

<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, July 25, 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
Eppie Greigo	Zach Swearingen

Members Absent:

Mike Cafasso	Joseph Latino -City Council
Heather Graham – Mayor City of Pueblo	Roger Gomez -City Council
Roger Gomez -City Council	Sarah Martinez City Council
Doug Proal -Pueblo West	Regina Matri – City Council

Also Present Were:

Sarah Skinner -Pueblo County	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Geoff Guthrie-CDOT	Hannah Haurert -PACOG MPO
William Kenan	Cheryl Spinuzzi
Don Bruestle Planning Commission	Jose Soto
Sabina Geniso, Pueblo County	Jason Nelson-CDOT
Dylan Goodman PACOG MPO	Jennifer Wagoner– Pueblo County
Maureen Paz de Araujo, - Wilson and Co.	Harley Gifford - Pueblo City Attorney
Laura Leyba, ADA committee	Buford Barr
Terry Hart – Transportation Commissioner	Chad Wright - CDOT
Hannah Grossman	MD Islam
Andy Karsian-FRPR	Sam Pace
Daryl Payne	Ashica Smith
David Swenka*-CDOT	Gabi Gamily
Aaron Willis – CDOT	Annelies Van Vonno-CDOT
Jennifer Sparks - CDOT	

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. Jennifer Wagoner, presented the consent items in the PACOG manager's absence, she presented the following:

- 1 Minutes of June 27, 2024, Meeting were presented for edits and approval.
- 2 The May and June 2024 Financial Reports were received and filed.

A motion was made to accept the minutes and file the financial statements by Harry Hostetler and seconded by Commissioner Esgar. The financial reports were accepted and filed. The motion was made by Ed Gutierrez and seconded by William Thiebaut.

Next on the agenda were the **regular items**:

- 1 Chairperson's Report:
 - A) Lunch Appreciation: Mr. Aliff thanked Colorado City for the catered lunch.
- 2 Manager's Report: (Ms. Jennifer Wagoner) covered the following items under her report.
 - A) The April, May, and June 2024 ADA minutes were presented for information.
- 3 CDOT Transportation Commission Update

A) Terry Hart was in attendance to give the CDOT update. Mr. Hart began his report on the update of the 2050 long range transportation planning efforts CDOT is undertaking.

CDOT has begun the initial tasks associated with the development of the 2050 Statewide and Regional Transportation Plans including:

- PD 14 Update: PD 14 provides performance objectives to measure the success of the Department's efforts to improve the multimodal transportation system through its planning efforts. The performance objectives and targets inform the implementation of the Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan and 10- Year Plan.
- Program Distribution:
 - Formula Programs: During the June Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission took action on the sub-allocated formula programs and passed Resolution #2024-06-18. For the Regional Priority Program (RPP), the commission debated the recommendations and on a 6 to 2 vote (with one abstention), the Commission decided to keep the current RPP formula allocation (status quo formula). The Commission acknowledged the difficulty in making this decision and managing the needs throughout the state. All other formula programs had the STAC recommendation approved.

- Long-Range Revenue Projections: During the June STAC meeting, STAC was provided with an update on the 2050 Long-Range Revenue Projections for the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan, which outlined estimated revenue by fund source from FY 2024-25 to FY 2049-50.

Next Steps

Tentative near-term next steps for the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan include:

- June-September: Kick-off meetings with each rural TPR
- July/August: Continued discussions on PD 14; TC action on PD 14 (pending STAC recommendation and TC acceptance of draft)
- September: Review/ finalize 2050 Resource Allocation
- Fall: Virtual Town Hall Meetings with TC Commissioners

Next Mr. Hart spoke about the CDOT budget changes, one major item is The US 50 Blue Mesa bridge. This amendment adds \$10 million to the US 50 Blue Mesa Bridge safety inspection and improvements project. The Blue Mesa Bridge is being transferred to the Bridge Enterprise and another \$81 Million dollars of Bridge enterprise funding will be programmed to make the needed repairs to the structure. Terry next reported on a legislative change that had a direct effect on the CDOT 2025 budget. Mr. Hart also talked about the pavement funding distributions statewide. The transportation commission is looking at the equitable distributions to make sure it is working as planned and to see if adjustments need to be made to the pavement allocations. Bustang service was also discussed by Mr. Hart. He stated the ridership numbers are picking back up since its low point during the COVID years. It is important to the transportation network that Bustang, be reliable and efficient to serve the transportation needs statewide and serve the tie to the front range passenger rail system as it develops. The next item was the transportation commission's involvement in the state legislative actions. To what degree should the transportation commission be involved in the processes? CDOT works for the governor, and there is an agenda the governor wants implemented, and the transportation commission sets policy statewide and the budgets. So it's important that there is a separation of duties to keep all the processes moving forward and keep all processes balanced. It is also important for the transportation commission to be aware of changes to transportation aspects the state legislators are proposing. The last item Mr. Hart spoke on was the topic of small businesses and diversity. CDOT and the transportation commission are looking at the numbers of small business and minority business that are successful in bidding CDOT work, getting contracts to perform the work, and how the process is working overall. Mr. Hart asked for questions, and Commissioner Esgar asked about the rest stop relocations. She asked for an update, and Mr. Hart said there were no updates at this time. Since the new fiscal year has begun now in July, there should be more activity where the rest areas are concerned, and Mr. Hart has asked for the CDOT processes for rest areas in the area include a local task force to help with the process. Commissioner Greigo asked for confirmation on the location of the rest stops. Mr. Hart confirmed the location under consideration was at exit 108. Mr. Hart also confirmed he was appointed to the chair of the transportation commission for this fiscal session. He went on to say he hopes to bring more attention to the transportation needs of our area with that appointment. Eva Cosyleon, the MPO director, also confirmed exit 108 as the rest stop location, and she went on to say that Travel America is building truck parking at the roundabout at exit 104, so that allowed CDOT to move the freight funds that were allocated to the truck parking location to the US 50 bypass project and a tip amendment change was made last year to move the funds in to the project for construction. Councilor Flores also stated, the rest stops were allocated only \$10 million dollars at this point, and that is not enough funding to build the rest areas. Hopefully, there will be more funds allocated for the projects. He went on to ask Mr. Hart if he could ask CDOT to donate the picnic areas assets at the rest areas to the city for placement at the city parks around town. Commissioner Greigo stated that CDOT has done that already at the Avondale Veterans Park. They gave a couple of the covered picnic assets to the County. So, it should expect that CDOT would continue with the donations. Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the PACOG Dist. 60 representative, asked how the policy shift in the metro areas to build more transit projects is going to affect the rural areas and smaller community transportation needs like Pueblo? Mr.

Thiebaut stated he read I the Denver Post that there will be projects delayed and even canceled from the plan due to the shift in resources. Mr. Hart responded that yes there is a shift to funds more multimodal projects due to the fact that transportation is the biggest contributing factor of greenhouse gasses in the state of Colorado. There is a lot of conversation happen around this topic, and the fact that there are requirements in federal law that dictate a level of good repair on transportation assets, that has led to funding being shifted around as well. The transportation commissions is trying to balance the growth needs, with the asset conditions, and the greenhouse gas reduction requirements. How to balance it all is a ongoing conversation. Councilor Aliff asked how is equitable distribution developed? Mr. Heart stated it starts with STAC (who are the representative of the local communities)and then goes through a public process to come up with formulas that STAC recommends for approval to the transportation commission and then the transportation commission adopts the formulas and funding is distributed for the long-range transportation plan and the statewide local transportation plans, which are the short-term plans to implement funds for projects in the next few years. Mr. Hart went on to say that other communities have created a funding source to match state and federal transportation dollars and it has helped get more transportation needs met because there is a local commitment, and the federal and state allocations build more transportation needs for the area. Mr. Aliff went to say that our economic situation in southern Colorado is discouraging. We cannot tax our way out of the problem down here in southern Colorado.

- B) Jason Nelson from CDOT region 2 gave the project update for both the traffic program and the South program engineering projects. Mr. Nelson said not much has changed from last month. He went over the project list. For details and further review, the project listing for traffic and engineering, is included in the July PACOG Board packet. At the ed of the presentation Mr. Nelson was asked about the feasibility study, he confirmed it was for the I – 25 and SH 45 Intersection. The SH 45 access control plan is being implement. The current projects are dealing with the left turn lane. US 50 and 36th lane flooding is still a problem, CDOT band the county are working on a design to deal with the flooding. The city Center area is still in disrepair. Mr. Flores asked what is being done in the area. Mr. Chad Wright came to the podium and stated it was being Xeriscape scaped. CDOT is adding rock and the design was formulated by the environmental group from Denver. The other side of the intersection has been done this way too. Commissioner Greigo asked CDOT if the landscaping can be cleaned yo near Runyon Lake. CDOT stated the City is responsible for the maintenance in the City limits due a state law, but the final decision for the maintenance is still under negotiation.

4 State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)

2050 Statewide Plan Update (Informational Update) - Marissa Gaughan, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch Manager, and William Johnson, Performance and Asset Management Branch Manager, CDOT Division of Transportation Development (DTD)

- Planning development discussions with rural Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) began on July 8.
- The agenda for the first TPR meetings includes discussing changes since the 2045 Regional Transportation Plans, reviewing the mission and vision statements, sharing accomplishments

and progress on projects and corridors, reviewing data trends and identifying focus areas and any potential updates to plan.

- The 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan public engagement process will include a statewide transportation survey, 4 meetings with rural TPRs, potentially two virtual town halls with transportation commissioners, CDOT staff attendance at major public events to solicit public input and engagement of interest groups pertaining to alternative modes of transportation.
- Strategic Highway Safety Plan listening sessions will be held soon for each CDOT Region.
- Regional Transportation Plans to be adopted by August of 2025 with adoption of the 10-Year Plan by the end of 2025.

CDOT gave presentations from the STAC meeting on the Active transportation plan update and the strategic Highway safety plan for 2025.

Active Transportation Plan (Informational Update) - Annelies Van Vonno, CDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, DTD

- The Active Transportation Plan initiating now will be the update to the 2012 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- The purpose of the active transportation plan is to set goals, policy recommendations, and establish actions to guide the next generation of active transportation improvements in Colorado.
- The plan is anticipated to finish by the end of April 2025.
- Some STAC members showed concern for there being increased bike/pedestrian use on arterials that are occupied by cars. They believe having more pedestrians and bicyclists on these roads presents conflicts with motor vehicles and is a large part of the problem.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) (Informational Update) Gabi Gamily, Traffic Safety and Engineering Branch and David Swenka

- The plan is developed in partnership with the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Colorado State Patrol (CSP).
- There will be one listening session in each CDOT region, one-on-one follow up meetings as needed and virtual feedback options will be provided.
- A Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment is required as part of the State Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- VRUs accounted for a growing share of roadway fatalities in recent years in both Colorado and the nation.
- CDOT will conduct regional VRU Prioritization Studies to identify safety program improvement projects.
- Before and after studies will be used to evaluate effectiveness of VRU safety improvements.
- CDOT will also be compiling an inventory of Vulnerable Road User Infrastructure.

The STAC minutes and the CDOT presentations are in the PACOG Packet for July for further review and detail. Here is the link to the presentation information.

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MPO Staff Report
 (Eva Cosyleon, MPO Manager)

A brief presentation was given by Dr Md Islam and Buffard to give some information on the hydrogen charging station. I-25 at us 50 will be the location, there are two others, one in Denver and one in Ft Collins. They gave a brief overview on how the process will work. They are the first public stations in the state outside of California. The presentation is located at the link below for further review.

- A) A RESOLUTION ASSIGNING FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION CHARGING AND FUELING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,120,679.20 AND ASSIGNING COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$780,169.80 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HYDROGEN FUELING STATION AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO*

TIP Amend 2024.048 Policy Amendment

Project Name: CSU Hydrogen Charging Infrastructure

Agency: CDOT

STIP Number: N/A

Project Location and Description:

Fund Source(s): CF&I

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
CF&I State	\$ 1,560,339.60	\$ 1,560,339.60	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ 3,120,679.20
Local Match	\$ 390,084.90	\$ 390,084.90	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ 780,169.80
Total	\$ 1,560,339.60	\$ 1,560,339.60	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ 3,900,849.00

- B) Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*

- 1. C) **MPO request(s) the following amendment projects into the FY 2024 –2028 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (PACOG TIP)***
Action Required: Informational

TIP Amend 2024.012.01 Administrative Amendment

Project Name: HAAF Elementary

Agency: City of Pueblo

STIP Number: SR26868.033

Project Location and Description: This project constructs sidewalks and connections; installs high visibility crosswalks; and installs ADA curb ramps.

Fund Source(s):

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
SRTS	\$149,816.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$-	\$-	\$ 149,816.00
MMOF	\$ -	\$67,889.74	\$23,926.26	\$-	\$-	\$ 91,816.00
Total	\$149,816.00	\$67,889.74	\$23,926.26	\$-	\$-	\$ 241,632.00

Notes:

Addition of MMO funding for use in construction only

2. CDOT Region 2 request(s) the following amendment projects into the FY 2024 –2028 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (PACOG TIP)*
Action Required: Informational

a. **TIP Amend 2024.001 Administrative Amendment**

Project Name: I-25 through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865.999

Project Location and Description: Reconstruction of interchange at I25 and US Hwy 50B

Fund Source(s): 7PX - Strategic Program Pool (Highway)

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
7PX – State (267)	(\$993,480)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$993,480)
Local	(\$206,520)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$206,520)
Total	(\$1,200,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,200,000)

Notes: Reconciliation – Total funding amount = \$31,000,000 state funds 7PX FY24. In a previous TIP \$1.2M RPP funds were accidentally entered in as 7PX.

b. **TIP Amend 2024.001 Administrative Amendment**

Project Name: I-25 through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865.999

Project Location and Description: Reconstruction of interchange at I25 and US Hwy 50B

Fund Source(s): BFP – Bridge Formula Program

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
BFP – Federal (NHPP)	\$31,550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,550,000
BFP – State (SHF)	(\$31,550,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$31,550,000)
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes: Reconciliation – Fund swap from state to federal funds for BFP FY24.

c. **TIP Amend 2024.001 Administrative Amendment**

Project Name: I-25 through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865.999

Project Location and Description: Reconstruction of interchange at I25 and US Hwy 50B

Fund Source(s): FR8 – National Freight Program

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
FR8 – Federal (NHFP)	\$747,150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$747,150
FR8 – State (SHF)	(\$747,150)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$747,150)
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes: Reconciliation – Fund swap from state to federal funds. Total funding amount = \$8,500,000 federal funds FR8 FY24.

d. **TIP Amend 2024.001 Administrative Amendment**

Project Name: I-25 through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865.999

Project Location and Description: Reconstruction of interchange at I25 and US Hwy 50B

Fund Source(s): HAZ – Hazard Elimination Program

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
HAZ – Federal (HSIP)	(\$70,000)	\$220,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
HAZ – State (SHF)	(\$130,000)	(\$20,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$150,000)
Total	(\$200,000)	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes: Reconciliation – Total funding amount = \$1,100,000 federal funds HAZ FY24, and \$5,142,500 Federal funds HAZ FY25.

e. **TIP Amend 2024.001 Administrative Amendment**

Project Name: I-25 through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865.999

Project Location and Description: Reconstruction of interchange at I25 and US Hwy 50B

Fund Source(s): PWQ – Permanent Water Quality Program

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
PWQ – Federal (NHPP)	\$0	\$0	\$515,932	\$204,159	\$0	\$0
PWQ – State (SHF)	\$0	\$0	(\$515,932)	(\$204,159)	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes: Reconciliation – Fund swap from state to federal funds. Total funding amount = \$5,869,532 federal funds PWQ FY26, and \$2,322,637 federal funds PWQ FY27.

f. **TIP Amend 2024.001 Administrative Amendment**

Project Name: I-25 through Pueblo

STIP Number: SPB3865.999

Project Location and Description: Reconstruction of interchange at I25 and US Hwy 50B

Fund Source(s): SUR – Surface Treatment Program

Fund Source	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
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SUR– Federal (STBG)	\$0	\$0	\$ 585,140	\$0	\$0	\$ 585,140
SUR – State (SHF)	\$0	\$0	(\$585,140)	\$0	\$0	(\$585,140)
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes: Reconciliation – Fund swap from state to federal funds. Total funding amount = \$3,400,000 federal funds SUR FY26.

- C) Other Transportation Matters – The Front Range passenger rail presentation scheduled for this month will be moved to August. Eva also reported on the CDOT 4P meeting on August 19th at 130 at the Regin 2 Head quarters office.
- 6. The last of the regular items were presented were the vacancies for Pueblo Human Relations Commission and the Appeals Boards for the Plumbing and Electrical committees. Ballots were distributed and were voted upon for July 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