

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MARCH 25, 2021

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, March 25, 2021. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Aliff, PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Mark Aliff
Larry Atencio
Ed Brown
Barbara Clementi
Greg Collins

Epimenio Griego
Garrison Ortiz
Bob Schilling
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Mike Cafasso
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano
Dennis Flores

Ed Gutierrez
Doug Proal
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Nick Gradisar
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek
Hugh Parker
Louella Salazar

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were two items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Aliff 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 Epimenio Griego, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of February 25, 2021 Meeting; and
- A Resolution Approving an Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year 2020 for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, State of Colorado.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Aliff stated he did not have anything to report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement Report

Ms. Howard reported in the members' packets are the minutes of the February 4, 2021 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee meeting.

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

(B) Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Howard reported there are preliminary documents relating to the fiscal impact analysis and the State of the County, which are currently being reviewed by Core Team and will be made available soon for the public. The results have been compiled from the survey that was done during the months of January and February. The results are available on the website. Additionally, the Agricultural Focus Group is being formulated and will be meeting later in April. A draft of the preliminary plan framework is in progress. The consultants are working on setting up a series of youth workshops and are planning a round of community stakeholder meetings in late April and early May.

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

(C) 208 Water Quality Management Plan Update

Ms. Howard reported on February 8, 2021, Mr. Doug Schwenke from JDS-Hydro Consultants, Inc. and she presented the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Update to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission. The Plan was approved unanimously. The process was successful, and the Commission was pleased with the Plan. She thanked Mr. Schwenke for all his help

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

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, Region 10 Transportation Commissioner.

Mr. Richard Zamora, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported staff is working on planning for Year 3 of Senate Bill 267. The issuance is expected to be approximately \$565 million in COPs. This should occur around the end of April or early May. Staff has been working on project lists and planning with all their different partners, including PACOG, to develop what it would look like from a Region 2 perspective. Region 2 is expected to get about \$146 million to put towards projects. There are two major projects in the PACOG area. The first is I-25 and the Highway

50B exit, at an allocation of \$12 million. This would complete all the right-of-way acquisition, as well as the final design so that it is properly aligned. It is anticipated that construction of the project will be completed in Year 4. The other project which is proposed is the Dillon Drive interchange. There is a project that is planned on the frontage roads, noting some of the scope had to be removed due to funding. The anticipated funding of \$1.5 million will allow them to add the scope back in.

Mr. Zamora stated on the transit side, CDOT staff is looking at the North Pueblo mobility hub and funding some capital construction at \$3.9 million. Another project that is not directly in the PACOG area, but which PACOG might have interest, is reserving \$1 million for a CRISI grant match for Southwest Chief track improvements. He stated CDOT is also keeping \$2.1 million for a grant match for the Pueblo Administrative and Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Zamora stated these proposals were taken to the State Transportation Advisory Commission (STAC) and State Transportation Commission in March. CDOT staff is anticipating taking these to STAC for formal endorsement, as well the State Transportation Commission in April or May.

Mr. Zamora stated late last year and early this year the Governor indicated he would be looking at doing some stimulus funding. Legislation has been passed successfully to fund a new grant program, and continue the grant program from last year, for \$30 million. There are two different kinds of grants available to local entities. The first being a larger infrastructure grant, which falls under the guise of the Revitalizing Main Streets program. There is an opportunity for safety grants to address safety issues on various roadways. There is a total of \$22 million Statewide. The grant amounts are up to \$2 million with a 10% match, which can be in-kind. The other opportunity is for smaller multi-modal resiliency projects. There is roughly \$9 million allocated Statewide, noting those grant amounts are up to \$150,000 per project. It is to provide improved spaces for mobility community activities and economic development in the wake of COVID-19. He stated they have a website which fully explains the grants and opportunities. He stated he or his staff can be reached for any questions. Chairman Aliff asked for the website. Mr. Zamora responded he would send the information via email to Ms. Salazar to distribute to the members.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG STAC representative, reported a PowerPoint was presented at the last STAC meeting. He stated he sent the material to Ms. Salazar to send out on the CCAT Highway Briefing material, so she could distribute it to the members. They are calling it the biggest investment in highways and roads in Colorado. It is also one of the largest investments into rural roads. There are supposed to be creative things which can be done for new construction with HUTF funds. They are proposing to pay for it through a variety of different ways, which include road usage, electric vehicle fees, online retail order fees, personal car share fees, rental fees, taxi fees, AV safety fees, etc. Many of those fees would be indexed forever. Once they are put into place, they will stay in place. They are also talking about a gas fee increase of 2¢ every two years until we get to 8¢. Additional Federal funds and stimulus money would be used for a lot of these programs. He stated he will forward to Ms. Salazar the more comprehensive information that the Senate and House members provided to the Legislature, which she can provide to the members. This also has the support of the Governor. He stated he didn't think that a bill has been introduced yet, noting only the presentation has

been given on the structure. Once this information is obtained, he will make sure everyone gets a copy of the bill. Mr. Zamora added that the bill is still being drafted.

STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG Southwest Chief Passenger Rail representative, reported he would like to focus on the Front Range Rail proposal. They received a briefing yesterday on the proposed lines which would start in Pueblo and end up in Fort Collins. He also received from the Front Range Rail group a brochure which lays out the costs and what the different areas are doing as far as trying to accommodate stations, rail service, etc. There is a proposal where there would be one line going out towards the Denver International Airport and back into Fort Collins. Another would go from Denver out to Boulder and then into Fort Collins. Another would go from Pueblo to Colorado Springs to Castle Rock. The proposal is to have this in place by 2045. They are obtaining great support from the Legislature. Everyone is counting on Federal funds to help this along. He stated he would email the material to Ms. Salazar to distribute to the members.

MPO STAFF REPORT

- (A) A Resolution Adopting the 2 and 4-Year Performance Targets Established by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for PM2-Infrastructure Condition and PM3-System Performance for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization as per 23 U.S.C. 150

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this item pertains to what is called PM2-Infrastructure Condition, which are basically pavement conditions and bridge conditions. PM3 is the system performance. Historically, PACOG has taken the State's performance targets. The local MPO doesn't have the capability of doing some of these, such as air quality control. This resolution reaffirms that PACOG accepts the State's performance measures for the two and four-year targets. This is a requirement from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Adopting the 2 and 4-Year Performance Targets Established by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for PM2-Infrastructure Condition and PM3-System Performance for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization as per 23 U.S.C. 150".

- (B) Budget Modification to the Update of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Adams reported as required by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration every five years we must develop a long-range transportation plan. Staff was almost done with the plan and the Federal Highway Administration notified them that they also needed to do a report on how they did on performance. It was always kind of understood since the State's performance measure was accepted that this would be enough. The \$39,500 change order would allow staff to complete the update of the Plan. The deadline for adoption of the Plan is June, but staff is anticipating that it will be done in May. A 30-day public comment is required. This will go to the City of Pueblo as an amendment to the agreement. There are funds in the budget to cover this additional cost.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Barbara Clementi, and passed unanimously to approve the budget modification to the Update of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

(C) Request(s) for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Administrative Amendment(s)
FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
TIP/STIP in the MPO and TPR Area

Mr. Adams reported this is an administrative amendment to PACOG's four-year transportation program. This project pertains to Prairie Avenue improvements from Blocks 1300 to 2700 or Northern Avenue to Pueblo Boulevard-State Highway 45. The cost of the project is \$4,166,352, noting this would basically be for burying the cables underneath the sidewalks to make everything ADA accessible along the route. It increases the project cost, but it does nothing to the local cost, noting it is going to be borne by the Black Hills Energy agreement with the City of Pueblo.

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the administrative TIP/STIP amendment.

(D) Request(s) for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Amendment(s)
FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
TIP/STIP Administrative Amendment(s) to Roll-Forward Projects in the MPO and TPR Area

Mr. Adams reported several years ago a highway safety project was approved by PACOG for the Pueblo West Metropolitan District regarding Platteville Turn Lanes. When those bids were opened, the District could not afford those funds, noting this has been on the backburner since then. The District has the funds now, which increases the project amount. This project, which is from Purcell Boulevard north of Highway 50 to a point on Industrial Avenue then east on Industrial Boulevard to the SDS Corridor, needs to be rolled forward into the current TIP. The total amount on the amendment is \$273,714.

Mr. Schilling stated that there are huge mounds of dirt which have been built on Purcell. He asked what the purpose of the mounds was. Mr. Adams replied the plan is to build Highway 50 over the top of Purcell. Mr. Schilling asked when this would be finished. Mr. Adams replied in 2023.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Barbara Clementi, and passed unanimously to approve the TIP/STIP administrative amendment.

(E) Other Transportation Matters

There were no other transportation matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Barbara Clementi, School District No. 60 Board of Directors, reported that District 60 will be breaking ground next week on the two new high schools (i.e., Centennial and East). She noted that 80% of all the funds will be going to Pueblo area subcontractors. This would mean that a good portion of the bond proceeds will be coming back into the local economy. She thanked everyone for their support and asked for them to watch for the announcement.

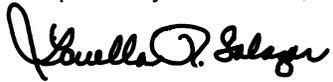
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. (Note: At this time, the meeting will be held virtually on Zoom.)

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS