

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

OCTOBER 22, 2020

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Mark Aliff  
Ed Brown  
Mike Cafasso  
Barbara Clementi  
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano

Dennis Flores  
Terry Hart  
Ed Gutierrez  
Bob Schilling  
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera  
Larry Atencio  
Greg Collins

Garrison Ortiz  
Doug Proal  
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams  
Sabina Genesio  
Nick Gradisar

Carmen Howard  
Dan Kogovsek  
Louella Salazar

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

#### CONSENT ITEMS:

Chairman Wiseman reported there were two items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. He summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Wiseman asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like an item removed or discussed that was on the Consent agenda. There were no other additions or amendments.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Mike Cafasso, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of September 24, 2020 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file September 2020 Financial Report).

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

(A) Introduction of Edward Gutierrez, New Salt Creek Sanitation District Representative

Chairman Wiseman introduced and welcomed Mr. Edward Gutierrez, as the new representative from the Salt Creek Sanitation District. Mr. Gutierrez stated he has been with the District since 1997 and was looking forward to working with PACOG.

(B) Presentation of Plaque to Ted Lopez, Sr., Outgoing Salt Creek Sanitation District Representative

Chairman Wiseman presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Ted Lopez, Sr., outgoing Salt Creek Sanitation District representative. He stated Mr. Lopez has been on PACOG for many years. He thanked him for his service to PACOG and the community of Pueblo.

Mr. Ted Lopez, Sr. thanked PACOG and stated he enjoyed being on PACOG all these years.

Mr. Ted Lopez, Jr. provided a brief history of his father serving as a board member on the Salt Creek Sanitation District. He stated his father was one of the original founders of the District. He also provided a brief history of the District.

(C) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Wiseman thanked the Pueblo Board of Water Works for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(D) Schedule December Meeting

Chairman Wiseman stated the November and December meetings are combined because of the holidays. He asked the members what date worked better with their schedules--December 3 or December 10. Mr. Adams stated he would prefer the meeting be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> because of scheduling of the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The members agreed to the next meeting being held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Wiseman stated there is a possibility that the next PACOG meeting might be done totally virtual because of issues with COVID-19 in Pueblo County.

(E) Schedule PACOG Budget Committee Meeting

Chairman Wiseman stated Ms. Salazar would be contacting the PACOG Budget Committee members (Larry Atencio, Terry Hart, and Garrison Ortiz) to schedule a budget committee meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

(A) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Louella Salazar, Recording Secretary, reported the minutes from the September 3, 2020 ADA Advisory Committee meeting was mailed in the members' packets.

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

#### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, Region 10 Transportation Commissioner.

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT Region 2, reported on the Regional Priority Program (RPP). She stated the money is being used on Highway 50 and I-25 through Pueblo.

Ms. Hu stated that the State CDOT Director was in Pueblo last week to tour the Highway 50 and Purcell project, noting she was happy with its progress. She stated that it is hoped that the project will be finished on time.

Ms. Hu stated the northbound Pinon Rest Stop is almost done.

Ms. Hu stated the project east of Troy Avenue on Highway 50B with respect to the two bridges should be done in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Hu stated next year Elizabeth Street to Eagleridge to Ridge Drive will be overlaid.

Ms. Hu stated there will a variety of ADA ramps done next year.

#### STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Terry Hart, PACOG STAC representative, reported STAC met on October 9<sup>th</sup> via a virtual meeting. The report from CDOT was presented. He stated STAC had a meeting after the Federal government passed its continuing resolution, which takes the Federal budget into the lame duck period in December. This makes sure that everything continues functioning effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated one of the things which came out of the continuing resolution was the extension of the FAST Act funding.

Mr. Hart stated they had a report on the National Performance Standards. The analysis provides a list of those highways which were Federally funded. It indicated that Colorado is falling behind on its maintenance, noting there is not enough funding to keep all the highways maintained. There is always pressure to take away money internally from projects to maintain highways. There is no money to improve the highways.

