



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2007
TO: PPACG Board of Directors
FROM: Craig Casper, Transportation Director
Aaron Klibaner, Regional Economic Planning Manager
THROUGH: Robert MacDonald, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Draft 2035 Small Area Forecast

ACTION REQUESTED: Information only

SUMMARY:

The Citizen's Advisory Committee met on February 28, 2007 and recommended approval of the Draft 2035 Small Area Forecasts for use in the development of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, with the condition that any public and PPACG member entity comments received up to and including the March 14, 2007 PPACG Board of Directors meeting, be addressed by PPACG staff. In addition, a joint meeting of the PPACG Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Small Area Forecast Subcommittee (SAF) was held on March 1, 2007 in order to review the public and member entity comments received to date. The original intent for this meeting was to obtain a recommendation for approval of the 2035 Small Area Forecasts for use in the development of the 2008 through 2035 Regional Transportation Plan; however, PPACG staff received a large volume of member entity comments during the last week which needed to be addressed and accounted for in the next run of the TELUM socioeconomic forecasting model, before recommendations for approval could be obtained.

BACKGROUND:

The major issues discussed at the joint TAC/SAF Subcommittee meeting and their impact on the Small Area Forecast work program from this point forward included:

1. Population trends in the City of Colorado Springs between 2005-2035;
2. Share of total population represented by the City of Colorado Springs in 2035 versus the region;
3. The methodology used by PPACG to forecast school enrollment;
4. Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) 343 in El Paso County near the City of Fountain;
5. The timeline and procedure for incorporating member entity and public comments into the TELUM model as constraints and the number of model runs that can be accomplished.

Population Trends and Total Population for the City of Colorado Springs

On the issues of population trends over the entire forecast period in the City of Colorado Springs and share of total population in 2035 in the City of Colorado Springs versus the region, the TAC and SAF

members requested that PPACG staff contact the Colorado State Demographer's office in order to obtain a detailed explanation of why the formation of new households seems to decline as the overall population increases; and to explain why the share of total population and households in the region that the City of Colorado Springs represents exhibits a pattern of gradual decline in the beginning and middle years of the forecast, and then an increasing growth trend in the final years of the forecast. PPACG staff will contact the Demographer's office and report back to the committee members.

School Enrollment

It was observed that the K-8 school enrollment seemed to be over allocated in the developed, built out areas of the region. It was decided that data on existing school capacities would be collected and any over allocation of this student enrollment beyond current school capacities would be re-allocated to the growing areas of the region. PPACG staff is working on a capacity based methodology for forecasting K-12 school enrollment and will report the results of this process as soon as it is completed.

TAZ 343

TAZ 343 located southeast of the Colorado Springs Airport, east of the City of Fountain and which includes portions of the Banning Lewis Ranch, and Lorson Ranch areas was acknowledged by PPACG staff and members of both committees as being an area that the TELUM model has not forecasted reasonably in terms of both total households and jobs and in the distribution of low income households. The suggestion was made that staff from El Paso County, the City of Colorado Springs and the City of Fountain collaborate and work with PPACG staff to develop appropriate constraints for the TELUM model before the next run of the model.

Addressing Comments and Performing Model Runs

Finally, the overall schedule from this point forward was discussed, and in particular, the time frame for receiving member entity and public comments and converting those comments into TELUM model constraints, and the number of TELUM model runs that can be performed from this point forward. PPACG staff outlined roughly the time it will take to convert member entity and public comments into the constraints required by the TELUM model (floors and caps), and also noted that we will be continuing to receive these comments up to and including the March 14, 2007 PPACG Board of Directors meeting.

PPACG staff will be working to convert all comments received; however, this is a very time consuming process as it involves constant interaction and communication between PPACG staff and member entity staff, and members of the general public, in order to develop specific numbers to use as constraints. This process involves individual meetings, telephone conversations and e-mail exchanges, over many days. Staff plans to run the model when it has received and addressed all comments from member entities and the public.

PPACG staff stated that the next model run was planned to be performed after the Board of Directors meeting on March 14. Member entity staff requested that an interim run of the TELUM model be performed before that meeting. PPACG staff is attempting to accommodate this request, but complying with this request will depend entirely on when member entity and public comments are provided to PPACG staff and the time it takes to convert those comments into useable constraints for the TELUM model. Comments will be taken up to and including Wednesday, March 14th. All comments received will be incorporated in a TELUM model run following the board meeting.

The results of this TELUM model run will be distributed on March 16th to both committees in anticipation of a joint meeting of the committees that will be held on March 22nd at 1:00 PM at PPACG

to recommend the board's approval. The PPACG Board of Directors would approve the Draft 2035 SAF at its April 11th meeting. There will still be opportunities for member entities and the public to give further comments to PPACG staff on the Small Area Forecasts during drafting of the Regional Transportation Plan when a 2035 road network will be projected.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The PPACG Board of Directors approved the 2030 Small Area Forecast on December 10, 2003. It also approved public release of the Draft 2035 Small Area Forecast on February 14, 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:

PPACG staff is continuing to meet individually with member entity staff and the public to address their comments on the Draft 2035 Small Area Forecasts.

ALTERNATIVES:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable

PROPOSED MOTION:

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

1. PPACG Member Entity Comments and Public Comments received to date