

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JANUARY 23, 2020

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Louella Salazar, PACOG Secretary, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Crystal Breckenridge
Ed Brown
Barbara Clementi
Greg Collins

Staphanie Cordova-Catalano
Garrison Ortiz
Doug Proal
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Mark Aliff
Larry Atencio
Mike Cafasso
Dennis Flores

Terry Hart
Ted Lopez
Bob Schilling
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Carmen Howard
Sabina Genesio

Dan Kogovsek
Louella Salazar

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Salazar reported there were four items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Acting Chairwoman Salazar 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 Barbara Clementi, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the four Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of December 5, 2019 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file November 2019 Financial Report);
- A Resolution Appointing a Representative from the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, the Environmental Coordinator Position, to the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC); and
- A Resolution Designating a Place for the Posting of Notice of Public Meetings of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments for Calendar Year 2020.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Acting Chairwoman Salazar thanked Pueblo West Metropolitan District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) PACOG Nominating Committee for 2020 Officers

Acting Chairwoman Salazar read into the record an email from Mr. Flores confirming his discussion with the other PACOG Nominating Committee members, Mr. Chris Wiseman and Ms. Crystal Breckenridge, on the final slate of new officers. The slate is as follows: Chairman - Chris Wiseman, Vice-Chair - Ed Brown, Treasurer - Terry Hart, and Secretary - Louella Salazar.

Acting Chairwoman Salazar asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

It was moved by Crystal Breckenridge, seconded by Barbara Clementi, and passed unanimously to accept the PACOG Nominating Committee's report and approve the following slate of officers for 2020:

Chairman - Chris Wiseman
Vice-Chair - Ed Brown
Treasurer - Terry Hart
Secretary - Louella Salazar

Ms. Clementi asked if these are one-year terms. Acting Chairwoman Salazar replied yes.

(C) New Chair Takes Chair

The gavel was presented to Mr. Wiseman.

Chairman Wiseman thanked Mr. Flores for his service as 2019 Chair.

(D) Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing Chair

Chairman Wiseman presented the plaque of appreciation to Mr. Kogovsek to deliver to Mr. Flores, with respect to PACOG's appreciation for his services as the 2019 PACOG Chair.

Ms. Salazar read into the record an email, which was provided by Mr. Flores, to the members:

"Fellow PACOG members:

I am sorry that I could not make it to today's meeting, but I did want to thank all of you for allowing me to lead this group. It was an honor and please to have your support. I look forward to attending the next meeting as a Board Member and working on the many issues we have. The most exciting thing is how we come together for the common good and being able to work together in friendship and helping the citizens in the entire County of Pueblo.

I also want to thank Commissioner Wiseman for agreeing to Chair our group for the next year. Best of luck. Respectfully, Dennis Flores.”

(E) Appointment of PACOG Budget Committee

Chairman Wiseman reported currently serving on the Budget Committee are Terry Hart, Treasurer, and Messrs. Atencio and Ortiz. He asked if there was anyone else who would like to serve. There were no other members who were interested on serving.

It was moved by Doug Proal, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the following individuals to serve on the 2020 PACOG Budget Committee: Terry Hart, Treasurer, and Larry Atencio and Garrison Ortiz.

(F) Introduction of New Members, Staphanie Cordova-Catalano, Barbara Clementi, and Lori Winner

Chairman Wiseman stated Ms. Lori Winner representing City Council was not in attendance today. He introduced and welcomed Mmes. Barbara Clementi representing School District No. 60 and Staphanie Cordova-Catalano representing School District No. 70.

Ms. Cordova-Catalano stated she is serving on the School District No. 70 School Board. She is a CASA representative. She recently served four years on the Committee of Architecture for Pueblo West.

Ms. Clementi stated she represents School District No. 60. She was recently re-elected to the District's Board of Directors. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Association of School Boards and is working with them. She also is teaching innovation as an adjunct lecturer at UCCS.

(G) Introduction of New PACOG Manager, Carmen Howard

Chairman Wiseman introduced and welcomed Ms. Carmen Howard, the new PACOG Manager, as well as the County's Director of Planning and Development.

Ms. Howard stated she spent the morning meeting with her counterpart at the City of Pueblo getting ready to dive into the Comprehensive Plan. She thanked everyone and stated she was glad to be at PACOG.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement Report

Ms. Salazar, PACOG Secretary, reported the minutes from the December 5, 2019 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee meeting were mailed in the members' packets.

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

(B) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Salazar, PACOG Secretary, reported the minutes from the December 5, 2019 ADA Advisory Committee meeting were mailed in the members' packets.

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

A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING A 10-YEAR PIPELINE OF LOCAL ON-SYSTEM HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PROJECTS OF THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT) FOR THE PUEBLO MPO AND TPR PLANNING REGION

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported for several meetings we have been talking about this 10-year pipeline of projects that the State wants to incorporate as it develops the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan to 2045. Staff took the projects that were identified in the local Long-Range Transportation Plan, which was approved in June 2016, and narrowed those down to fiscally constrained projects for the 10-year program. There were seven highways projects identified, as well as the capital projects for transit.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Doug Proal, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Identifying a 10-Year Pipeline of Local On-System Highway and Bridge Projects of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the Pueblo MPO and TPR Planning Region".

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT) SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AS PER 23 U.S.C. 150

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this is another requirement which came out of MAP-21, which is the Federal Transportation Act. This was carried out through the FAST Act. On an annual basis, we must identify certain performance measures and targets in order to do our performance planning as required. This year, we have forecasted the following Statewide targets:

- Fatalities - 618 (Statewide)
- Fatality Rate per 100 Million Miles Traveled - 1.143
- Serious Injuries - 3,271 (Statewide)
- Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million Miles Traveled - 6.075
- Non-Motorists Fatalities and Serious Injuries (Pedestrian and Bicyclists) - 670 (Statewide)

He noted the good news is that our fatalities are being forecasted to go down. The downside is our serious injuries are going up. These forecasts are what the State has adopted and, in the past, PACOG has always agreed to what the State has identified Statewide.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Barbara Clementi, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution to Accept the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Safety Performance Measure Targets for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as per 23 U.S.C. 150".

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported PACOG approved the 10-year list of projects from our area that could possibly be funded. In this list, we are not talking about the next four years because those projects have already been identified, rather we are talking Years 5-10 (or 6 years of imaginary funding). If CDOT were to get \$500 million per year for highway funding in Years 5-10 Statewide, what would CDOT do. It has been broken down by region and

area and a fiscal constraint was placed into the mix. PACOG has now come back and identified those projects. This is imaginary funding, noting it is not secured. Normally, CDOT has a lot of money for assets (paving, bridges, culverts) and then \$50 million is received Statewide (discretionary funds) to use as the planning areas would like. PACOG gets about \$1.5 million per year of those discretionary funds. There are also Safety funds identified for the area. This list is being incorporated into a Statewide plan that will be presented to the Colorado Transportation Commission in February, which could possibly be approved by March or April. It is hoped that the State could help and get General Fund transfers to get those projects funded.

Ms. Rowe stated, at the current time, there is \$500 million per year of additional funding. The Pueblo area has big projects identified. The first one will go to advertisement on February 13th on the U.S. 50 Purcell interchange. The three lanes will be continued through to Purcell. A fourth lane will be added, which will be an exit lane, between Pueblo Boulevard and Purcell in the westbound direction. There will be two lanes that exit off Purcell and two lanes will go through to the main McCulloch. There will be a grade separation at Purcell, with Purcell going under U.S. 50. It should be finished by the end of 2022. Senate Bill 267 and Senate Bill 1 monies, as well as General Fund transfers will be utilized.

Ms. Rowe reported the next big funding project in this area should be U.S. 50 and the I-25 interchange reconstruction. This will entail the realignment of Highway 50 as it connects to I-25 on the east side. The interchange will be redone per the I-25 New Pueblo Freeway document. There is currently \$90 million for the project, noting the total project cost is approximately \$125 million. CDOT and staff will continue working on getting more funding, but in the interim will start working on the design.

Ms. Rowe reported the Transportation Commission and STAC talked about the next INFRA grant request notice, which has come out for CDOT. The only thing which will be submitted is the I-70 and Vail Pass. INFRA grants were utilized for the expansion to three-lanes on I-25 from Castle Rock to Monument. INFRA grants were also used for U.S. Highway 297 for passing lanes. Applications are due in February for freight money.

Ms. Rowe stated transit funds have been approved for two things in this area: (1) building a new Bustang park-n-ride on the north end of Pueblo next to the CDOT headquarters, which connects to the shopping area, and (2) the Bustang service will be extended and expanded. At the current time, Bustang Outrider goes from Lamar to Pueblo to Colorado Springs and stops at Fountain then Nevada and Tejon and then comes back. This Bustang service would be the full Bustang bus. It would start in Pueblo in the morning and head up to Colorado Springs and then Denver. The Bustang service has been relatively successful with 60% farebox recovery. The other transit funding, which was approved, was to improve the Bustang Outrider stops. They were going to look at the different stops and see if they are in the right places and if infrastructure is needed. The Bustang Outrider serves this area and goes from Alamosa to Salida and comes to Pueblo. It stops in Canon City, Penrose, Pueblo West, and Pueblo. It leaves Pueblo in the afternoon and goes to Lamar.

Ms. Rowe stated they will probably have to close the Pinon Rest Area this spring. The vault is filling up and it needs to be cleaned out. CDOT is trying to figure out a way to fund something permanent to handle the waste at the facility. It will be closed at least a month, if not two to three months. Mr. Kogovsek asked if it would be closed on both sides of the interstate. Ms. Rowe replied the southbound one would be closed. The northbound one has leach fields. The leach fields are getting to capacity. It may have to be closed at some time. Currently, CDOT doesn't have the funds to keep cleaning it out.

Ms. Rowe stated there will be no vote at the Transportation Commission on the Regional Priority Program Funding. It is based on a formula to the regions and the regions use that formula to distribute to the planning partners. The formula is coming up for debate as to how much would go to each area. The debate is on funding urban and rural areas. There is discussion on increasing the Regional Priority Program. There are also FASTER Safety funds which come from registration fees. There is a formula on the number of accidents in an area, and it determines how much money goes to each area. This funding distribution is being discussed at a Statewide level.

Mr. Ted Lopez, Jr. asked if Bustang service would be extended to Trinidad in the next year or two. Ms. Rowe replied there are plans, but no funding has been approved at this time. She stated she thought it was from 5 to 10 years. The first thing would be to extend the service from Pueblo to Colorado Springs. She stated she would try to find out more on Trinidad.

UPDATE ON PACOG 2019 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Doug Schwenke, JDS-Hydro Consulting, Inc., stated a report was done at the December 5, 2019 PACOG meeting. This is an update to the Pueblo County Water Quality Management Plan, which was last updated in 2012. They have been updating wastewater utility plans for some entities, i.e., Pueblo West and Colorado City/Rye. The Plan contains planning information that wastewater entities would use in reference when they develop site applications that come before PACOG and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. There have been a few site applications which have been before PACOG in the last several years. The Plan update contains population projections and summary of 303(d) listings, which are constituents that cause impaired streams within Pueblo County, the Arkansas River, Fountain Creek, and other tributaries. There are also updates to the status of discharge permits for different wastewater providers in Pueblo County. Groundwater discharge permits are also listed in the Plan. There are many changes which have happened, especially with respect to State regulations, specifically on constituents of interest (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll, selenium). The City of Pueblo has had to do a lot of work with selenium. Chairman Wiseman stated a public hearing would be held at the February PACOG meeting. Mr. Schwenke added if PACOG approves it in February, it would then go to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission in August for approval.

Mr. Don Bruestle asked under Colorado Water Law once the wastewater has been treated can it be used again within the same jurisdiction or must it be released downstream. Mr. Schwenke replied that it depends on the water rights. You can if you have the rights to do so. Depending upon its use and where the source water comes from, many times the answer is yes. The State Health Department and Division of Water Resources are trying to create regulations to encourage this but there are a lot of regulations that go further to make sure that the water reuse is safe. There is a lot right now in terms of irrigation (grey water). A lot of developments lay two different lines (potable (treated water), and raw water for reuse (untreated but reused for use to consumption)). Within Colorado, we don't have the luxury of sending waste to the ocean. Mr. Kogovsek stated as a rule of thumb water rights for project water (Fryingpan Arkansas Project from the Western Slope) can be used to extinction. Water that comes from the Arkansas must be returned to the spring. Mr. Schwenke stated Colorado Springs has a similar situation, noting most of their water is obtained through the Western Slope to Pueblo to the Southern Delivery System to the Homestake Pipeline.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Ms. Karen Rowe stated the STAC talked about the Regional Priority Program (RPP) formula and the recommendations. STAC recommends the formula that favors the rural communities. It doesn't change the amount Region 2 gets by a lot, but it would change how much PACOG would get. The members who voted against favoring the rural areas (PACOG and PPACG) and the other members voted in favor of it. The Transportation Commission has a different voting makeup and has 4-5 members from the Denver area and the rest are from rural areas. Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the State Transportation Commission Chairman, will need to take what the STAC is recommending and figure out what he can get the Transportation Commission to approve.

Ms. Rowe stated, in her previous statement under her Region 2 Director's Report, she indicated that the Transportation Commission did approve funding for Trinidad, which should commence operations by 2021, noting the route would be from Trinidad to Pueblo. There was \$360,000 approved for capital (purchase of a bus) and \$230,000 for operations for five days a week. The Commission also approved a Bustang Outrider route from Sterling to Greeley, Telluride to Grand Junction, and Craig to Denver via U.S. Highway 40. Operation on these routes will begin in 2021.

Ms. Rowe stated Mr. Thiebaut's take on the formula is that there is a fear. Last year, Proposition CC was done to see if collection of taxes could go to transportation. The year before, discussion pertained to a sales tax Statewide to go to transportation. The fear is if the Denver area votes for their own transportation tax to go to their area, then the Statewide initiative would probably fail. Mr. Thiebaut does not want to see that happen. Denver collects about 60% of the tax and only get about 40% of those transportation funds back in their area, noting they are more of a contributor.

STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Ms. Rowe stated the North Front Range Passenger Rail Coalition is meeting this afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the local CDOT headquarters. There were 55 people invited. Other meetings of the Coalition were held in Greeley and in Denver this week.

Mr. Adams reported next Tuesday there is a Countywide 1A Initiative meeting being held. The identification of the station for the Amtrak train will be discussed. There is a workshop from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28th. From 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be a town hall open house held at the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center. He encouraged everyone to give their comments on where the station should be located. Currently, it is felt that the station should be downtown to bring people to the area. The Union Depot is a possible location.

Mr. Adams stated the North Front Range Commission will be meeting tomorrow, and Mr. Hart will be giving an update on this meeting at the next PACOG meeting.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) CDOT Region 2 Requests for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Formal Amendment FY 2020-23 TIP

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, stated this request is for Senate Bill 267 funds for the U.S. 50A Purcell Interchange widening project. The total amount, which includes other funding, is \$40,800,000. The project is approximately four miles of roadway starting west of the intersection at Purcell Boulevard and ending west of Pueblo Boulevard. The project will widen the roadway to three lanes in the westbound direction and provide a grade separated intersection at Purcell Boulevard. Since this is a formal TIP amendment that was advertised, it requires formal action.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Doug Proal, and passed unanimously to approve the project fund amendment of \$40,800,000 for the U.S. 50A Purcell Interchange.

(B) Approval Letter for FY 2020-2023 State Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Adams reported a letter was received from the Federal Highway Administration approving the FY 2020-23 State Transportation Improvement Program. These are the projects which are to be implemented over a four-year period.

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

(C) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Adams distributed copies of a letter from CDOT, dated January 22, 2020, requesting an administrative notification of Roll Forward Project Funding or TIP/STIP Policy amendments to the MPO and TPR area. The project is for bridge construction of structure K-18-U on I-25 at Mile Post 111.9. The total project fund amendment is \$2,971,300 and has been approved by the Bridge Enterprise Committee. This bridge is located in between the two rest areas on I-25 in Pueblo County, noting it was on the southbound lane. This is in the Transportation Improvement Program. He stated this is an informational item, so no formal action is required.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Salazar reported she will be scheduling an orientation for new PACOG members, noting one hasn't been done in a while. She informed PACOG she will be sending out an email to get an idea of when to schedule the orientation. Hopefully, the orientation will be conducted before the February 27th PACOG meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Clementi asked if PACOG would like an update to School District No. 60's bond. Chairman Wiseman felt, at some point PACOG, would want an update. He said it would be placed on the agenda as a future item.

Mr. Adams stated CDOT has offered to make a presentation at the March meeting on the scheduling and timeframe on I-25.

Mr. Ortiz stated the County Commissioners have received a lot of calls on trash, especially on areas near the highway. He thought that the Mayor's office has been talking with CDOT on this

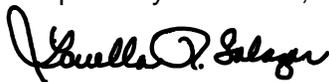
issue. He stated he would like an update on those efforts. Ms. Rowe replied anything on the interstate is CDOT's, and anything off it is the City's responsibility. Mr. Kogovsek asked even if it is a State highway? Ms. Rowe replied unless it is from curb to curb that is CDOT's responsibility; anything on the sidewalk or median is the City's. Mr. Ortiz stated the City-County Trash Task Force has been getting a lot of feedback on what areas are going to be cleaned up. Some of those areas are open and aesthetically are not the best entrance for visitors to the community. He stated they also want to see what they can do with the resources they have now from the City and County to seek permission to clean those areas. Ms. Rowe stated CDOT has a permit process on a right-of-way. She asked who she should reach out to contact. Ms. Ortiz replied she could contact his office. Ms. Rowe stated she would talk to CDOT's maintenance forces to see if they could spray for weeds in the median. They generally don't remove weeds in the median, but she will ask if this could be done. She stated conversations need to be started again with the City Mayor. By division of authority, CDOT's practices around the State and their interpretation by the Attorney General's Office is CDOT will take care of the pavement; the curb and gutter and anything beyond in the median and otherwise is the City's responsibility within the City's limits. Any landscaping, irrigation, mowing, trash removal, or weeds are the City's responsibility, other than on the interstate. On the interstate, the City still pays for the lights. Generally, CDOT tries to have agreements in place with newer projects. For Ilex, anything not on the interstate such as mowing, trash removal, irrigation, and landscaping, once the warranty is over, it will all be the City's. CDOT works with the City staff in advance so that they know they will be taking over the maintenance. CDOT makes sure all the different things are installed to the City's requirements.

Ms. Genesio asked who the County would need to talk to regarding signs on the highway. Ms. Rowe responded additional signage is difficult to do unless it is legislatively required. It depends on the signs. She provided the customer service line (719-562-5568), who will be able help direct anyone to the appropriate person. Ms. Rowe informed Mr. Ortiz if the Trash Task Force is looking at cleaning certain areas that they should also contact the customer service line.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, it was motioned by Ed Brown, seconded by Barbara Clementi, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS