

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

AUGUST 22, 2013

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at the Pueblo City-County Health Department, 101 West 9th Street, Third Floor, Conference Room C. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chris Kaufman, Vice Chairman, at 12:16 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown  
Michael Connolly  
Nick Gradisar  
Terry Hart  
Chris Kaufman  
Ted Lopez

Roger Lowe  
Eva Montoya  
Steve Nawrocki  
Sal Pace  
Lewis Quigley

Those members absent were:

Michael Colucci  
Sandy Daff  
Buffie McFadyen

Ami Nawrocki  
Chris Nicoll

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong  
Sam Azad  
Scott Hobson

Dan Kogovsek  
Louella Salazar

#### CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Acting Chairman Kaufman 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 from the Consent agenda.

It was moved by Steve Nawrocki, seconded by Eva Montoya, and passed unanimously to approve the six Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of July 25, 2013 meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file July 2013 Financial Report);
- A Resolution Amending the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) FY 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Allocate 2014 Transportation Alternative

Funds in the Amount of \$770,677 for the Arkansas River Trail Phase 4 Project and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Execute Said Amendment;

- A Resolution Amending the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) FY 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Allocate 2014 Hazard Elimination Funds in the Amount of \$400,000 for the Purcell and Platteville Boulevard Roundabout Project and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Execute Said Amendment;
- A Resolution Amending the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) FY 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Allocate 2014 Bridge Off-System Funding in the Amount of \$2,044,700 for the County Road 273 of Greenhorn Creek (PUCO.07-216A) Project and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Execute Said Amendment; and
- A Resolution Adopting the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2014 and 2015 for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) as the Designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Pueblo Urban Area in Compliance with 23 USC 134, 49 USC 5303, 23 CFR 450 and 500, and 49 CFR 613; and Authorizing and Directing the City of Pueblo in Accordance with the PACOG and City of Pueblo Delegation Agreement dated December 6, 2012 to Administer and Implement this UPWP in Accordance with All Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations. (Note: A memorandum, dated August 22, 2013, was distributed providing revised Page 23, 2.5 Sub-Area & Special Transportation Studies; Page 25, D. Financing, 2014 & 2015 Estimated Budgets; and Attachment 1--FFY 2014 to the proposed Unified Planning Work Program submitted to PACOG on August 14, 2013. The August 22, 2013 revisions, along with the original August 14, 2013 memorandum, were approved by PACOG.)

Mr. Nawrocki asked where the bridge over Greenhorn Creek was located. Mr. Hobson replied it is the bridge which crosses Apache to the far south. Mr. Hart added it is across the border from Huerfano County. Mr. Nawrocki stated he didn't think the Greenhorn Creek went down that far. Mr. Hobson responded the Greenhorn Creek drains into the St. Charles River then into the Arkansas River.

### **REGULAR ITEMS:**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Acting Chairman Kaufman thanked Pueblo School District No. 70 for providing lunch for today's meeting.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

(A) Intergovernmental Review--Family Farmers Seed Cooperative

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported PACOG received a letter from Ms. Linda Johansen, the B&CP Area Specialist for USDA, dated July 18, 2013, requesting comments for an application for technical assistance grant funds for the Family Farmers Seed Cooperative. She referred PACOG to a draft letter, which was distributed prior to the PACOG meeting, providing the intergovernmental review. She stated she spoke with Mr. Dan Hobbs, Chair of the

Cooperative and he stated it is a part of a national seed growers' co-op for organic seed growers, noting there are no other organic seed growers in Pueblo County and there is no duplication through economic development. The draft letter, which will be signed by the PACOG Chairman, states PACOG has no concerns with the Family Farmers Seed Cooperative application for financial assistance from USDA Rural Development.

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Roger Lowe, and unanimously approved that the Chairman sign the letter on behalf of PACOG.

(B) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Armstrong referred PACOG to the August 1, 2013 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) minutes, which were provided for information purposes.

(C) Colorado Water Quality Control Commission Update

Ms. Armstrong reported on August 12, 2013, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (CWQCC) unanimously approved the 5 microgram per liter Chlorophyll *a* standard for Pueblo Reservoir as proposed by PACOG. The adopted standards can be obtained on the CWQCC's website, noting it is 69-page document.

INTRODUCTION OF CHANTAL UNFUG, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS' NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ms. Chantal Unfug, the new Division Director in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), stated she would like to thank the City of Pueblo. DOLA partnered with Colorado Counties, Inc., the Colorado Municipal League, and Special District Association yesterday to host a workshop on intergovernmental relations, strategic budgeting, and asset driven economic development in Pueblo. There were about 120 local government leaders in attendance. There will be other workshops provided across the State. She stated DOLA is the only department which is sole customer based in supporting local governments. Mr. Lee Merkel is the local DOLA representative.

Mr. Quigley stated Pueblo has always had a strong relationship with DOLA. He stated DOLA is one of the best organizations in the State of Colorado. He felt DOLA should be taken as a role model for the other State agencies.

Ms. Unfug stated she comes to DOLA with almost 20 years of experience in local government. She ran the Denver Parks and Recreation Department and was the county manager for Mesa County. She brings a solid balance between the Front Range with different types of resources and abilities, as well as the Western Slope. She stated the different communities are unique, but there are also similar issues.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Consolidated Planning Grant Contract Extension

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported staff received an extension on the Consolidated Planning Grant contract, which is the grant used for federal funds for transportation planning,

through the end of 2013. Normally, the contract would end September 30<sup>th</sup>, which follows the federal fiscal year. All the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) were given this extension. The MPOs need additional time to get the new contract provided by the State. This will be approved by PACOG and adopted prior to the end of the year. There are sufficient carryover funds to be able to operate during this period, noting it will not affect the ability to charge for urban transportation planning.

(B) Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) Program City and County Roadway Devolution Commitments

Mr. Hobson reported the applications which were filed by the City and County are being reviewed by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The Commission will look at the applications at their September meeting. It is likely that a final decision will not be made until October.

During the week of August 12<sup>th</sup>, the City and County passed resolutions regarding the devolution of four roadways, which they would be accepting the ownership and maintenance responsibilities for CDOT managed roadways. These roadways are: (1) State Highway 227 from East 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Santa Fe Avenue going into the St. Charles Mesa; (2) Elizabeth Street between U.S. 50 north to Wills Boulevard; (3) State Highway 233, which is Baxter Road between U.S. 50 and the St. Charles Mesa down to State Highway 96 by the airport; and (4) the extension of Lake Avenue from Pueblo Boulevard to Stem Beach, which is the old U.S. Highway 85. The total value of the devolution according to CDOT staff is \$1,206,209, noting it is being used as local match as part of Pueblo's RAMP applications. In addition, there is \$1.2 million of funds the City will be providing from the Black Hills Energy utility fund to place the overhead utility lines underground adjacent to I-25 between Ilex and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The total would be \$13.4 million in local matches being provided. When you compare that to the total request, which is about \$62.4 million, this would be a 31%-32% local match. He felt this places Pueblo in a very solid position to receive the funds. Acting Chairman Kaufman thanked everyone for a job well done. Mr. Hobson stated the City, County, and CDOT staff have pulled together to get it done.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Acting Chairman Kaufman read into the record an e-mail from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the newly appointed Transportation Commissioner, stating he had a meeting in Denver at the CDOT headquarters with the Chief Engineer about the RAMP projects. The e-mail also stated last week the Transportation Committee approved CDOT's third budget supplement for the current year which included funding for the Arkansas Bridge/Chemical Depot Access (Deck Rehabilitation Design) in the amount of \$250,000; learned that Lake Pueblo was on the PCD Priority List, Federal Land Access Program in the amount of \$6.3 million; and began discussions about RAMP priorities.

Mr. Tom Wrona, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported Commissioner Thiebaut is one of three new Transportation Commissioners sworn in last week. Commissioner Thiebaut is meeting with the Chief Engineer and getting up to speed. Commissioner Thiebaut will be meeting with the local CDOT staff tomorrow morning.

Mr. Wrona stated the final decision on the RAMP applications will probably be done by the Transportation Commission in October.

Acting Chairman Kaufman asked Mr. Wrona if he heard any comments from the Legislative Commission when they were in town Tuesday. Mr. Wrona replied he didn't get any feedback, noting they are touring the entire State.

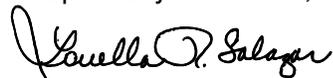
Ms. Montoya expressed concern about the landscaping from Dillon Drive to Highway 47. She stated the Colorado State Fair is about to begin and it looks atrocious. She stated the whole Highway 47 is a mess. The landscaping needs to be done, the grass needs to be cut, there are dead bushes, etc. Mr. Wrona stated he wasn't certain where the dividing line is with the City, and what is their responsibility. Mr. Azad stated the City is working out by CSU-Pueblo. Mr. Wrona stated he would have a conversation with his maintenance staff.

Acting Chairman Kaufman stated because there isn't a lot of money in the City's budget, they may have skipped a month or two in order to get this done before the Colorado State Fair. The City will be working this week to get as much as they can get accomplished prior to the Fair.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS