

**MINUTES**  
**PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**THURSDAY, December 11, 2025**

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, December 11, 2025. The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Chair, Brett Boston at 12:08 p.m.

Roll Call: (Wendy Pettit) It was determined a quorum was present.

Members Present were:

Dennis Flores-City Council	Zach Swearingen- County Commissioner
Karim Ayoub-Colorado City	Sarah Martinez – City Council
Chris DeLuca-Dist. 70	Brett Boston -City Council
Miles Lucero – County Commissioner	Paula McPheeters -County Commissioner

Members Absent:

Regina Mastri – City Council	Mike Cafasso-Board of Water Works
Joe Latino – City Council	William Thiebaut -Dist. 60
Roger Gomez – City Council	Ed Gutierrez-Salt Creek Sanitation
Mark Aliff- City Council	Terry Hart, Transportation Commissioner

Staff and Executive Directors:

Carmen Howard- PACOG Manager	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Harley Gifford, PACOG Attorney	Hannah Haunert-PACOG MPO
Wendy Pettit, PACOG Recording Secretary	Dylan Goodman, PACOG MPO
Heather – Graham City of Pueblo Mayor	

Also Present Were:

Jennifer Sparks , CDOT	Sarah skinner- Pueblo County
Geoff Guthrie-CDOT	Laura Leyba-
Lindsey Jaquez - CDOT	Nancy Burke-FRPR
Sal Pace FRPR	

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments were made.

The meeting began with discussions about establishing quorum and addressing logistical matters before proceeding with the main agenda items. Mr. Sal Pace the Front Range Passenger Rail COO presented an update on the Front Range Passenger Rail district's progress and future plans, including service development and preparations for a 2026 ballot measure. After his presentation the meeting reverted to the main agenda items at hand. The entire FRPR presentation is on the County's Civic Plus site at: [Events • Agendas & Minutes - Pueblo County, CO • CivicClerk](#)

## **CONSENT ITEMS:**

**The PACOG consent agenda** was taken as a whole, the September and October financials were filed, the 2025 budget amendment was discussed, the RESPEC work on the 208 plan was implemented, the public posting for the PACOG meetings was approved, the planning and development agreement was all approved, these actions were moved with a motion from Commissioner Miles Lucero and a Second from Mr. Karim Ayoub.

**The MPO consent items** were next on the agenda. There were six resolutions for Consideration, each was taken individually. The first resolution was the Consolidated Planning Grant contract with CDOT for FY 2026. Councilor Sarah Martinez made the motion to approve the contract, and Mr. Ayoub seconded the motion, and it was approved by the PACOG Board. The next resolution was to appoint Mr. Andrew Hayes to the Transportation Technical Committee, which is a subset of the Transportation Advisory Committee, to the MPO and to the PACOG. the resolution was motioned by Councilor Martinez and seconded by Mr. Ayoub and it was approved by the PACOG Board. The next two resolutions assigned safety funds to two specific projects. The \$585,000 in Hazard Elimination funding was assigned to a project to install reflective backplates to the various signal heads in the community. The approval of this project was motioned by Commission Lucero, and seconded by Councilor Flores, and approved by the PAOCG Board. The next project was to provide grant funds from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration to the City's police force for overtime expenses for speed enforcement. The grant acceptance was motioned by Councilor Flores and seconded by Mr. Ayoub and approved by the PACOG Board.

## **REGULAR ITEMS:**

### **1. 2026 Budget hearing:**

The 2026 PACOG Budget hearing was held. The Hearing was opened, the PACOG chair, Mr. Brett Boston, asked for Public comment, seeing none the Board was asked for their comments or questions. Commissioner Lucero asked for a brief overview of the 2026 PACOG budget and its various funding sources. Ms. Wendy Pettit, the PACOG secretary, gave the budget overview. The hearing was then closed and the motion to accept and approve the contribution schedule was made by Councilor Flores and seconded by Commissioner Lucero. The 2026 budget resolution approval was motioned by Mr. Ayoub and seconded by Councilor Martinez, and resolution for the implementation of the work program was motioned by Councilor Flores and seconded by Commissioner Lucero. The three resolutions were approved by the PACOG Board. The budget documents can be found for further review at: [Events • Agendas & Minutes - Pueblo County, CO • CivicClerk](#)

### **2. Safety Performance Measures:**

Ms. Eva Cosyleon gave a presentation on the results of the 2025 Safety Performance activities. She then presented the 2026 information and the safety targets and measures that were developed by the MPO for FY 2026. The vote on adoption of the program measures will happen in January 2026. To review the complete presentation review it at: [Events • Agendas & Minutes - Pueblo County, CO • CivicClerk](#)

### **3. Chairperson's Report:**

- A) Lunch Appreciation - Thank You to the for providing Lunch.
- B) A Thank you was given to Mr. Flores, Ms. Martinez, and Mr. De Luca for their participation and service to the PACOG Board.

