

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, February 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
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano
Dennis Flores

Epimenio Griego
Garrison Ortiz
Bob Schilling
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Mike Cafasso
Barbara Clementi
Greg Collins

Ed Gutierrez
Doug Proal
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Nick Gradisar
Dan Kogovsek

Hugh Parker
Louella Salazar

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Gail Wallingford-Ingo, Deputy Director of the Pueblo County Planning Department represented Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager. She 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 Ed Brown, seconded by Dennis Flores, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of January 28, 2021 Meeting; and

- A Resolution Approving the FY 2021 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Delegation Agreement for Regional Land Use Planning and Administration and Authorizing the Chairperson of PACOG to Execute Same.

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 2021-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A notice of the public hearing for the two items was published in the Pueblo Chieftain on January 27, 2021.

Chairman Aliff stated this is a public hearing. The items for consideration are Regular Item Nos. 1 and 2 listed on the agenda. Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported staff is requesting the two resolutions be removed from today's agenda and continued to the April 22, 2021 PACOG meeting.

It was moved by Ed Brown, and seconded by Epimenio Griego, and passed unanimously to remove the following resolutions from this agenda: "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)" and "A Resolution Adopting the State Fiscal Year 2021-2024 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)" and continue them to the April 22, 2021 PACOG meeting.

Chairman Aliff stated the public hearing would be held on April 22, 2021. Ms. Salazar questioned if it would need to be re-advertised. Mr. Adams stated he plans on re-advertising. There will be a few changes made, and the public will be allowed 30 days to provide comment.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Aliff reported that Mr. Bill Thiebaut, Region 10 Transportation Commissioner, attended the February 22, 2021 City Council work session. For those that are interested, the work session can be viewed at pueblo.us.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Gail Wallingford-Ingo, Deputy Director of the Pueblo County Planning Department represented Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager reported the members received in their packets the minutes of the January 7, 2021 ADA Advisory Committee meeting.

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

(B) Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Gail Wallingford-Ingo, Deputy Director of the Pueblo County Planning Department represented Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported the consultants are finishing collecting data for the State of the County Report and the preliminary fiscal impact findings; a draft report will be presented in mid-March for both items. A survey was posted on several virtual platforms requesting input from the general public and a variety of stakeholders. The survey closes tomorrow; staff anticipates a report of those results being provided in early March. The Agricultural/Ranch focus group is in the process of being organized to obtain comments for inclusion in the Plan for Eastern Pueblo County and the other areas.

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

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 Region 2 saw an uptick in serious motorcycle accidents in 2020. A task force was established with various partners such as the Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles, and others to address the issue. It will be a three-prong approach: (1) engineering - looking at tight curves to see what can be done to provide more advanced warning, (2) education - sharing the information about the difficulty of the rides and the skill levels needed to safely navigate through some of the scenic areas throughout the region, and (3) enforcement - working with law enforcement partners. A second task force meeting was held this morning and a bunch of educational information was shared with various dealerships throughout the region. The task force is trying to bring more awareness to folks about riding and riding safety. The task force is also looking at data and the number of accidents that are caused by folks that don't have a formal motorcycle endorsement on their license.

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT Region 2, reported there are two projects in our area. One is Purcell and Highway 50, which is approximately 20% done. She stated the traffic in the area will be shifted in March on Purcell. The box culverts will be extended south of the intersection. The second project pertains to ADA ramps. There are 70-80% ADA ramps left in Pueblo which need to be done. There are approximately 800 ramps which meet the standards.

Ms. Hu stated there was a big opening on the Elizabeth Street overlay project last week. The project was awarded to Kiewit last week.

Ms. Hu stated the next project on the horizon is east of Dillon Drive and the I-25 frontage road. CDOT is working on the design and the project should possibly be advertised this year and construction should begin next year.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG STAC representative, reported a brief memo was emailed to the PACOG members prior to the meeting. There is a \$47 million reduction projected in HUTF funds, which impacts counties. The actual, final budget is not completed yet and won't be done for some time. He stated he did not know what the impact would be to Pueblo.

Mr. Wiseman stated the Legislature and CDOT are trying to close the gap on electric vehicles and other vehicle uses. There will probably several bills proposed. He has asked the County's lobbyists to watch these bills to see what comes forward. He stated the electric vehicles will diminish the amount of funds for highways. The Legislature and CDOT are looking at how to close those gaps. The current shortfall in the FY 2021 budget is \$8.4 million. The shortfall is due to COVID and other economic issues.

Mr. Wiseman stated the next STAC meeting is scheduled tomorrow.

STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG Southwest Chief Passenger Rail representative, reported the director has moved on to other employment. He stated he didn't know how long it would take to fill the position. He felt that this is a loss as the program moves forward.

Mr. Wiseman reported Amtrak, who had requested close to \$2 billion to solve some of its shortfalls, ended up with \$1 billion. He stated they are in the process of reducing their costs, noting in the interim it will impact some of the growth for them.

Mr. Wiseman stated they are looking at a Senate process which is bringing in a transportation bill and infrastructure bill that may help in the future. The infrastructure bill would possibly be part of the stimulus package.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) A Resolution to Accept the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Safety Performance Measure Targets for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as per 23 U.S.C. 150

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the FAST Act or federal transportation bill requires MPOs in the State to develop targets for reducing fatalities, serious crashes, pedestrian fatalities, etc. As in the past, the local MPO has always adopted the State's safety targets. Those targets are provided in the proposed resolution.

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution to Accept the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Safety Performance Measure Targets for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as per 23 U.S.C. 150".

(B) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Adams reported there is a new U.S. Secretary of Transportation, noting the agenda has not come out on his policy. He stated President Biden's administration favors passenger rail. This would provide for the possibility of advancing forward on the Southwest Chief and North Front Range Passenger Rail.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

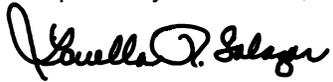
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 25, 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