

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

APRIL 22, 2021

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Aliff, PACOG Chairman, at 12:23 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Mark Aliff
Larry Atencio
Ed Brown
Mike Cafasso
Barbara Clementi

Dennis Flores
Epimenio Griego
Doug Proal
Bob Schilling
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Ray Aguilera
Greg Collins
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano

Ed Gutierrez
Garrison Ortiz
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Sabina Genesio
Nick Gradisar
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek
Hugh Parker
Louella Salazar

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were two items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Aliff 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 Bob Schilling, seconded by Mike Cafasso, and passed unanimously to approve the two Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of March 25, 2021 Meeting; and
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file December 2020 Financial Report).

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Aliff stated he did not have anything to report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported that the Comprehensive Plan is moving along wonderfully, noting Clarion and Associates are doing a great job. The State of the County Report can be found on the project website. There are public meetings scheduled in May for the community to weigh in on the Plan framework. On May 13th, the elected and appointed officials will be meeting again in the evening for an update from Clarion and Associates. The consultant has done excellent work in leading this charge.

Mr. Flores asked if invitations had been sent out by her for the May 13th meeting. Ms. Howard replied that the invitations were sent by Darcie White, noting she would check with her to make sure.

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

(A) EPAC Vacancies

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there are several vacancies on the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC). This group was created in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations for participation by advisory committees. Federal dollars were received under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the State's Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Clean Water Act. There are 9 vacancies out of 14 seats. Ms. Salazar has been working on getting the notice to the newspaper. The City and County are assisting staff with trying to fill these vacancies. A quorum of membership is five, noting past vacancies have been a problem to fill.

Mr. Dan Kogovsek, PACOG Attorney, stated he is going to revisit the appointing resolution, noting he would work with Ms. Howard and Ms. Salazar on this. He stated one of the glitches is that the appointing resolution says that the Environmental Coordinator from the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) will be a member of EPAC. The Health Department has had some issues in appointing an Environmental Coordinator. He stated the resolution would probably be amended to provide that one of the members shall be an employee of PDPHE who serves in their Environmental Division. He stated the resolution will be presented at the May PACOG meeting.

Mr. Flores stated with the difficulty of getting people to serve on EPAC if the number of members could possibly be reduced to 5 to make it more manageable and easier to fill those slots. Mr. Kogovsek responded some of the members come from the appointing agencies (e.g., the Health Department, the City, the County). He stated the reduction in the number will be looked at. He noted that EPA requires public participation. He stated, for example, Mr. Ted Lopez Jr. serves as a private citizen on EPAC.

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.

Mr. Richard Zamora, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported he didn't have an update, but Ms. Ajin Hu would provide project updates. Ms. Hu, CDOT, reported there are three construction projects in Pueblo. The first project is Purcell, which is about 25% done. CDOT has finished up with the last phase of Purcell. Construction on the bridge will start in June. The second project is the ADA ramps, which have been ongoing the last few months. The last two ramps are being done now. CDOT is trying to get additional funding to get 20 more ramps done, noting this needs to go through environmental clearance and the funding mechanism. It is unknown at this time if these 20 ramps will be done. The third project is the Elizabeth paving project. The contract has been done. It is anticipated construction will start in May or June.

Ms. Hu stated there are three design projects in Pueblo. The first project is the I-25/U.S. 50 design project, noting it is in the preliminary stage. It is anticipated that Senate Bill 267 funding will be approved. CDOT is trying to get as much funding as possible for this project. The anticipated amount is \$4 million. The money will fund the right-of-way and finish up the design. The second is Dillon Drive on the east side of the frontage road. The design should be finished early next year. The third project is Highway 50 from I-25 to the Pueblo Chemical Depot. There is overlay work needed underneath the railroad, as well as other repairs. CDOT plans to advertise the project early next year.

Mr. Flores asked if there is any discussion at the State level of replenishing the transportation budget with \$1.9 trillion they are getting, pertaining to the law which was approved in March, providing money directly to municipalities and to the State. He felt this money could possibly be used for I-25 projects in Pueblo. Mr. Zamora replied he wasn't sure what funding he was talking about. In terms of transportation funding, at the current time at the State level, what they have received is the Governor stimulus or \$30 million for transportation, which is going to two grant programs that are associated with revitalizing main streets. They are currently working on a bill on State transportation funding to be used for other things. To his knowledge, the bill is still in draft form and hasn't been formally introduced yet. He stated there will be a lot of activity going on over the next few months with the end of the legislative session.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG STAC representative, reported they are waiting on the introduction of the comprehensive transportation bill. This will give them an understanding of where the funding is going and how the funding will be increased. He stated the PACOG members received a copy via email last month on the PowerPoint presentation from the State Transportation Commission on the funding. The bill is still being refined and as soon as it is introduced, there will be a better understanding.

STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG Southwest Chief Passenger Rail representative, reported a lot of stuff is moving forward. He stated Mr. Mike Riccatone from the County has been working with people regarding the placement of the rail station. The Front Range Passenger Rail bill has been introduced. There has been a lot of bipartisan support for the bill. A lot of activity has

been seen with it. The Governor recently used some State funds to buy some of the land needed from the Union Pacific, which will be helpful because it was thought that CRISI grant funds would have to be used. This is moving faster than anticipated. Activity in Washington, D.C. will need to be observed because there will be a lot of money for passenger rail. He stated the new transportation bill will include some funding for passenger rail as far as the Front Range.

PRESENTATION ON JOE MARTINEZ BOULEVARD

Mr. Tanis Manseau, Director, Pueblo County Engineering and Public Works Department, reported Pueblo County commissioned a study to explore potential routes going on South Pueblo Boulevard and North Pueblo Boulevard. The study included two options: the Joe Martinez extension and the extension of the existing Spaulding Avenue. The result of the study clearly pointed to the advantages of the Joe Martinez route. The optimum design is a 3½ mile four-lane divided multi-modal thoroughfare with the design speed of 45-50 mph range. Joe Martinez was the best option for production of congestion of optimal highways and multi-modal opportunities for overall safer travel. There are multiple potential routes that the County has been investigating. The final decision will be based on the new County jail, which will be constructed in the area. A traditional design bid/build method is being used for delivery. The County's Road and Bridge Department will handle that portion of the work followed by construction management and the design team.

MPO STAFF REPORT

A) Request for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Policy Amendment(s) FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program TP/STIP in the MPO and TPR Area

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported an amendment was done to the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. This project includes two bridges (U.S. 50 Scour Critical Bridge K-18-BY and K-18-BZ). The price of this project has come down. The project, as programmed, is \$541,160 and, as amended, is \$303,214.

It was moved by Bob Schilling, seconded by Dennis Flores, and passed unanimously to approve the amendment regarding the U.S. 50 Scour Critical Bridge K-18-BY and K-18-BZ project.

B) Request for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Policy Amendment(s) FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program TP/STIP in the MPO and TPR Area

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this is an administrative modification to the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. When the State and transportation operators sign into agreement (e.g., Section 5310, Federal Transit Administration dollars with SRDA), they like to see the actual amount of the project. The State will be bringing in \$85,000 and the local match will be \$85,000 for a total of \$170,000. This varies around \$1,200 from what they actually had in the TIP.

This being an administrative modification, no formal action was required.

C) Public Comment Period is Open for the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program is open for public comment. This is a four-year program that funding has been identified. It has been posted. He stated they would be sending out a link. In coordination with this, the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, which is also a requirement, will be going out Friday or Saturday for official public comment. These both require a 30-day public comment period. They will be presented to PACOG at its May 27th meeting.

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

D) Draft Bill for North Front Range Passenger Rail District

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported around two weeks ago there was an introduction on the creation of the North Front Range Passenger Rail District, noting this has been introduced into legislation. He stated this project is moving faster than what anyone anticipated. He stated they will be including Pueblo County as part of that taxing district.

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

E) Other Transportation Matters

There were no other transportation matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

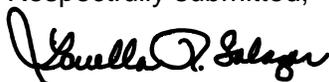
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Howard thanked Ms. Salazar for her efforts in setting up the Zoom meeting. She thanked everyone for their patience and for Ms. Salazar juggling to get the meeting started today. Chairman Aliff stated hopefully PACOG will be able to meet at the EOC building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. (Note: At this time, there is a possibility of this being an in-person meeting. If this is to occur, the meeting will be held at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. Because of the limited number in seating, the meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.)

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 four members to the Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC). The following persons were appointed:

- Four-Year Term (April 30, 2021 to April 30, 2025): Joe Latino, Mary Lee, and Ashley Wiggin
- Complete expiring term on April 30, 2022: Susan Egnor

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