

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

9:00 a.m.

PPACG Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Colorado Springs
City of Colorado Springs
City of Colorado Springs
City of Fountain
City of Manitou Springs
City of Woodland Park
Colorado Transportation Commission
El Paso County
El Paso County
El Paso County
Public Transportation Representative
Teller County
Town of Monument

MEMBERS ABSENT

Air Quality Control Commission
City of Cripple Creek
City of Victor
Park County
Town of Calhan
Town of Alma
Town of Fairplay
Town of Green Mountain Falls
Town of Palmer Lake

GUESTS

Mr. Craig Blewitt
Mr. Dave Poling
Ms. Sherre Ritenour
Mr. Bob Torres

STAFF

Mr. Rob MacDonald, Executive Director
Mr. Andy Firestine, Regional Planning Manager
Ms. Mary Frye, Transportation Planner
Ms. Barb Louricas, Executive Secretary
Mr. Rich Muzzy, Environmental Program Manager

REPRESENTED BY

Councilmember Jerry Heimlicher
Councilmember Richard Skorman
Councilmember Larry Small
Councilmember LeNore Ralston, Chairperson
Mayor Marcy Morrison
Councilmember Gary Crane
Commissioner Terry Schooler
Commissioner Jim Bensberg
Commissioner Chuck Brown
Commissioner Wayne Williams
Dr. Jim Null
Commissioner Jim Ignatius
Mayor Betty Konarski

REPRESENTED BY

Administrator Doug Lempke
Unassigned
Mayor Kathy Justice
Commissioner Don Staples
Mayor John Cullyford
Mayor Bob Ensign
Mayor Nancy Reed
Mayor Dick Bratton
Mayor Nikki McDonald

City of Colorado Springs
CDOT Region 2
Springs Transit
CDOT Region 2

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

04-21 INTRODUCTIONS & CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was established for the Board of Directors. Councilmember LeNore Ralston called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

04-22 AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Crane made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

04-23 PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

04-24 APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 14, 2004 1) ANNUAL AND 2) REGULAR MEETINGS

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the both sets of Minutes. Commissioner Ignatius seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

04-25 CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items on the consent calendar.

04-26 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Rich Muzzy reminded the Board that at the December Board meeting, the 208 Plan was released for a 50-day public comment period that ended on February 9. PPACG is required under Federal and State statutes as the lead water quality management planning agency to develop a water quality management plan to address water quality issues in the Pikes Peak Region (El Paso, Park, and Teller Counties). The 208 Plan was developed with the assistance of PPACG's Water Quality Management Committee which is composed of technical staff from El Paso, Park, and Teller Counties along with special districts and military installations.

The 208 Plan helps local governments focus on priority water quality issues. Mr. Muzzy gave the following examples: 1) Identification of regional needs in wastewater planning; 2) Identification of regional water quality problems, issues, and strategies; 3) Identification of opportunities for further coordination and review; and 4) Provides local governments with suggestions of implementation recommendations and policies that would strengthen water quality.

Mr. Muzzy indicated that attachment 2 includes a summary of public comments and responses. Public meetings on the 208 Plan were held in Woodland Park, Fairplay, and in Colorado Springs.

Mr. Muzzy asked the Board to approve the Water Quality Management Plan (208) Plan. Mr. Muzzy indicated that after approval of the Plan by the Board, it will be submitted to the Water Quality Control Commission where they will hold an informational hearing on the Plan, scheduled to occur in May. After approval by the WQCC, it will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for review and then be forwarded to the EPA for approval which will take six months to one year.

Commissioner Williams asked why northern and eastern El Paso County did not show up in the watershed studies. Mr. Muzzy explained that northern and eastern El Paso County are discussed in the Chico Creek Watershed. Mr. Muzzy also said that there are not many water quality related issues in eastern El Paso County and that all the creeks drain into the Arkansas River and the streams in the upper northern portion of the County drain to the South Platte.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan). Commissioner Ignatius seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

04-27 2004-2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT #5

Mr. Ken Prather indicated that Amendment #5 to the 2004-2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revises funding for two projects and proposes adding an additional project.

Mr. Prather explained that the first project is the US 24 widening from Constitution to Falcon Highway. This project is in the current TIP with the program being partially funded in the current year and another \$10 million being funded in 2007. Mr. Prather explained that last June the State received \$146 million from the Federal Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. In December, Governor Owens assigned \$60 million to transportation projects around the State. A total of \$6 million of the funds were allocated to this project thereby advancing a portion of the project from 2007 to 2004.

Mr. Prather said that after the 2004-2009 TIP projects and funding were approved in November, CDOT discovered a \$400,000 shortage of Congestion and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds. The City of Colorado Springs has agreed that their Citywide Congestion Management project be reduced by \$400,000 in FY-2004 and be returned in the CMAQ funding for FY-2005.

Mr. Prather indicated that additional safety improvements to SH 105/Furrow Road are scheduled. The funds will be provided from monies left over from previous work performed on the intersection as well as funds from CDOT's safety program in the current year.

Councilman Skorman asked what the \$400,000 shortage in CMAQ funds means to the region. Mr. Craig Blewitt, Transportation Planning Manager for the City of Colorado Springs, said the project is a part of the City's ongoing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) program. The program is operated through the Traffic Operations Center to improve traffic signal coordination. Mr. MacDonald added that the \$400,000 is part of a \$3.0 million project. The remaining \$2.6 million CMAQ project is proceeding.

Mayor Morrison inquired where the \$400,000 has gone. Mr. Bob Torres of CDOT indicated that funds were double budgeted in Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002 and resulted in a bookkeeping error. The error has been found and a journal entry will be made to fix the error.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Amendment #5 to the 2004-2009 TIP. Commissioner Ignatius seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

04-28 2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: PROPOSED EVALUATION CRITERIA

Ms. Mary Frye reminded the Board that in December the vision, goals, and objectives were approved to guide the development of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Frye said that the evaluation criteria and scoring methodology have been developed to determine which projects meet the goals and objectives. The Community Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and PPACG staff are recommending approval of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Proposed Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Methodology.

Ms. Frye summarized the four goals: 1) mobility, 2) environment, 3) accessibility, and 4) maintenance. A public meeting was held on January 13, to obtain citizen input on the proposed evaluation criteria, and 20 citizens attended to provide comment.

Councilmember Skorman made a motion to approve the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Proposed Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Methodology. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

04-29 FINAL PPACG SENIOR DEMOGRAPHIC AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. Andy Firestine reminded the Board that the draft of the *Senior Demographic and Transportation Study* was introduced at last month's Board meeting. Since that time, it has been finalized.

Mr. Firestine discussed a few of the various maps in the Study that were not discussed at last month's Board meeting. Mr. Firestine referred to the Demographic Condition Index on page 55. Mr. Firestine indicated that the index measures the dependence on services of the older population and mobility of the older population in the region. On pages 61, 62, and 63 are maps of population density. Mr. Firestine reported that on page 16 there is a discussion of an aging in place trend that ties into the maps on pages 61-65. Mr. Firestine reported that pages 68-69 show the distribution of the African-American and Asian population. Mr. Firestine said that on pages 98-99 is a list of vehicle availability by tenure of owner-occupied and renter-occupied households.

Mr. Firestine reported that on page 111 is the location of Chapter 6, Seniors and Transportation, which was discussed in detail at the last month meeting. Chapter 7, Senior Services, starts on page 135 that identifies block groups within a three-mile radius of congregate meal sites, and a map of the Colorado Springs Urbanized Area with the meal sites is located on page 139.

Mr. Firestine indicated that the Executive Summary of the Study is on the PPACG website, a copy of the report on CD is available for free, or the printed document is available for \$50. Mr. MacDonald said that target audiences are currently being identified to whom to disseminate the document.

Councilmember Skorman indicated that he would like the presentation to be given at an informal Colorado Springs Council meeting.

04-30 CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS TRANSIT PRESENTATION: PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ms. Sherre Ritenour, City of Colorado Springs Transit Services Division Manager, discussed the Colorado Springs Transit's public education program. Ms. Ritenour indicated that the current Transit System is not effective. It is the same today that it was in 1979, despite the 138% growth in our community. Ms. Ritenour said that the public education program is not promoting the system but rather education on what public transportation means to this community with regard to cost-benefit/economic benefit, and overall health and vitality of our community. Ms. Ritenour explained that when planning for light rail, the education is important so that the community can make informed decisions of voting and supporting the future system. Ms. Ritenour said that the City of Colorado Springs contracted with a local advertising firm in April 2003, for the purpose of developing a public education plan, hold stakeholder interviews, conduct a 350-household survey, and develop a brand name for Transit.

Ms. Ritenour discussed the household survey that was conducted, key findings, and demographics of the interview participants. Ms. Ritenour said that Phase 2 of the household survey will be disseminating the information in a customer-friendly way throughout the community about the goals and benefits of public transportation. Ms. Ritenour identified the key messages for the current system of convenience, cost efficiency, environmental friendliness, and system operations.

Commissioner Schooler inquired if the long-range plan was to identify priority corridor service areas. Ms. Ritenour responded that a new system will be a multi-hub configuration with demand-response service to meet the needs of the community. Ms. Ritenour said that for developing areas a transit-oriented development plan will be reviewed as part of the approval process.

Mr. Ritenour reported that an economic study is to be released in a week that will address the cost/benefit as an economic issue to our region.

Commissioner Williams reported that the Chamber of Commerce is distributing an informational book about transit funding indicating that the majority of citizens believe that funding for transit should be kept at the same level or reduced.

04-31 STATUS REPORT ON 2004 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Mr. MacDonald handed out a summary of the legislative bills that PPACG is tracking through the AAA and Transportation Programs. Mr. MacDonald introduced Ms. Quinlisk to discuss the AAA items.

Ms. Quinlisk summarized the legislation that is tracked by the Senior Lobby and AARP. Ms. Quinlisk indicated that further along in the Legislative Session she will come back to the Board with evaluations of the relevant legislation. Ms. Quinlisk said that at the current time, there are numerous bills regarding the same issues.

Mr. MacDonald discussed the legislative issues related to Transportation including statewide tolling authority and the audit of the RTD.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that PPACG is waiting for amounts spent on statewide projects from 1999 through 2003 from Mr. Tom Norton, Executive Director of CDOT.

Mayor Morrison suggested that a meeting with the State Legislators from the Pikes Peak Region would be a good idea to inform them about the regional concerns for funding. Mayor Morrison said that a Saturday morning meeting may work best because meetings during the workweek are difficult for Legislators to make when they are in session in Denver.

Commissioner Williams indicated that El Paso County is holding a Legislative meeting on February 28 and that a meeting with them may be able to occur after the County meeting.

Mr. Bob Torres said that CDOT staff is working on putting the number together and they may be available in several weeks.

Commissioner Schooler advised that care should be used when coming up with an approach about concerns over funding because of the vote over the RTA in November. Commissioner Schooler said that voter confidence should be built and maintained if a tax increase is being requested.

Commissioner Brown wants a clear statement about the RTA to be communicated. Commissioner Brown said that the RTA is to be formed for the local roadway system and not for the State or Federal systems.

04-32 COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. MacDonald highlighted the status of the I-25 Environmental Assessment (EA) survey. Mr. Dave Poling advised that the EA is being reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Poling said that the I-25 EA survey is the next phase of recommended improvements to design/build the I-25 corridor to six lanes of capacity within urbanized Colorado Springs region.

04-33 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There were no questions.

04-34 AAA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Councilmember Small inquired about the progress on SAMS management information system. Ms. Quinlisk indicated that because the contractor originally designed the system for a case management program in Vermont, the issues have been more difficult to resolve and the scan system has not been working properly for Golden Circle. The State is trying to resolve the problems.

04-35 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no questions.

04-36 MEMBER ENTITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The location of the Regional Legislator/El Paso County meeting will be at the Antlers Hotel, in the Grille.

04-37 ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Ralston adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

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