

Minutes of August 7, 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, Alf Randall, Jeff Woeber, Jerry Pacheco, Mike Tedesco, Scott Hobson, Pepper Whittlef, PW– Rick Morgan, and CDOT– Wendy Pettit, Karen Rowe and Leah Ware.

CAC Members present: Chuck Pelto, Shirley Ozzello, Bill Davis and Laurie Clark.

Others present: Pueblo Planning Department – Beritt Odom and Kelly Grisham, Erik Sabina – DRCOG, Kate Hatten – PPACG and Rose Marie Ibanez–UTPD support/minutes.

Mr. Moore called the regular joint meeting of the TAC to order on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 8:40 am in the Pueblo City Council Chambers.

**(1) Approval of the minutes of the regular June 5 meeting. The July meeting was canceled.**

Motion to approve: Mr. Davis

Second: Ms. Clark

Unanimous:

**(2) Consider CDOT Region 2 TIP Amendment request and public notice of “roll forward” TIP/STIP policy amendments. Details are shown in the letter/spreadsheet attachment. Presented by Wendy Pettit Region 2 Planner**

- **SPB6590 – Safety Earmarks in the US 50 East Corridor – Amendment request**

Ms. Rowe reported that the SPB6590 – Safety Earmarked Project has an excess balance of \$1.260 Million dollars from the passing lane project that is underway on US50 that is going to be allocated to another *eligible* safety project on US50 East in the SE TPR area. The earmark funds have restrictions as to the types of projects that are eligible. CDOT is increasing the 2009 funding to \$500,000 to continue the US 50 East EIS Study. Mr. Moore reported that we got about ten to one return on this consolidation.

- **Public Notice of Roll Forward Project Funding – Information Items**

1. **SPB5151 – St. Charles River Bridge – On System Bridge Funds**
2. **SR26644.004 – US 50 West Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Pool Funds**
3. **SPB6296 – William White Blvd - Defense Access Road Funds**
4. **SR25079.012 – Union Avenue Streetscape TEP Pool Funds**
5. **SPB6397 – Dillon Drive Overpass – Earmark Funds**
6. **SR27000.002 – Lime Rd (CR 302) RR Crossing – Railroad Crossing Pool Funds**

Ms. Pettit reported that the *information items 1 thru 6* are basically housekeeping items.

Motion to modify SPB6590 Request: Mr. Davis

Second: Mr. Ahlenius

Unanimous:

**(3) Review of the two Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) FY 2009 grant applications and setting priorities for the two applications received. Presented by Todd Ahlenius, Sr. Planner.**

- **Pueblo Eastern Gateway Landscape Project – Phase 1**

Mr. Hobson reported that City Council approved the grant applications prepared by Ms. Odom and Ms. Grisham. He described the Pueblo Eastern Gateway Landscape Project as enhancing the appearance of the highway 50B and 47 interchange. The 28 acres in the project would be completed in two phases. The first phase would landscape and plant trees in the internal portions of the interchange approximately 10-acres of right of way that are in the city limits. The second phase of the project would be requested in a future application that would complete landscaping in the external portions approximately 18 acres (outside city limits) that would be completed by December 2010. The project components are to prepare the soil for “western Water Wise Plants” and planting ornamental trees this fall that will act as a neighborhood buffer. The grassland and trees would utilize storm water drainage from highway runoff that would be mitigated through the drainage system. The maintenance of this project is already in the City Parks Department budget. This project would achieve improving the physical image of the Eastside that is supported in the Neighborhood Identity Initiative C1.

- **Pueblo Northern Avenue Trail Replacement and Streetscape Project – Phase 1 – Trails – Pueblo Blvd. to Cambridge/Moore, Landscaping**

The first phase completes trail reconstruction and median landscape from Vinewood Lane to Lehigh Avenue to begin in September 2009 and to be completed by July 2010. The second phase of the project that includes the remainder of median landscape from Lehigh Avenue to Prairie Avenue and additional trail construction from Moore Avenue to Prairie Avenue to be completed September 2010.

Staff recommended evaluation of *high* on the both projects but asked the TAC to give one of the projects the distinction of *first preference* over the other.

Motion to approve: Mr. Tedesco–Pueblo Eastern Gateway as 1<sup>st</sup> preference

Second: Mr. Pacheco

Motion carried: Seven to four

**(4) The Front Range Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Survey. Overview presentation. Presented as information only by Erik Sabina, DRCOG.**

Mr. Sabina outlined the package of surveys of how people travel, what kind of trips, what time of day, where, trip linking and car types they buy. The last survey was 14 years ago in Denver, 16 years ago in Pueblo; and Cheyenne in the 1960s. The surveys will be random and geographic made by a phone call to 6,000 households to follow up with a mail packet. The surveys are scheduled for the North Front Range in 2009 and other areas/surveys in spring of 2010. He said the data is critical to the Front Range Rail Corridor Study. There are funding negotiations on-going with RTD, CDOT, others (Cheyenne, WY) on how to pay for it. He said the smaller MPOs would get more bang for their dollar because they can leverage the resources of the larger MPOs, and all MPOs can benefit from each other’s knowledge and experiences. Mr. Pelto asked Mr. Moore how much PACOG could chip in. Mr. Moore said some part of a proposed \$500,000 transit grant that would benefit Pueblo County, Pueblo West and Pueblo since the model does not currently cover the whole I-25 Corridor.

**(5) Ft. Carson Regional Impact Plan. Overview Presentation. Presented as information only by Kate Hatten, PPACG and Rob O'Connor, PPACG. (Mr. O'Connor recently retired and was not present).**

Ms. Hatten outlined the Executive Summary of the Ft. Carson Regional Impact Plan and the economic impacts to El Paso County, Pueblo County and Fremont County. She reported that they expect a total of 18,000 troops assigned of which 13,000 at the post, and 5,000 assigned overseas. She reported that the Pinon Canyon Expansion is not in the study area. The complete adopted plan is on the PPACG website found in the left link as the Military Impact. Mr. Moore said he would provide updates on the activities as he becomes aware.

**(6) Update on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Transportation Finance and Implementation. Presented as information only by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.**

Mr. Moore said the Panel has met twice in this format and they will meet again in a couple weeks. They have divided into four topic area committees. **1).** *Education and Outreach*, **2).** *Strategic Transit*, **3).** *Coalition Building*, and **4).** *Proposal Options* is the one he is involved in. He reported that basically this committee is looking at possible revenues sources that can be identified that would be reasonable prospects to be successful in Colorado given TABOR votes and other complications. He said he would have another update next month.

**(7) The UPWP FY 2009 Budget and notice of PL funds reduction. Presented as Information only by Bill Moore, MPO Administrator.**

Mr. Moore reviewed the Budget issues-mainly, the proposed PL funds reduction by CDOT that resulted from the rescission of total FHWA funding passed by congress in April. The UPWP FY09 Budget PL reflects a cut resulting the total budget amount of \$303,000 instead of the approximately \$350,000 in the UPWP FY09 Budget with No Cut.

**(8) Discussion of current Administration Reauthorization proposal. Open discussion, items from Commission members, and scheduling of future agenda items (if any).**

Mr. Moore described the proposal as insightful about reforming and refocusing the entire transportation program. He said there are now 142 pots of money tailored to specific programs are proposed to be consolidated into eight major areas. Metropolitan Transportation Boards would be created in MPO areas that have a core population of 500,000 and only DRCOG would qualify in Colorado. All the MPOs would most likely be opposed to this proposal being implemented. Some of these ideas on program consolidation may be carried over into the new administration coming in January 2009.

**(9) Adjourned at 10:38am.**