

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

AUGUST 26, 2021

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Aliff, PACOG Chairman, at 12:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Mark Aliff
Larry Atencio
Ed Brown
Greg Collins
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano

Dennis Flores
Ed Gutierrez
Bob Schilling
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha
Mike Cafasso
Barbara Clementi
Epimenio Griego

Garrison Ortiz
Doug Proal
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Nick Gradisar
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek
Hugh Parker
Louella Salazar

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were three 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 Dennis Flores, seconded by Chris Wiseman, and passed unanimously to approve the three Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of July 22, 2021 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file July Financial Report); and

- A Resolution Approving the Acceptance of the FY2022 Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Rural Planning Grant in the Amount of \$7,400 from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Aliff thanked the Pueblo West Metropolitan District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement Report

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee minutes of August 5, 2021 were provided in the members' packet.

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

(B) 604(b) Funding for Watershed Planning

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported on August 6th, staff received an email from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division, regarding the possibility of additional funds to PACOG's 604(b) contract to work on or build towards a watershed plan for the nonpoint source impacts in growth areas in our region. This money would be added into the next round of our 604(b) contract but would only be available to be spent from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. She stated this is evolving depending on what may present itself to CPDHE. There may be additional funding and additional time relating to the watershed planning. She stated, at this time, staff is requesting direction from PACOG if it would like to pursue this additional funding to work on a watershed plan for the nonpoint source impacts in growth areas in our region.

PACOG formally gave its consensus of approval for staff to seek the 604(b) funding for watershed planning.

PUEBLO COUNTY JAIL AND JOE MARTINEZ BOULEVARD EXPANSION

Chairman Aliff stated that Mr. Garrison Ortiz, Pueblo County Board of County Commissioners, had another meeting which required his immediate attention and could not be in attendance today. He asked that this item be continued to the September 23, 2021 PACOG meeting.

SENATE BILL 260

Ms. Julie George, Local Government Liaison, Colorado Department of Transportation, made a PowerPoint presentation on Senate Bill 260, which passed in the last Legislative session. She stated it is 260+ page bill. There is a lot of accountability and transparency language in the bill both for CDOT and enterprises. There will be \$5.365 billion generated. The split remains the same on the dollars which go into the HUTF, which is 60% to State and 40% to local. The Revitalizing Main

Streets Program has received ongoing funding which was originally a COVID-19 program that was put into place to keep things moving. It has been successful and there is sustainable funding for it. She stated the Bridge Enterprise has been around for years. Senate Bill 260 modified the scope to include tunnels to the Bridge Enterprise. There are five enterprises, four of which are new.

Ms. George stated the next slide shows a list of the fees the bill created and where the dollars generated from those fees go. The Road Usage Fee, which is the fee on gas, goes into local and State HUTF. The Road Impact Fee, which is the diesel fee, goes into the Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise. The other fees include: Electric Vehicle Fee, TNC Fee, Retail Delivery Fee, Personal Car Share Fee, Rental Fee, and General Fund. Those that are putting the money in will get back usage from the fee they are paying. The Retail Delivery Fee is across the board. Personal Car Share Fee is when you share your own car. The TNC Fee is the Ubers and Lyfts of the world.

Ms. George stated there are three new electrification and charging infrastructure enterprises. The first is Charging Infrastructure and Electric Vehicle Equity. This is being handled by the Colorado Energy Office (CEO). The CEO is focused on getting charging stations throughout the State, as it transitions in getting more electric vehicles. The second, the Fleet Electrification Incentives, is in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This helps transition fleet vehicles to electric. The third, Public Transit Electrification, is in CDOT. This would allow CDOT to work with local transit agencies Statewide on electrification of transit of buses and fleet vehicles. These are known as the green enterprises.

Ms. George stated the next slide shows that CDOT's fee revenue does not kick in for a while. It will take some time to bring these fees up and start collecting on them. Early on, the general fund and stimulus dollars are being made available and will be utilized in the next couple of years. Because of these dollars, we can move through projects quicker than anticipated, noting it is not wise to hold future general assemblies accountable to what previous general assemblies should have done. The next slide shows how the dollars are coming to CDOT to cover projects. This slide breaks down the different sources of funding.

Ms. George stated there is a provision in Senate Bill 260 that is aimed at Regionally Significant Projects. These large projects would have higher greenhouse gas emissions. She stated the Rulemaking Process has been opened on the greenhouse gas rule. There was chatter on why CDOT opened up this rulemaking process. CDOT, DRCOG, and the North Front Range MPO need to comply with the provisions that are in the Regionally Significant Projects component of Senate Bill 260. This requires more modeling and monitoring. It is moving forward and won't apply to any projects except for I-270, which has been grandfathered in. It would apply only to projects that do not have a signed NEPA document as of July 1, 2022.

