



**Minutes of the
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 16, 2006
2:00 p.m.**

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Lower Conference Room

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

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson BATTERY at 2:02 p.m. Introductions were made and in attendance were:

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

David Agati
David BATTERY, Chairperson
Craig BLEWITT, 2nd Vice-Chairperson
Craig Casper
Corinne Donahue
Tom Kassawara
Wendy Pettit
Janet Stephens
Rob Vinton

REPRESENTING

Mountain Metropolitan Transit
City of Woodland Park
City of Colorado Springs
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
City of Colorado Springs
Town of Monument
Colorado Department of Transportation
El Paso County
Colorado Department of Transportation

GUESTS

Mary Frye
Aaron Klibaner
Jason O'Brien
Ken Prather
Yolanda Roberts
Warren Whiteaker

REPRESENTING

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
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2. **Agenda Approval**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. BLEWITT and was seconded by Ms. STEPHENS. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. DONAHUE made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. BLEWITT seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. **Election of Officers**

At the last Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, the following slate of officers was proposed:

Chair: Janet Stephens
1st Vice-chair: Tom Kassawara
2nd Vice-chair: Dan Folke

With no further nominations from the floor, Mr. Blewitt made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Donahue and it passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Blewitt made a motion to approve the slate of officers for 2007. The motion was seconded by Ms. Donahue and passed unanimously. Mr. Blewitt then expressed his thanks to Mr. Buttery for his past year of service as TAC Chairperson noting his organization, preparedness and ability to keep TAC members on task.

6. **STAS Membership**

The Colorado Springs Independence Center has requested Ms. Donna Rose be appointed as the primary representative on the Specialized Transportation Advisory Subcommittee (STAS). The Colorado Springs Independence Center has also requested Mr. Thomas Deniston, previously the primary representative, be appointed as the alternate representative on the STAS. Ms. Stephens made a motion to recommend the Board approve both appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kassawara and passed unanimously.

7. **FY-2007 Through FY-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6**

Mr. Prather announced the City of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) have submitted requests for an amendment to the FY-2007 Through FY-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (2007-2012 TIP). The City of Colorado Springs has requested adding \$24,500 in awarded federal funds to the Front Range Express (FREX) Sustainability Study in FY 2007. CDOT is requesting \$1,000,000 in Regional Priorities funding to complete a project currently in progress on State Highway 94. Mr. Blewitt commented how CDOT has come forward several times with the required funding to meet escalating project costs. Mr. Blewitt added that this is a good example of CDOT working to accommodate growing regional needs and avoid project delays. Ms. Donahue made a motion to recommend approval of TIP Amendment #6 to the Board. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. **2007-2035 Regional Transportation Plan: Vision, Mission, and Principles**

Ms. Frye asked TAC members for a recommendation of approval to the Board on the 2007-2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) vision, mission, and principles. Ms. Frye explained that this approval would establish the vision, mission, and principles as simply a foundation upon which to build the prioritization process for the 2007-2035 RTP and would not be considered a weighting factor. Comments taken from the September round of public meetings were detailed in the TAC packet. Both PPACG staff and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed the recommend changes from the public but felt no changes were necessary. Mr. Kassawara made a motion to recommend approval of the 2007-2035 RTP vision, mission, and principles as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Donahue and passed unanimously.

9. **2035 Small Area Forecast**

Mr. Klibaner informed TAC members PPACG is currently working on the draft 2035 Small Area Population and Employment forecast. PPACG is using a socio-economic forecasting software package called TELUM (Transportation Economic and Land Use Model). Mr. Klibaner explained TELUM was chosen for its transparency, consistency, credibility, and replicability. Mr. O'Brien then explained that TELUM has been used by many metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), counties and municipalities across the United States. Research has shown over the years that to

have a realistic and reliable model, interaction of transportation and land use over time must be addressed. Mr. O'Brien then showed a graph that depicted the interaction between the travel demand model and the socio-economic model. In TELUM, the allocation of households and jobs is influenced by many variables, including lag-year data, trends, travel time, land use, and household and employment interaction. Employment types and household income categories are calibrated and forecast separately. PPACG is using six categories for employment and five household income categories. In the forecasting process, caps and seeds can be placed in individual zones in the model to show areas that will either begin or stop growing based on local knowledge. PPACG has held two Small Area Forecast Subcommittee meetings and will be holding more in either late November or early December. Afterwards, PPACG will be looking for approval from the TAC, CAC, and Regional Economic Forum standing committees followed by a Board approval in February 2007.

10. **Resource Allocation Update**

Mr. Casper announced that PPACG and CDOT have had some conceptual talks on what percentage of CDOT's statewide pool of future dollars PPACG would be able to assume for their region. Current CDOT figures show funding in this region to be going down. While funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Metro, and Enhancements categories remain the same, costs are escalating and maintenance dollars are declining. Because of this, it is projected the overall number of projects for the future will be cut in half. Mr. Blewitt then questioned what the prospect was for Senate Bill-1 (SB-1) funds. Mr. Casper answered that for the next TIP the prospect was not so good; however, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting forecasts assume a complete transfer of funds and continued good economic tidings for Colorado. In general, CDOT's resource allocation estimates are pessimistic while the SB-1 funds appear to be optimistic allowing for completion of strategic projects by 2017.

11. **Human Service Coordination Plan**

Ms. Frye informed TAC members that over the last eight months the STAS has been working on a Human Service Coordination Plan (HSCP). Ms. Frye distributed the HSCP on CDs to all members asking them to review the document and get back to her with comments by December 1st. Next month PPACG will be asking TAC for a recommendation to release the HSCP for public review. The same recommendation will then go to the Board in January with a slated 30-day public release scheduled for the February-March timeframe. Even though the HSCP will be part of the 2007-2035 RTP, it needs to be approved as a working document. This will allow the HSCP to be the basis for grant applications for the 2007 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 program. Ms. Donahue added the HSCP document is also critical for New Freedom and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding.

12. **Google Earth Demo**

Mr. Casper gave a presentation of Google Earth which is a virtual globe that is free to the viewer. There are some strict hardware restrictions such as the need for a 3-D video card and a broadband connection. PPACG plans to put their travel plans and programs into Google Earth to achieve greater project visualization. In addition to the aerial aspects, Google Earth can add other layers such as Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) boundaries or population data. The medium can also be used for trip generation, trip attraction rates or any data that has a spatial component. For more information, TAC members can visit <http://earth.google.com>.

13. **Transportation Director's Report**

Some PPACG staff attended the first Highway Economic Requirements System – State Version (HERS-ST) training. Developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). HERS-ST is a highway investment/performance computer model that can be used for highway needs analysis among other things.

PPACG is currently looking into hosting a Green Infrastructure class sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&W) this coming February. The course incorporates natural resource planning into local, regional and state planning. The goal, Mr. Casper added, would be to provide synergy to other planning efforts in the region such as PPACG's long-range and military impact planning, Fort Carson Sustainability Initiative, the Colorado Department of Wildlife, etc.

14. **Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Frye announced that STAS will be meeting next week to develop a recommendation for the HSCP. At their January meeting, STAS will look at coordination agreements and begin work on a new set of bylaws.

15. **Member Entity Announcements**

Ms. Donahue expressed her gratitude to TAC members for recommending the 1.4 million dollars for the Front Range Express (FREX) bus service continuation. Ms. Donahue added that the grant application for the Woodland Park Express service has been reduced from 1.5 million dollars to roughly \$965,000 and delayed from March till October 2007. Ms. Donahue also announced Denver has opened up their light rail service on the southwest corridor line. The City of Colorado Springs will be watching the line closely to see how it affects FREX ridership.

Mr. Kassawara informed TAC members that voters in Monument passed a one cent sales tax to help fund the Baptist Road Interchange. Mr. Kassawara thanked TAC members for their work in the prioritization of the interchange leading to a successful vote this November.

16. **Action Items for Next TAC Meeting**

- HSCP Recommendation

17. **Adjournment**

Mr. Blewitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stephens and Chairperson Buttery adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.