

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APRIL 28, 2016

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Brown, Chairman, at 12:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera
Ed Brown
Terry Hart
Frank Latino
Judy Leonard

Ted Lopez
Roger Lowe
Buffie McFadyen
Tony Montoya
Steve Nawrocki

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio
Nick Gradisar
Chris Nicoll

Sal Pace
Bob Schilling
Lori Winner

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad
Sandy Blanco
Scott Hobson

Dan Kogovsek
Alf Randall
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.

Chairman Brown 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 Roger Lowe, seconded by Tony Montoya, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of March 24, 2016 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file March 2016 Financial Report).

REGULAR ITEMS:

PACOG TRANSPORTATION HEARING

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding the proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017-2020 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR).

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2017-2020 PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE PUEBLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND THE PUEBLO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION (TPR); DIRECTING THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION TO SUBMIT THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT); AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO CORRESPOND WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SFY 2017-2020 PROGRAM ADOPTED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM BY THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported this is a public hearing on the proposed 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adds projects to the 2020 funding category. There were two projects added, which include \$250,000 for the I-25 design work for future phases, environmental studies, and access studies. The other project is \$6 million for the U.S. 50 project between Wills and McCulloch Boulevard. The remaining projects for 2017-2019 were approved in the 2016-2019 TIP, noting none of them have changed. At next month's meeting the projects that were in the previous 2016-2019 TIP will be ruled forward into the 2017-2020 TIP.

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Roger Lowe, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Adopting the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017-2020 Pueblo Area Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR); Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Submit the Transportation Improvement Program to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); Amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to Correspond with the Provisions of the SFY 2017-2020 Program Adopted Herein; and Providing for Implementation of the Program by the Urban Transportation Planning Division".

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

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

(B) Plaque Presentation to Roger Lowe

Chairman Brown presented a plaque to Roger Lowe, the outgoing representative from the Colorado City Metropolitan District. Mr. Lowe thanked the members for the plaque, noting it had been a pleasure and wished them well in their future endeavors.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement Report

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported a draft of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) minutes were sent in the members' packets. The next EPAC meeting is scheduled on June 2, 2016.

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

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT FROM REGIONAL PLANNING FUNDS IN THE 2016 PACOG BUDGET TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL EXPRESS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 FOR THE PACOG CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL EXPRESS DENVER BYPASS PROPOSAL

Chairman Brown reported a presentation was previously made and entertained a motion to approve.

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Terry Hart, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving Payment from Regional Planning Funds in the 2016 PACOG Budget to the Rocky Mountain Rail Express in the Amount of \$5,000 for the PACOG Contribution toward the Rocky Mountain Rail Express Denver Bypass Proposal".

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN MATRIX CONSULTING GROUP, LTD. AND THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,500 FOR THE PACOG ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURE STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL TO EXECUTE SAME

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported this resolution would approve the contract between PACOG and Matrix Consulting Group, Ltd. When the packet was prepared, the Budget Committee had not completed the final recommendation of the selection of the consultant firm from the three firms that proposed for the project. They now have a final resolution that would approve the contract between Matrix Consulting Group, Ltd., and PACOG for \$59,500. This resolution would approve the contract and they would be able to start work the beginning of May.

Mr. Terry Hart reported the PACOG Budget Committee got together and had several meetings. They received three very good proposals and all three were supplied to the members of the Budget Committee. The proposals were reviewed and the PACOG Budget Committee asked for more information from some of the bidders on their budget and approach to the service they would be providing. The process was concluded by

each of them voting and submitting their ballots to Scott Hobson. He then did the tally and Matrix was the company that was awarded the bid. It was pretty close between two of the bidders, noting they would have been well served by any of the three. The scope of work for the project has a pretty aggressive time schedule for the consultant to understand how PACOG is structured and how other similar organizations are structured. All of the information will be compiled into a report that would come back to PACOG including the consultant's options for potentially restructuring the PACOG organization. The deliverables will need to be provided within this calendar year so it's a pretty fast process since the project is intentionally set up to talk about the structural issues prior to finalizing the 2017 PACOG budget.

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Ray Aguilera, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving an Agreement Between Matrix Consulting Group, Ltd. and the Pueblo Area Council of Governments for Professional Consultant Services in the Amount of \$59,500 for the PACOG Organizational Restructure Study and Implementation Project, and Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute Same".

REPORT ON MEETINGS WITH TOWNS OF BOONE AND RYE

Chairman Brown reported they would be meeting with the Town of Boone next month. Mr. Hart stated a meeting with Rye is in the process of being set up. A report will be presented at the May 26, 2016 PACOG meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Brown read into the record the following comments which were received from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, State Transportation Commissioner, regarding its April meeting:

- FY15-19 Asset Management Planning Budgets and preliminary discussion of FY20 recommendations: Nearly 90% of the current Asset Management Planning Budgets distribution deals with surface treatment, maintenance, and bridge repairs. Notably, this overall percentage will decline as surface treatment allocations will be reduced by almost \$10 million between FY16 and FY19--\$235 million to \$225 million. This decline will impact surface treatment programs that benefit rural area roads. Bridge allocations are declining at a more aggressive rate and the decline has a similar impact on rural bridge needs.
- Safe Routes to Schools FY16 Projects. The Transportation Commission approved \$2 million for infrastructure projects, including \$200,000 to Pueblo County for North Mesa Elementary safe routes and bicycle safety improvements.

Ms. Ajin Hu, South Program Engineer, CDOT, reported they are working on a RFP to hire a consultant to work on I-25 from Civic Center Street to Highway 50. They don't have the scope of work defined, but they want a consultant on board in case they get money to work on grant applications or preliminary designs.

Chairman Brown stated next year they would be working on 4th Street from Albany Avenue. Ms. Hu stated they would be doing the advertising in June to start working on the ADA ramps. Chairman Brown stated there are people who are concerned about the

truck access off of 4th Street on the east side. Ms. Hu stated the curb ramp design accommodates the trucks to make turns. Chairman Brown stated on 4th Street and Santa Fe Avenue, even with the design, there is still a problem.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Ms. Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, PACOG STAC Representative, reported transponders and tolled express lanes were discussed by the STAC committee, but are really not an issue for PACOG. CDOT is looking to work with private contractors on the Bustang project and would hopefully extend service to Pueblo. CODT submitted a Fast Lanes grant application to improve freight movement improved via the Lamar reliever route following US Highway 287, which is east of Pueblo. PACOG wouldn't lose money if we support this project, noting CDOT can delay one of their projects until next year and allow the funds to go to the Lamar project. The Lamar reliever route is a very big deal for the Lamar region and she supports the idea. Mr. Montoya asked Ms. McFadyen what the timeline was for Lamar. Ms. McFadyen replied it's coming up pretty quickly. Ms. Hu stated the total application is \$160 million, and \$90 million is federal money. Ms. McFadyen stated it's a big deal for Colorado and odds are they will benefit from it in the long run.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update - Process and Status

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported at the May PACOG meeting they will hold a public hearing and look at a resolution to adopt the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. They have been working on the last chapter for transit and updating the information on the long-term condition of buses. The rest of the chapters haven't been changed in the last two months. They would hopefully have an adopted plan by the end of May of this year.

(B) HSIP and Safety Performance Measures Final Rules Overview

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported the HSIP Final Rule was released by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By July 1, 2017, CDOT should incorporate the performance measures they're going to utilize for evaluating, and the performance measures for each of the different safety categories that are tied to the performance measures adopted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). MPOs will need to establish performance measures for all public roads in the MPO planning area within 180 days after CDOT establishes performance measures. That doesn't mean there currently are no performance measures in place, noting two months ago they reviewed CDOT's evaluation of their existing performance measures. CDOT will end up modifying and adjusting their performance measures based on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) criteria and categories. CDOT and PACOG also have performance measures in their Long Range Transportation Plans that will need to be adjusted and amended to be in compliance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

(C) Pueblo Area Wide Transit Feasibility Study

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported PACOG has initiated a RFP to hire a consultant to complete the Pueblo Area Wide Transit Feasibility Study. They received four proposals, which are currently being reviewed. They are hoping by next week to make a recommendation on their selection. The scope of work the consultant would follow looks at the current and potential changes to Pueblo Transit's operations. The study will look at potential extensions or expansions to the system for Pueblo West, St. Charles Mesa, and the Pueblo Airport Industrial Park. The potential expansion of the hours and days of service including adding Sunday service will be part of the study. Several of the routes that Pueblo Transit has follow the same routes the trolley system utilized 50 years ago, and the study will look at possibly adjusting or changing some of the routes. This is the first review of the overall transit operation system since 2000. We hope to have the consultant get started by the end of May and are looking at a six to eight month timeframe for the study to be completed.

(D) Job Recruitment Update - Transportation Program Manager

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported they selected the Transportation Program Manager and his name is John Adams. He is currently the MPO Manager in Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. Adams will be starting on May 14, 2016, and would hopefully be at the next PACOG meeting.

(E) FY 2016 Mid-Year Review with FHWA and CDOT - May 12, 2016

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported on May 12, 2016, following the regular Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, they would be going through a mid-year review with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and CDOT for the MPO operation. It would be held at the Pueblo Municipal Justice Center from 10:30 a.m. to noon and all TAC members and PACOG members are invited to attend and participate. They would be looking at their operation with the MPO and what they can do to improve it.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino thanked the council for the opportunity. As an educator for 35 years, he feels very strongly about the importance of school safety and community safety. The number one priority in this country as far as schools are concerned is school safety. They have a lot of entities working in regard to this in the community. They need to create more awareness knowledge with an understanding of what it entails. Law enforcement can't do it on their own in terms of protecting everyone. They need a strategic plan with stakeholders involved. In the 80s they had a very serious problem in Pueblo and formed the *ad hoc* Gang Discipline Committee. Mr. Dan Corsentino was the Sheriff at the time and worked very cooperatively with the committee. A conference was held in Aurora where all the entities that worked with youth attended, and from that came the need for safety, not only in schools, but the community. He appeared before City Council and they were willing to give them part-time school resource officers on a rotation basis. A few years later they went back and asked for full-time officers. They had school resource officers seven years before Columbine, and they were very pro-

active. They are asking for officers again and hope they all agree, noting it's a critical item and it's not going away. There is a perception of Pueblo and they need to have buy-in with it. They love this community and there are a lot of good things going on. They have to ensure the right people work together in the spirit of cooperation with the sense of understanding and open communication. They need to eliminate the blame from law enforcement, schools, PEDCo, the university, and the community college. They need to work together.

Mr. Latino stated the purpose today is to give them an overview of something they think would help them as a community, but it's going to take everybody's buy-in. It is awareness, prevention, preparation, education, and response. They can't be in a reactive mode; they have to be in a progressive mode. It isn't safe to walk in this community or any community anymore. It isn't the same community he grew up in. He grew up in a neighborhood where they didn't lock the doors because the neighbors cared about each other. He would like this to be a standing agenda item, noting it's a community effort and they all need to be on the same page.

Mr. Dan Corsentino reported this community has changed dramatically in many ways. They all have a common love for this community, and it's their commitment. Mr. Latino asked him to share some thoughts on his perception of community safety, where it's going, and where they're at. As a law enforcement community, they need to decide if they're going to do pro-active policing or traditional policing. The answer is clear, noting they have resorted back to traditional policing. It is a result of the financial base for the Pueblo Police Department. True community problem solving is a very expensive proposition because they need officers over and above the staffing levels that can bring about problem resolution and problem solving. The Sheriff's Office and the Police Department haven't reached that point. They do so many good things in the community, but they're still not getting to the base of the criminal element. They have to reach a point as a community to see where they want to go. This isn't just a law enforcement or educational problem, it's a community problem. They have to define if they're traditional and going to stay that way, or are they going to redefine themselves into a progressive community policing philosophy. They need to become invested in the community and help strategize and decentralize public safety. There has to be an enhanced community basin prevention program that starts in each of the schools.

Mr. Corsentino stated the Pueblo Police Department has a very progressive software system, noting they can get times, dates of crimes, and the response. They can allocate manpower in relationship to where the incidents are taking place. It is part of a hot spot saturation patrol when they're dealing with gangs in a high crime area and moving resources into areas where there is high crime. The Board of County Commissioners allocated some funding and they reassigned several deputies to work with the Pueblo Police Department in establishing a gang task unit. They were able to stop individuals that were violating curfew or were in positions they shouldn't have been in. They found the crime element slowly decreased as the law enforcement increased. He is a firm believer of the community based safety plan where everybody is on the same page and going in the same direction. It is time to start telling people what they're going to do, what they can do, and how they're going to get it done. He did some research and found that many law enforcement agencies in the country are moving toward the technology of installing cameras in high crime neighborhoods. The District Attorney

makes the determination on what crimes he or she is going to prosecute. The Police Department and the Sheriff's Office are making determinations on arrests that are driven by the crimes. They may invest several hours in a crime that's committed, but the results are minimal from the District Attorney's Office. It may be important for law enforcement, public safety, and the community to work with the District Attorney to reprioritize how they're interacting. He referred to an article out of New York on the perception of Pueblo. Is Pueblo as violent as people are saying? The answer is no, noting Pueblo isn't as violent as people are saying. How do they remove this perception? Where is the increase in the perception of crime? As a stakeholder, putting together a combined community safety plan would help. He likes the fact that non-traditional stakeholders participate in the development of a plan and communicate better with the community. What is the overall plan for the next five years in this community? What is the general plan of action? He looked at Pueblo's Comprehensive Development Plan that was introduced by PACOG in 2002, and there wasn't a single sentence about public safety. How could law enforcement and public safety be left out of the Comprehensive Plan when law enforcement is a primary ingredient to the quality of life and economic development? The risk focus prevention is important in identifying what they're doing at schools, and they're seeing more in law enforcement. Some people call it profiling, but it's not profiling and has nothing to do with authenticity. It is behavior models, not only of children, but young adolescents that are in the criminal justice system. They are identifying these targeted individuals and trying to figure out what they can do to redirect their lives and take them out of the criminal justice system. People commit crimes and get to the next level, but they're really health issues. The mental health issues are significant and they're dealing with them as a community. The substance abuse is rampant and applauds the Sheriff's Office in taking enforcement action on the illegal marijuana drugs. They should also be thinking about the methamphetamine and heroin problem, which is now being fused in this community. There are other issues such as school failure, unemployment, family poverty, and literacy. In the 90s the schools were the centerpiece and had more anti-gang initiatives. He talked to some school resource officers from School District 70 and School District 60, and some of them agree.

Mr. Corsentino stated across the country law enforcement agencies are too strict and are finding themselves in positions for litigation. That needs to be loosened up so there is more innovation and the officials can start to be problem solvers. They can't be afraid to fail because without failure they would never be successful, and people are going to make mistakes. A part of the community safety plan is identifying those areas of technology that are becoming obsolete. It is also important to identify the stressors in the community. In law enforcement, sometimes in public safety, it's more internal than external. It is the maturation of the organization, the matrix of the trend. It is having specialists inside an organization that can deal with the problems. They are working toward more unified elective safety strategies, but need to speed up. The civic pride is really weak. The homeowners aren't taking care of their properties like they once did and it's sad to see. They may run into bumps sometimes, but when they have controversial issues, instead of taking a position to find the common ground, they see themselves in an atmospheric position.

Ms. McFadyen stated one group that is often overlooked in the public safety stance is the Department of Social Services. They are a key point between the schools and law

enforcement. Mr. Corsentino stated the detention officers are incredible and have a lot of intelligence that they pass on. Mr. Aguilera stated two local doctors infected thousands of their kids with opioids and neither one of them went to jail. They made millions of dollars and are accountable for the things they did. They created pain in their community and addicted their kids to drugs.

Mr. Latino stated he's been visiting the schools and there is a definite need for mental health workers. He talked to principals and staff members and a lot of good things are going on. They also have many issues. There is a need to address the behavioral and social problems in their schools.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

Ms. McFadyen reported she was very excited to hear the County Director of Public Works met with the new Director of the City Airport and it looks like Pueblo County will be helping them redo the parking lot. She is confident that a shared relationship will happen. The City is going to work financially with them on it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Blanco
PACOG Recording Secretary

SJB