irene Merrifield.

CAC Members present: Chuck Pelto and Laurie Clark

Others present: Mickey Ferrell, Angie Drumm-CDOT Policy Office; and Rose Marie Ibanez–UTPD support/minutes.

Mr. Moore called the regular joint meeting of the TAC to order on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 8:48 am in the Pueblo City Council Chambers.

**(1) Approval of the minutes of the regular April 3, 2008. (The May 1, 2008 meeting was cancelled so members could attend the Rail Relocation Study meeting at CDOT.)**

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

**(2) Request for a TIP amendment for the Off-System Bridge program from CDOT Region 2 and notice of two administrative STIP amendments. The attached spreadsheet further details the amendment requests. Presented by Wendy Pettit, Region 2 planner.**

Ms. Pettit reported that the amendment entails the reduction of federal funds from the current allocation in the TIP FY08-11 Off-System Bridge safety improvements program for the replacement of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. The funds are re-allocated in FY09-10.

The administrative STIP amendment rolls forward \$59,000 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project in 2008 from the design phase to the utility phase and does not affect completion timing.

CDOT will be updating the STIP to reflect the consolidation of the Arkansas River Trail project Phase 2 and Phase 3 into one project. The amendment includes overmatch funds of \$8,750 for a new consolidated project of \$615,000. She said that GOCO would fund Phase 1.

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

**(3) Presentation on the FY 2009 CDOT Budget, including some substantial program reductions. Presented by Mickey Ferrell, CDOT Policy Office.**

Mr. Ferrell outlined program reductions in Federal and State Transportation funding in a power point presentation. He said that the Colorado gas tax has not increased since 1991 (22¢) and the Federal gas tax (18¢) since 1992. The Federal Trust Fund would become insolvent in 2009. SAFETEA-LU authorized more federal finds than was expected to be available impacting

Colorado-\$40-\$120 million (resulting in mandatory rescission in 2009). Federal gas tax dollars are coming in lower than anticipated and impacts Colorado by approximately \$100 million. The obligation limitation may impact Colorado by \$50 million. There are questions about the state's funding shortfalls that suggest that roads would be maintained on a most needed basis and that only the bridges with an *unsafe sufficiency rating* would be repaired or proposed for replacement. Other impacts during the winter months may be more road closures due to snow plow shortages, also unfilled potholes and also longer travel times due to driving slower.

He said that with people driving less and using less gas, the state could action for additional revenue with a VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) fee. A VMT fee would be more reasonable than an increase in licensing which would be cost prohibited. In 2 yrs Colorado will shift to stricter emission control standards for cars sold in the Denver area. Mr. Ahlenius stated his concern that the strict emission standards in larger cities export pollution. He said the vehicles that do not meet the strict emission standards are sold at car auctions for use in smaller cities such as Pueblo and rural areas that do not need to meet the same standards.

**(4) Update and discussion of recent transportation issues (Legislative Session, Federal and State Transportation Budget, RMRA, US 50 West PEL Study, STAC, etc.) Presented by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.**

Mr. Moore reported the RMRA is really beginning to move in conjunction with two studies. The Rail Relocation Study would take the Front Range Rail (*through freight*) and move it 60 miles east out on the plains, and CDOT is studying on how to implement it. This would free up the Front Range Rail Corridor for passenger rail. This would be a public benefit because  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the rail traffic currently on the Front Range Corridor carries coal from *out of state* that is going to *out of state utilities*. The first Public Outreach Meeting for passenger rail feasibility will happen in the next couple months.

The US 50 West corridor Planning and Environmental Linkage Study RFP & RFQ have been completed awaiting release by CDOT. The US50 West corridor is currently the most congested corridor in the Pueblo area and is on the CDOT congestion management program (on the books but not funded). The study will also consider parallel alternative roads to relieve congestion.

STAC is being kept informed of Colorado's budget funding shortfalls. STAC Commissioner Williams suggested that CDOT has done such a good job compensating for the cuts that the public has not yet seen results of the budget shortfalls.

**(5) Open discussion, items from committee members, and scheduling of future agenda items (if any).**

Mr. Moore reported that the travel demand model has strange equations that were miscoded as far back as 1993 and carried through to the I-25 model. He said this is the first time that there are some compatible GIS data for TAZ zones, census block groups and roadway center lines that all fit Pueblo County.

He reported that Dave Cockrell has left UTPD to become Dean at the Business and Technology Center at PCC, and Don Vest has come back from retirement and is working part time (Mondays and Fridays).

Mr. Ahlenius said The Pueblo Transit is promoting riding the bus for free on "Dump the Pump" on June 19<sup>th</sup> to promote the city transit services.

**(6) Adjourned at 10:12am.**