

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

DECEMBER 10, 2020

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, December 10, 2020. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. 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
Larry Atencio
Mike Cafasso
Barbara Clementi
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano

Dennis Flores
Garrison Ortiz
Doug Proal
Bob Schilling
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Ed Brown
Greg Collins

Terry Hart
Ed Gutierrez
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Nick Gradisar
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek
Louella Salazar

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were four items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She 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 Mike Cafasso, seconded by Mark Aliff, and passed unanimously to approve the four Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of October 22, 2020 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file October 2020 Financial Report);
- A Resolution Retaining the Services of McPherson, Goodrich, Paolucci, and Mihelich, PC to Perform Bookkeeping Services for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments for FY 2021; and
- A Resolution Reappointing Members to the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee.

REGULAR ITEMS:

PACOG BUDGET HEARING

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding its proposed 2021 budget. A notice of the public hearing and the availability of the proposed budget was published in the Pueblo Chieftain on November 21, 2020.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUDGET FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Mr. Garrison Ortiz, PACOG Budget Committee, reported the Committee met on November 18, 2020. He stated there is no change from this year's budget to next year's budget. He stated, in the past, there has been discussion regarding a lobbyist for transportation. No decision has been made on this, but in the future, this should be discussed again.

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Dennis Flores, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving a Budget for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) for Calendar Year 2021".

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PUEBLO COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE FY 2021 WORK PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR SAID WORK PROGRAM

See text in previous resolution.

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Dennis Flores, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Directing the Pueblo County Planning and Development Department to Implement the FY 2021 Work Program and Appropriating Funds for Said Work Program".

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' (PACOG) FY 2021 MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

See text in previous resolution.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Bob Schilling, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving the Pueblo Area Council of Governments' (PACOG) FY 2021 Membership Contribution Schedule for Administration and Insurance Activities".

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

(A) Presentation of Plaque to Terry Hart, Outgoing Board of County Commissioners' Representative

Chairman Wiseman stated due to Mr. Hart's absence the plaque will be given to him at a future Board of County Commissioners' meeting. He stated Mr. Hart has been a long-time member on PACOG and a valued and respected County Commissioner. He will be missed.

(B) Selection of PACOG Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers

Chairman Wiseman asked for volunteers to serve on the PACOG Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers. He stated he would serve as the County Commissioners' representative. Mr. Mark Aliff, City Council, and Mr. Doug Proal, Pueblo West Metropolitan District, agreed to serve on the Committee.

Chairman Wiseman stated Ms. Salazar would coordinate the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) 2021 PACOG Meeting Date Schedule

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported the 2021 PACOG meeting date schedule was distributed to the members in their packets.

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

(B) Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Howard thanked everyone who participated in the recent Regional Comprehensive Plan kickoff.

BUSTANG OUTRIDER FROM TRINIDAD TO PUEBLO PRESENTATION

Ms. Julie Skeen, Senior Strategic Director, CIG Public Relations, indicated there were others in the audience who needed to be introduced. Those individuals included Jeff Prillwitz, Program Manager, Bustang Outrider, Kyle French, CDOT Bus Operations Manager, and Bob Wilson, CDOT Statewide Communications Manager. Ms. Skeen reported Bustang started in 2015. Its route is from Denver to Colorado Springs to Fort Collins. Based upon its success, CDOT in 2018 started expanding it with a focus on rural Colorado. The Bustang Outrider service is to establish a network of bus routes throughout the State that allow people to travel between rural cities as well as major urban centers. It is about improving mobility options and providing additional mobility options for travelers in rural areas of the State. CDOT is looking at more reliable service through buses and a consistent schedule and fare structure.

Ms. Skeen reported the existing routes include Gunnison to Denver, Alamosa to Pueblo, Lamar to Colorado Springs, and Durango to Grand Junction. Precautions have been taken with respect to COVID-19 on the existing routes. The proposed routes include Trinidad to Pueblo, Sterling to Greeley, Telluride to Grand Junction, and Craig to Denver.

Ms. Skeen stated they are not asking for any funding from local jurisdictions. The two sources of funding used are the Federal Transit Administration 5311 Intercity Bus Program and the FASTER Statewide Program. CDOT will be managing these funding sources.

Ms. Skeen stated CDOT will be partnering with the South-Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) to operate the routes.

Ms. Skeen stated the Trinidad to Pueblo route will start each morning from Trinidad, stop in Aguilar, Walsenburg, Colorado City, and then Pueblo. It will be a round trip route and will begin in mid-2021. It will run five days a week, but if there is a great surge in ridership then buses and route services will be added. The full route cost from Trinidad to Pueblo will be \$14, from

Trinidad to Colorado City \$7, and Trinidad to Aguilar \$4. Tickets can be purchased on a person's phone or cash can be paid at the bus. The bus service will be ADA accessible.

Ms. Skeen stated the bus will be wrapped with Bustang information. The bus seats 14 passengers, but seating has been reduced to meet the current COVID-19 restrictions. The bus is HVAC equipped.

Ms. Skeen stated she would like feedback on potential bus stop locations, as well as flag stop locations. She stated there is a survey out at surveymonkey.com/r/Trinidad-Pueblo. The feedback has been from the general public. They want to devise a route that would serve the community.

Mr. Schilling asked how the flag stops will be limited, noting there could be potentially 50 stops. Ms. Skeen replied the stops have not been identified. Mr. Schilling expressed concern on the system getting abused. He liked the idea of the communities along the edge of the highway being included. Ms. Skeen asked if he had certain areas where he thought it would make most sense for flag stops. Mr. Schilling replied he did not, noting they already know the areas where people get on and off. He didn't want the bus to become a trolley.

Mr. Flores stated there was an idea floated years ago regarding the establishment of an airplane that would be located in Pueblo and would have a daily route from Colorado Springs to Denver to Fort Collins to Grand Junction to Durango and back to Pueblo. He stated the problem in Colorado is moving people around. There are a lot of businesspeople who go back and forth from Denver and other areas. He felt the Pueblo Memorial Airport would be a perfect site because it has the room, the space, and the airstrips that can handle any kind of aircraft. Ms. Skeen stated the challenge would be for CDOT to bring other partners in because they don't influence the locations of air traffic. Mr. French stated this is the first time he's heard of this concept. Mr. Wilson stated CDOT has a division of aeronautics and this could be passed on to this division. He stated a lot of the focus from CDOT is about the Front Range rail as opposed to air flights.

Chairman Wiseman asked if the PowerPoint Presentation could be sent to Ms. Salazar, who would forward it to the members. Ms. Skeen stated she would do this.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Richard Zamora, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported Governor Polis forwarded a budget proposal that contains stimulus funding in the amount of \$200 million for transportation Statewide. This \$200 million proposal includes \$70 million for the Safer Main Streets/Revitalize Main Streets program. This proposal would help with COVID-19 relief with restaurants and improve urban arterials. The remaining \$130 million is for other types of projects. During COVID-19, the State has seen a dramatic increase in visitation to parks and various other outdoor facilities. CDOT needs to provide and maintain access to those facilities. None of this was considered during the recent Special Legislative Session but it will be considered under the Regular Legislative Session in January. He stated there is a potential for change, but CDOT Region 2 would let PACOG know how it could affect Pueblo.

Mr. Zamora stated there has been an increase in motorcycle fatalities. In Region 2, there have been 61 motorcycle fatalities this year. There were 27 more fatalities through October this year than the same period last year. CDOT has engaged in an effort to figure out how to reverse the

trend. Some of these accidents have occurred because of speeding, rider inexperience, and riding under the influence. It is less operating under the influence of alcohol and more operating under the influence of marijuana. There are also a lack of appropriate safety gear and people not seeing motorcycles. CDOT is working with partners in the region (i.e., Colorado State Patrol, Department of Motor Vehicles, and local agency partners) to come up with a multi-prong approach on how to turn this around back in the other direction. CDOT is looking at doing educational activities, as well as additional enforcement activities. CDOT is also looking at better signage. CDOT had a kickoff for this effort earlier this week and there will be a lot more to follow at the start of next year. He asked if anyone had ideas or wants to be involved to let him know.

Ms. Ajin Hu, CDOT, reported CDOT has finished up with two projects in our region, which includes a bridge project 10 miles north of Pueblo on I-25 and another bridge on Highway 50B towards the airport. There is a project on Purcell and Highway 50, which is still ongoing and should be finished in early 2023. The other project is an ADA ramp in Pueblo. Next year, there is one new project going to construction, which is Elizabeth between Eagleridge and the Harley Davidson motorcycle store. CDOT is still doing a preliminary design on I-25 and Highway 50B, noting the money is not available yet.

Mr. Atencio stated Mr. Zamora was going to investigate a pedestrian light on the corner of East 4th Street and Monument Avenue. He stated he has not received a response and asked if CDOT staff could investigate this and get back to him. He stated he has received a lot of throwback from his constituents in the neighborhood who are concerned because this is a dangerous intersection. There is a school and students need to cross 4th Street, which contains heavy and fast-moving traffic. Mr. Zamora replied he relayed the message to CDOT's traffic engineer but did not receive a response. He stated he would follow up and get back.

Mr. Flores stated he has a question on the highway that goes through Northern Avenue by Safeway and King Soopers. Ms. Hu replied this is not a CDOT project, noting it is in the City limits.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Due to Mr. Hart's absence, Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported STAC met on November 13th, noting it was a light agenda. There was a bylaw change. There was a selection of officers, as well as recognition of outgoing members.

Mr. Adams stated there needs to be an appointment made to replace Mr. Hart on STAC. Currently, Mr. Garrison Ortiz and he serve as alternates. STAC meets the second Friday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. At the current time, the meetings are done virtual. This issue can be addressed at the January PACOG meeting.

STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Due to Mr. Hart's absence, Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported PACOG has the authority to appoint a person to the Southwest Chief Passenger Rail Commission. Mr. Hart currently serves as PACOG's representative on the Commission. This position will be vacant, and an appointment needs to be made. He stated he understood that Chairman Wiseman has expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Chairman Wiseman stated he currently sits on the Transportation Committee for CCAP and CCI. He stated the County has put money into the Southwest Chief. He stated the appointment could be addressed at the January PACOG meeting.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) PACOG 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Ms. Maureen Paz de Araujo, Wilson and Company, presented a PowerPoint presentation. She reported the PACOG 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan is ready to be released for public comment. She stated there are 12 chapters to the Plan. There is a new appendix dealing with a Youth Transportation Plan, which entails how to engage youth and make them advocates for transportation.

Ms. Paz de Araujo stated there was a successful survey done. There were 485 total participants and 982 survey visitors. There were 1,132 comments received. The survey was "live" for 72 days from July 29th through October 12th. There was pretty good distribution and responses received from the different zip codes in the area. Many of the responses came from City residents, as well as Pueblo West residents. The demographics also included income. People were asked to do priority ranking. The transportation priorities were ranked as follows: (1) infrastructure investment, (2) safety, (3) transportation options, (4) reduced congestion, (5) system reliability, (6) environmental sustainability, (7) movement of freight, and (8) fewer project delays. A mapping exercise was done by participants providing information on where there are potholes and other issues. They have been able to get staff engaged and are working on providing data. She stated infrastructure was the most important issue. Hot spots from mapping and comments on infrastructure safety often cited the I-25 corridor and Highway 50, with adding lanes, signal needs, road condition, and access. There is a need for merging lanes. Other issues included flooding issues (drainage), congestion, tight turns, and unsafe intersections. Emerging issues included bike-pedestrian mobility choices, expansion of Front Range transit connections, and investment in the Pueblo Memorial Airport. The website integrates the on-line survey and public comment. The website can be found at: <https://www.pacogmovestheregion-2045.com/>.

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

(B) Approval of the 2020 PACOG Bike and Pedestrian Plan (Eva Cosyleon, MPO Staff)

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, MPO staff, reported three public comments were received after the last PACOG meeting, noting they were not substantial, and they were incorporated into the Plan.

It was moved by Dennis Flores, seconded by Staphanie Catalano Cordova, and passed unanimously to approve the 2020 PACOG Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

(C) Administrative Modifications/TIP Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Include \$60,000 of CARES Act Funding to the SRDA Operating Budget Project SST6732.015

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this is a budget modification to the SRDA's operating budget. These are CARES Act funds, in the amount of \$60,000, and are 100% funded by the Federal government, noting no local match is required.

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

(D) Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Obligation Tables of Projects Funded

Mr. Adams reported on an annual basis they are required by the FAST Act to publish within 90 days the Federal Obligation of Projects within our region. The document will be posted on PACOG's transportation website. It lists the Federal transportation projects in our area.

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

(E) Consolidated Carryover Planning Grant Funds for FFY 2021

Mr. Adams reported there has been carryover in Consolidated Planning Grant Funds over the years, which is mostly due to minimal staffing. He stated he sent to their partners what is being planned for the remainder of those carryover funds. It appears after next fiscal year (2021) that the entire carryover will be used. In the future, staff will be bringing amendment requests to PACOG on the Unified Planning Work Program to include other projects that have been identified to be a benefit to the area.

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

(F) Other Transportation Matters

There were no other transportation matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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 Bob Schilling, seconded by Larry Atencio, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. (Note: At this time, the meeting will be held virtually on Zoom.)

Chairman Wiseman reminded the City Council and Board of County Commissioners to return their ballots to Ms. Salazar. Ms. Salazar will be sending the ballots to the members for them to fill out and return.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

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 two members to the Pueblo Human Services Commission. The following persons were selected: Jean Flynn Ray and Jesse Sena.

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