



**Minutes of the  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Thursday, April 20, 2006**

**1:30 p.m.**

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

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1. **Public Comments**

Waiting for a quorum to be established, Chairman Buttery allowed time to receive comments on items not on the agenda. There were no public comments.

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

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Buttery at 1:33 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  
Glenn Messke  
Wendy Pettit  
Janet Stephens

**REPRESENTING**

City of Woodland Park  
City of Fountain  
City of Colorado Springs  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
City of Colorado Springs  
Peterson Air Force Base  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
El Paso County

**GUESTS**

Maureen Araujo  
Dan Folke  
Mary Frye  
Paul Hershkowitz  
Jennifer Irvine  
Jason O'Brien  
Rick Orphan  
Ken Prather  
Yolanda Roberts  
Rob Vinton  
Warren Whiteaker

**REPRESENTING**

DMJM Harris  
City of Manitou Springs  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Wilbur Smith Associates  
El Paso County, Department of Transportation  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Fort Carson DPW  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments  
Colorado Department of Transportation, DTD  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

3. **Agenda Approval**

Mr. Casper requested there be two additions to the agenda:

- a briefing on the "Regional Collaboration" discussion from the Board meeting
- an update on the Toll Road proposal

A motion was made by Mr. Blewitt to approve the changes to the agenda and was seconded by Ms. Donahue. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Blewitt requested that under Regional Collaboration (page 4, item number 5) the last sentence be amended and a new sentence be added before it to read as follows:

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) members discussed where regional collaboration had taken place during the project prioritization process and also discussed how they as staff members currently communicate with their elected officials. Mr. MacDonald invited the TAC members to attend the next PPACG Board of Directors meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to participate in a discussion about regional collaboration and the connection between technical and political sectors.

In addition, Mr. Blewitt requested the last sentence of paragraph 2 on page 3 (under 2007 Regional Transportation Plan Development) be changed to:

The TAC members also consented to the new scoring process, but expressed concerns whether all TAC members would be able to make the time and commitment required to score all the projects.

Mr. Blewitt made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes and Ms. Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. **Regional Collaboration**

Mr. Casper began by summarizing the Board's discussion on regional collaboration last month which was led primarily by PPACG's Executive Director, Mr. MacDonald. Mr. Buttery remarked that while technical staff knows the history behind each project better than elected officials, they both work well together allowing each member entity to receive their fair share over time. Mr. Blewitt commented there was less of a disconnect between the Board and technical staff than with the Board and their guiding principles. By holding just one year harmless, all projects must be reconsidered for each Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Blewitt suggested that more years be held harmless to allow for budgeting and better funding expectations. Ms. Pettit observed how changing monies changes directions and stressed the importance of keeping all parties updated on financial developments to minimize their impacts.

6. **Toll Road Update**

Mr. Blewitt reported the City of Colorado Springs met with the Springs Toll Road Partnership and State representatives regarding the toll road approval process. The Partnership would like to give a presentation to the City Council and the PPACG Board of Directors in either June or July to seek endorsement of their entire toll road concept. Mr. Casper added that prior to seeking approval from the Board, the Partnership will need approval from the TAC.

*Ms. Stephens joined the meeting at 1:48 p.m.*

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

There were no public comments. Mr. Whiteaker informed the TAC members that the 2007-2012 TIP open house public meeting held on April 18<sup>th</sup> had 22 attendees and received favorable reviews.

8. **2005-2010 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #16**

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) requested an amendment to add Regional Priorities funding for preliminary design work on the US 24 corridor. The City of Colorado Springs Transit Services Division requested an amendment to add local match to the Downtown Circulator and to revise the FTA 5307 and FTA 5309 projects to be included in their grant request. A motion to recommend the Board approve Amendment #16 to the 2005-2010 TIP was made by Ms. Stephens and seconded by Mr. Stevens. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. **STAS, TAC and TES Membership**

The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has requested that Mr. Rich Zajac become the primary representative on the Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee (STAS). The City of Manitou Springs has requested that Mr. Dan Folke become the alternate representative on both the Transportation Enhancement Subcommittee (TES) and the TAC. The City of Manitou Springs has also requested that Mr. Mike Leslie, previously the alternate representative on TAC, become the primary representative. El Paso County has requested that Ms. Jennifer Irvine become the first alternate representative and Mr. Rich Kramer become the second alternate representative on the TAC. Mr. Stevens made a motion to recommend the Board approve all appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blewitt and passed unanimously.

10. **2007 Regional Transportation Plan Development**

Continuing on the path of refining the vision and goals for the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan, Ms. Frye informed the TAC members that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) had been asked to give their input at the April 19 meeting. Considerations in developing a draft vision and goals included addressing Federal planning factors with environmentally sound transportation decisions. Mr. Buttery suggested that with the vision as the primary idea, a mission statement be added to explain how to achieve said vision. Goals would then be factors that could be measured and objectives would be the agents that measure those goals. With future language adjustments still to be made, a joint CAC/TAC meeting will be held in the coming months.

11. **Regional Travel Demand Model Update**

Mr. Hershkowitz defined a travel demand model as a series of mathematical equations using population and employment that produce a simulation of real traffic patterns. Travel modeling can be used to update the long range transportation plan by predicting traffic deficiencies, testing new routes, increasing roadway capacity as well as provide fair share costing and air quality analysis. Both the socio-economic data and the highway network have been completed for 2005. In addition, data is currently being gathered on determining the major traffic generators of the metropolitan area such as hotels, large employers, the airport, military bases, and tourist destinations.

Ms. Araujo gave a presentation on the newly purchased travel demand modeling software called VISUM. PPACG sought the software update to enhance their existing model with additional capabilities such as:

- full mode choice
- employment of unique local characteristics, i.e., tourism, military, for trip generation
- improved graphics for presentation purposes
- easier interface with other applications and languages

VISUM incorporates a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) background, state-of-the-art travel algorithms, and built-in macro scripting for trip generation, distribution, assignment and network analysis.

12. **Regional Non-Motorized Transportation System Plan Update**

PPACG recently selected a contractor for the Regional Non-motorized Transportation System Plan. Due to requests for public involvement from non-TES members, Mr. Whiteaker asked whether a special task force needed to be formed. After some discussion it was agreed that the TES meetings were an adequate forum for any required input from the public at large. Mr. Blewitt recommended that a delegate from the City of Colorado Springs Traffic Engineering Department attend upcoming meetings.

13. **Transportation Director's Report**

Mr. Casper's announcements:

- The City of Colorado Springs has been selected to receive Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) funding for three construction projects and one education project. Having served on the SRTS committee and familiar with the selection process, Mr. Casper extended an offer to help any interested local municipalities with the application filing for the next round.
- Mr. Casper gave a Google Earth presentation at the last CAC meeting and would like to give the same presentation to the TAC members next month. Mr. Casper envisions using Google Earth to demonstrate TIP and long range plan projects in the future.
- The State Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held April 21, 2006 and the Statewide Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting will be held on April 24, 2006.
- Funding applications have been submitted by the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County seeking congressional appropriations for the State Highway 16 Fort Carson interchange.

14. **Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Frye announced that the STAS is waiting on funding letters from CDOT before finalizing the Human Service Coordination contract.

Mr. Whiteaker reported that TES will be meeting in early May to discuss the Regional Non-motorized Transportation System Plan.

15. **Member Entity Announcements**

Mr. Blewitt communicated there will be a US 24 West Open House on May 10, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning to discuss the recommended alternative.

Ms. Donahue announced the City of Colorado Springs Transit Services submitted 17 million dollars in capital projects that could be eligible along the I-25 CDOT-defined corridor. The City also submitted categorical exclusion for the Black Forest/Woodmen Road Park-and-Ride last week to purchase the property from Colorado Springs Utilities. Current transit projects include improvements to the south campus of the Pikes Peak Community College, a facelift to the downtown terminal, and carousels added to all stops on the Downtown Shuttle route.

Ms. Pettit notified TAC members that Ms. Payne has resigned her position with CDOT and introduced Mr. Vinton, her temporary replacement.

Mr. Folke introduced himself as the new Planning Director from the City of Manitou Springs.

16. **Action Items for Next Meeting**

The following items were considered for the next meeting:

- Continuing work on the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan vision and goals.

17. **Adjournment**

Mr. Blewitt made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. Chairman Buttery adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.