Ms. George stated one of the key things which was done in the legislation is tying in the fees with inflation. She stated the current gas tax does not do this, and this is getting the State further and further behind.

Mr. Wiseman asked if there is a Statewide map that shows where charging stations are located. Ms. George replied there is such a map, and she would send the information out to the members. Mr. Wiseman stated this was one of the discussions at the STAC meeting. He stated there are some counties, such as rural counties, that don't have any charging stations. He stated the Statewide map would help find those charging stations. Ms. George stated she would send it to the PACOG members after the meeting.

Mr. Gradisar stated some of the newer cars have a map indicating where the charging stations are located. The dash computers let you know where you need to go from where you are located, and how many are being used and how many are available for usage at these sites. Mr. Flores asked how long it takes to charge a car. Mr. Gradisar stated he has never used a commercial charging station, but he used his home 220-charger and it charged overnight. Ms. George stated there are some charging stations which charge faster than others. Mr. Wiseman stated he read that the quick charging stations wear the battery out faster.

Chairman Aliff stated as a local municipality that the influx in cash would be beneficial to Pueblo. He stated, hopefully, with this additional funding that I-25 through Pueblo can get finished.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Richard Zamora, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported Senate Bill 260 places requirements from an environmental perspective on CDOT with respect to greenhouse gas emissions. He stated the rulemaking has been opened. The rules are published on CDOT's website in draft form. There are several hearings scheduled throughout the State about those beginning sometime in September. All the information is available on co.dot.gov. The public will be able provide written comments and attend one of the public hearings. The closest public hearing for Pueblo is in Colorado Springs, noting it can also be attended virtually.

Mr. Zamora stated the Safe Main Streets Program has been extended, and CDOT has gone through a Projects Functions Process for an additional \$22 million in grants. Pueblo received one of those grants for \$2 million for the multi-modal project.

Mr. Zamora stated this fall CDOT will be updating its 10-year plan, which identifies projects for the next four years, and will include projects from Year Four of Senate Bill 267, of which a portion of I-25 through Pueblo is on it. He stated that the COPs should be issued sometime next spring. There is \$60 million earmarked. He noted there is a funding shortfall on the project, noting the total cost of the project is \$120 million. He stated he would be working with everyone on the funding.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG STAC representative, reported at the last STAC meeting discussion occurred on charging stations. Additionally, there was pushback from some of the districts in northern Colorado as far as the allocation of greenhouse gas emissions funding, noting they are trying to accommodate those counties.

STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG Southwest Chief Passenger Rail Representative, reported STAC is still in the process of reorganizing after the bill passed. STAC is going to wait until the State Transportation Commission has time to act on the budget, so that STAC can put together the Southwest Chief's 2022 budget. He stated El Paso County has had some resistance to Front Range rail, but they are moving forward on putting together a study for an Amtrak station.

Mr. Atencio asked if the Southwest Chief would be going through Pueblo to Colorado Springs. Mr. Wiseman replied they are still looking at it.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) CDOT Region 2 Request(s) for PACOG MPO/TPR Administrative Amendments

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported there are three administrative amendments. The first two pertain to the State Highway 96 and Prairie Avenue Signal Project. These amendments contain two different funding sources (i.e., FY 2022 Hot Spot Funding for \$102,000 and FY 2022 Signal Funding for \$70,000). The bids came in high on the SH 96 and Prairie Avenue project. To award the project, the project needs to have \$172,000 added to the \$909,000 of funding allocated to the project earlier this year in May 2021. This addition will keep the project whole and allow Region 2 to award the project. He noted there are no Federal and local matching funds required in either of these amendments.

Mr. Adams reported staff received another administrative modification from CDOT today concerning U.S. 50 and Purcell. The project would construct several permanent water quality ponds along with the intersection improvements. CDOT Region 2 continues to have wastewater issues with this project and needs to add funding to keep the project in compliance with the wastewater regulations. The amount of the amendment is \$832,00. There are no local matching funds involved in this project.

(B) Draft Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan (Comment Period)

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the draft Public Participation Plan and Title VI Plan are ready to go out for public comment for a 30-day period. He stated these Plans are Federal requirements. The Plans should be back before PACOG at its September 23, 2021 meeting for action.

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

(C) GHG Rule Making Comment Period (Comment Period)

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this item was already mentioned previously under Mr. Zamora's report. He stated the advisory committee spent over six months reviewing this. CDOT put a lot of time and effort into the rulemaking. It does impact our area. At the current time, there are no air quality issues in our area, but greenhouse gas emissions still need to be addressed for our area.

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

(D) Other Transportation Matters

There were no other transportation matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. (Note: The meeting will be held at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.)

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS