

MINUTES
PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
THURSDAY, October 23, 2025

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, October 23, 2025. The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Chair, Brett Boston at 12:06 p.m.

Roll Call: (Wendy Pettit) It was determined a quorum was present.

Members Present were:

Dennis Flores-City Council	Zach Swearingen- County Commissioner
William Thiebaut -Dist. 60	Robert Sievert – Colorado City
Chris DeLuca-Dist. 70	Brett Boston -City Council
Miles Lucero – County Commissioner	Mike Cafasso-Board of Water Works
Paula McPheeters -County Commissioner	

Members Absent:

Regina Mastri – City Council	Sarah Martinez – City Council
Joe Latino – City Council	Karim Ayoub-Colorado City
Roger Gomez – City Council	Ed Gutierrez-Salt Creek Sanitation
Mark Aliff- City Council	Terry Hart, Transportation Commissioner

Staff and Executive Directors:

Carmen Howard- PACOG Manager	Eva Cosyleon PACOG MPO
Carla Sikes, PACOG Attorney	Hannah Haunert-PACOG MPO
Wendy Pettit, PACOG Recording Secretary	Patrick Vigil-CDOT
Heather – Graham City of Pueblo Mayor	Jeff Van Meter-CDOT

Also Present Were:

Jacob Topping-Sen Bennet's office	Lindsey Jaquez - CDOT
Don Bruestle PACOG TAC	Cameron Hodges- Circular Colorado
Jennifer Sparks , CDOT	Sarah Skinner- Pueblo County
Geoff Gutherie-CDOT	Laura Leyba-
Adam Lancaster-CDOT	Susan Renared-Circular Colorado
George Gromke-CDOT	Laurie Johnson - Circular Colorado

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Jacob Topping from Senator's Bennet's office gave a brief overview of the effects and information on the 2025 Federal Government shut down. He spoke on Senator Bennett's legislative priorities at this time, but what we can do is still continue to make claims on behalf of constituents who are having issues with the federal agencies throughout our regional offices, they will continue interacting with constituents on a day-to-day basis, he went on to say please feel free to share with them your needs and know that their offices remain open.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Minutes of September 25, 2025, PACOG Meeting were presented and approved with a Motion from Mr. Cafasso and a second from Councilor Flores.
2. Filing of 2025 financial statements from January to August 2025: Councilor Flores made the motion and Mr. Cafasso seconded the motion and the Board voted to file the documents.
3. Information on December's PACOG meeting was given: December's meeting will be held December 11th, and the meeting time will be from noon until 2 pm. The December agenda is full of PACOG business procedures for the MPO and the Council of Governments
4. The MPO consent items were next on the agenda. There was one resolution for consideration for the vulnerable road users' program. It adds funds to a project at US 50B and Hudson/Bonforte Intersection for pedestrian safety in the amount of \$788,150. The resolution was motioned by Mr. Cafasso and seconded Councilor Flores and was approved by the PACOG Board

REGULAR ITEMS:

1. Chairperson's Report:
 - o Lunch Appreciation - Thank You to the City of Pueblo for providing Lunch.
2. Transportation Information:
 - o Transportation Commission (TC) Update from the September 2025 meeting was sent to PACOG. Mr. Terry Hart could not attend in person. Ms. Pettit read Mr. Hart's email in the record. Mr. Hart stated that there was not much to report this month, the main focus of the Transportation Commission this month was a road trip where they boarded the light rail from CDOT headquarters to Denver Union Station, then they boarded the California Zephyr Amtrak passenger train and rode it from Denver to Glenwood Springs. In Glenwood they toured the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority facilities. The next day they held their meetings which basically involved several budget items, including the initial review of the proposed FY 26/27 budgets. They then boarded a Bustang bus and viewed and toured several projects that are under way on I 70, and then headed back to Denver.
 - o **State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)** August 2025 Meeting update – The Meeting was canceled for October 2025

- **CDOT Project List information** – Updates were given by Mr. Patrick Vigil, Ms. Jennifer Sparks and Mr. Jeff Van Meter. Mr. Vigil went over projects in the Pueblo area in progress and again mentioned the US 50 project causing the demolition of pieces of the old interchange at I-25 on US 50, especially the bridge over I-25 and the detours that will be necessary as they work on the project. Ms. Sparks went over other projects in the region that are included in the meeting packet for further review, and Mr. Jeff Vanmeter also gave a CDOT maintenance activity update to the Board. Mr. Geoff Gutherie also presented the current CDOT planned Regional Priorities funds Program (RPP) for the PACOG region. The three projects that will receive RPP funding are: I-25A Exit 108 Pueblo Interchange Improvements, the US-50C Drainage Improvements and the Safety Improvements at I-25 and CO-45A Interchange. There is approximately \$6.950 million programmed for work on these projects from 2025 to 2029 as long as federal allocations remain stable. This allocation along with the past funding programmed in the area under the Region Priorities program meets and exceeds the required allocation that has been agreed upon in the transportation planning process between the MPO and CDOT that was recently completed for this funding to benefit the whole PACOG area..

All transportation information is included in the packet information for further review.

3. Information Items:

• **604B Water Quality Plan**- Mr. Doug Schwenke-from RESPEC, the PACOG consultant that is working on our watershed plan for the St. Charles mesa area gave an overview of the draft document that was sent out for review and comment from the PACOG Board. Please send comments or questions to Wendy Pettit or to Doug Schwenke at RESPEC directly. CDPHE comments will be back to RESPEC by mid-November. The report that was sent is the focus of agricultural non-point source pollution in the St. Charles. The watershed size of the area is 58 square miles from the headwaters to the Arkansas River to our area. We have been reviewing and working on this area now over the past 4 years. The plan is to address all comments and prepare a final draft for submittal, hopefully by the end of the year.

• **Business Recycling opportunities** – Ms. Cameron Hodges gave a presentation on the free recycling opportunities that exist in the community for business to take advantage of these services are offered by Circular Colorado through a grant. To have a completely circular economy in Colorado, where materials are used over and over again, is the goal. She stated we have a long way to go. Not enough people are recycling; and not enough businesses are recycling. The cost of transporting those materials is high, partly because the volume isn't there. The drop-off site is located on Elizabeth and 3rd in the old air gas building, if you're familiar with the area, across from Recycle works. And we're open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, We accept all 8 of the traditional recyclable materials, but in particular, the focus is on cardboard. The full presentation is included in the packet and in the meeting video is on the County Civic Plus depository for further review.

MPO Staff Report:

- A presentation on **Transit connections** was given by George Gromke from CDOT Transit. Mr. Gromke presented an overview of the Transit Connection Study (TCS), highlighting its goals to enhance accessibility and connectivity across Colorado's transit network. The study aims to inform transit decision-making and project development, though it does not provide specific project proposals or funding. Key findings for the Pueblo area included gaps in regional transit services along major corridors. Next steps involve using the study to support Bustang service planning, updating data and resources for stakeholders, and continuing to evolve the TCS with stakeholder feedback.

• Administrative Amendments from CDOT:

1. TIP Amend 2024.052.01 Administrative Amendment Project Name: CO45 & Lake Avenue Signal Replacement STIP Number: SR26867.123 Project Location and Description: Replacement of existing signal at CO 45 (Pueblo Blvd) & Lake Avenue.

Fund Source(s): FY26 Region 2 Signal Asset Management Pool (SGA) and FASTER Safety Program (FSA)

Fund Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
SGA - Federal	\$345,154	0	0	0	\$345,154
SGA – State	\$71,748	0	0	0	\$71,748
FSA - Federal	\$620,925	0	0	0	\$620,925
FSA - State	\$129,075	0	0	0	\$129,075
Total	\$1,166,902	0	0	0	\$1,166,902

Notes: Programs \$416,902 SGN funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and \$750,000 FAS funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 for this existing project.

2. TIP Amend 2024.08.01 Administrative Amendment Project Name: US50A MP 296-310 STIP Number: SR25216.170 Project Location and Description: US50A Mill and Overlay Mileposts 296 to 309 west of Pueblo. Fund Source(s): FY26 Region 2 Surface Treatment Program

Construction Bridge Program

Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
SUR-Federal	\$3,311,600	\$1,076,270	0	0	\$4,387,870
SUR-State	\$ 688,400	\$223,730	0	0	\$912,130

CBP-Federal	\$17,210	0	0	0	\$17,210
CBP-State	\$4,100,000	\$1,300,000	0	0	5,400,000

Notes: Programs \$4,000,000 SUR and \$100,000 CBP funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 in addition to \$1,300,000 SUR funding Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 for this existing project

3. TIP Amend 2024.039.01 Administrative Amendment Project Name: Pueblo Transit
Operating Funds STIP Number: SST6741.028 Project Location and Description: FTA
5307 Operating Funds

Fund Source	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
FTA 5307 –FED	-\$367,283	0	0	0	-\$367,283
Total	-\$367,283	0	0	0	-\$367,283

Notes: Reconciling TIP with received funds. New total is \$2,722,717

4. Other Business:

- a. None; No new business was brought up, no public comments were given, and no future agenda items were submitted.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m. The next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the County's Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room, 12 pm. The meeting will be held in person and virtually via Zoom.

WJP