Mr. Hart stated it was reported that the State Transportation Commission did a virtual tour of the Denver and Pueblo transportation offices and their virtual access to the highway systems in the State. Between the two offices, you can see almost every highway in the State.

Mr. Hart stated CDOT's 2021 budget was discussed. There will be amendments because of shortfalls in some areas. This is an ongoing discussion with the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). Some of the preliminary work is being started with the JBC regarding preparation of the 2021-2022 State budget. The State is expecting a \$1 billion shortfall for this budget cycle. The main conversation which will be going on at the State Capitol is how to deal with the budget shortfall, noting it could impact local governments with unfunded mandates. He stated CDOT staff has done a remarkable job with the budget, noting they have been borrowing from one project to pay another project in order to hold all the pieces and parts together.

Mr. Hart stated there was discussion on the Front Range Passenger Rail project. The outreach has done a few polls and public involvement community meetings. There has been a lot of

support Statewide, or 70%-80% support. All the rails which are being proposed for the Front Range Passenger Rail and Southwest Chief Passenger Rail will be coming from EVRAZ.

Mr. Hart stated there was also discussion about Amtrak stepping forward, noting they have in their proposed budget for the next fiscal year a significant increase in the amount of funding, particularly for new lines. They have set aside \$2.1 billion to come into the State of Colorado and help with the Front Range Rail. It is important that the State representatives know not to take any money from this project or Amtrak will take its money away and it will never be seen again. He stated there was discussion at the STAC member level on how this project is going to be paid for. There was some belief that citizens wouldn't want to pay for it. There was discussion during this debate that there wasn't enough money for the highways, so we don't want any money being diverted from highways to pay this project. He made it a point to let them know that "transportation is all the above". We need to find a way to pay for all of it. We are trying to find outside sources so they can do as much as they can with the rail line. The passenger rail line up and down the I-25 corridor will be a huge impact on reducing traffic.

Mr. Hart stated they talked about their bylaws.

Mr. Hart stated their next meeting is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Terry Hart, PACOG's representative on the Southwest Chief Passenger Rail Commission, reported the Commission met on September 25<sup>th</sup>. He stated because of the funding shortfall caused by COVID-19, there is a bigger threat of the desire to eliminate long distance rail lines.

Mr. Hart stated all the grants are progressing nicely. CDOT found \$100,000 the Legislature had given to them for the Commission.

Mr. Hart stated there was discussion on the Amtrak efforts. There was more extensive discussion on the cost issue. CDOT has projected the cost per passenger mile, noting if the charge for the passenger was 32¢ per mile, it would pay for itself. This was floated out as a poll amongst the citizens to see the feedback on ridership, indicating they received good feedback. CDOT looked at the other passenger rail lines around the United States and found that the average charge was about 17¢, which means that Colorado would be subsidizing it, in effect. Another analysis was done at 17¢ and found out it would dramatically increase the number of riders. If more riders, it allows the possibility of tapping into more funding mechanisms.

Mr. Hart stated there was discussion about the various grant work which is being done on the Southwest Chief.

Mr. Hart stated there was a report on the Front Range Rail as to how much a Front Range passenger rail would drastically decrease greenhouse gas emissions and how the State could meet its mandates on these emissions.

Mr. Hart stated they talked about the various types of technology and trains that could be used, such as those being developed in Asia and used in Europe. There are purely electrical passenger trains that are being developed in the Chicago area. There was a report about the ongoing conversations about the Federal Railroad Administration. The Southwest Chief is starting to get attention nationally.

Mr. Hart stated the current project for the Front Range Rail goes from Fort Collins to Pueblo. Trinidad is anxious because they want to make sure it goes to Trinidad. The current funding sources won't allow a terminus in a community as small as Trinidad. The nearest terminus would be in Pueblo. There is a way of getting around this because the Southwest Chief is being designed and developed to ultimately connect Pueblo to Trinidad. This can be done through Amtrak.

Mr. Hart stated the next meeting is tomorrow.

#### MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Northern Avenue Trail Phase III Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this amendment includes changing the scope of the Northern Avenue Trail Phase III. The termini of the project have changed from Prairie Avenue ending at Cambridge Avenue to the new termini of Prairie Avenue to Mesa Avenue (entrance to the State Fairgrounds). The cost of the project is \$625,000.

