

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

AUGUST 24, 2017

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tony Montoya, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera
Ed Brown
Robert Ferriter
Nick Gradisar
Terry Hart
Judy Leonard

Ted Lopez
Tony Montoya
Steve Nawrocki
Garrison Ortiz
Sal Pace

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio
Terry Kraus
Frank Latino

Chris Nicoll
Bob Schilling
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams
Joan Armstrong
Dan Kogovsek

George Rosenberg
Louella Salazar
Kallene West

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Chairman Montoya asked if there were any 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 additions or amendments.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Steve Nawrocki, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of July 27, 2017 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file July 2017 Financial Report); and
- A Resolution Approving the Acceptance of the FY 2018 Pueblo Area Council of Governments Rural Planning Grant in the Amount of \$7,400 from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

REGULAR ITEMS:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Montoya thanked Salt Creek Sanitation District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) Welcome and Introduce

Chairman Montoya welcomed Ms. Kallene West, the new 2020 Commission chairperson, to the meeting.

Chairman Montoya welcomed Mr. George Rosenberg, the Interim County Attorney, to the meeting.

Chairman Montoya asked Mr. Ortiz to introduce his special guest. Mr. Ortiz introduced Mr. Eddie Medina. He stated Pueblo County implemented a veteran's fellowship program similar to what was done in Pueblo West. Mr. Medina will be working on projects directly for the Board of County Commissioners. He has been a pleasure to work with and his military service is appreciated, noting he has six months left in the U.S. Army.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) EPAC Minutes/Statement/Report

Ms. Armstrong reported the minutes of the August 3, 2017 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee were provided to the PACOG members in their packets.

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

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS (FFYs) 2018 AND 2019 FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) AS THE DESIGNATED METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) FOR THE PUEBLO URBAN AREA IN COMPLIANCE WITH 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 USC 5303, 23 CFR 450 AND 500, AND 49 CFR 613; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF PUEBLO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PACOG AND CITY OF PUEBLO DELEGATION AGREEMENT 9083 DATED DECEMBER 27, 2016 TO ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT THIS UPWP IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the actual scope of work, as well as the budget, is included with the resolution. It outlines what the UTPD staff will do in FY 2018, noting CDOT will verify that there is in compliance with the work activities in the UPWP.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Steve Nawrocki, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Adopting the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Federal

Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2018 and 2019 for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) as the Designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Pueblo Urban Area in Compliance with 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 USC 5303, 23 CFR 450 and 500, and 49 CFR 613; and Authorizing and Directing the City of Pueblo in Accordance with the PACOG and City of Pueblo Delegation Agreement 9083 dated December 27, 2016 to Administer and Implement this UPWP in Accordance with All Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations”.

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) FY 2018-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO INCLUDE THREE (3) FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD (HSIP/HRRR) PROJECTS AND DIRECTING THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION TO EXECUTE SAID AMENDMENT TO THE PROGRAM

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the Pueblo West Metropolitan District applied for three highway safety improvement projects and CDOT approved all three. These are new projects, which will be incorporated into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The first project is at Pueblo West High School on Capistrano Avenue. Turn lanes will be added to Capistrano to improve safety. The second project is on McCulloch Boulevard and Platteville Boulevard. Turn lanes will be added northbound and eastbound to improve the safety at the intersection. The third project is on Capistrano Avenue and Spaulding Avenue. It is proposed to build a roundabout to improve the safety and flow at the intersection.

It was moved by Judy Leonard, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve “A Resolution Amending the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include Three (3) Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program/High Risk Rural Road (HSIP/HRRR) Projects and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Execute Said Amendment to the Program”.

DICENNIAL CENSUS PRESENTATION

Mr. Sunny Subia, U.S. Census Bureau, reported a packet was distributed to the members prior to the meeting providing a profile of Pueblo County and some different ongoing programs. He stated this will be one of the most different census which has ever been done. There are going to be three different ways people are going to be able to respond to the census. In order to do that, the Bureau has different programs through geography that build that basic program and address files. One of the programs is the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), which is a local update of census addresses. Geography is probably one of the most important things done by the Bureau. Many people think the census is counting people, but what is done in order to establish a good master address file is they count homes and any place where someone can live, such as a marina or boat. If a house is subdivided into apartments, they need to know that so they can get those papers to the correct address to get an accurate count for Census 2020. He stated the Bureau is providing training countywide to towns and municipalities to their GIS staff or those responsible for providing that information. The Bureau is asking that one organization host the training and the Bureau will provide the training.

Mr. Dwayne Hanstein, U.S. Census Bureau, stated he worked on the 2010 Census and was hired back again to assist with the 2020 Census. He stated they need our help to make sure they get the best addresses possible. LUCA is about getting addresses because they mail out the census form in late March to homes. Census Day is April 1, 2020. They need to know where these addresses are, if they are deliverable by the post office. He asked if there was anyone present in the audience from GIS. There was a lady who said she was from the City's GIS department. He stated they are asking for their cooperation in helping to get the best address files. The Bureau sends their list and the GIS department compares theirs with the Bureau's, and any changes are sent back and updates are made to the Bureau's address files. He stated for every person counted in the census, the community receives about \$1,000 per year per person from the Federal government.

Mr. Nawrocki asked regarding the homeless count. Mr. Subia replied once every census they have a tea night. The Bureau goes across the country and identifies one night a year and every office does the count on tea night. They want to make sure they are counted only once. Some the Bureau's staff go out looking under bridges, soup kitchens, or wherever the homeless hang out. It is only one night and there is only one opportunity to count the homeless. Mr. Nawrocki asked if prior to 2010 if this was done. Mr. Subia replied yes, noting there was tea night during 2010. Tea nights have been done the last three censuses. Mr. Nawrocki asked how would we find out what the count was for Pueblo. Mr. Subia responded the Bureau would have the information as far as transients. The Bureau's data specialist could come and do a presentation on how to drill and find that information. It can also be requested through the Bureau's office. Mr. Nawrocki asked if this is only done by the Bureau's employees and no local resources are used. Mr. Subia replied it is only done by the Bureau's employees, noting they have to be sworn in because of confidentiality. Mr. Nawrocki stated there always seems to be a controversy on what the number is. Mr. Subia replied tea night is one of the most difficult operations done by the Bureau. Another one is trying to count snowbirds and transients, such as oil field workers. The Bureau has asked communities to get involved with the complete count committee, which is set up with trusted voices in their community, and to go out and set up a tea night. The Bureau is asking the communities to be more involved in the awareness campaign. The funding for the census is going to be less. He noted 2010 was the best census done in the history of the census. He stated 25% has been cut from their budget, noting it is going to take more involvement from the communities to help raise awareness and share why it is important for them to count. He stated this is one of the reasons the Bureau is here early. They want communities to know that they are going to need them. There is going to be a lot of community dialog and interaction. Mr. Hanstein stated they will be talking to the police and they will probably know where some of the camps might be. He stated everyone is counted even the undocumented. You want the undocumented to be counted because it brings back more money. Mr. Subia stated they use your streets, infrastructure, and are using the community's programs. He stated it is going to be difficult to get the count on the undocumented because of the climate in the government at this time. Mr. Gradisar asked if the count would take place on or around April 1st or during the summer when the count would go up and down. Mr. Subia responded the census forms will go out in March or two weeks before census day. A lot of communities use April 1st as census day where they have a big celebration and have people bring their forms. He stated the forms go out in late March. Mr. Gradisar asked when the tea night takes place. Mr. Subia replied it is usually April 1st. Mr. Pace asked if it could be done in the summer. Mr. Subia answered they have moved one of their operations, which is the colleges. At some of the colleges, those kids are moving out before April

1st. The date was changed so they can capture them while they are on campus. Mr. Pace stated we have more homeless in the summer than winter. He felt it might make sense to have tea night in the summer. Mr. Subia replied this would be like "sampling". The Bureau wants to make sure they get everyone in one place at one time, noting it is a lot cheaper to do it this way. Tea night is probably the toughest count done by the Bureau.

Mr. Ortiz stated in the ethnic breakdown that the count over-exceeds 100%. Mr. Subia replied sometimes there is an over-count or under-count in the data. Mr. Ortiz stated he was looking at the Pueblo County numbers where it shows 78.8% as white and 42.3% as Hispanic or Latino. Mr. Subia replied they self-identify themselves on their race and ethnicity. Mr. Ferriter asked if the 78.8% estimate would be many of those people who identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino. Mr. Subia replied that is correct.

Mr. Hart stated his brother has already received a packet from the Bureau. He stated he has received calls from constituents also regarding whether this was legitimate paperwork from the Bureau. Mr. Subia replied what was received in the mail was the American Communities Survey (ACS). The ACS is a sampling of 300,000 people in a month across the country. In 2000, some people received the long form for the census where it had 32 questions. In 2010, there was only the short form. In 2020, the short form will also be used. The ACS will be done year-round because a lot of communities want up-to-date data, and this is why it is done every month. Some people will be pulled and it is sent to them. It is legitimate and important for them to fill out. Mr. Hart stated his brother said he didn't want to do it, but it does say you can be penalized for not completing it. Mr. Subia stated there is \$250,000 fine and five years in jail, noting he never heard of anyone being assessed the fine. He stated the census is the only thing mandated by the U.S. Constitution. He stated the 2020 census will have three ways to identify yourself. You'll be able to do it online, by phone, or by mail. He stated if PACOG is interested they could make their full presentation. PACOG would have to make the request and let them know. He stated they would also like a community dialog where the community could come in and ask questions.

Mr. Hanstein stated the Bureau does not share its information with anybody unless Title 13 is done. They cannot share address points or anything with the public. Everything is confidential. He stated with the undocumented they are not going to turn their information into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or anyone else.

UPDATE ON ILEX PROJECT

Mr. Joe DeHeart, CDOT Ilex Team, reported there were problems with the railroad. CDOT wanted to purchase, but the railroad did not want to sell. The design was redone to do a two-span bridge instead of a box culvert, which was the original plan. Part of the process with the railroad was to get a Construction and Maintenance agreement, noting it took a year to get the agreement in place. It was signed in March. CDOT started working with the contractor, at that time, to come up with a new schedule. The schedule shows there are going to be traffic shifts. In March 2018, the first traffic shift will occur where the northbound traffic will be go from the old bridge to the new bridge and the old northbound bridge will be demolished. The second traffic shift will happen in August 2018 where the northbound and southbound are on the bridge, and the old southbound bridge will be demolished. The final traffic configuration with everything will include auxiliary lanes. There will be some things done in 2019, noting these are weather dependent such as final asphalt placement, plantings, or things which have a

temperature dependency. CDOT is trying to go to different meetings and civic groups to get the message out.

Mr. Aguilera stated he has been working with our local legislators, Leroy Garcia and Daneya Esgar, regarding putting up sound barriers in the Bessemer area. He stated he is going to have Shailen Bhatt, CDOT Director, come to Pueblo so he can be shown where these barriers should be placed to block out the eyesores in the area.

COLORADO ROAD USAGE CHARGE PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM

There was no report. This item will be continued to the next meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Montoya stated there were no comments from Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the State Transportation Commissioner for the Pueblo region.

Ms. Karen Rowe, CDOT Region 2 Director, reported the new Region 1 and Region 2 headquarters are on schedule. CDOT staff will be moving in early March or April to the Region 2 headquarters. Region 1 will move into its Denver headquarters in April.

Ms. Rowe stated the program which was discussed at the last PACOG meeting is called the Bustang Outrider. Starting January 1st, service will start from Lamar to Pueblo. CDOT will be leasing buses at that time. In the summer of 2018, CDOT will actually get the buses which it ordered. There will be bigger buses and smaller vans used. At that time, CDOT will look at going to Colorado Springs. CDOT will also look at starting the service from Alamosa to Salida to Pueblo. Mr. Pace asked where the bus would be coming to in Pueblo. Ms. Rowe replied the Pueblo Transit Center. Mr. Nawrocki stated the buses are 35' long with WIFI and restrooms. SRDA will be using their own vehicles to start the program. When the CDOT buses come on board, they will require CDL licenses. Mr. Pace asked if Pueblo could make a "big splash" when it starts. Ms. Rowe replied that a ribbon cutting sounds like a good idea. She added these types of uses sometimes progress to rail usage. Mr. Pace stated there is a different ridership with rails than buses.

Chairman Montoya stated he knows several people from the Lamar, La Junta, and Las Animas area who come to Pueblo for doctor appointments. These military veterans have to wait for a van before being brought to Pueblo. The Veterans Administration (VA) pays for them to get here and take a taxi to the hospital. Mr. Nawrocki stated everyone will be eligible in the Lower Arkansas Valley to ride the buses. There will be about a 5-hour window for visitors to Pueblo. The bus starts in Lamar and their destination will end at the bus terminal in downtown Pueblo. It will be up to them to take a taxi or have friends or relatives pick them up or maybe the VA. CDOT has already surveyed and have justified there is a need for this service. He stated if any of those using the Bustang Outrider are seniors, SRDA will be able to interface with them and pick them up at the bus terminal and take them wherever they need to go, and also get them back to the bus terminal. Chairman Montoya stated it would be nice if CDOT would develop a contract or agreement with the VA. He stated he knows they are eligible to ride, but in terms of the payment it would be beneficial. Mr. Nawrocki stated it costs 7¢ per mile. Ms. Rowe added it is supplemented toll, at the current time, and it is CDOT's goal to get at least a 40% recovery rate. She stated CDOT could do outreach to the VA to let them know it is available.

Ms. Leonard stated there is ongoing discussion between the Pueblo West Metropolitan District and staff regarding pedestrian overpasses. Ms. Rowe replied CDOT is aware of the request for pedestrian overpasses. It is estimated to cost \$3-\$5 million to do pedestrian overpasses. CDOT is looking at preliminary ideas. Mr. Thiebaut is in favor of this. CDOT's challenge would be the Long Range Transportation Plan currently calls for a grade separated interchange. If this is done, then those pedestrian needs would go away. CDOT is looking at it and trying to find a feasible location, what would the impacts be, etc. She stated overpasses need ADA accessibility and it becomes a huge structure. The cost is the big issue and there are a lot of transportation needs in Pueblo West.

Ms. Rowe stated she knows Mr. Aguilera wants sound barriers on I-25 in the Bessemer area. CDOT is trying to prioritize the needs. Mr. Aguilera stated the funding should not be spent all in Denver. Ms. Rowe replied CDOT is not spending it all in Denver. Every community feels like they are not getting enough. She stated Southeast Colorado gets more than their fair share than what they contribute for Asset Management (i.e., bridge, culverts, roads). There is no easy way to say who gets what share. It's a transportation system and over the years CDOT wants to make sure everyone gets their fair share.

Mr. Hart reminded Ms. Rowe that the Colorado State Fair begins Friday and asked if CDOT is going to help clean up the highway. Ms. Rowe replied they are constantly working on this, and inquired if there is any particular area in mind. Two temporary employees are added to Pueblo every year. Mr. Hart stated the main thing is to make sure all the weeds are mowed and the trash picked up. Ms. Rowe replied it is being done. They are trying to keep up with the mowing as best as they can.

Ms. Rowe stated State Highway 45 has new quality concrete. There will be a challenge during the State Fair in terms of the traffic on State Highway 45. The concrete paving will not be done until the end of October. She asked if the members know of anyone coming to the State Fair to let them know not to take Pueblo Boulevard, but to use another route. CDOT will be trying to campaign for visitors to take another route. She stated after the State Fair, State Highway 96 (4th Street) will be paved.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Terry Hart, PACOG STAC representative, reported the last STAC meeting was July 28th and the next one is tomorrow in Denver. There is an ongoing conversation on the Bustang Outrider Program with respect to its functionality.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on the INTRA Grant Program. This program replaced the FAST Lane Program. Discussion occurred on how the funding system works.

Mr. Hart stated discussion occurred on Senate Bill 17-267, which is the compromise the Legislature came up with for next year for transportation funding. There is a \$9 billion need and there is \$1.8 billion to do it. This is not new money, but rather borrowed money. Discussion occurred on where the money is coming from and how it would be paid back, noting the money would be taken from somewhere else to utilize the funds. The original amount was \$3.5 billion, but it failed. There was a good deal of work Statewide on trying to prioritize all the projects. Pueblo had a number of projects in the mix. When you shrink the available funding, you also have to shrink the number of

projects or find other types of funding for them. The general message received was everybody across the State needs to lower their expectations. The details are not completed yet. He stated Pueblo will have to fight for every dime and dollar for their projects.

Mr. Hart stated they spoke about revenues in general with regard to transportation. Everyone knows that the amount of money being placed into transportation in Colorado is significantly less. The need is greater than the amount of money. Things are getting more expensive and there is a limited amount of money going into it. Discussion occurred on switching over to more efficient cars (i.e., electric cars), noting we are shifting away from our funding mechanism, which is the gas tax. There was a presentation done on the electrical grid system. If there was a mass movement to electric cars, we currently don't have the electrical infrastructure to charge those cars.

Mr. Gradisar stated he saw the information on the alternative funding. He stated what struck him was that all vehicles are paying the same for miles traveled. He asked if there was discussion about semis paying more than smart cars. Mr. Hart answered a lot of that is up in the air. He stated the rural areas are very anxious about that because they drive a lot further to meet the basic necessities of life. If you use lane miles, that could harm parts of the State. Ms. Rowe stated this was the pilot project. What the study found was for rural communities they will probably pay less than they do now. For example, electric vehicles would pay \$12 a month and a pickup truck would pay \$12 a month if they drive the same amount of miles. In the rural areas, they generally use pickup trucks to haul things and don't have electric cars. There are different factors. She stated the way she looks at it is in the rural areas they drive more miles and pay more gas tax now. There is a misconception that I should only pay for the roads I use and only pay for the damage I do to the roads. She stated there are culverts and bridges on the road, water damages the roads, sun damages the roads, the environment damages the roads, etc. It's not about your impact personally to the roads and that's what you're going to pay. It's about trying to come up with another funding system that is equitable to keep our transportation system going. CDOT is trying different models, noting that Oregon is the leader in this because they did this study in conjunction with 14 other states. The Federal gas tax is 18.4¢ per gallon. If this was going to be done on a nationwide level and get rid of the Federal gas tax, you would have to come up with a Federal system to come up with the road user charge. CDOT is not going to run the program, but will have this information to provide to legislators or other people if they decide that this is the direction they want to go. Mr. Pace felt that people don't want that perception from the government. Mr. Hart stated there has been discussion at STAC about people having devices on their cars tracking all the miles. Mr. Pace stated that is already happening. Ms. Rowe stated CDOT looked at taking a picture of an odometer versus other things. Again, a gentleman said he could take a picture of his odometer, which doesn't work anymore. CDOT decided to look at different ways in this pilot program. She stated the problem with the gas tax is that cars are going electric and hybrid and it is not keeping up with our transportation funding needs. She stated the pilot program was done through a grant research program. Mr. Gradisar asked when the last gas tax increase done. Ms. Rowe replied 1991 for the State and 1993 for the Federal.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Administration Modification to the FY 2018-2021 TIP, Requests for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Amendment

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this is an administrative request from the City of Pueblo for the 8th Street Bridge Rehabilitation over I-25. The bids on the project were over the estimates on the engineering. The Federal Highway Administration is requiring the local communities to identify all the funding sources for a project. The City is adding an additional \$156,639 to the project for its completion. The total amount of the project is \$506,639.

It was moved by Terry Hart, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the TIP amendment adding an additional local match of \$156,639 to the construction phase of the bridge over I-25 (e.g., 8th Street Bridge Rehabilitation) for a total amount of \$506,639.

(B) Southwest Chief Update/Discussion

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission has been established and held its first meeting. He stated staff will be meeting with Mr. Pace, CDOT, Amtrak, and others on Monday, August 28th, to discuss how to bring the train into Pueblo and what it is going to take locally to get it here.

Mr. Pace stated the important thing from his perspective is the fact that PACOG changed its work program to include rail as part of its scope. It is important in PACOG's long-range planning documents (i.e., LRTP and TIP) that they reference passenger rail. In the past, CDOT has said you need to put transit and rail into long-range planning documents or they won't get funded. He stated he wanted to make sure that staff is working on more than highway and road projects, but other projects which should be part of the long-range plan.

Mr. Bartholomew Mikitowicz, MPO staff, stated you have to get all your ducks in a row in order to be ready for opportunities that come with grants and the different funding. We need to prove that we are active and involved and have our numbers ready so that when they come into the competitive phase that we have the best package to win those opportunities. He stated he could go through the steps. Mr. Pace asked that this be done at the next meeting.

(C) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, stated at next month's meeting there will be a presentation from Tim Kirby, CDOT, regarding the Colorado Road Usage Charge Pilot Research Program. Mr. Kirby was not able to attend today's meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

There was no report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A report from Mr. Mikitowicz regarding transportation funding will be placed on next month's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 12:15 p.m., at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Louella R. Salazar
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS