

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MAY 27, 2021

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Aliff, PACOG Chairman, at 12:22 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Mark Aliff  
Ed Brown  
Barbara Clementi  
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano

Dennis Flores  
Epimeno Griego  
Garrison Ortiz  
Bob Schilling

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio  
Mike Cafasso  
Greg Collins  
Ed Gutierrez

Doug Proal  
Lori Winner  
Chris Wiseman

Also present were:

John Adams  
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek  
Louella Salazar

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were three 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 Bob Schilling, seconded by Garrison Ortiz, and passed unanimously to approve the three Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of April 22, 2021 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file January, February, March, and April 2021 Financial Reports); and
- A Resolution Relating to the Membership and Quorum of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC).

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**PACOG TRANSPORTATION HEARING:**

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding the following items: its 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and its State FY 2022-2025 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A notice of the public hearing for the two items was published in the Pueblo Chieftain on April 27, 2021.

Chairman Aliff opened the public hearing.

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2045 PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) FOR THE PUEBLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND PUEBLO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION (TPR)**

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported Ms. Maureen Paz de Araujo is the project manager for Wilson and Company. He stated this is a 25-year planning document, which will be used to direct future transportation projects in Pueblo.

Ms. Maureen Paz de Araujo, Wilson and Company, reported the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LTRP) contains 12 chapters and six appendices. The first section includes Federal requirements and performance targets, as well as FAST Act regional transportation factors. The existing conditions include existing system elements (highways, local transit routes, non-motorized facilities, freight/rail routes, aviation), existing demographics, and existing environmental context. Chapter 6 contains the Mobility and Alternatives Analysis. She showed two maps. One depicted the existing traffic congestion and the second depicted what would happen if nothing was done to improve congestion. The Targeted Planning Issues and Solutions include (1) emerging mobility (e.g., Uber) (2) safety and security, (3) congestion management, (4) freight and economic issues, and (5) financial plan. She showed the Vision Plan which contained trails. The Fiscally Constrained Plan included 2021-2025 TIP projects and the 2025-2030 CIP/Pipeline Projects. A new edition to the Plan is the Transportation System Performance Report. The report has a new appendix since the PACOG 2040 LTRP, it tracks progress achieving targets set by the 2040 LTRP, and it targets performance measures that have been met and highway maintenance targets not met. She stated the website supported public engagements during COVID-19 shutdowns, it included a PACOG Plan Library, and it can be modified and transitioned to be a PACOG website. The web link is: <https://www.pacogmovestheregion-2045.com/>. Techniques used to boost public engagement was an online game-like survey. There was 5% more participation than what was on the Statewide survey. There were 485 participants, 982 survey visitors, and 1,132 total comments. The survey has continued access available to responses and statistics.

Chairman Aliff asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments made.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Epimenio Griego, and passed unanimously to approve A Resolution Adopting the 2045 Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR).

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2025 PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE PUEBLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND THE PUEBLO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION (TPR); COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT)

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this is a four-year program, which is a requirement at the federal level for the FAST Act. All the projects are federally funded. State funded projects are also included.

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, MPO Transportation Planner, reported the TIP has been updated for FY 2022-2025. Updates were made to the dates on the previous TIP. The first table shows the funding by source (i.e., ADA, SB1, SB 267, etc.). The next table shows highway funding by corridor (i.e., I-25, U.S. Highway 50, State Highway 47, State Highway 165/96A, off-corridor). The next table lists all the different projects and the years the projects are funded. It includes streetscaping, trails, overlays, etc. The map shows the highway project locations. The next table shows transit funding which has been received. Everything is up-to-date and all projects are included in this TIP.

Chairman Aliff asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments made.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve A Resolution Adopting the State Fiscal Year 2022-2025 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR); Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Chairman Aliff closed the hearing.

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Aliff stated this is PACOG's first meeting without Mr. Ray Aguilera. He stated he was important to everyone in government and personally as a friend. He will be missed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported the ADA Advisory Committee minutes of April 1, 2021 were provided in the members' packet.

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

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Aliff read into the record a report from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, Region 10 Transportation Commissioner, as follows:

Last week the Transportation Committee voted to fund or further fund three previously approved projects; one highway project and two transit projects:

- Dillon Drive Interchange - frontage road round-a-bout : \$1.5 million;
- North Pueblo Mobility Hub: \$1.5 million (this was an amendment to current funding of \$3.5 million), which brings the total to \$5.0 million; and
- Pueblo Administrative and Maintenance Facility: \$1.2 million (this was an amendment to current funding of \$980,000), which bring the total to \$2.18 million.

There was no report from the CDOT Region 2 Director.

Mr. Ortiz stated that Mr. Thiebaut's term is expiring on the State Transportation Commission in June. The new Commissioner will be appointed by Governor Polis. He stated when the new CDOT Commissioner is appointed that possibly a reset meeting should be done by PACOG. Chairman Aliff felt this was a good idea. Mr. Flores asked Mr. Ortiz if he knew who might be appointed. Mr. Ortiz replied that Mr. Terry Hart has expressed interest, noting he has a lengthy background in transportation matters. Chairman Aliff asked if he should find out anything to please let the other members know so they can show their support.

#### STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported a STAC meeting was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Discussion occurred on the State 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Adams stated discussion occurred on greenhouse gases. Everyone seems to be going into greenhouse gas reduction mode. CDOT has been working with Colorado Energy and will be requesting a hearing on the plan for greenhouse gas emissions and implementing a reduction in the State of Colorado.

Mr. Adams stated there was a presentation on historic bridges in Colorado. The steel truss over I-25/Ilex is an historic bridge, and CDOT went through great lengths to restore it back to its original glory.

Mr. Adams stated discussion occurred on the central I-70 interchange project going on in Colorado. The lane switch has been done and they are getting ready to tear everything down.

Mr. Adams stated the State Transportation Commission is talking about going back to actual meetings in June.

#### STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the Southwest Chief Passenger Rail Commission met on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will be meeting again tomorrow. Discussion occurred on several grants. In 2021, they made an application for Raise (BUILD) grant. This would allow for improvements which are required for the Southwest Chief. There was some discussion from the CDOT's legal team regarding a bill (i.e., Senate Bill 21-238). This bill is directed towards the Southwest Chief and North Front Range rail. It seems there is an extreme interest in trying to advance passenger rail in Colorado.

## MPO STAFF REPORT

### (A) SB 21-260 - Sustainability of the Transportation System

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported Senate Bill 21-260 provides \$3.6 billion for all transportation infrastructure in Colorado. He stated it has passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote and is currently being debated in the House. June 8<sup>th</sup> is slated as the date to take it to the full floor. This means that there will be more funding for the State for transportation but for our area there is a couple of formulas they are looking at redoing, noting one of the major ones is the Highway Trust Fund. The City and County get a split, which they use for the maintenance of roadways. CDOT is looking at changing the formula to 85% to locals and 15% breakdown to other State transportation matters.

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

### (B) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Brown stated there is a lot of construction going on I-25 north between Colorado Springs and Denver and wondered what the timeline is. Mr. Adams stated he believed construction should be completed by 2023. Mr. Dan Dahlke, CDOT, stated it is scheduled for completion in December 2023. The project in Colorado Springs from Academy Boulevard south will be starting next week, noting this is a two-year project.

## OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Ortiz stated a major transportation issue the County, in partnership with the City, is working on is the extension of Joe Martinez Boulevard into Pueblo West. He stated the boulevard would be two lanes each way, which would cost approximately \$27 million. They are looking at having a charging plaza along the side for electric vehicles off I-25 and, also, a trail system to promote walkability and biking. He stated he would like to do a formal presentation and talk through some of the permitting challenges, etc. with the project. He stated there would need to be a lot of cooperation between the County, City, and CDOT to pull the project off in a speedy and timely manner. Chairman Aliff stated there would be no problem with getting it on the agenda, possibly next month. Mr. Ortiz replied this would work. Ms. Salazar asked if this is the same presentation which was done at the April PACOG meeting. Mr. Ortiz replied he would check on what was presented and let them know.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. (Note: The meeting will be held at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1st Floor

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Conference Room. Because of the limited number in seating, the meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louella R. Salazar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS