

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

May 25, 2023

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, May 25, 2023. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Larry Atencio, PACOG Chairman, at 12:26 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Larry Atencio  
Mike Cafasso  
Barbara Clementi  
Harry Hochstetler  
Sarah Martinez

Epimenio Griego  
Zach Swearingen (Joined about 12:45pm)  
Heather Graham  
Dennis Flores

Those members absent were:

Chris DeLuca  
Regina Maestri  
Vicente Martinez Ortega

Doug Proal  
Lori Winner  
Garrison Ortiz  
Ed Gutierrez

Also present were:

Terry Hart  
Sabina Genesisio  
Robert Jager  
Nick Gradisar  
Bryan Robinson  
Aaron Willis  
Mike Ricottone  
Hannah Haurert

Carmen Howard  
Eva Cosyleon  
Tawnya Stringer  
Wendy Pettit  
Don Bruestle  
Melanie Turner  
Scott Hobson

#### 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 and seconded by Dennis Flores**, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below as presented:

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- Minutes of the February 23, 2023, Meeting.
- Treasurer's Report (receive and file December 2022 Financial Report).

Ms. Howard introduced the new recording secretary to PACOG, Wendy Pettit.

### REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- Mr. Atencio relayed the reason for the virtual meeting, the usual conference meeting room was double booked by accident.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

- A) Refreshing PACOG- Ms. Howard presented to the Board the current issues that have happened in the last few months with regard to having a quorum for the Board meeting. Attendance is dwindling and the need to have a quorum to officially act upon agenda items is necessary. She asked the Board if they would like to entertain changing the monthly Board meetings to every other month or quarterly, the Board members elected to continue with monthly meetings. The Bylaws would need to be amended with a resolution if that direction were taken. The need for a resolution was confirmed by Robert Jager, the city attorney, to change the meeting date. The Board decided to leave the monthly meeting schedule in place and to have Ms. Howard draft a letter to be sent to all official Board members about the importance of the PACOG roll and the commitment to attendance and conducting business transactions for the entire County.
- B) American Planning Association (APA), Colorado Chapter nomination for the PACOG 2045 MPO Transportation Plan for the region- Ms. Howard gave an overview of the 2045 long range transportation submission to the APA for an award for the efforts and public involvement process of the plan. The plan was written for the entire county, with the MPO taking the lead. This being an information item, no formal action was required.
- C) Presentation on Train Depot station by Bryan Robinson, WSP Consulting  
Mr. Mike Ricottone introduced the WSP team and the update of the station project. He noted the County supported the statewide 2019 and 2020 CRISI grant submissions by CDOT. The 2019 study is specifically on Amtrack and the feasibility of continued ridership and the 2020 grant is for the amtrack ridership including the front range area. These study updates should be out sometime in June and be given by CDOT.

An overview of the design status of the Pueblo area train depot was given by Bryan Robinson from WSP Consulting. Mr. Robinson stated the Union Depot sight was the most preferred location with 90 percent of the public input received preferring the location. He stated the location gives a past, present, and future look at passenger rail. The Union station area will be a destination spot in the community with a wholistic development of transportation connections. He also touched on the new Front Range Passenger Rail District that was recently formed and its developing status and that Councilman Flores serves on the commission for the Pueblo area. He gave a brief overview of the Station; he stated the design status is now ready to move to stage 2 and the design efforts that are underway in the next phase could include amenities such as a restaurant or a gallery and a parking garage that could be found in the facility. Each of the three levels were discussed. The building concept being developed is "Where the River meets the Rails." In the plan, the third level of the facility would have almost a 360 view and that would

be where the restaurant might be located, the middle level is community level, and the lower level might be where the gallery would be located, along with other brief services. There will be a parking garage on the eastern side. The project is being looked at in its components to allow for partnering and better coordination especially where the parking area is concerned the County asked that a look at maximizing the parking area be a priority. Also, a coordinated effort has been done with BSNF to be sure they were on board with the station footprint design, the platform area location, and its size, and layout. The total design effort is at about 10 percent at this point in the process. The new design does not eliminate the old Union Station building. The new buildings and platform will go to the west of the old structures.

D) Transportation Commissioner or CDOT Region 2 Report

CDOT region 2 was not represented for the report for the PACOG area.

Mr. Terry Hart, Region 10 Transportation Commissioner, reported he attended the State Transportation Commission meetings in March, April and May.

Terry Hart gave a brief overview of the last Transportation Commission Meeting from May 17 and 18, 2023. He had 5 areas of the meeting he touched upon. The first was budget changes, CDOT moved \$850,000 to a new line item to help the local governments with Green House gas reporting requirement reporting, this will save the locals statewide local funding not to have to do the reporting themselves and to create the needed resources and process to do the data collections and reporting. The next area was a \$10.5 million line-item shift in the Central 70 project from within the project for a dispute resolution. The next issue was the winter snowpack melting and the spring rains are causing issues with drainage along the state's highways and emergency repairs are occurring all over the state. The road near Paonia was closed down due to a wash out from a failed culvert, the cost to repair was \$4 million dollars. Mr. Hart also spoke about the new law, SB1101, its process and the fact the final version was not population based for funding distribution. The CDOT Local Government Liaison also gave a presentation at this meeting. Details are below. Mr. Hart also gave information on the Glenwood Canyon needs on I 70 since the flood repairs are now done, there are still bridges and tunnels that need upgrading and repair in the corridor. He also gave an update on the broadband-fiber process changes to make the installation of broadband and fiber more efficient and to reduce the cost and time associated with the process. The last topic Mr. Hart spoke of was the complaints that are being received by the Transportation Commission and CDOT about the condition of the main arterials in the state. In our area SH96 to Kansas has received complaints, but in the winter not much evaluation and repair can be done.

E) State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting report

Ms. Eva Cosyleon gave the STAC meeting update. The STAC will begin working on Program Distribution for transportation funding allocations at the beginning of CDOT's new fiscal year in July. The CDOT staff gave a refresher presentation the funding categories and their sources. The workshops will be held at the STAC meetings beginning in July and will go into the October time frame. These workshops will be in person meetings and will be held in Denver. It is important for Pueblo as a whole to be represented at these meetings. The draft STIP was presented to the STAC for a recommendation to the TC for adoption. The SB1101 presentation was also given at STAC.

MPO STAFF REPORT

- A) House Bill 23-1107 – Jamie Grim gave a presentation on the HB 1101's two major areas affected with regard to transportation. This bill was signed into law April 28, 2023. The first area transit related. During ozone season (June 1 to August 31) the transit agencies statewide are able to have flexibility on the time frame that they offer free transit rides and they then can apply for grant funds to reimburse expenses associated with those rides, the bill also clarifies what the grant funds can be used for, especially reasonable expenses related to the transit programs, Regional transit authorities can also now go to the ballot with up to 2% in sales tax to fund their service needs, lastly, the transportation planning regions must now include at least one transit voting member on their respective boards. This person represents all transit activities for the transportation planning area and must be appointed collaboratively. The grant funds are able to be rolled forward into the next year if they are not completely spent in the year they were awarded.

The second area of the bill has had many additions and deletions over the course of its development. It protects the number of transportation planning regions (TPR's) that have been in existence since the 1990's in Colorado. The bill aimed at protecting rural Colorado's transportation interests, mandating the number of TPR areas remain at 10 and the Metropolitan planning areas (MPO) remain at 5. The bill looks at updates to the planning process to meet current needs, it allows for updates to processes utilized for funding distributions, and this bill codifies the opportunity for public comment across the state, upholding the grass roots process now in place and expanding it to ensure all voices are heard. The bill also requires a study for the alignment of the boundaries of the statewide TPR boundaries. The MPO boundaries are dictated by the census and federal processes. The Transportation Commission is required open the transportation planning rules and consider any recommendations from the public process. The public process will include 5 public meetings (in person and virtual) to be scheduled around the state in each of the 5 regions, during the July/ early August time frame. Then a second set of meetings will take place late September early October to gain input from all areas of the state. This presentation is being given statewide to all transportation planning regions, and MPO's as a kickoff to the process. The public meetings are to expand the outreach beyond the normal transportation planning process to entities, elected officials, and the public that do not usually participate in transportation planning. Any changes from the outreach will be acted upon by the Transportation Commission. The study results are due to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee on or before November 30, 2023. The Transportation Committee will initiate the needed updates by June 1, 2024. The 4 areas being looked at are: TPR boundaries, STAC Membership, membership in the transit and rail committee (TRAC), and the consistency of the transportation planning process. and The CDOT direction is to have the process completed by year end and then the kickoff of the 2050 long range planning process is slated to begin.

- 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. #2023.013 **Pueblo County Blvd Extension Trail**. Adding additional funds: \$8,022 in Federal Carbon Reduction funds, pool shortfalls in 2023 required a back fill of awarded funds.
  2. Project TIP Amend. #2023.014 **Pueblo Transit** - Update Computer system in all transit buses Program. Cost of the project is \$35,000.

3. Project TIP Amend.: #2023.015 **US 50B and US 50C at CO231 Safety Improvements**  
Additional Funds in the amount of \$8,243 added for Public Involvement amendment to task order for work above original scope
4. Project TIP Amend #2023.016 **US 50 Regional Retention Pond G at MP 309.5:** \$155,000 in additional funds are required due to design quantity errors and additional dewatering need.
5. Project TIP Amend. #2023.017 **A Safe Streets for All Planning Grant** was awarded to Pueblo County area for an action plan to access grant funding in the future for the needs identified in then plan. The grant was awarded for \$681,600 in federal funds with a required match of \$174,400. For a total of \$852,000
6. Project #2023.018 known as **FTA G-30 Transit Operating Funds:** Planning Grant Fund Source(s): FTA G-30 5307 FY 22. The project has an award of \$2,804,939 and a required match of \$1,688,925 for a total award of \$ 4,493,864.

C) Other Transportation Matters

**PACE Public Meeting:** This meeting will be an opportunity of the public to see a showcase of all of the pedestrian, bicycle and multimodal projects taking place around the region. The meeting begins at 5:15 at the Rawlings library, in the Bret Kelly room.

GRANT NAVIGATOR CONTRACTS

Ms. Sabina Genesisio, County Manager and PACOG Co-Executive Director, gave a brief update on the process concerning the Grant Navigator position. She informed the Board that they received one application and the person has significant experience with COG's. It was presented that the Mayor and Ms. Genesisio would be the deciding members to award position, the position is funded with a state grant. With no objections from the Board, the next steps will be that the applicant will be interviewed, and a decision to offer the position to the applicant will be made. The applicant will be hired as a contract employee, and the contract will come back to the board for approval at the time the applicant accepts the offer.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, Chairman Atencio adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.

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Respectfully submitted,

*Wendy Pettit*

PACOG Recording Secretary  
wjp