4. Transportation Information:

- Transportation Commission (TC) Update for the November 2025 meeting: The update was sent to PACOG as Mr. Terry Hart could not attend in person. Ms. Pettit summarized Mr. Hart's email in the record.
- A. **Ten Year Plan:** CDOT staff presented a basic overview of the 10-year plan process and status, and how it fits into the Statewide Plan (20-year Long Range plan), and how the STIP (4 year allocated plan) then follows. We then received updates on major projects contemplated for regions 3 and 5. (Regions 1, 2 and 4 major projects will be reviewed at the January meeting.) It should be noted that we received a very large number of public comments at this meeting regarding the proposed project to reconstruct I 270 in the north Denver metro area.
- B. **Transportation Asset Management Overview and Review of Surface Treatment Program:** This includes maintenance and surface treatment, specifically including rural roads and Interstate highways. There are 14 assets identified under this program and currently there is insufficient funding to meet all of the requirements of each. So the TC and CDOT do the best they can with the funding that they have available.
- C. **TC Budget:**
  - a. 1. 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Amendment of FY 25-26: The TC approved and adopted this amendment which reallocates \$80 million from the TC Program Reserve fund to the Surface Treatment line; \$14.2 million to the Maintenance Reserve fund to address a personal services budget shortfall ; \$2,000,000 to the agency operations line to replace unreliable exploders used for avalanche mitigation near Loveland pass; and \$1.1 million to the maintenance program areas to cover a late roll forward request related to a striping project in Region 4. \$47.1 million remain in the TC Program Reserve fund.
  - b. 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Budget Supplement of FY 25-26: The TC approved and adopted this supplement to transfer from its Contingency Reserve \$2.1 million to Region 2 to reimburse the region for its critical culvert program and maintenance unit for emergency repairs; and \$5.1 million to Region 5 to replace 2 overhead pipe structures that move irrigation water above state highways. The supplement also increases the budget for Region 1 by \$1.6 million for increased construction costs for budget preventative maintenance for bridge preventative maintenance.
- D. The TC adopted the **Proposed FY 27 Budget** in the total amount of \$2.3b and sent it to the Governor for inclusion in the state budget process.
- E. The TC also received presentations from the **Innovative Mobility Committee**, which referred an **Access Appeal** from Region 5 to an ALJ, and an updated on the **Live Camera system** in Colorado.

F. **Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise Board Meeting:** The BTE Board approved and adopted **5th Budget Supplement** for FY 25-26 in the amount of \$20 million to Region 1 to initiate a construction phase of a previously approved project, and \$1 million to Region 4 to initiate design stage for another previously approved project. The BTE Board also Approved and adopted the proposed annual budget allocation plan for FY20 6-27 in the amount of approximately \$200 million.

G. **Fuels Impact Enterprise Board Meeting:** The FIE Board Approved funds for Region 4 and 5 for resurfacing projects; approved FIE funds for Region 3 for resurfacing projects on I 70; and approved and adopted the proposed Budget Allocation Plan for FY26-27.

H. **Colorado Transportation Investment Office Meeting:** the CTIO Board approved and adopted its Proposed Annual Budget Allocation plan for FY20 6-27; approved the I-25 N Toll Rate Schedule; and approved the Tolling Services Agreement 8th amendment.

o **State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) November 2025 Meeting update –**

The Colorado General Assembly's 2026 legislative session starts January 1

- The Governor's proposed budget includes \$51.4M (and no further cuts) for CDOT, but the State Legislative Joint Budget Committee (JBC) may have other thoughts.
- CDOT will still probably have to play defense on its Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) and other items.
- CDOT is working to ensure that surcharge cuts only last two years as promised.
- CDOT is watching a possible Transit Equity Bill, but will take no formal position until it is introduced. It would include a fiscal note, CDOT recognizes rural challenges, and there could be issues with considering this in conjunction with Bustang needs.

STAC Work Program Development for 2026 (Darius Pakbaz)

- STAC should expect Officer Elections, work on the 10-Year Plan, STIP, Budget, regional project updates, and major transit project updates.
- STAC members provided numerous suggestions for additional work, most notably being a more advisory body and becoming more active with pending legislation and rulemaking, more in-person meetings, the potential to combine in-person STAC meetings with other events, such as relevant transportation-related events. Compliance with PD 1601 is difficult for many Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

Rural Planning Assistance Allocations (Darius Pakbaz )

- Darius wants to do this well in advance of the start of FY27, budgeting up to \$198,000.
- RPA Reimbursement Requests due at least quarterly, and for each fiscal year by September 30.
- Unexpended RPA program funds do not carry over to next fiscal year, but CDOT could discuss transferring some of these funds to other TPRs.

**STAC Action: STAC** approved the proposed FY 2027 Rural Planning Assistance Program allocation.

Draft 10-Year Plan Overview (Darius Pakbaz)

● “The 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan is a launch pad, not a finish line”: Regional Transportation Plans feed into the Statewide Plan, which then feeds into the 10-Year Plan and the 4-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Stakeholder and Public Engagement included over 100 meetings, at least one Telephone Town Hall for each TC district, surveys, and more.

- Performance-Based Planning led to PD14 (Advancing Transportation Safety, Fix Our Roads, and Sustainably Increase Transportation Choice).
- The Greenhouse Gas Planning Standard has helped manage the effects of Colorado’s transportation system on the climate.
- 10-Year Plan cycles are now transitioning from FY2019-27 to **FY2027-36**.
- CDOT estimates spending \$225M/year on its 10-Year Plan, using \$900M strategic funds over the first four years (through STIP), and then \$1.35B in the out years.
- CDOT Regional Staff will identify Priority Projects through TPRs, STAC representatives, TC Work Sessions, Public Outreach, and Stakeholder Support.
- Finalization and adoption of the 10-Year Plan is now anticipated to occur in March 2026.
  - Next briefing to STAC will be in January 2026;
  - Public Review and Comment will be in February 2026;
  - TC adoption of the 10-Year Plan and GHG Report are expected in March 2026;
  - CDOT and MPO/TPR reporting and coordination will take place throughout this period.

CDOT Project and Regional Priorities Discussions:

Jennifer Sparks gave the CDOT project update and she went over the update on the programming of the regional priority funding to the 10-year plan. The funds were added in the amount of \$1,850,000 from FY 26 RPP pool from previous Region-wide RPP program project savings and will be allocated to the I-25 & CO-45 (Pueblo Blvd) Interchange Safety Improvements project.

For further review, all transportation attachments can be found at:

[Events • Agendas & Minutes - Pueblo County, CO • CivicClerk](#)

#### 4. Information Items:

- **MPO Staff Report:**

- a. A presentation on the Annual listing of Federally Obligated projects was given by the PACOG MPO director, Ms. Eva Cosyleon. She stated the information on the federally funded projects in the Pueblo area is located in the packet and on the MPO website for further review.

• **Administrative Amendments from CDOT**

b. Adding Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments into the FY 2025 –2028 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (PACOG TIP)

1. TIP Amend 2024.059.01 Administrative Amendment

Project Name: Region 2 East - Culvert Repair

STIP Number: SR26710.076

Project Location and Description: Culver repair for various locations in Eastern Region 2 along US 50, CO 71, CO 96, CO 196 AND CO 194

Fund Source(s): FY26 Region 2 Critical Culvert Redistribution (CCR)

Fund Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
State	\$232,335	0	0	0	\$232,335
Federal	\$1,117,665	0	0	0	\$1,117,665
Total	\$1,350,000	0	0	0	\$1,350,000

Notes: Programs \$1,350,000 CCR funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 for this existing project

2. TIP Amend 2024.003.02 Administrative Amendment

Project Name: I-25 Median Barrier Phase V

STIP Number: SR27002.079

Project Location and Description: Construction of Median Barrier along I-25 Median from Drew Dix Exit approximately MP 104 to MP 114.0; Work will involve minor median improvements.

Fund Source(s): FY28 Region 2 FASTER Safety Program (FSA)

Fund Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
FSA - State	0	0	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
Total	0	0	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000

Notes: Programs \$1,500,000 FAS funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 for this existing project.

3 TIP Amend 2024.039.02 Administrative Amendment

Project Name: Pueblo Transit Operating

STIP Number: SST6741.028

Project Location and Description: Operation, Preventative Maintenance, Vehicle Purchasing, and Paratransit funds

Fund Source(s): FY22 & FY23 FTA 5307

Fund Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Federal	\$265,219	\$230,400	0	0	\$495,619
Local	\$22,781	\$57,600	0	0	\$80,381
Total	\$288,000	\$288,000	0	0	\$576,000

Notes: Closing out previous grant years and moving funds to FY25 and FY26 for vehicle purchases  
 Date: 11/12/2025

4. TIP Amend 2024.040.02 Administrative Amendment Project Name: Pueblo Transit – Subsidized Van Pool STIP Number: SST7077.070  
 Project Location and Description: Van Pool  
 Fund Source(s): ARPA & MMOF

Fund Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
ARPA	-\$249,800	0	0	0	-\$249,800
MMOF	0	\$249,800	0	0	\$249,800
Total	-\$249,800	\$249,800	0	0	0

Notes: Swapping federal ARPA funds with state MMOF funding from Connecting Communities

5. TIP Amend 2024.049.03 Administrative Amendment Project Name: Connecting Communities  
 STIP Number: SR27016.013  
 Project Location and Description: Various Projects around Pueblo  
 Fund Source(s): ARPA & MMOF

Fund Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
ARPA	\$249,800	0	0	0	\$249,800
MMOF	0	-\$249,800	0	0	-\$249,800
Total	\$249,800	-\$249,800	0	0	0

Notes: Swapping State MMOF funds w/ Federal ARPA funds from Van Pool

6. Re-Adding Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments into the FY 2025 –2028 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (PACOG TIP)  
 Action Required: Informational TIP Amend 2024.065  
 Project Name: Pueblo Transit Fixed Route Bus/Vehicle Replacements 10-Year Plan ID: 2566  
 Project Location and Description: vehicle purchasing Fund Source(s): Senate Bill 267

Fund Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
SB 267	0	\$3,900,000	0	0	\$3,900,000
Total	0	\$3,900,000	0	0	\$3,900,000

Notes: Already has gone through its own public approval.

Other Business:

- a. None; No new business was brought up, no public comments were given, and no future agenda items were submitted.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:12 pm

