

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

OCTOBER 23, 2014

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Michael Colucci, Vice Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown
Michael Colucci
Sandy Daff
Dennis Flores
Nick Gradisar
Terry Hart

Ted Lopez
Buffie McFadyen
Steve Nawrocki
Chris Nicoll
Sal Pace
Lewis Quigley

Those members absent were:

Roger Lowe
Tony Montoya

Eva Montoya
Ami Nawrocki

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad
Scott Hobson

Dan Kogovsek
Louella Salazar
Greg Styduhar

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported there were two items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the two Consent Items for PACOG.

Acting Chairman Colucci asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like any of the items removed or discussed that are on the Consent agenda.

It was moved by Sal Pace, seconded by Nick Gradisar, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of September 25, 2014 meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file September Financial Report).

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Acting Chairman Colucci thanked the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners for providing lunch at today's meeting.

(B) Future Agenda Items

Acting Chairman Colucci asked if any members had any items they would like to add to future agendas.

Mr. Hart suggested this item be changed and placed on the agenda as the last item. PACOG concurred with his suggestion.

(C) Schedule November PACOG Meeting Date to Approve TIP Amendments for I-25/Ilex to 1st Street and State Highway 47 Resurfacing

Acting Chairman Colucci stated it is imperative that PACOG schedule a November meeting date in order to approve the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) amendments for I-25/Ilex to 1st Street and the resurfacing of State Highway 47. CDOT is available to meet with PACOG on Thursday, November 13.

Mr. Hobson stated this is a meeting date which was jointly selected by the MPO and CDOT staff. The reason for the meeting is that the new proposals for the I-25 section between Ilex and 1st Street will be open that morning for the new bids. A TIP amendment has to be approved if the bids come in at a dollar amount that can be awarded for the project. MPO staff is set up to prepare the resolution for I-25, noting it could go out in advance to PACOG, and then that morning they can prepare a final resolution that will have the dollar amount if it is within the framework. This date would meet CDOT's timeline for awarding the bid. There is also a resurfacing project for State Highway 47 by CSU-Pueblo, as well as other work associated with this. The TIP amendment can also be approved and awarded at this meeting. He stated there is a third TIP amendment adding \$132,000 to State Highway 96, which is the section east of Troy Avenue out to the interchange with State Highway 50/State Highway 47.

It was agreed to conduct the above meeting on November 13, 2014, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

(D) Schedule December Meeting

Acting Chairman Colucci stated the PACOG December meeting needs to occur either December 4th or 11th. The location of the meeting will be provided once the date has been scheduled.

Mr. Azad stated the City staff would respectfully request holding the PACOG meeting on December 4th. A comprehensive study has been done on selenium, and the consultant

will be able to attend on December 4th, but not the 11th. Ms. Salazar stated if the meeting is on December 4th, it could be held in this conference room. Mr. Gene Michael, Director of the City's Wastewater Department, stated when the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee met they were under the assumption that PACOG would not be meeting in November, and they assumed the next available meeting would be in December. If PACOG is going to have a meeting on November 13th and if this would be a preferred time for PACOG to receive the presentation, then it could be done on that date. He noted they have a meeting scheduled with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for November 17th, so if the presentation is made on the 13th, he would not be able to inform PACOG of the EPA's thought about the proposal. He stated the presentation could be done either November 13th or December 4th. Mr. Styduhar asked what the proposal is and are they going to be requesting PACOG to take action. Mr. Michael replied they are requesting from the State a discharger-specific variance for selenium, noting it is a new State regulation. They would need a resolution from PACOG, acting as the 208 Water Quality Planning Agency, showing that the proposal is consistent or is not consistent with the 208 Plan.

After discussion, PACOG agreed to conduct the meeting on December 4th.

(E) Schedule PACOG Budget Committee Meeting

Acting Chairman Colucci stated a meeting of the PACOG Budget Committee to discuss the 2015 PACOG budget needs to be scheduled sometime in November. Those members sitting on the PACOG Budget Committee include: Nick Gradisar, Treasurer; Terry Hart; Eva Montoya; and Lewis Quigley. Ms. Salazar suggested and the members agreed that she contact them to schedule the meeting sometime in November.

(F) Welcome Dennis Flores

Acting Chairman Colucci welcomed Mr. Dennis Flores, the new City Councilperson, to PACOG.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported PACOG received in their packets the draft minutes of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee's October 2, 2014 meeting. Information discussed at EPAC was a report from the Susan Finzel-Aldred, Environmental Coordinator, on the September cleanup in the Avondale and Pueblo West areas. She reported on the Creek Week on the Fountain Creek Watershed kickoff, noting there were over 12 groups and 150 volunteers working. She thanked the City Stormwater Department and CSU-Extension Office for coordinating, promoting, and recruiting for the event. She let the EPAC members know that the new Recycle Guide would be out in a couple weeks. She informed them that October 18th would be a free day at the Landfill, allowing free entrance for cars and trucks to anyone living in the City and 40% off for covered trailers. Ms. Armstrong stated no further reports were presented at the EPAC meeting. However, Mr. Michael introduced two guests: Gabe Racz, Water Quality Attorney from Denver, and Nancy Keller from the City Wastewater Department. As discussion earlier by Mr. Michael, the City of Pueblo is preparing an application for a discharger-specific variance for selenium, which is problematic in the

Arkansas River and Fountain Creek. The discussion included the timeframe for deadlines in order to have information to the Water Quality Control Commission for its hearing in April 2015. EPAC makes a recommendation to PACOG on whether this will be consistent with the 208 Plan since PACOG is the area-wide Water Quality Planning Agency for the 208 Plan. EPAC unanimously recommended support of the proposal by the City Wastewater Department for Pueblo's Discharge Specific Variance to PACOG for its consideration and support. The resolution, supported by EPAC, will be before PACOG at its December 4th meeting.

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

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) OF THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PUEBLO AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported an advertisement was placed in the Pueblo Chieftain regarding the appointment of two of the three CAC members, who are members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He stated two applications were received. One application was from Kristen Castor who is currently serving, and the other was from Salvatore Piscetelli.

It was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Chris Nicoll, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Appointing Two At-Large Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments Transportation Advisory Committee for the Pueblo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization". Those individuals appointed were Kristen Castor and Salvatore P. Piscetelli, with terms expiring on December 31, 2016.

PACOG DUES STRUCTURE AND BYLAW REVISIONS

Mr. Nick Gradisar, PACOG Budget Committee Chair and PACOG Treasurer, reported a memorandum, dated October 15, 2014, was mailed/mailed in the packets. The Budget Committee had originally talked about restructuring PACOG so that each entity had one vote, noting it was also discussed at the regular PACOG meetings a few times. At the last PACOG Budget Committee, it was decided that each entity having one vote might be a little too radical at this point. He stated each entity is now looking at their budgets and PACOG needs to decide what dues each representative will present to their respective boards. The Budget Committee decided to put this to a vote of the PACOG members, and have provided two options. Option 1 would maintain the current voting and dues structure. The result of this would be that Pueblo West Metropolitan District would still be paying the same dues as Salt Creek Sanitation District and Colorado City Metropolitan District. It was felt this was unfair, noting that Mr. Quigley representing Pueblo West felt the same. Option 2 was the compromise. Instead of one entity and one vote, it would be related to dues. The City of Pueblo would have three votes and pay \$13,000, the County of Pueblo would have 3 votes and pay \$13,000, the Pueblo West Metropolitan District would pay \$6,500 and have 2 votes, and the other entities would have one vote each and their dues would be reduced. He stated discussion occurred on what the purpose of PACOG should be and trying to get other entities involved. He stated he supported Option 2, which provides for more equity in terms of the representation on PACOG.

Mr. Hart stated this has been discussed at both the PACOG Budget Committee and PACOG levels. He stated we are trying to figure the rhyme or reason why we do things other than just the history and that is the way we were structured three or four decades ago. There was a lot of conversation on trying to figure out the equitable dimension and the level of duties and responsibilities for each member as compared to the vote and the fees paid by each of the governments. The one entity and one vote concept was tossed out a few meetings ago, noting there was feedback that this didn't quite capture the level of duties and responsibilities. He stated the Budget Committee came up with Option 2 as a compromise. He stated he is in favor of Option 2 because it allows us to evolve more toward an equitable approach.

Mr. Quigley stated PACOG is going through a transition and trying to decide what to do with the MPO. He stated PACOG is trying to decide and expand its functions. He stated, in his opinion, that PACOG has never made a decision that is harmful intentionally to the County, City, or any other areas. He stated this cannot be a money issue because PACOG would be collecting \$2,000 less. It is more of an equity issue. He stated there are 35,000 people in Pueblo West and he felt there is some inequality. He felt if you go with one entity and one vote then the entire PACOG should be reorganized.

Mr. Gradisar stated the PACOG Budget Committee recommends that both options be placed before PACOG for their votes, and whichever option receives the largest number of votes would become effective January 1, 2015.

Mr. Flores asked when the Budget Committee came up with the compromise what did they use as variables, e.g., population, budget, the focus of the entity. He stated on the surface it didn't look like a compromise. He questioned what the variable was in allocating the number of votes for each entity. Mr. Hart replied the Budget Committee talked about all those things. They talked about doing some kind of formula where they would capture each one of those variables. The consensus was getting more complex than it should be. They talked about doing research to find out how other COGs are structured throughout the State. The Budget Committee's compromise alternative is closer to the other COGs and how they are structured, noting there appears to be a variety of ways other COGs are structured with respect to how dues are assessed and how votes are connected to this. DRCOG, for example, on specific topics has a weighted vote, or one entity/one vote with dues calculated in one fashion. The weighted vote is where you count the number of votes by how much money you pay in a particular type of vote. They talked on whether PACOG should try to do this, and felt it might be too complicated. Mr. Flores asked was there a specific issue that may have come up that created a particular problem that we are trying to solve. Mr. Hart replied it has been a series of issues. He stated it is his perspective that it is the logic of it, noting some members have been around PACOG for a very long time. Mr. Flores stated in looking at the minutes that he got the impression that Mr. Quigley wanted to leave it the way it is for Pueblo West. Mr. Quigley stated the City and County have always called the shots because they contributed the most money to PACOG. The rest of us are benefactors of that. He stated he didn't think it made sense or there was any logic to it, but it seems to have worked. He stated he didn't think we have given it enough thought on how we want to do it. He stated it is complicated.

Ms. McFadyen stated one of her biggest issues as a Commissioner was coming into an organization where you have over 35,000 people and, yet, Pueblo West doesn't have its due service or enough votes on PACOG. She felt this is what started the discussion. She stated Pueblo West has come into its own and felt it should have the representation. She stated currently Pueblo West and some of the other entities have one vote, and she felt that Pueblo West morphs any of those entities. Mr. Flores stated this decision would also reduce the City's votes from 7 to 3, and felt this is "huge". He stated it sounded like Mr. Quigley who is representing Pueblo West doesn't have a problem with the one vote and the fee structure. Mr. Gradisar stated when the Budget Committee discussed this, they looked at the other COGs around the State and he stated that you will not find another COG where you will find this voting situation where one entity has so many votes such as the City has 7 and the County has 3. Most of the COGs have one entity/one vote. It is a council of governments, noting it is not the City COG, but the Pueblo Area Council of Governments. He stated if we are going to have a council of governments that it seems each entity should have the same vote. He stated he is willing to compromise and say this may be a little too drastic of a change and Option 2 would be fair. He stated 99.9% of the time it is not going to make a difference. He stated this doesn't mean that all the City Council members can't come to the meeting, but if they would only get 3 votes and they would have to figure out how to do that just like the Board of Water Works or the other entities that have 5 members, but only 1 vote on PACOG.

Mr. Nawrocki stated he attended the Budget Committee representing Councilwoman Montoya and he expressed his thoughts. He stated his logic is little different. He stated if there was a compromise he would be willing to let Pueblo West have two votes and everything else stay constant. He stated I-25 goes through the City of Pueblo of roughly 108,000 people. It is the center of the County and is the densest populated area. There is Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River going through the City, and there is Highway 50. There is no other entity that has all of those things. Mr. Pace stated the County does. Mr. Nawrocki stated when you get to the City line the County has its own territory, noting they do to different things. He stated he represents 108,000 people and the County Commissioners represent the whole County, but you don't necessarily provide services to all the people who live in the City. He felt somewhat taken back by relinquishing the 7 votes, but he would be willing to "up" another entity like Pueblo West and recognize the significance they play in our community. Mr. Pace stated he would like to contend to anyone who thinks that the County's only responsibility is outside of the City's lines. He stated the County Commissioners will be sending the bill for the jail, the new judicial building, Social Services, the tax collection, the health department where the City should be paying 80% because of its population, the animal shelter, the nonprofits in the community, and the \$700,000 on the arts center which is in the City, etc. He stated it is an absurd philosophical argument. He stated as a County Commissioner he represents 160,000 people and that includes 108,000 residents in the City. The County Commissioners have less than half the representation of the City for the same price. Mr. Quigley stated they are getting into the same argument that has been going on for years and it is nonproductive. He stated the Pueblo West residents spend most of their money in the City or the County and don't get anything out of it.

Mr. Hart stated the reason he likes the concept of one entity/one vote was to try to avoid these kind of representation super vote kind of questions. He stated he argued for having three options presented today--Option 1 being the status quo, Option 2 being one entity/one vote, and Option 3 being the compromise in between. He stated his fellow

Budget Committee members felt that the one entity/one vote was probably too radical. He stated he accepted that because it is a major change. They compromised in that meeting to only have the two options. He stated he would still like to see the option of one entity/one vote and then you avoid all the "who does what for who". He stated the Budget Committee discussed whether you can drive it by population, noting you can't because the Board of Water Works is at least the same population as the City. The Library District is the same population as the County. The Budget Committee also talked about factors such as duties, levels of responsibilities on the issues PACOG deals with, etc., but felt it was too complex. He stated maybe the easiest thing to do is to say "pick one".

Acting Chairman Colucci stated we are the council of governments not the individual councils and combination. The one vote per entity may be worth considering. He stated at the current time the City, if it wanted to, has 44% of the vote automatically as a combined unit and they only need one more person to capture the 50%. Mr. Flores stated he was looking at the other entities on PACOG, and he felt the County has 7 votes when you take into account District 70, Colorado City Metropolitan District, Salt Creek Sanitation District, and Pueblo West Metropolitan District, noting these are all County entities. He stated these entities have a commonality and community of interest. Mr. Hart replied he disagreed. He stated the City fits into that same theory. The County has all of those entities in it, but they do not have the same interests. Does the County have the same interests as Pueblo West? He replied no, noting they have similar interests in some things and different interest in others. Do we have the same interest as Colorado City in all issues? The answer is "no". Do we have the same interest as the City of Pueblo? The answer is "no". Many of the issues that we have we share common interests with the City, but they are not always the same. He stated he didn't agree with the logic. He stated these entities are not County entities and they would not "gang up on the City". He stated he didn't like the idea of it being "them and us" or "the City against the world". He stated he sees PACOG as a collective body for the entire community. Mr. Flores stated he thought he heard Mr. Hart say that 99% of the time that this wouldn't be an issue. Mr. Hart stated he didn't say that. Mr. Gradisar replied he said that. Mr. Flores stated if 99% of the time we aren't going to have an issue, then it looks like we are trying to solve something and searching for a problem. Mr. Hart responded he disagreed. He stated if you go back to the record and see what some of our votes have been on some of the key issues over the last few years, you will not see a unanimous vote. You will see votes that are split with a majority carrying the weight. This tells you that it is not always unanimous. Ms. McFadyen stated this statement is correct, noting that even the three County Commissioners don't always vote the same. She stated it isn't fair to characterize it that any entity would side with one or the other (City or County) because she didn't feel the lines are that simple because the entities go into other areas for servicing and have outside vested interests. She felt there were some merits to Mr. Pace's arguments. Mr. Gradisar stated the way PACOG was initially set up he didn't believe there is any way you can justify the City having seven votes, noting he didn't think it was fair or equitable. Mr. Quigley stated the City and County were paying for it. Mr. Gradisar stated that is the way the Budget Committee got to 3 votes City and 3 votes County under Option 2 because they are paying the same amount of dues. Pueblo West would be paying half as much in Option 2, and would get 2 votes. Mr. Gradisar stated he would like to call for the question and have the members vote on the two options, and whichever gets the majority wins. Option 1 is the status quo (same votes/same dues), and Option 2 would be the change in the votes and the dues.

It was moved by Lewis Quigley and seconded by Steve Nawrocki to adopt Option 1. It was decided a roll call vote would be taken. Discussion occurred. Mr. Nicoll stated he has a concern that Pueblo West has only one vote, but it is not presented in Option 1. He asked what would be the ramifications of adding two votes to Pueblo West in Option 1. Acting Chairman Colucci replied the fee structure would not be aligned accordingly. Mr. Nicoll asked if the Budget Committee had talked about Pueblo West "kicking" in more money for more votes. Mr. Quigley stated the only way he would be able to sell it to the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board of Directors would be to get more votes and two votes probably wouldn't do it. Ms. Daff asked if the motion could be modified to include another Pueblo West vote. Acting Chairman Colucci stated there is a motion and second on the floor on Option 1, noting it would have to be withdrawn. After discussion, Mr. Quigley withdrew his motion. Mr. Pace stated if PACOG is considering amending Option 1, then the City's dues should be doubled because they would still have seven votes. Mr. Flores stated he keeps hearing Mr. Quigley wanting to leave things as they are for Pueblo West and we are trying to force him. He stated he would like PACOG to take a vote on the two options before them.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar and seconded by Buffie McFadyen to submit the two options to the PACOG members for a vote, and that each member be required to record their vote on whether they support Option 1 or Option 2 and whichever receives the most votes is the direction PACOG would move forward with. He stated if one of the options should pass, it might be possible to amend the option at that time.

A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 6 for Option 1 and 6 for Option 2. Those voting for Option 1 were Ed Brown, Sandy Daff, Dennis Flores, Steve Nawrocki, Chris Nicoll, and Lewis Quigley. Those voting for Option 2 were Michael Colucci, Nick Gradisar, Terry Hart, Ted Lopez, Buffie McFadyen, and Sal Pace. Since it was a tie vote, the motion died.

Mr. Quigley encouraged PACOG to decide what it wants this organization to be and where it wants to go. Acting Chairman Colucci stated this could be a future agenda item to continue the dialog. Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on whether there should be a standalone MPO. The Budget Committee agreed to try and resolve the voting structure first and then go back and revisit the MPO issue. He stated two-thirds of the administrative costs for the MPO is paid for by the City and one-third by the County. Mr. Hobson replied that is correct, noting this is not included in the dues. He stated the City and County have shared the MPO administrative costs for many years, and the cost is based on the Census population counts. A separate agreement is done. Mr. Hart asked if this is driven by law or by what has been agreed to be done. Mr. Hobson responded it is driven by law. Mr. Hart stated this is illustrative of this continuing conversation. He stated when the PACOG members vote on MPO issues, if you really are buying the concept of you pay for a vote you don't get a vote on a MPO issue. He stated he would like the conversation to be continued. He stated doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is the definition of insanity. He stated he is a proponent to have this conversation over and over again because he felt there should be some structural changes within our community and to start tackling things that might be holding us back and finding a better way to do things. He stated this is not an easy debate, but we weren't elected to sit back and just watch things happen the way they have always happened before. He stated when it comes to transportation, he is incredibly proud of what PACOG as a group has achieved in a little less than two years.

He stated they got the State to finally pay attention to our community and we are getting things done. He stated if something is working fine then it should be left alone, but if something can be improved, then we have to stand up and improve it.

Acting Chairman Colucci asked that the above item be placed on a future agenda.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Acting Chairman Colucci read into the record comments from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the Region 2 Transportation Commissioner. The comments are as follow:

1. FY 2016 Budget: Total transportation revenue equals about \$1.3 billion. Additional revenue sources (the exact amount is uncertain) may include federal appropriations as well as State general fund appropriations. This revenue, especially the additional revenue, may assist in funding programs and projects such as I-25/Ilex and U.S. 50 West.
2. Interregional Express bus service: CDOT "Bustang" service is expected to launch in March, 2015. The routes are: Colorado Springs-Denver; Fort Collins-Denver; and Glenwood Springs-Denver. Pueblo is a primary market for potential expansion. In the meantime, CDOT is considering establishing at least one new transit center in Pueblo to accommodate the eventuality of this expanded service. Until then, Ramblin Express offers bus service between Pueblo and Colorado Springs providing intrastate connectivity.

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT's South Program Engineer, reported she has been in Pueblo for 20 years and worked for CDOT 15 years as a Traffic Engineer.

Mr. Nicoll stated Mr. Hart and he went to a high speed rail presentation some months ago and Pueblo was left off of the high speed rail as far as being a stop. He stated he didn't know if FREX was a CDOT initiative or if a private company was handling it. He stated if this was service that residents could take north on the interstate, then Pueblo should be included. He asked if there was any outreach to the City or County as far as discussions. He felt it was important that Pueblo be included, noting we always get left out when it comes to moving people around. Ms. Hu replied CDOT staff had a presentation on Monday and were told that Pueblo could be included in Phase 2, and in the interim they are considering establishing a new transit center. Pueblo is not being considered during Phase I.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Administrative Amendment

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported there is one administrative amendment regarding the Arkansas River Trail Phase 2 project in the amount of \$770,618. This was previously included in a TIP amendment, and this allows the money to roll forward for another year to complete the project. This is for access on the west side of the West 4th Street Bridge down to the Arkansas River to where the Whitewater Park is located. This accommodates parking and handicap accessibility below and parking up above adjacent to the Tea Palace restaurant. When the previous alignment for State Highway 96 from the bridge was reconstructed, it created excess right-of-way on the south side of 4th Street. Mr. Gradisar asked why it wasn't done this year. Mr. Hobson replied the

matching funds for the project were coming from underground utility funds provided through Black Hills Energy, and they weren't able to put together the agreement in time for the commitment from Black Hills Energy to be able to provide the underground funds. He stated the City's franchise with Black Hills Energy allows a certain percentage of funds to go into underground utilities for overhead power lines. Since they were not able to get this done in time, they are carrying it over until next year.

Mr. Flores asked if the repairs which are going to be done on the levee system if they would be working close by this project. Mr. Hobson replied most of the access work for the levee project will be on the south side. He stated they are having meetings with the Pueblo Conservancy District on the levee project and if access is needed to get to the levee, the City has an easement for those recreational facilities along the river that allows for access, noting they can't interfere with other operations.

(B) TIGER VI Grant Award Update

Mr. Hobson reported as a follow-up to the application which was submitted by CDOT for the U.S. 50 West project, it did not receive funding from the Federal TIGER VI funds. The request was for \$10 million of a \$36.9 million overall project, which was submitted. It was a very good application. There was a project that was submitted by Garden City, Kansas, which was funded. Part of the money will be used for improvements to the section of railroad which comes into Colorado for the Southwest Chief. Mr. Pace stated there were 12 communities in Southern Colorado that put forth matching dollars for that including Pueblo County. He stated he would be joining the FRA, Amtrak, Kansas, and other partners on the application for a BNSF course in Topeka, Kansas next week to talk about planning and expenditures. Mr. Hobson stated what happened this application was that multiple states financially contributed to the project.

Mr. Hart asked if there is any way to get feedback from the folks who made the decision on the TIGER grant application why Pueblo didn't get funded. He stated he would like to know so we can fine tune our game for future funding. Mr. Hobson answered they have given feedback in the past, so he would follow up on this. Mr. Hart stated it is his understanding that El Paso County submitted a TIGER grant for access improvements to Fort Carson, noting they didn't even do it through their COG because they didn't want to compete against PACOG. They went alone as a standalone county and got it. He wondered what the rhyme or reason for why projects are being selected and who is getting the positive vote and who isn't. He stated he was under the impression that El Paso County had an uphill climb to even getting theirs close to being approved. He stated he understood Pueblo was primed as one of the top two recommendations from the State of Colorado and yet the opposite occurred.

Mr. Pace stated the interesting thing that he learned is that out of 63 successful applicants across the country that 48 were local governments who were the primary applicants without having State DOTs involved. He stated the head of U.S. DOT is someone who had bad relations with the State DOT. There was speculation that the local applications had a much better shot than the State DOT applications. Mr. Hart stated he would like to know if this was an inappropriate exercise of authority by somebody in a position of power and if that is the case, then that is just politics. Mr. Pace stated regardless that local applications are much more successful than State applications. Mr. Hobson stated the only other comment is that the grants for construction projects are separated out and there is a pool of funds for construction

dollars and a pool of funds for planning dollars. He stated El Paso County received planning dollars and it may have made it more competitive versus other types of construction projects which were submitted.

(C) Other Transportation Issues

Mr. Nicoll asked staff if they had any idea on when the construction (bridge work) between Pueblo and Colorado Springs on I-25 would wrap up. Ms. Hu responded starting next week the construction would be done at night.

Mr. Brown asked about the 4th Street and Santa Fe drainage project. Ms. Hu replied there was money left in the project and the City is working on a design, and once this is done it can be finished.

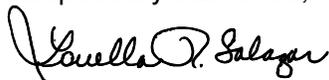
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Hart stated he would like to continue talking about the PACOG structure. It is important they have a conversation on what to do about the MPO structure status. Mr. Pace stated at previous meetings there have been informal discussions about creating a standalone MPO staff who would answer to the MPO directly and PACOG. It would be interesting to look at researching this more formally. Mr. Hart questioned if whether there would be a value to appointing a subcommittee of PACOG to work with CDOT and U.S. DOT and look at the models used in the State and talk about advantages and disadvantages. They can report back to PACOG what would be heard by that subcommittee and the various issues. It allows us the rhyme and reason on why we do it. In a recent conversation with someone, there was a flavor in that conversation that a standalone may be inevitable. He stated this may be an alignment that the Federal and State governments are more comfortable with and it gives us more consistency with what's going on in this State and others. There have been a series of problems with MPO administration in different parts of the United States and the Federal government is taking a look at it and streamlining their approach. We may be moving towards a standalone model, and if that is the case, it is a good idea to find out specifics of what might or might not work. He would like a subcommittee formed to explore this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 13, 2014, and is to be held at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary