

MINUTES

PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

DECEMBER 8, 2016

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Brown, Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Ray Aguilera
Ed Brown
Nick Gradisar
Frank Latino
Judy Leonard
Ted Lopez

Buffie McFadyen
Tony Montoya
Steve Nawrocki
Sal Pace
Bob Schilling
Lori Winner

Those members absent were:

Larry Atencio
Terry Hart

Terry Kraus
Chris Nicoll

Also present were:

John Adams
Joan Armstrong
Sam Azad

Scott Hobson
Dan Kogovsek
Louella Salazar

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Chairman Brown 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 Tony Montoya, seconded by Ray Aguilera, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of October 27, 2016 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file October 2016 Financial Report);
- A Resolution Appointing a Member to the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (Note: Alicia Solis was appointed.);
- A Resolution Retaining the Services of McPherson, Breyfogle, Daveline and Goodrich, PC to Perform Bookkeeping Services for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments for FY 2017;

- A Resolution Retaining the Services of Garren, Ross & DeNardo, Inc. to Prepare the Pueblo Area Council of Governments' 2016 Audit;
- A Resolution Appointing/Reappointing Two (2) Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Pueblo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to Fill Full 2-Year Terms (Note: Kristen Castor and Joe Garcia were appointed.);
- A Resolution Approving the 2017 Delegation Agreement between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) and the City of Pueblo for Transportation Planning Services, Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute Same, and Authorizing and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Administer the Agreement in Compliance with All Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations; and
- A Resolution Approving the FY2016 List of Federally Obligated Projects, and Authorizing and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Distribute and Post the List in Accordance with All Applicable Federal and State Regulations.

REGULAR ITEMS:

PACOG BUDGET HEARING

The Pueblo Area Council of Governments held a public hearing regarding its proposed 2017 budget. A notice of the public hearing and the availability of the proposed budget was published in The Pueblo Chieftain on November 26, 2016. Chairman Brown opened the public hearing.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BUDGET FOR THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (PACOG) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

Mr. Nick Gradisar, PACOG Treasurer, reported the PACOG Budget Committee met on November 21st. He stated this budget is based on the membership contribution dues, accounting services, and audit services remaining the same in 2017. One change to the budget is including the Town of Boone as a member at a cost of \$370 for membership dues. The total budget and expenditures are \$905,668. The vast majority of the budget includes pass-through money from transportation planning and the new recycling grant.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Bob Schilling, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Approving a Budget for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) for Calendar Year 2017".

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PUEBLO COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE FY 2017 WORK PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR SAID WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Gradisar reported this resolution directs the Pueblo County Planning and Development Department to provide services for the FY 2017 regional planning and administration activities.

It was moved by Tony Montoya, seconded by Ray Aguilera, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution Directing the Pueblo County Planning and Development

Department to Implement the FY 2017 Work Program and Appropriating Funds for Said Work Program”.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' (PACOG) FY 2017 MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

Mr. Gradisar reported this resolution approves the 2017 PACOG membership contributions. This maintains the due levels as in the past. The City and County have the highest dues, which are \$13,625 each, and the remainder of the dues go down accordingly. The total amount of dues by the members is \$37,565.

It was moved by Nick Gradisar, seconded by Tony Montoya, and passed unanimously to approve “A Resolution Approving the Pueblo Area Council of Governments' (PACOG) FY 2017 Membership Contribution Schedule for Administration and Insurance Activities”.

There being no comments from PACOG or the audience, Chairman Brown closed the hearing on PACOG's 2017 budget.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

(A) Lunch Appreciation

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

(B) Plaque of Appreciation to Outgoing PACOG Member

Chairman Brown presented a plaque of appreciation to Ms. Buffie McFadyen, outgoing PACOG member. He thanked her for all she has done for transportation in the region, especially getting funding for I-25 and Highway 50 projects. Mr. Aguilera stated he always thought that Ms. McFadyen was also knowledgeable on any committees she sat on, especially those with respect to transportation issues. Ms. McFadyen thanked everyone.

(C) Selection of PACOG Nominating Committee for Officers

Chairman Brown asked for volunteers to serve on the PACOG Nominating Committee for Officers. The following persons volunteered to serve on the 2017 PACOG Nominating Committee for Officers: Judy Leonard, Steve Nawrocki, and Sal Pace.

Ms. Salazar, PACOG Recording Secretary, stated she would contact the committee members to schedule a date, time, and location for the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

(A) 2017 PACOG Meeting Date Schedule

Ms. Joan Armstrong, PACOG Manager, referred PACOG to the 2017 PACOG meeting dates schedule, which was in their packets. At the current time, this schedule maintains the 12:15 p.m. meeting time on the 4th Thursday of each month. The draft report on the

operational study of PACOG provides a possible change of time for the meeting, but this schedule remains with the status quo.

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

AWARD OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
RECYCLING RESOURCE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (RREO) GRANT
APPLICATION

Mr. Chris Markuson, County Economic Development and GIS Department, reported the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment sent a letter that PACOG has been awarded the Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity (RREO) grant. The grant is in the amount of \$49,964, and would implement the "Pueblo County Solid Waste Study for 2017". Staff is waiting for details from the State on the grant.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE "OPERATIONAL STUDY OF THE PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS"

Mr. Nick Gradisar, PACOG Treasurer and a member of the PACOG Budget Committee, reported this study was funded by a Colorado Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) grant, which PACOG matched. The charge to Matrix was to evaluate PACOG and its organizational structure and dues and compare it with other councils of governments in Colorado and around the country. The PACOG Budget Committee met to review the draft report on November 30th. Mr. Hobson was given the list of changes on the draft report, which he provided to Matrix to correct before the draft was sent to the PACOG members. Matrix has recommended changes to the organizational structure and dues structure of PACOG. It is a lot like what was suggested by some PACOG members a couple of years ago in terms of membership and revising the dues. The PACOG Budget Committee would like to conduct an in-depth meeting before the regular February 23, 2017 PACOG meeting to look at the recommendations and the study. Everyone would be invited to come to this meeting and talk about their recommendations. The idea would be that the budget committee would come back with a recommendation to the entire PACOG with respect to this report and the reorganization or no reorganization of PACOG. There was talk about the possibility of setting up some subcommittees of transportation and perhaps water quality. Those subcommittee meetings would be limited to people who "have a dog in that fight". Transportation would probably include the City, County, and Pueblo West. Most of the decisions made on transportation would come out of that subcommittee. The entire PACOG board would approve what the subcommittee agreed to. If there was some big problem, it would take more than a majority of the PACOG board to disagree with the recommendation. The water quality subcommittee would probably consist of Salt Creek Sanitation District, Board of Water Works, City, and County. They would take up those issues that deal with water quality, so they can spend more time getting into the details rather than the entire PACOG board doing this. He encouraged everyone to look at the operational study and come to the PACOG Budget Committee meeting, when it is scheduled, so we can analyze the study in more detail and make recommendations to PACOG. If PACOG should decide to do something different, the budget will need to be amended. The budget committee felt that rather than rush something through to make it effective January 1st that the PACOG members would be given time to review the recommendations and come back and vote on them when everybody has studied it and become informed.

Mr. Nawrocki stated the City Council could look at this more closely and discuss it at one of their work sessions.

Mr. Gradisar asked Mr. Hobson if he knew when the consultant would be giving PACOG the final report. Mr. Hobson answered the changes which were identified when the budget committee did its review have been incorporated into this draft report. He was told to have the final report to PACOG before the end of the year because any remaining invoices need to be processed by the end of the year. So, that would mean having the final report being done within the next two weeks. Mr. Gradisar stated if any of the members should find any grammatical issues or anything else, they should get that to Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Schilling stated he disagreed with bringing the City membership down. He also felt that making PACOG larger might be a detriment because the bigger you get the less you get done. He felt the consultants are coming up with more staff work in terms of reports and committees. Mr. Gradisar stated once everybody has a chance to look at the study, PACOG will have that discussion, noting he anticipates that would happen at the February meeting.

Mr. Pace suggested that the consultants make a presentation at a PACOG meeting. Mr. Gradisar stated he didn't have any objection to this. Mr. Hobson stated he had a discussion with the consultant and there are funds remaining in the contract, which would allow for a trip. The question is how it would be billed before the December 31st deadline. He stated he could possibly make a request to DOLA to allow PACOG to extend the timeframe for another month. Mr. Gradisar asked if this is the consensus of PACOG to have the consultant come and make a presentation. Mr. Montoya felt it would be beneficial. Chairman Brown asked if it would be possible for the consultant to meet with PACOG in February. Mr. Hobson replied he would have to check with DOLA if we could get an extension of 30-60 days to the grant agreement, which would allow the consultant to come and do the presentation. There may be a possibility that DOLA would allow this.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Brown reported there were no comments provided by Mr. Bill Thiebaut, the State Transportation Commissioner.

Mr. Michael Snow, Planning Liaison, CDOT Transportation Development, stated he met with some PACOG members when CDOT and FHWA did their transportation planning review. He stated the organizational study, which is being done by Matrix, shows a crossover of the two. He felt it would be helpful if he could participate in any future discussion regarding the organizational study.

STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Ms. Buffie McFadyen reported they are doing a pilot program in the State on a per mile charge (Vehicle Mile Tax) to see if that might work better for them.

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern with the State moving towards more tolling, noting it wasn't a great option. At this time of year, CDOT is looking closely at any State legislation which might impact transportation and rail legislation when the new legislative

session begins. She stated we need to know where the money is coming from in order to do any kind of bonding program. She didn't want to see money coming out of the Regional Priorities Program pot of money, which are programs the region prioritized. She didn't want the money to come out of that to pay for those bonds.

Ms. McFadyen stated PACOG needs to be vigilant to see if any money could be secured to complete Highway 50 East. It would also be nice to see about getting funding for the third lane going west on Highway 50 to Pueblo West.

Ms. McFadyen stated the flyover at Dillon Drive looks great.

Ms. McFadyen stated she appreciates the design engineers who work for CDOT Region 2 and would like to keep them, noting she likes in-house engineers. She believes there is a push to get more design-built partnerships with firms rather than having it done in-house. She personally felt that a CDOT engineer doesn't charge by the hour and outside engineers do. She felt we would get more value if it is done in-house.

On a different note, Ms. McFadyen stated it looks like the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners is working on getting funding to the Pueblo Memorial Airport.

Mr. Nawrocki stated Ms. McFadyen has done a lot for our State and community. He stated when Mr. Pace and she became County Commissioners they brought a legislative perspective to our local government and was able to lobby to get things done in the Pueblo community. He thanked her for her perspective, which taught us a few things.

MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) Additional Transit Service Area Analysis and Park-N-Ride (BUSTANG) Service

Mr. John Adams, Transportation Program Manager, reported there is an ongoing study with transportation functionality within the area. CDOT is looking into possibly expanding BUSTANG down to the North Pueblo area using Senate Bill 228 funds. It was decided by staff that they would ask the consultants to also incorporate it into the existing study. There has been some interest from Pueblo West into the possibility of regional connections and a park-n-ride in the area for reverse commute-type activities. They are also amending the existing contract for this work to be done.

Ms. Winner stated she thought that the BUSTANG was already in place for the Pueblo area. Mr. Adams replied the funding has been identified in the 10-year development plan. It is prudent the location be identified as the functionality study is being done and the alignments of the route system are done. He stated a location has been identified, but they would like to review if this is going to be the best location in relationship to the existing or future fixed route system.

Mr. Pace stated with the passage of Ballot Initiative 1A we should have long distance passenger rail through Pueblo by possibly the end of next year. A conversation has started with Colorado Springs and others about passenger rail into Colorado Springs. He asked that the passenger rail be included in the study. Mr. Adams stated it has been added.

(B) Administrative Modification to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Increasing Local Overmatch for the Project

Mr. Adams reported there is an administrative amendment to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. This is for the North Pueblo Boulevard Streetscape Project, Phase 2. The project started in 2008. The local overmatch is being increased for the project.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Frank Latino reported there are people working on the strategic plan and getting input from everyone. He stated with the defeat of Ballot Initiative 2A we need to strategize the resources in the community.

Mr. Latino thanked Ms. McFadyen, noting she was always available to listen and answer any questions. He appreciated her straightforwardness.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(A) Ballot Initiative 1A

Mr. Aguilera asked for information on Ballot Initiative 1A. Mr. Pace answered there are two pieces to 1A. One is a de-Bruce and the second is to capture expiring tax incentives. The City has the 1/2¢ bond to provide economic incentives and what the County has done over the years traditionally has been tax abatements, noting this is a loan as well. He stated Vestas was not put in as part of the funds the County was trying to capture partially because it wasn't understood how the urban renewal worked around Vestas. Vestas is starting to pay back the County. He stated the County is over its TABOR limit because sales tax revenues have accrued over the last three years due to population and inflation. Vestas will be paying the County back roughly \$4 million starting in 2017. The Urban Renewal District will go away, which means the funds that were going to pay back their property tax will go to the other entities (i.e., County, library district, etc.), noting this is approximately \$1 million/year. Then, there is a combination of Black Hills Energy, GCC, and Xcel Energy all expiring in three consecutive years. Black Hills Energy will be an additional \$1.5 million, noting this is State assessed, as well as Xcel which is \$4.1 million. Those don't depreciate. GCC will depreciate and it is \$1 million/year. All those funds until 2033 will be collected and put into a separate pot intended for 1A projects. As defined by the ballot, the projects must be transportation, parks, and redevelopment. He stated 20 initial projects were identified and if there is an overage it has to stay within those three areas. He stated the idea with 1A was to spur economic growth and improve the quality of life. He stated shortly after the beginning of the year, the County will start working with bond counsel. It is their hope to COP for the full amount. The health department will be paid off next year. He stated the courthouse has never been collateralized so there are a couple of facilities which can be used as collateral if needed. We are looking into consulting help to assist in managing the funds and financial fees, but also to make sure everything is moving in the right direction. He felt for some of the Pueblo West projects the concept will be done as a memorandum of understanding or resolution, noting this would probably be the same concept used for City projects. HARP is interested in getting the extension tied in with the RTA. Some of the projects will take more work and community input. The recreation center on the St.

Charles Mesa will be one of those projects. The downtown youth complex will be the same way. He will be heading up the Southwest Chief project, noting some of it is a contract with BNSF on the rail piece and what needs to be spruced up at the depot, such as putting in a platform. It is hoped by this time next year that the financing will be in place.

(B) Homeless Shelter

Mr. Nawrocki reported he, along with Councilman Nicoll, would like to send out an invitation to homeless services in the community. He thanked Councilman Aguilera who has been working with the Salvation Army, who is planning on closing their men's shelter after this season. Councilman Aguilera has convinced them to keep it open as long as there was adverse weather. He stated there is little assistance for women and children in the community. Under the direction of the City Manager's office, Mr. John Vigil, Assistant City Manager, will put together a group made up of the different organizations that work with the homeless. He invited anyone who is interested to get involved. They will be starting in January on doing this. The primary men's shelter will be closing in spring. He stated the community needs to come together to help the homeless. He stated there is information coming from the Colorado Municipal League (CML) which will give them a better idea on how to deal with panhandling, loitering, and other issues. He stated hopefully this would provide a uniform approach on how to deal with this in the community. He stated if anyone is interested in having staff or themselves involved to please contact Mr. Vigil.

Ms. Leonard stated there was a meeting with the legislators to see if there is anything which could be done in Southern Colorado. Mr. Nawrocki added they are looking at resources too.

Ms. McFadyen stated that Governor Hickenlooper is going to make it a priority to invest funds Statewide into homeless prevention initiatives. Countywide there are 164,000 people, and it is estimated about 16,500 of them are veterans, which is approximately 10% of our community. She stated some of these veterans are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. The County has been talking about putting together an emphasis and a role through Social Services at looking at this. She stated Pueblo West is getting more urbanized problems like panhandling. Mr. Nawrocki stated he thought that Amendment 64 specified how the money had to be used in education. Mr. Pace replied that the first \$40 million of the State excised tax goes to the BEST Program, which provides funding for low income rural schools for construction. The rest of the money is mostly discretionary. It will probably generate \$150-\$160 million for the State. He stated Governor Hickenlooper has proposed \$16 million for homeless programs.

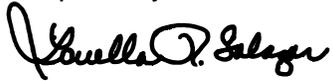
Mr. Aguilera stated the building which stands at the entrance to the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo (CMHIP) is brick and is in relatively good condition, which can be used for a jail or to house the homeless. He felt the building would be easy to heat because CMHIP has its own floor heating. He wondered why we couldn't get this building from the State. He asked if there might be money available from 1A to house either. He stated the amount of money which the Salvation Army is short is \$11,000, noting this took care of 6,000 men. He felt we don't consider homeless people until there is inclement weather. It would be nice for this community to be generous and be able to house the homeless. He noted that the Salvation Army bought the old

Washington school, but the neighbors aren't going to allow them to house the homeless in the building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 27, 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