

MINUTES
PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
THURSDAY, September 25, 2025

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025. The meeting was held in person and virtually via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by PACOG Chair, Brett Boston at 12:07 p.m.

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

Members Present were:

Ed Gutierrez-Salt Creek Sanitation	Roger Gomez – City Council
William Thiebaut -Dist. 60	Karim Ayoub-Colorado City
Chris DeLuca-Dist. 70	Brett Boston -City Council
Joe Latino – City Council	Mike Cafasso-Board of Water Works

Members Absent:

Regina Matri – City Council	Sarah Martinez – City Council
Zach Swearingen- County Commissioner	Dennis Flores-City Council
Miles Lucero – County Commissioner	Paula McPheeters -County Commissioner
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	Dylan Goodman PACOG MPO
Heather –Graham City of Pueblo Mayor	

Also Present Were:

Molly Quinn - Clifton, Larson and Allen	Lindsey Jaquez - CDOT
Don Bruestle PACOG TAC	J. Taggert - CDOT
Jennifer Sparks , CDOT	Sarah skinner- Pueblo County
Geoff Guthrie-CDOT	

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Laura Leyba sent a public comment via email on the presentation on the bus routes to Airport Industrial Park by Mead & Hunt in MPO packet. She stated that “It was the most well-done and in-depth presentation I've read so far.”

After studying all the info, Option 2 Peak Hours would get her vote. She stated: “ If I was considering riding the bus to work, whether or not the bus stop had a bench and shelter would be the deciding factor.” “ I wouldn't trade riding in my covered, air conditioned, heated vehicle for sitting or standing in the rain, hail, snow, heat, cold, and wind without a covered stop with a bench.” She went on to say that “Trash cans shouldn't be an issue since all buses currently have a trash receptacle, so some cost savings there.” “ Solar powered lights are currently being installed at existing stops and hopefully that solves that problem.”

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Minutes of August 28, 2025, PACOG Meeting were presented and approved with a motion from Mr. Cafasso and a second from Councilor Latino.
2. The PACOG Board gave words of appreciation for Mr. Mark Aliff's service as the chair, and he was given a plaque for his service to PACOG for the last 2 years.
3. The PACOG audit for fiscal year 2024 was presented by Molly Quinn from Clifton, Larson and Allen. She went over the audit in its draft form and asked for comments or questions. There were no comments or questions. The resolution to submit the audit to the State Auditor's office in its final form was motioned by Mr. Cafasso and seconded by Councilor Latino. The motion was passed by the approved by the PACOG Board.
4. The MPO consent items were next on the agenda. There were two resolutions for consideration, one added Hazard Elimination funding to install new traffic signals and intersection improvements at CO 47A & Pete Jimenez Parkway and US 50C (Bus/Santa Fe) & 27th Lane, for \$4.1 Million dollars. The other resolution was the delegation agreement for the transportation planning services between the City and the County of Pueblo. The resolutions were motioned by Councilor Gomez and seconded by Mr. Ayoub and were approved by the PACOG Board

REGULAR ITEMS:

1. Chairperson's Report:
 - Lunch Appreciation - Thank You to the Pueblo County Commissioners for providing Lunch.
2. Transportation Information:
 - Transportation Commission (TC) Update from the September 2025 meeting was sent to PACOG. Mr. Terry Hart could not attend in person so Mr. Boston, the PACOG chair read his report into the meeting record.
 - The Transportation Commission met last week on Wednesday the 17th and Thursday the 18th. The following is what was covered between the workshops and the regular meetings of the Commission and CTIO:
 - Budget: For FY 24/25: The TC went over the final revenue reconciliation and federal redistribution. For FY 25/26, they reviewed and approved the roll forwards proposed from the last fiscal year. The current FY budget now provides for approximately \$2 billion in new projects as well as approximately an additional \$2 billion for ongoing projects. They reviewed and approved the 2nd budget amendment for the current FY where excess funds per line item were rolled primarily into Interstate and Rural Roads maintenance and repair

- Fuel Impact Enterprise: They reviewed the FY 25 project funding status as well as the FY 27 proposed budget overview.
- Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise: They reviewed the FY25 year-end report, the FY 27 proposed budget, and the USDOT Bridge Impact Program grant match funding. One project under the federal BIP is one in the City of Fountain over Fountain Creek. They also reviewed the bonding activities for 2024 (\$164 million), for 2025 (\$225 million); and the next bond issuance proposed for calendar year 2026. They also reviewed the current large bridge activities on Floyd Hill and the Eastern Plains, the Eisenhower/Johnson tunnel upgrades, and the I-70 Glenwood Canyon repairs. And finally, they approved the 3d Supplement to the FY 26 budget.
- They received the Legislative Report for proposed legislation for 2026.
- 10-year Plan Workshop: They reviewed and discussed the development of this Plan which provides \$1.7 billion per year for CDOT projects and activities and \$350 million per year for the Enterprises. They also went over and approved the proposed 2050 Statewide Plan and the accomplishments to date. The next steps are final development of the 10 Year Plan and then the 4-year STIP which includes federal grant funding for Highway 50 resurfacing and passing lanes from Pueblo to Kansas. There is less funding available for the next 4-year STIP due to the reduction in funding from the federal government and completion of unique one-time funding from the State of Colorado.
- They were briefed on the Rail Abandonment and Potential Acquisition Report and process which is required to be filed by CDOT annually under SB 37.
- Mr. Hart stated he has now been appointed as a board member of CTIO (Colorado Transportation Investment Office). This is the Enterprise under CDOT that handles unique and expedited transportation projects including express lanes. Last year additional responsibilities were placed on CTIO by the legislature to work with CDOT and the Front Range Passenger Rail District, as well as other transportation entities, to assist with the development and funding for passenger rail in Colorado. They had a CTIO Board meeting and retreat this month to bring everyone up to speed on the Enterprises' activities and to do some intense visioning and planning for the future.
- State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) August 2025 Meeting update – Meeting information was given by Wendy Pettit.
 - Colorado State Legislature's 2025 Special Session ended with no impact to Transportation
 - The U.S. Congress is "lurching toward a shutdown" (due on September 30, 2025).

- Transportation Appropriations Budget has passed each house's Transportation Committees, but neither passed the full chamber yet. Continuing Resolution could still pass by September 30 to avoid a federal government shutdown

2050 Statewide Plan Adoption

- Comment period for all plans ended 8-31-25 with 28 comments received
- TC adopting the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan will lead directly to finishing work on the 10-Year Plan.
- STAC members approved recommending the Statewide Transportation Plan for TC adoption

Rural Roads Program Overview

- Smaller rural highways require different maintenance and asset management strategies than interstates.
- CDOT has improved over 2,500 miles of rural roads since 2021.
- A summary of notable rural projects was provided.
- In terms of Fixing Poor Interstate Pavement, Colorado went from 3.9% of interstate pavement in poor condition in 2020 to 2.3% in 2024 (the 2025 target is to be below 3.5%).
- Winter Season 24/25 Budget was \$324 million (with "most" of this going to Snow & Ice, Traffic, and Roadway Surface treatments).

Strategic Highway Safety Plan

- Trends in recent years show some safety improvements, but much more improvement is still needed (especially to protect Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs)).
- The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a statewide-coordinated safety plan that provides a comprehensive framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries on public roads.
- 256 stakeholders attended 10 workshops, and feedback helped lead to the identification of 57 safety strategies.
- Most urban crashes are at intersections, while most rural crashes are from lane departures.
- Advancing Transportation Safety (ATS, the SHSP's implementation body) is a statewide collaborative effort led by a team of state and local agencies, advocacy groups, academic institutions, and private entities.

- CDOT Project List information – Updates were given by Ms. Jennifer Sparks. She went over projects in the Pueblo area in progress and she spoke on the committee being formed to give input on the rest area creation at exit 108 and the need for participation from Pueblo County.

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

3. Information Items:

MPO Staff Report:

A presentation on areas of persistent poverty in our community was given by Mr. Austin Foster from consultants, Mead and Hunt.

- The City of Pueblo received a \$160K Federal Transit Agency grant to study how enhanced transit could address Areas of Persistent Poverty.
- The study focuses on extending service to the major unserved employment centers in Pueblo.

After a considerable amount of research 3 transit route additions possibilities were developed, and their associated costs were presented. Please see the NP packet materials for the full presentation and details of the research.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) request(s) the following project update with regard to the CDOT 10-year plan for transportation. The funding was advanced due to the outcome of the SH 45 safety study recently completed and presented to PACOG.

Project Name	Project Type	Total Estimated Project Cost	Other Funding	Funded (FY19-26)	Proposed (FY27-30)	Proposed (FY31-36)	Project Status	Planning Project ID
Interchange, Intersection, and other Safety Improvements - Pueblo Area	H	\$4.5M			\$2M		New Project	TBD
CO 96A, CO 47A, and US 50B Interchange Safety and Freight Improvements	H	\$19.5M				\$19.5M	New Project	TBD

4. Other Business:

- 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 1:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 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 virtually via Zoom.