

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOARD)**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2004**

**9:30 a.m.**

**PPACG Conference Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Air Quality Control Commission  
City of Colorado Springs  
City of Colorado Springs  
City of Colorado Springs  
City of Fountain  
City of Manitou Springs  
Colorado Transportation Commission  
El Paso County  
El Paso County  
Public Transportation Representative  
Teller County  
Town of Green Mountain Falls  
Town of Monument  
Town of Palmer Lake

**REPRESENTED BY**

Administrator Doug Lempke  
Councilmember Margaret Radford  
Councilmember Richard Skorman  
Councilmember Larry Small  
Councilmember LeNore Ralston, Chairperson  
Councilmember Marc Snyder  
Commissioner Terry Schooler  
Commissioner Jim Bensberg  
Commissioner Wayne Williams  
Dr. James A. Null  
Commissioner Jim Ignatius  
Mayor Dick Bratton  
Mayor Betty Konarski  
Mayor Nikki McDonald

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

City of Cripple Creek  
City of Victor  
City of Woodland Park  
El Paso County  
Park County  
Town of Calhan  
Town of Alma  
Town of Fairplay

**REPRESENTED BY**

Unassigned  
Mayor Kathy Justice  
Councilmember Gary Crane  
Commissioner Chuck Brown  
Commissioner Don Staples  
Mayor John Cullyford  
Mayor Bob Ensign  
Mayor Nancy Reed

**GUESTS**

Mr. Craig Blewitt  
Mr. Phil Hoffmann  
Mr. Dave Poling  
Ms. Sherre Ritenour  
Ms. Winifred Thompson  
Mr. Bob Torres  
Ms. Shyla Tulley

City of Colorado Springs  
Parsons Transportation Group  
CDOT Region 2  
City of Colorado Springs  
Regional Advisory Council  
CDOT Region 2  
El Paso County

**STAFF**

Mr. Rob MacDonald, Acting Executive Director/Transportation Director  
Mr. Bart Benthul, Transportation Planner  
Mr. Andy Firestine, Regional Planning Manager  
Ms. Mary Frye, Transportation Planner  
Ms. Barb Louricas, Executive Secretary

Mr. Rich Muzzy, Environmental Program Manager  
Mr. Ken Prather, Transportation Planner  
Ms. Dolores Quinlisk, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Ms. Margaret Shelton, Accounting Manager

#### **04-04 INTRODUCTIONS & CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was established for the Board of Directors. Councilmember LeNore Ralston called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

#### **04-05 AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Rob MacDonald proposed to add Item No. 6C, *Resolution in Support of an Equitable Allocation of State and Federal Transportation Dollars to the Pikes Peak Region*; and proposed a change to the title for Item No. 7B to *Rapid Transit System*.

Mayor Konarski made a motion to approve Revised Agenda with the changes. Councilmember Skorman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **04-06 PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Ms. Dolores Quinlisk introduced Ms. Winifred Thompson, Chair of Regional Advisory Council for 2004.

#### **04-07 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 10, 2003 MEETING**

Commissioner Ignatius noted a correction to the minutes on page 5, Item No. 03-193; “Commissioner” Crane should read “Councilmember” Crane.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Minutes with the correction. Commissioner Ignatius seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **04-08 CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following item was considered by the Board.

Item No. 5A Community Advisory Committee Membership

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the item on the consent calendar. Commissioner Ignatius seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **04-09 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD**

Mr. MacDonald reminded the Board that at the October meeting the bylaws were changed to add a new non-voting member to the Board to provide a perspective regarding public transportation. Mr. MacDonald reported that the position was advertised and a strong group of candidates submitted letters of interest.

There were six candidates that were interviewed by seven members of the Board along with Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Van Antwerp. The interview committee unanimously selected Dr. James Null to be nominated to the full Board.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the nomination of Dr. James Null to serve as the Citizen Representative for Public Transportation on the Board of Directors. Councilmember Radford seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Null joined the other Board members at the table. Dr. Null said that he appreciates the confidence from the Board in his ability to represent the citizens of the Pikes Peak Region on behalf of public transportation.

#### **04-10 2004-2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT #4**

Mr. Ken Prather indicated that Amendment #4 to the 2004-2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is to award additional Federal "Metro" funds in FY-2004 and update the TIP language to meet Federal Transit Administration funding requirements. CDOT identified \$957,000 from a redistribution of Federal funds and a higher obligation percentage from Federal Department of Transportation sources. The additional funds will be awarded to Metro funds and are available immediately to the local governments of PPACG.

Mr. Prather reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and PPACG staff are recommending four projects to receive funding. The projects are: 1) Manitou Springs: Drainage improvements to Manitou Avenue, 2) Colorado Springs: Union Boulevard reconstruction from Constitution Avenue to Pikes Peak Avenue, 3) Woodland Park: SH 67 corridor improvements, and 4) Woodland Park: US 24 corridor congestion management and access control improvements.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve Amendment #4 to the 2004-2009 Transportation Improvement Program. Commissioner Ignatius seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **04-11 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS TO THE PIKES PEAK REGION**

Mr. MacDonald explained that the PPACG Legislative Committee has been meeting with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Legislative Committee to discuss the concept of a reasonable return of gas tax to the local governments. The intent for the resolution is to state that a reasonable return on the regions' investment is 90%, which would leave 10% for the other transportation needs of the State.

Commissioner Schooler said that Mr. MacDonald, Commissioner Williams, and he went to Denver on January 13, 2004, to meet with CDOT's Executive Director Mr. Tom Norton about transportation funding issues. Commissioner Schooler said that CDOT is attempting to develop funding estimates so that Board members are able to make accurate funding comparisons. Commissioner Schooler advised to convey the concept of getting the fair share to our region without the use of specific statistics, as in "76 cents per dollar" identified in the draft resolution.

Commissioner Schooler pointed out that the Transportation Commission is taking steps to increase the funding that is coming into the Pikes Peak Region. The Reauthorization of TEA-21 and allocation to the western states will likely increase overall funding. Commissioner Schooler said that the Transportation Commission passed a resolution to set standards to measure capacity and mobility and that \$8 million would be allocated in 2007 for congestion on a statewide basis.

Commissioner Williams said that the Legislative Committees of PPACG and DRCOG are recommending a formula comprised of both Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and population. Commissioner Williams does not want to rely exclusively on population forecasts and made recommendations for specific wording changes to the draft resolution.

Councilmember Small said that the City Council of Colorado Springs passed this resolution as it is currently worded at a meeting last evening.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adopt the resolution with the following changes: 2<sup>nd</sup> WHEREAS clause, page 1, insert the word “approximately” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line before 12.8 percent; 6<sup>th</sup> WHEREAS clause on page 1, add the words “an estimated” at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line before 76 cents; 2<sup>nd</sup> WHEREAS on page 2, add the words “air quality and” before quality on line 1; and in the RESOLVED clause replace the words “requests that the Transportation Commission reject this proposed Plan allocation and direct CDOT to submit a modified Plan” with “supports an”. Councilmember Small seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **04-12 STATUS REPORT ON I-25 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Mr. MacDonald indicated that CDOT personnel would be presenting a status report on the I-25 Environmental Assessment (EA). Mr. MacDonald anticipated that the EA would be finalized in the next six months. Mr. MacDonald introduced Mr. Dave Poling of CDOT.

Mr. Dave Poling said that the EA report has been completed and is currently with FHWA for review. The EA document is 300-plus pages long, with 3 ½ pages of comments. The EA team is responding to the comments and incorporating them into the EA document. Mr. Poling said that the EA document would be going to several agencies for signature next week. The document is then given to libraries, city and county primary administration offices, PPACG, CDOT offices, and on the CDOT website for a 45-day public comment period starting at the end of January. Mr. Poling anticipated that a formal Public Hearing would be conducted sometime during the week of February 23. After comments are reviewed and responses prepared, the FHWA will issue their final environmental decision in the early summer/late spring timeframe.

Mr. Poling said that during the public comment period, it would be helpful if local governments would issue resolutions to become part of the public record to be reviewed by FHWA.

Mr. Poling reported that the southern boundary of the EA is SH 16 interchange and the northern boundary is the Monument interchange. Mr. Poling said that the purpose of the EA is to determine if there is a significant impact and it currently appears there is no significant impact. Therefore, CDOT anticipates that no EIS would be required. Mr. Poling said that after the EA is signed by the FHWA, the next step is Phase I implementation that addresses capacity issues within the urbanized area of Colorado Springs (Nevada/Tejon

interchange to Briargate interchange). Mr. Poling said that \$120 million has been earmarked by CDOT in FY-05 for those improvements.

Dr. Null inquired about the status of the once proposed 2-foot wide concrete buffer for the HOV lanes. Mr. Poling said that the 2-foot buffer for HOV lanes was not planned for in the current design. Once installed, the HOV lanes will be operational for peak-hour traffic conditions.

Mr. Poling reported that the I-25/Woodmen Road interchange is nearing completion. On January 19, final striping will be completed, and on January 20, the interchange will be open. Mr. Poling indicated that additional work will still need to be done over the next several months, and by June there will a wider intersection with more lanes.

#### **04-13 COLORADO SPRINGS TRANSIT PRESENTATION: RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM**

Mr. MacDonald said that as a part of the development of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, he would be asking various agencies to brief the Board on regional transportation issues such as public transportation, aviation, and truck/freight. Mr. MacDonald introduced Sherre Ritenour, Manager for the Colorado Springs Transit Services Division. Ms. Ritenour said that the City has hired a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on rapid transit in the Pikes Peak Region.

Parsons Transportation Group is conducting the feasibility study and Mr. Phil Hoffmann was available to discuss the study. Mr. Hoffmann said that the three purposes of the study are: 1) Determine if rapid transit is feasible for Colorado Springs; 2) Identify most feasible corridors; 3) Evaluate appropriate technology for Colorado Springs. The final report is anticipated to be complete in July 2004.

Mr. Hoffmann explained that the implementation time frame for a rapid transit system is 10-15 years. Mr. Hoffmann discussed the various corridors considered, corridor screening process, public input process, technologies considered, and implementation plan.

#### **04-14 SENIOR DEMOGRAPHIC AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Mr. Andy Firestine presented a draft report on Senior Demographic and Transportation dynamics in the Pikes Peak Region. A draft of the Executive Summary was provided in the Board packet and will be finalized in February. Mr. Firestine advised that the Study is an analysis of the economic and demographic characteristics of the older population in the Pikes Peak Region and an analysis of the travel behavior of the older population in El Paso County. Mr. Firestine defined that the purpose of the Study was to understand the composition of the older population, identify gaps in mobility and the availability of services to the older population of Colorado Springs.

Mr. Firestine presented key findings from each of the sections of the Study and highlighted the fact that much of his presentation information is contained in the Executive Summary that is located in the Board packet. Mr. Firestine asked for review and comment regarding the Study.

#### **04-15 COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. MacDonald referred to the memo from Mr. Rich Muzzy, which stated that the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission approved the Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan (208 Plan). Mr. MacDonald also highlighted several articles from the *Gazette* and *Denver Post* on transportation funding issues. Mr. MacDonald identified a report titled, "Colorado's Economic Opportunities: Today, Tomorrow, and the Future."

#### **04-16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. MacDonald explained the new format of the report which organizes the information by program. Mr. MacDonald highlighted several items from the report.

#### **04-17 AAA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

There were no questions.

#### **04-18 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

There were no questions.

#### **04-19 MEMBER ENTITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Null announced that UCCS will run a full-day conference regarding TABOR and Gallagher Amendments on February 27. Several speakers will be participating from the National Tax Institute, Messrs. Gallagher and Bruce, and others.

#### **04-20 ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Ralston adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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