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Bob Schilling, and passed unanimously to approve the Northern Avenue Trail Phase III project.

(B) CDOT Region II request for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Administrative Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Adams reported this is an administrative modification. A few meetings ago, the CDOT Region 2 director announced the Transportation Commission assigned \$2.5 million to continue the I-25 through Pueblo freeway project and to begin purchasing right-of-way. Mr. Lopez, Jr. asked what part of I-25 was included in this funding. Mr. Adams replied this is located by U.S. Highway 50B, noting this is a portion of the New Pueblo Freeway project.

(C) The 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Mr. Adams reported they are in the process of updating the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is a Federal requirement. Staff and the consultants are discussing on how to conduct a virtual town hall meeting. There were 685 responses to the survey. He stated the PACOG members would get an invite to the town hall.

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

(D) PACOG 2020 Bike and Ped Plan for Review

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, Transportation Planner, reported the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan has been completed and it has been submitted to the Transportation Advisory Committee for comments. The Plan should be approved in December, depending on any changes. The Plan's goals are to (1) increase system accessibility, resiliency, and reliability for all people of any age or abilities; (2) increase system safety, security, and reduce fatalities; (3) increase system on-street and off-street connectivity; (4) system preservation and maintenance; (5) improve public health through system promotion and education; and (6) improve local economy, tourism, and quality of life. Staff looked at what was available in Pueblo, the demographics, the connectivity to transit, the current transportation system, how many trails, bicycle facilities, veterans' facilities, the current City and Pueblo West bike routes and trails, and

community support, etc. Pueblo is considered “silver” in the bicycle trail community. Staff will be applying for the Bicycle Friendly Community grant in February. The process entails the five Es: education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation. The Plan incorporates the concept of Pueblo being a more friendly bicycle community. It is a living document and there are always going to be changes.

Mr. Schilling asked if there is money available to do this. Ms. Cosyleon replied no, but it is a good thing to have a plan in place. If there ever is funding available, projects have been identified that could be done to increase our bicycle and pedestrian friendliness.

Mr. Lopez, Jr. asked if the plan is available to the public. Ms. Cosyleon replied yes, noting she would provide him with a link.

Ms. Genesio asked if there were any price estimates on the proposal. Ms. Cosyleon replied they have cost estimates on infrastructure projects. The list is a combination of projects that were identified in the 2010 Bicycle Plan and the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. This will probably get revised once all the data has been received on the survey for the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. These are estimated costs which were received from CDOT. It is anticipated the plan will address connectivity, safety, etc.

Ms. Cordova-Catalano asked if the plan takes into consideration a bike route connecting Pueblo to Pueblo West. Ms. Cosyleon responded it is identified in the plan, noting it was a major concern to connect the two areas.

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

#### (E) Safe Routes to School Update

Ms. Cosyleon reported CDOT every two years releases Safe Routes to School grant money. Staff has sent out the projects to Pueblo County, the City, and Pueblo West. The City asked that Parkview Elementary School and Haaff Elementary School be considered. Staff has met with both schools to identify areas of concern for children who walk or bicycle to school. For Parkview Elementary, they were concerned with 10<sup>th</sup> Street at the corridor where the parents drop-off their children, as well those children bicycling to school. They would like the children to gain access through the playground area. They are asking for a bump-out and mid-block crosswalk, which would allow for children to cross safely. Staff would also like to create connectivity to Parkview Elementary from other areas such as Mitchell Park, Risley, or Bradford. At the current time, 10<sup>th</sup> Street is currently designated as a low traffic route for bicycles. A 10' wide multi-use sidewalk would be built north of Parkview Elementary on the school property. The current sidewalk is 5' and would be increased to 10' so that bicycles and pedestrians could use. East of the school there would be on-street bike lanes, and the west side there would be share arrows. All four corners of the school need to have ADA curb ramps, noting staff is also looking at putting this into the grant. The north/south corridor would have a pedestrian corridor from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. For Haaff Elementary, they are seeking construction of ADA curb ramps and sidewalk. There is also missing sidewalk from Chinook up the river trail, which they would like added. Also, they would be building ADA curb ramps across Jerry Murphy and Chinook where children cross, noting currently there is a crossing guard but there are no ADA curb ramps. Curb ramps would be placed on all four corners of this intersection.

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

(F) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Lopez, Jr. stated he had seen at a recent Board of County Commissioners' meeting the matrix plan for the trail system for the City out to the Mesa and wondered if community meetings would be held to get public input from Salt Creek, the Mesa, and other areas. Chairman Wiseman replied community meetings have already been held. He stated he would have Mr. Mike Riccatone follow up with Mr. Lopez, Jr. He stated the Board is still open to input. He stated there isn't money available at the current time to do much of it. The objective is to connect the Runyon Lake area into the Fulton Heights area. He stated he could set up a meeting between Mr. Riccatone and Mr. Lopez, Jr. Mr. Lopez, Jr. stated Commissioner Hart said a lot of people in the community were surprised about the trail. He also mentioned there should be more outreach to the community. Mr. Lopez, Jr. asked if the study is available on-line. Chairman Wiseman replied he would find out. Ms. Genesio, County Manager, stated she would have a link placed on the County web. Chairman Wiseman stated they would be in touch with Mr. Lopez, Jr.

OTHER BUSINESS

(A) Update on School District No. 60 School Bond

Ms. Barbara Clementi, School District No. 60 Board of Directors, reported the new high schools planning on the exterior work is about done. There is a 3-D video available for public view. The interior design is being looked at with respect to the materials (e.g., furniture). In two weeks, they will be going through the architect and construction management applications for the two new elementary schools. She stated these projects are going to inject approximately \$250 million into the community.

Mr. Schilling asked regarding the Centennial High School Hall of Fame. Ms. Clementi replied there has been an allowance for a community room at both high schools that will focus on the legacy and history of the schools. The Board's legal counsel has said that the wording on the ballot issue doesn't allow them to spend taxpayers' dollars on building actual museums. Mr. Schilling inquired if what exists now at Centennial would be knocked down. Ms. Clementi responded, at this point, that is the case. Everything that can be saved and moved would be done.

This being information only, no formal action was taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

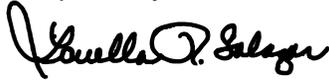
There were no future agenda items provided. Chairman Wiseman stated if anyone should wish to be on a future agenda that they contact Ms. Salazar.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, it was motioned by Mike Cafasso, seconded by Bob Schilling, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. (Note: There is a possibility this meeting may be totally virtual.)

Chairman Wiseman reminded the City Council and Board of County Commissioners to return their ballots to Ms. Salazar. Ms. Salazar will be contacting those members who were not in attendance and provide them with said ballots for them to fill out and return.

Respectfully submitted,



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Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS

#### JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Following the regular PACOG meeting, there was a joint meeting held between the Pueblo City Council and Board of County Commissioners to appoint one member to the Community Services Advisory Commission; one General Contractor and one Architect to the Building Board of Appeals; one Journeyman and one Contractor to the Mechanical Board of Appeals; one Contractor, one Journeyman, and one Electrical Utility Employee to the Electrical Board of Appeals; two Contractors and one Engineer to the Plumbing Board of Appeals; and one member to the Pueblo Regional Building Commission.

- Community Services Advisory Commission: Dorothy Butcher (for a term expiring April 30, 2024)
- Building Board of Appeals: Chad Pulsifer (General Contractor); Steve Weidner (Architect)
- Mechanical Board of Appeals: Steve Girodo (Journeyman); Robert Vigil (Contractor)
- Electrical Board of Appeals: Matt Klein (Contractor); Larry Moore (Journeyman); Seth Boutilier (Electric Utility Employee)
- Plumbing Board of Appeals: Lance Harvey and Dan White (Contractors); John Chrisman (Engineer)
- Pueblo Regional Building Commission: Mark Kleven

These appointments will need to be ratified at future meetings of the respective entities.