

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Larry Atencio, PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Larry Atencio
Mike Cafasso
Barbara Clementi
Harry Hochstetler
Chris DeLuca
Dennis Flores

Epimenio Griego
Ed Gutierrez
Vicente Martinez Ortega
Garrison Ortiz
Zach Swearingen

Those members absent were:

Heather Graham
Regina Maestri
Sarah Martinez

Doug Proal
Lori Winner

Also present were:

Terry Hart
Sabina Genesisio
Dan Kogovsek
Nick Gradisar

Carmen Howard
Eva Cosyleon
Tawnya Stringer

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Atencio asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like an item removed or discussed that was on the Consent agenda. There were no other additions or amendments.

It was moved by Mike Cafasso, seconded by Vicente Martinez Ortega, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of the December 8, 2022 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (receive and file November 2022 Financial Report);

- A Resolution Approving the FY 2023 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Delegation Agreement for Regional Land Use Planning and Administration and Authorizing the Chairperson of PACOG to Execute Same
- A Resolution Appointing a Representative and Alternates from the Pueblo Area Council of Governments MPO/TPR to the State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)
- A Resolution Approving a Revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) By and Between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) and the State of Colorado through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive Transportation Planning in the Pueblo Metropolitan Area and Transportation Planning Region
- A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Budget for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) for Fiscal Year 2023
- A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization to Include the 2023 Colorado Department of Transportation Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (MMOF-ARPA-SLFRF) Grant of \$200,000 into FY 22-23 Budget and the Inclusion of Areas of Persistent Poverty Program, an FTA-D-AOPP-10 Grant to be Included in Said Program
- A Resolution Approving the 2023 Colorado Department of Transportation Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (MMOF-ARPA-SLFRF) Funds Grant Agreement Between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Transportation, an Agency of the State of Colorado, and Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute Same
- A Resolution Approving the Amended 2023 Delegation Agreement Between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) and the City of Pueblo for Transportation Planning Services to Include Additional Funds of \$200,000 into FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute the Same, and Authorizing and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Administer the Agreement in Compliance with All Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Atencio thanked the Pueblo Board of Water Works for providing lunch for the meeting.

B) PACOG Nominating Committee for 2023 Officers

Garrison Ortiz reported the PACOG Nominating Committee met on January 18, 2023 and selected the following slate of officers for 2023: Larry Atencio, Chair; Zach Swearingen, Vice Chair; Dennis Flores, Treasurer; and Tawnya Stringer, Secretary.

It was moved by Mike Cafasso and seconded by Vicente Martinez Ortega and passed unanimously to accept the PACOG Nominating Committee's report and approve the following slate of officers for 2023:

- Chairman – Larry Atencio
- Vice-Chairman – Zach Swearingen
- Treasurer – Dennis Flores
- Secretary – Tawnya Stringer

C) Appointment of PACOG Budget Committee

Chairman Atencio asked if there was any member who would like to serve. He stated he will serve as the City's representative on the PACOG Budget Committee. Mr. Ortiz volunteered to serve once again as the County's representative. Mr. Flores would continue to serve on the Committee since he was appointed as PACOG's Treasurer.

It was moved by Mike Cafasso, seconded by Vicente Martinez Ortega, and passed unanimously to approve the following individuals to serve on the 2023 PACOG Budget Committee: Dennis Flores, Larry Atencio, and Garrison Ortiz.

D) Introduction of New Members

Chairman Atencio welcomed Mr. Zach Swearingen, who will be serving as Pueblo Board of County Commissioners and replacing Chis Wiseman.

MANAGER'S REPORT

A) EPAC Minutes/Statement Report

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported the December 1, 2022 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee minutes were included in the PACOG members' packets.

This being an information item, no formal action was required.

B) 2022 Annual Watershed Planning Report

Mr. Douglas Schwenke, Principal Engineer with RESPEC provided a brief update concerning Mr. Michael Bartoli from St. Charles Mesa who is conducting a study of the impact of the Onsite Waste Water Treatment System (OWTS) for the St. Charles Mesa ground and surface water in the area. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will be providing sampling assistance on the St. Charles River to include personal wells for the study free of charge.

