

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MAY 23, 2013

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, May 23, 2013, in the Pueblo Regional Building Department's Conference Room at 830 North Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Michael Colucci, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ed Brown
Michael Colucci
Michael Connolly
Sandy Daff
Nick Gradisar
Terry Hart
Ted Lopez

Roger Lowe
Buffie McFadyen
Ami Nawrocki
Steve Nawrocki
Sal Pace
Lewis Quigley

Those members absent were:

Chris Kaufman
Eva Montoya

Chris Nicoll

Also present were:

Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad
Peter Blood
Michael Cuppy

Scott Hobson
Daniel Kogovsek
Louella Salazar

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Chairman Colucci 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 Nick Gradisar, seconded by Buffie McFadyen, and passed unanimously to approve the three Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of April 25, 2013 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file April 2013 Financial Report); and
- A Resolution Appointing a Member to the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC). (Note: Gene Michael was appointed to Public Officials group.)

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

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

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) Change of Meeting Location in June

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, reported a memorandum was sent to the PACOG members and interested parties pertaining to the new meeting location beginning with the June 27th meeting to the end of the year. The new location is the Pueblo City-County Health Department, Third Floor, in Conference Room C.

(B) PACOG Recommendations regarding Water Quality Proposals on the Arkansas River Basin

Ms. Armstrong reported the PACOG recommendation letter to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission regarding the Water Quality Proposals on the Arkansas River Basin was mailed in their packet. Also included in their packet was the draft minutes of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) special meeting held on April 22nd. She informed PACOG the next EPAC meeting is scheduled on June 6th.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) FOR THE YEAR 2035 FOR THE PUEBLO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AND PUEBLO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION (TPR)

Mr. Scott Hobson, MPO Administrator, reported the resolution would approve amendments to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). At the April PACOG meeting, staff reviewed text changes to Chapter 1, General Overview and Chapter 9, Fiscally Constrained portions of the LRTP. The main portion of the change in Chapter 9 changes the percentage allocation of projected revenues to the 2008 to 2035 and provides 6% of the funds for the I-25 project and 20% of the funds for US 50C, US 50B, or US 50 West. The balance of the remaining seven projects which were identified is about 3% of the remaining funds. The estimated revenues for PACOG transportation is about \$565 million between 2008 and 2035. He stated the dollar amount is not changing as part of the Plan amendment. It is a minor amendment to the LRTP and it doesn't add any new dollars, but is reallocation of the funds. The purpose for this is to be able to have funds allocated to I-25 that are of equal amount that are being reported in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the I-25 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) so that as funds become available for I-25 that they match the funding in the ROD. Part of the requirements of Federal funds is that a public hearing be held for any changes to the LRTP, noting prior to any action being taken by PACOG, the chairman will have to open the public hearing and allow for opportunity for comments from the public and then close the public hearing. At that point in time, PACOG entertain a motion on the resolution.

Chairman Colucci opened the public hearing for public comment. There was no one in the audience who wished to make comments. There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

It was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Sandy Daff, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 2 to the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Year 2035 for the Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Pueblo Transportation Planning Region (TPR)".

Mr. Hobson stated for the record that the notice for public hearing was advertised two times in the Pueblo Chieftain.

MPO STAFF REPORT

Mr. Hobson reported the Urban Transportation staff of the City and County approached and submitted a request to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) an application for TIGER V funds that would pay for a segment of I-25 project. The applications are due to be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on June 1st. He referred PACOG to a letter, which was provided before the meeting, supporting the TIGER V application, authorizing the PACOG chairman to sign on behalf of PACOG. The project is being identified as a \$45.75 million project, which would allow CDOT the \$30 million in State FASTER funds to be used for the replacement of Ilex Bridge to be used as matching funds as part of the overall project. The project would extend from Ilex to 1st Street, noting this would include the southbound lanes of I-25, not the northbound lanes, and then a southbound on-ramp to 1st Street to the south. There will be other multi-modal improvements done such as streetscaping and walkways between Santa Fe to Runyon Field. There would be aesthetic improvements to create a gateway from Santa Fe into the Runyon Field area. There would also be an area for a park-and-ride facility, which is would be at the current Cliff Brice area. There would be a walkway pedestrian trail from the park-and-ride to the Thomas Phelps creek trail. Staff will be obtaining letters of support from the City Council, Board of County Commissioners, State representatives, and local legislators on the TIGER V application.

Ms. McFadyen expressed how huge the TIGER V application is for the I-25 project. She stated TIGER stands for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant. She stated she didn't think CDOT has ever selected Pueblo since the start of the grants in 2009. The whole idea behind the grant is not only to improve the infrastructure, but also the economy in and around the project, noting it creates the jobs while building it and the helps in the economic recovery around the grant area. She felt PACOG's biggest competition in Region 2 is Colorado Springs. She felt one of our best arguments is Pueblo has had a consistently higher unemployment rate than in Colorado Springs. She felt Pueblo's project is a No. 1 priority and the Colorado Springs' project (Cimarron) is not. She stated Pueblo is asking for \$5 million towards this project. She felt between that with the collaborative efforts between CDOT and the MPO that we are generating a momentum to work together. She stated CDOT staff, Joe DeHeart and Karen Rowe, as well as PACOG's staff has been working diligently on this project and she appreciated their efforts because this has been a very arduous document to put together.

Mr. Pace stated it seems like Colorado Springs keeps getting more money from FASTER than Pueblo, noting Pueblo has not received its fair share. Ms. McFadyen agreed and complimented the staff on their efforts.

After discussion, it was moved by Buffie McFadyen, seconded by Ami Nawrocki, and passed unanimously authorizing the PACOG chairman to sign the letter of support and send it to Mr. Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, for purposes of competing at the Federal levels for the TIGER V grant.

Mr. Hobson reported there is one administrative notification regarding bridge repairs on US 50 at the Chemical Depot Access Road and on SH 231 Arkansas River Bridge (36th Lane). The project would repair the girders on the Chemical Depot Access Road to rehabilitate the deck on structure at K-19-A (SH 231) over the Arkansas River. The funding source is FY 2013 Bridge On-System Funds and FY 2013 Bridge Maintenance Funds. The total project cost is \$500,000, with \$400,000 being Federal program funds and \$100,000 being State matching funds. He stated this administrative notification would be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

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

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Wrona, CDOT Regional 2 Director, reported both the State Transportation Advisory Commission and State Transportation Commission endorsed the projects Statewide for TIGER V, including the I-25 through Pueblo (Ilex Bridge to 1st Street). The other two projects in Region 2 include the Fillmore interchange in Colorado Springs and a fire suppression system at the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial tunnel. Senior management staff is reviewing the applications and they will make a determination as to which projects will receive Statewide RAMP funding and move forward to the application phase. He stated he should know by the end of this month (May 31st) if those projects will move forward. He stated there were 250 applications totaling \$3.5 billion, and there is \$1.5 billion available. The CDOT Executive Director expressed the creativity of the different applications during a workshop. Unfortunately, given the number of applicants and the amount of money available, there will surely be losers. He stated he wanted to remind everyone that maybe there would be a second chance, or possibly the ballot issue which is being talked about for 2014 for possible sales tax increase earmarked towards transportation. Impact 64 is behind this ballot issue.

Ms. McFadyen stated she understood there was a meeting in Denver today about Impact 64. Mr. Wrona replied he didn't know. Ms. McFadyen asked how we could know when those meetings are happening. Mr. Wrona suggested coordinating that through Action 22. Ms. McFadyen asked Mr. Wrona if he found out before she does about these meetings if he could please let her know. Mr. Wrona replied he could do this. Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT, stated they have a partnership with the Office of Economic Development to identify transportation projects they can use possibly for the ballot issue. She stated because PACOG is a MPO, it is independent. CDOT hired a consultant to work with all the Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) to come up with a list of projects that they would be interested in showing to the Office of Economic Development. She stated if you hear that CDOT is coordinating with TPRs on this project list to just remember they are helping only the TPRs, not MPOs.

Mr. Nawrocki asked if between 1st Street and the river if there was going to be an entrance from the freeway. Ms. Rowe replied yes where Ilex is right now. The entrances will basically stay the same but it will be wider. Mr. Nawrocki asked what the distance between 1st Street and Ilex is. Ms. Rowe responded it will remain the same. Mr. Nawrocki asked if it meets the new requirements between exits, noting we were told there were too many exits in Pueblo which were close together. Mr. Wrona replied this is an interim condition. In the future, that particular ramp will go away. It depends on the outcome of the EIS whether or not our Phase 1 ROD is approved. If the preferred alternative is selected then there will be an interchange at Abriendo and the Ilex will go away and not widened. Ms. Rowe stated with the bridge replacement project, they kind of waived us from the spacing on the interchanges and just to keep the bridge and exact on-ramp and off-ramp locations. She stated she would follow up and see how PACOG can interact with Impact 64.

Chairman Colucci thanked CDOT and staff for their energy and work on the application.

FORT CARSON REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN

Ms. Kathleen Hatten, Executive Director, Peak Military Care Network and Military Impact Planning Program Manager, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), reported for the past six years, PPACG has been coordinating the grant from the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Economic Adjustment to look at the community impact from Fort Carson growth. There were 12 key issue areas addressed in Phase I of the Growth Plan, such as education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, child care, social services, etc. Fort Carson has doubled in size since 2006. They are in the process of winding down the six-year year planning process, noting the grant funding ends in June 2013. They are looking at how to hand off that transition. They are looking at how to support the installation and meeting the traffic needs. Early on in the process, there was a lot of infrastructure and whether they had the right type of housing, the right location, and house prices. With the economic downturn, there were plenty of single-family homes available. They continue to do the demographic modeling on who's here, what's the availability, the school children, single soldiers, etc., so they can do a better job on providing the information. The Combat Aviation Brigade is still on track and will be here in the 2014-2015 timeframe. There is a programmatic environmental assessment that talks about the potential increases/decreases at Fort Carson and other installations. What they are aiming for is a long-term military-community partnering. How are the communities in the region prepared to work with Fort Carson and share information and work together to address those hand-offs. Some of those hand-offs include working with early education providers, schools, and the human side of the equation and the outcomes of the growth plans. She stated there is more information on the PPACG's website.

Mr. Nawrocki stated the Pentagon authorized \$253 million for Fort Carson. Ms. Hatten replied they are hoping that will continue. She stated that Fort Carson through the budget process is slated to receive close to a quarter of the military construction through the Army.

Mr. Pace stated a few years ago in Region 2 there was a bridge project at Mile Marker 119 coming out of Fort Carson. Ms. Hatten replied it was before her time but there was a lot of projects done around that time, but there was some work done at Mile Marker 132 and others. Mr. Pace stated Mile Marker 132 sounded right. He stated everyone came together to support it and the rationale for Pueblo supporting it was that it would help facilitate soldiers living in Pueblo who wanted to work at Fort Carson. He wondered if we have seen an increase in numbers

since the project was constructed and if she could get us the information. Ms. Hatten replied yes. She stated they are now looking at Defense Access Road funding for Exit 128 for the 4th Brigade.

Ms. McFadyen asked what the threshold for a school district qualifying for Federal impact dollars is. Ms. Hatten replied she didn't know, but would find it out for her. Ms. McFadyen how the data is collected on the number of soldiers? Ms. McFadyen replied this is DEERS data, noting it is not completely accurate because it is updated when soldiers move towards installations and it may not necessarily be updated. It is tracked because it gives them more detail about the family units and the demographics. The information is updated quarterly. Over time, the numbers may be consistent.

Ms. McFadyen asked if it is incumbent upon the school district to help pull those numbers. Ms. Hatten replied yes. Ms. McFadyen stated she would have to ask School District 70 if that is something they do. She was curious to see if they could finally get to a place where we meet that threshold and get the monies into our schools. Ms. Hatten replied Canon City gets these monies. Ms. McFadyen replied they get PILT money. Ms. Hatten replied there are different thresholds such as special needs of the children, etc. She stated the numbers for School Districts 60 and 70 are available. Ms. McFadyen felt the Pueblo school districts have the seasoning. Ms. Hatten asked if there was someone she wanted them to contact, they would do this. She stated there is a town hall meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Colorado Springs on May 30, 2013, which would give them the opportunity to connect with the school districts. Ms. Hatten stated she would forward the information to Ms. McFadyen and she could share it with the rest of PACOG.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS