



**Minutes of the  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Thursday, March 16, 2006  
1:30 p.m.**

**Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Lower Conference Room**

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1. **Call to Order / Establish a Quorum / Introductions**

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Buttery at 1:37 p.m. Introductions were made and in attendance were:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Buttery, Chairman  
Scott Stevens, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Craig Blewitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Craig Casper  
Corinne Donahue  
Mike Leslie  
Sally Payne  
Wendy Pettit  
Janet Stephens  
Jude Willcher

**REPRESENTING**

City of Woodland Park  
City of Fountain  
City of Colorado Springs  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
City of Colorado Springs, Transit Services  
City of Manitou Springs  
Colorado Department of Transportation, DTD  
Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 2  
El Paso County  
City of Colorado Springs

**GUESTS**

Mary Frye  
Kathie Haire  
Jennifer Irvine  
Rob MacDonald  
Glenn Messke  
Angela Perry  
Ken Prather  
Yolanda Roberts  
Warren Whiteaker

**REPRESENTING**

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
City of Colorado Springs, Traffic Engineering  
El Paso County, Department of Transportation  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Peterson Air Force Base  
City of Colorado Springs, Traffic Engineering  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

2. **Agenda Approval**

There were no adjustments made to the agenda and it was approved by consensus.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Donahue and seconded by Ms. Stephens. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. **Regional Collaboration**

Mr. MacDonald addressed the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) members on the need for improved regional collaboration between the membership entities. To ameliorate a perceived disconnect between technical staff and elected officials, Mr. MacDonald recommended TAC members focus on regional issues over local interests. To further balance competing needs, TAC members were also asked to be aware of all possible mitigating circumstances that come in to play when deliberating over project prioritization. As a reconnection between the technical and political sectors, Mr. MacDonald invited the TAC members to attend the next PPACG Board of Directors meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

6. **Fort Carson Interchange Funding Update**

While still working with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for funding, Mr. MacDonald informed TAC members a congressional earmark is also being sought for the Fort Carson Interchange (I-25 at SH-16). Due to its recent designation as the top transportation priority in the Pikes Peak Region and the need for additional funds, it was suggested that the unprogrammed Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 STP-Metro funds be primarily dedicated to this project.

7. **2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Development**

Mr. Whiteaker informed the TAC that the Colorado Transportation Commission recently reduced the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) from six years to three years and asked members to consider the pros and cons in adopting the same time frame for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Based on the total work involved and the inherent value as a planning resource, it was decided to continue the TIP at six years.

With the Draft 2007-2012 TIP now ready for public comment and review, Mr. Whiteaker outlined some of the latest developments. The Board adopted PPACG staff's final project table recommendations which included changes in funding outside this TIP period for STP-Metro projects. In addition, while not included in the air quality conformity analysis results reported in the draft document, PPACG staff has determined that the predicted Fort Carson growth will not negatively impact air quality standards. After acknowledging revisions still to be made prior to release, a motion was made by Mr. Stevens to recommend the PPACG Board approve public release of the Draft 2007-2012 TIP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blewitt and passed unanimously.

8. **2005-2010 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #15**

CDOT notified PPACG that \$2,541,000 in STP-Metro funds were available in FY 2006 from project reconciliations. PPACG staff proposed these funds be used as shown below:

Woodmen Road, Powers Boulevard to US 24 (El Paso County):	\$ 500,000
Woodmen Road, I-25 to Powers Boulevard (Colorado Springs):	\$ 58,000
SH 16 Fort Carson Interchange (CDOT):	\$1,983,000

A motion to recommend the Board approve Amendment #15 to the 2005-2010 TIP was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Ms. Stephens. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. **STAS and TAC Membership**

Peterson Air Force Base has requested that Mr. Glenn Messke be appointed as a non-voting member on the TAC. The City of Fountain has requested to switch the primary and alternate TAC members wherein Mr. Scott Stevens will become the primary representative and Mr. Dave

Smedsrud will become the alternate. The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has requested that Ms. Ruth Keller become the primary representative on the Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee (STAS). Mr. Blewitt made a motion to recommend the Board approve all appointments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stephens and passed unanimously.

10. **2007 Regional Transportation Plan Development**

To address the new planning requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Mr. Casper outlined a revised development methodology for the next long range plan. PPACG staff proposes to utilize scenario-based socioeconomic forecasting to minimize uncertainty by providing a sensitivity test to location and population growth. To increase the planning participation process, PPACG also envisions using a new scoring evaluation system by obtaining input from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the TAC as well as PPACG staff. The TAC members considered both proposals and agreed that the scenario-based planning methodology was a positive change. The TAC members also consented to the new scoring process; however, this was met with a more guarded response in terms of the time and commitment required for the undertaking.

Through concerns expressed that the current goals defined in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) were not adequately covering SAFETEA-LU's eight planning factors, PPACG questioned whether they needed refinement. Ms. Frye stressed that properly defining the vision, goals and objectives is the most important part of the planning process that sets the framework for understanding the region's desires for its transportation system. Inadequacies identified with the RTP in the past have provided unequal evaluations affecting mainly the enhancements and non-motorized applications. Considering the above, the TAC members proposed combining the four existing goals with the eight SAFETEA-LU planning factors in a way that would better address the local transportation region.

11. **FREX and Downtown Colorado Springs Circulator Update**

Ms. Donahue presented an update on the Downtown Colorado Springs Shuttle and Front Range Express services.

Downtown Shuttle:

The Downtown Shuttle is funded by the downtown Colorado Springs Business Improvement District, Colorado College and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) dollars. In 2005, actual statistics for operating hours, annual operating costs and ridership were lower than the anticipated grant projection. Challenges included keeping the electric buses charged, defining the route terminus, and marketing the shuttle system. In response to public comments, bells were added to the buses, route carousels were installed at the shuttle bus stops, and a new schedule was implemented.

Front Range Express (FREX):

Primarily funded by CMAQ, the FREX service from Fountain to Denver began in October, 2004. In 2005 the annual operating costs far exceeded the grant projections highlighting one of FREX's major obstacles. Additional challenges included the high cost to maintain and retrofit used and non-accessible buses, fuel price increases, and unforeseen public demand. Within two years, however, there has been a demonstrated need for the Front Range service prompting increased coordination among transit agencies and even a reverse commute service from Denver to Colorado Springs.

12. **Transportation Director's Report**

Mr. Casper's announcements:

- PPACG will be holding VISUM training March 21-23, 2006.
- The Pikes Peak region is a semi-finalist to host the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) training. IDAS is a software model used to evaluate ITS project effectiveness.
- Mr. Casper is currently attending the Surface Transportation Policy Project workshop in Denver. The primary focus of the workshop is to examine how SAFETEA-LU affects planning and project financing.
- PPACG will receive technical proposals for the Non-Motorized Transportation System Plan Updates on March 17, 2006. Seven companies have currently expressed interest.
- The Human Service Coordination Study, working with Transit Services, is currently ahead of schedule expecting a notice to proceed with contracts next month.

13. **Subcommittee Report**

There was no subcommittee report.

14. **Member Entity Announcements**

Ms. Stephens announced that El Paso County has requested Jennifer Irvine be appointed as the first alternate and Rich Kramer as the second alternate on the TAC.

Ms. Payne requested the morning of April 18, 2006 be set aside for a tentative Statewide Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting.

Mr. Blewitt announced that the City of Colorado Springs will be holding a meeting with the Springs Toll Road representatives on March 24, 2006 to discuss questions and concerns over the new toll road proposal.

Mr. Casper communicated that PPACG had finished the first round of interviews for the Planner II position resulting in a three-person short list of candidates.

15. **Action Items for Next Meeting**

The following items were considered for the next meeting:

- Feedback from Mr. MacDonald on regional collaboration
- Toll Road Update
- Adjustments to the adopted goals and objectives

16. **Adjournment**

Mr. Blewitt made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Donahue seconded the motion. Chairman BATTERY adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.