Mr. Schwenke provided an update on the 2022 Annual Watershed Planning Report which was disseminated to PACOG and EPAC. The report included the results of the survey that was sent out to around 99 stakeholders and received 33 replies. He explained the largest part of the report set the stage for the recommendation of the preparation EPA 9-Element Watershed Plan. They have received funding to begin working on the report. Two of the three 208 agencies in the state have received funding for the report as well. The number one preferred project being the OWST contamination plan and the St. Charles Mesa impacts of nitrogen study previously being mentioned being number two. The two studies are related and will be combined to focus the efforts on the area for the report.

This being an information item, no formal action was required.

GRANT NAVIGATOR CONTRACTS

Ms. Sabina Genesisio, County Manager and PACOG Co-Executive Director, gave a brief update on the process concerning the scope of work and job description for the Grant Navigator. She was ready to move forward on posting the position as a contracted position.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Laurel Jones stated she was a temporary fill in for Ajin Hu who retired at the end of January.

Mr. Terry Hart, Region 10 Transportation Commissioner, reported CDOT reported he attended the State Transportation Commission meeting on February 16th. The 2023 budget for the current fiscal year was discussed along with heading into the new budget for 2024 beginning in July. The new budget is \$1.8 billion with the new revenue and expenditures being proposed however, with the ongoing projects added to that budget it adds up to \$2.5 billion.

Mr. Hart informed PACOG that Colorado received a poor highway safety reporting with a 3.9% rating for highway conditions. He stated the rating was not good and if a state was to reach a 5% rating the federal government would step in and remove some of the discretionary funding.

Mr. Hart stated the Commission also discussed the Colorado ITS Fiber Program as Colorado is rapidly increasing the states fiber extension in order to handle our transportation needs.

Mr. Hart updated PACOG on the excellent presentation from Innovative Mobility related to the advanced technologies making smart highways to interact with vehicles and the evolution toward Electric Vehicles (EV). He stated Colorado was currently #6 for new EVs sold in the nation and #7 for total EVs throughout the nation.

Mr. Hart gave a brief overview of the discussion they had regarding the Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise which the Transportation Commission is the governing body of.

Discussion occurred

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC)

Mr. Zach Swearingen stated he was new to PACOG and the position however, he was brought up to speed by Ms. Eva Cosyleon and Mr. Aaron Willis concerning transportation in the region. He believed the largest project currently was that of I-25 and Highway 50B. He stated he would do what he could to help Pueblo County receive funding for roadway projects.

Ms. Eva Cosyleon informed the Board there needed to be an alternate identified for STAC. She provided an update from the last STAC meeting informing PACOG there were 107-projects completed last year, 129 projects that had been awarded, and over \$840,000,000 was spent on the projects.

STATUS ON FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT

Mr. Dennis Flores, PACOG's representative to the Front Range Passenger Rail District, updated the Board on the goal of the Commission to place the initiative on a ballot for the citizens to authorize a tax to pay for the infrastructure of the rail system. They currently have a special development plan with several consultants who are looking at how to present it to the public.

MPO STAFF REPORT

A) Highway 50B and Highway 50C at 36th Ln.

Mr. Matt Jagow, CDOT informed the Board of the Open House, scheduled on March 7, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Vineland Middle School located at 1132 36th Ln. Pueblo, Co. 81006. A flyer of the event was provided to the Board.

Ms. Eva Cosyleon asked that the Board appoint an alternate for the STAC representative, Mr. Swearingen. Mr. Epimenio Griego volunteered to be the alternate.

It was moved by Mr. Mike Cafasso and seconded by Mr. Dennis Flores and passed unanimously to accept the STAC Representative Alternate be Mr. Griego.

B) CDOT Region II Request for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Amendment, FY 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager, reported the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) administrative modifications.

1. Project TIP Amend. #2023.001 known as the Dillon Frontage Road exit 104 North to Drew Dix for Intersection Improvements at I-25 and Dillon Road funded by SB 267 2023. Cost of the project is \$3,152,413.
2. Project TIP Amend. #2023.002 known as Pueblo Transit Areas of Persistent Poverty funding source FY 2021 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Federal Program. Cost of the project is \$180,000.
3. Project TIP Amend. #2023.003 known as East 8th Street Bridge Repairs for rehabilitation work at East 8th St. funded by Off-System Bridge Program (BRO). Cost of the project is \$131,250.
4. Project TIP Amend. #2023.004 known as I-25 Exit 108, Box Culvert for the design of I-25 and Exit 108 funded by FY 2026 RPP Federal Program. Cost of the project is \$500,000.
5. Project TIP Amend. #2023.005 known as U.S 50 Drainage for proper drainage funded by JY 2027 RPP Federal Program. Cost of the project is \$1,700,000.
6. Project TIP Amend. #2023.006 known as U.S. 50 \$ Co 213 Intersection Improvements FY 2025 for funded by FY 2024 FASTER. Cost of the project is \$1,240,437.
7. Project TIP Amend. #2023.007 known as Pueblo I-25 Corridor U.S. 50 B Interchange Construction funded through Federal Program Funds. Cost of the project is \$3,400,000.
8. Project TIP Amend. #2023.008 known as I-25 Pueblo North Truck Parking Lot for the design and construction of new truck parking lot in North Pueblo along I-25 near exit for Love's Truck Stop, funded by Federal Program Funds and State Matching Funds. Cost of the project is \$2,500,000.

9. Project TIP Amend. #2023.009 known as I-25 at U.S. 50 B Reconstruction for the reconstruction of the I-25 & U.S. 50 B Interchange and replacing existing three U.S. B Bridges over I-25, over Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road, and over Fountain Creek. Funding source is FY 2023 National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Project Award and State Matching Funds. Cost of the project is \$6,000,000.
10. Project #2023.010 known as CO-165A Guardrail Safety Improvements for the installation of Safety Guardrail from MM 28.44 to 33.83 along the Corridor. Funding Source is FY 23 FASTER Safety Region 2 Pool and State Matching Funds. Cost of project is \$72,000.
11. Project TIP Amend. #2023.011 known as U.S 50 B and U.S 50 C at CO 231 Safety Improvements for the installation of safety improvements at the two intersections. Funded by FY 24 FASTER Safety Region 2 Pool State Matching Funds. Cost of project is \$47,169.
12. Project TIP Amend. #2023.012 known as I-25 Frontage Road at Dillon Drive and Drew Dix Parkway for the design and construction of intersection improvements funded by FY 23 RPP State Matching Funds. Cost of the project is \$500,000.

C) Complete Streets

Ms. Eva Cosyleon gave a brief presentation on a workshop that was completed on January 17, 2023 for Complete Streets. She invited about 50 people with 26 in attendance. She provided a slide show which contained information as it related to the workshop along with a verbal presentation. The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2023.

D) Safety Street for All (SS4A) Grant

Ms. Eva Cosyleon stated the city applied for the planning grant and received it out of 20 counties that were selected with Pueblo receiving the highest funded grant. She will keep the Board updated on the progress of the grant due to the approved matching funds request made in 2022 for grants that she plans to implement for this grant.

E) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Ms. Eva Cosyleon informed the Board this was another grant as call for projects had been announced. CDOT had two mandatory meetings specifically for grants related to bike and pedestrian environmental mitigation and historic scenic and transportation activities. The grant wasn't for a lot of money but is highly competitive with \$2.4 million for all of region 2. There will be (5) different selection committees from the (5) different MPOs.

F) Other Transportation Matters

Ms. Eva Cosyleon stated Ajin Hu had retired from CDOT but was now working for FHWA as the Grant Coordinator for the region.

She informed the Board that Mr. Shane Ferguson was identified as the new Region 2 Transportation Director.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Flores requested that Brian Robinson with WSP Consulting Firm be placed on the next agenda to present his drawing and concept for the Train Depot Train Station.

Ms. Barbara Clementi asked if PACOG would like regular reports on the (5) new schools District 60 would be opening in August. Chairman Atencio asked that she be contacted to confirm the item be placed onto the April or May agenda.

Ms. Sabina Genesisio asked to be on the next agenda to provide any updates to the Grant Navigator in the event they receive any interested responses to the position. Chairman Atencio agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, Chairman Atencio adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Tawnya Stringer
PACOG Recording Secretary



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