

<h1 style="margin: 0;">MINUTES</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</h2>
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A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, June 27, 2024. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Chairman, Mark Aliff at 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present were:

Brett Boston	Danya Esgar
Dennis Flores	Mark Aliff
William Thiebaut	Harry Hochstetler
Chris DeLuca	Ed Gutierrez

Members Absent:

Mike Cafasso	Joseph Latino -City Council
Heather Graham – Mayor City of Pueblo	Roger Gomez -City Council
Roger Gomez -City Council	Terry Hart – Transportation Commissioner
Doug Proal -Pueblo West	Sarah Martinez City Council
Eppie Greigo	Zach Swearingen
Regina Mastri – City Council	

.Also Present Were:

Sarah Skinner -Pueblo County	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Geoff Guthrie-CDOT	Hannah Haurert -PACOG MPO
Scott Skinner -CDOT	Jennifer Sparks-CDOT
Don Bruestle Planning Commission	Isabel Rollins -Grant Navigator
Sabina Geniso, Pueblo County	Lindsey Jaquez-CDOT
Dillion Goodman PACOG MPO	Carmen Howard – Pueblo County
Maureen Paz de Araujo, - Wilson and Co.	Carla Sikes- Pueblo City Attorney
Laura Leyba, ADA committee	

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

PACOG Chair, Mark Aliff called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm

Roll call was taken, and it was determined there was a quorum present.

First items of the agenda:

The CONSENT ITEMS were first on the agenda. Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, presented the following:

- 1 Minutes of May 23, 2024, Meeting were presented for edits and approval.
- 2 The January, February, March, and April 2024 Financial Reports were received and filed.

A motion was made to accept the minutes and file the financial statements by Commissioner Esgar and seconded by Councilor Dennis Flores.

Next on the agenda were the regular items:

1. Chairperson's Report:
 - A) Lunch Appreciation: Mr. Aliff thanked Dist. 60 for the catered lunch.
 - B) New City Councilor, Brett Boston was introduced to the Board, and attendees. He replaces Charles Hernandez.
2. Manager's Report: (Ms. Carmen Howard) covered the following items under her report.
 - A) First item on the agenda was Future agenda items. Ms. Howard asked the Board if there were future agenda items, they had an interest in or topics that they wanted more information on, she asked that they be sent to Wendy Pettit, or herself, or Mark Aliff, the chair of PACOG so they could be added to the agenda.
 - B) Environmental Justice Issues presentation : The presentation was given by Aaron Martinez of then Pueblo Dept of Health and environment. Mr. Martinez gave a presentation on several environmental issues happening in the County. The first issue he spoke on was the superfund site, he stated that the PDPHE has been working with the EPA over several years now. The EPA is doing the clean up on the site. He went on to talk about the Colorado enviro-screen. CDPHE put this tool together for the entire state. The tool measures the score of the 5 components and then combines five components for a final score. The 5 areas are: Environmental exposures, Environmental effects, Climate vulnerability, Sensitive population, and Demographics. Pueblo county is top on the list with issues from this ranking, next is Otero County, followed by Las Animas County.

Mr. Martinez then went on to give information on some of the current environmental issues facing Pueblo County. The first topic was the Grove Diesel Plume. There have been sites sampled, along Sante Fe Avenue and the EPA has helped with the cost and actual sampling in the area. The storm sewer has a strong smell any time the water table is raised. The diesel then leaches into the storm water and the smell is very strong when this happens. In the past the fire department has been put on notice of the situation. Commissioner Esgar asked what the source of the diesel was, and Mr. Martinez stated they were not sure. I could have been a spill, or an old storage tank that leaked on the railroad property in the area.

The next issues Mr. Martinez reported on is the storage of large commercial tires. The tire storage area is located on Huckleberry Road, which is near the Otero County and Pueblo County line. The tires came from Grizzley Tire originally in Fowler, Colorado. This is a waste tire generator. The business owner was under CDPHE orders to get the numbers down to a manageable level for some time now, in 2020 he purchased 40 acres land in Pueblo County. He then moved the tires to Pueblo County. The business owner originally wanted to use the property as a storage facility, but he was not able to meet the requirements necessary for the activity, so instead he applied for beneficial use, and he proceeded to make the tires into a fence. Without the proper finishing of the fence, such as filling in the center space of the tires with concrete or dirt, the tires will create a breeding ground for mosquitoes and pose a fire hazard as they sit now. Without cooperation from the owner this site can become a legacy dumping site, there are over 300 tires there on the property now.

The third topic discussed was the EAF Slag pile. This area is on the EVRAZ property and there is no barrier to keep the waste on the property. As the components of the slag break down, they move right into the Salt Creek. The Salt Creek is not considered a water body of the state so there is no regulation enforced. This has created an issue with far reaching problems. The Salt Creek empties into the Arkansas River.

The last item of the presentation Mr. Martinez talked about was the award of a grant to study co2 emissions to the School of Mines. The grant will take the co2 emissions from around the state, capture the co2 emissions, mix them with saline and inject the mix into the ground. The pueblo area has the type of sandstone they want to use for the storage experiment. The awardees are looking at a type 6 well to do the storage, and we do not currently have any type 6 wells in Colorado.

Mr. Martinez then asked for questions. Councilor Flores asked for who would be responsible for allowing these items. The tire issue is handled by the State of Colorado health department, and they are okay with the fence as a solution, so at this point it's above the health department for other solutions. If compliance is not met the County will have to treat it as a nuisance. A question was asked if the tires could be used to fuel the CGC cement plant. Mr. Martinez stated that was a good direction for use of the tires, but there would need to be equipment to handle the shredding of the tires into small enough pieces for use. As of now, there is no equipment. Mr. Flores asked where the funds are coming from to help with the diesel spill. The EPA was able to get funds to study the diesel spill, The results were sent on to the CDPHE and they sent it on to the Division of Oil and the Division of Oil sent the Pueblo Health Department a letter stating no further action was needed. Mr. Martinez left a copy of the letter with the PACOG Board. Mr. Martinez stated he was asking the EPA to help with a direction to deal with the diesel plume. The EPA is the body to take up the issue for a direction and a solution. Next Commission Esgar has a few questions. The carbon capture project

location was one of the questions, she wanted to know if the property was private property, Mr. Martinez stated he did not know who owns the property where the study is taking place or where it is located, he said he thought the School of Mines was talking with the City or County on the project. He stated the \$32 million dollar grant for the project came from the department of energy. There very well may be many issues with the pressures put on the area from the ground storage of the co2, there could be fault lines effected, ground water, etc. Commissioner Esgar asked Mr. Martinez to investigate the project further and share any information he found with her and the commissioners. There is a lot of funding tied up in this project and she asked what Pueblo County gets out of the project. Mr. Martinez also got another question on the on how we move the diesel spill up in the que? It is a Pueblo problem, and we can't wait to see what the federal branches will or won't do, we need to be proactive for the community. It was decided to hold a meeting for information and direction. Data was to be sent to Sabina Geniso for distribution. Mr. William Thiebaut, spoke on the Dist. 60 processes to attract new students to the community. The County cannot be used as a dumping ground, it does not aid the growth or best interests of the community. The PDPHE will circle back with the City and County on the support needs for these topics and share any further information that becomes available.

- C) Grant Navigator Report was given by Ms. Isabel Rollins. Ms. Rollins went through presentation on recaps from the last year and updates to the BIL/IIJA legislation that created the grant programs available for federal funding needs for transportation. The grant navigator looks an all types of funding, to match the needs of the community with the available grant funds for infrastructure. She also touched on Justice 40 initiative. The Justice 40 Initiative is a program set forth by the Federal government to ensure that 40% of the overall benefit of certain investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution, to address decades of underinvestment in these areas. She also touched on the Inflation reduction act. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed in October 2022, is the largest climate/energy-related investment in our history, and includes funding for clean energy projects, pollution controls, tax breaks on electric vehicles, and solar and battery manufacturing. She went to compare priorities at the state level and the community level. She also went over the community survey results from September of 2023. She gave an overview of the top 10 priorities out of the survey. She also mentioned the PACOG website has a resource page to access the grant information. This information can be accessed at: <https://www.pacog.net/grantnav>

The slides from her presentation, her regular monthly report and IIJA awards can be found in the attachments for the PACOG meeting packet for this month.

The grant navigator duties will be changing, and Isabel Rollins will be leaving her roll as the Grant navigator.

Next on the regular agenda were the following items:

- 3. Neither Terry Hart nor Shane Ferguson were in attendance to give the CDOT update. The CDOT region 2 update for June was given by Jennifer Sparks. She stated the Transportation Commission has made Commissioner Hart the chair of the body for this session. She went over the project list included in the packet. For specific details, the document is included in the PAOCG packet this month for the June 2024 updates

4 **State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)**

May 2nd, 2024, Meeting report was given by Eva Cosyleon, the PACOG MPO director. The main topics from the meeting were the kickoff of the 2050 transportation plan ,Policy Directive 14, Changes to the rural funding for transportation planning, and the changes to the MMOF allocations. The CDOT planners will be making an outreach to schedule a meeting to talk about the plan, and the logistics of the process soon. The focus of the 2050 plan will be safety, transit, asset management. The Policy directive 14 will be updated with the transportation commission and the CDOT Division of Planning is also waiting for all of the formulas to be finalized with the transportation commission to begin the plan. The rural planning grant was increased for travel to STAC, and rural planning to \$12,000 for this year. The Multimodal funds were also discussed. The Transportation Commission adopted an urban formula change that reduced the vehicles, transit, jobs and school-age criteria weighting in favor of adding weighting to the 65+ and disabled criteria. All distribution formulas were updated to use the most recent criteria data. There was a \$10 million dollar transfer of Local MMOF funding from MMOF to the Zero Fare Transit program under SB24-032. However, Retail Delivery Fee revenues have been higher than expected and administrative set-aside funding has been returned to the Local pools, which means that original program funding projections will not be reduced, and therefore projects previously awarded funds will still be fully funded. Many STAC members appreciated that the higher Retail Delivery Fee revenues and rolled funds will allow for projects to continue without impacts to previously awarded amounts, but many emphasized that the funding change would have had a large negative impact without these higher revenues.

5. **MPO Staff Report**
(Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager)

Ms. Cosyleon went through the transportation policy amendments for the month of June. Details for the changes are below, the three requests were approved with a motion by Dennis Flores and a second by commissioner Esgar.

- A RESOLUTION ASSIGNING MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION AND MITIGATION OPTION (MMO), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$128,000 FOR THIS PROJECT THAT PROMOTES “COMPLETE AND INTEGRATED MULTIMODAL SYSTEM”*

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
MMOF	0	\$128,000	0	0	0	\$128,000.00
Local	0	\$21,000	0	0	0	\$21,000.00
Total	0	\$149,000.00	0	0	0	\$149,000.00

- A RESOLUTION ASSIGNING MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION AND MITIGATION OPTION (MMO), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 FOR THIS PROJECT THAT PROMOTES “COMPLETE AND INTEGRATED MULTIMODAL SYSTEM”*

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
MMOF	\$ 1,000,000.00					\$ 1,000,000.00

- A RESOLUTION ASSIGNING THE STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE, LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$875,000 AND ASSIGNING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 603(C) (1) PROJECT NO CI2113 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$875,000 FOR PLAY FAIR PARK (LAKE MINNEQUA) TO BE AN ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AND TRAIL.*

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
LWCF	\$875,000	0	0	0	0	\$875,000.00
Local	\$875,000	0	0	0	0	\$875,000.00
Total	\$1,750,000.00	0	0	0	0	\$1,750,000.00

The 2021 Top 25 High Crash Locations and Fatal Locations was next on the agenda. The presentation was given by Hannah Haurert from the MPO. This was a carryover from last month’s agenda. She went over the top 3 areas were:

- 1 Hwy 47 & Dillon Dr with 33 crashes
- 2 Hwy 50A & Elizabeth St with 33 crashes
- 3 Hwy 50A & Club Manor Dr with 30 crashes

The details of the types of crashes are in the packet for further review, there is also a map showing the entire report locations and the ranking of the crash location as well as a map showing the fatal crash locations in 2021.

Mr. Dennis Flores asked if the information here was supplied to the Pueblo Police and Sheriff’s department. Ms. Haurert stated the police do get the information and they could pass the information on to the Pueblo Sheriff’s office. The information provided is used for safety grants, the safe routes to school grant application and will be used for the safe streets for all grants. The city public work director explained that the data will be utilized with the County participation to do the analysis of the data for the safe streets for all grant. This cooperative effort will happen on July 10th.

Ms., Cosyleon stated CDOT Region 2 submitted administrative amendments for June 2024. She asked if there were questions on the submittals, with no questions, these items are informational and are included in the PACOG June packet for review.

- C) Other Transportation Matters – No other matters were brought forward for discussion.
6. The last of the regular items were presented. The vacancies on the Citizens Services Advisory Committee ballots were distributed and were voted upon for June 2024 appointments and collected for tally and confirmation.
 7. Next New Business was called for with no new items brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT of the regular meeting was made by Mr. Aliff at 1:32pm (WJP)

The next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is to be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at the PUEBLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 101 WEST 10TH STREET, FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM the meeting will be held in-person and virtually via Zoom.

INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY PACOG AT (719) 553-2259 AT LEAST TWO (2) WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

* Denotes additional materials are attached.

** Denotes material to be distributed at PACOG Meeting