

PIKES PEAK AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



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Minutes of the
Transportation Advisory Committee
Thursday, September 15, 2005
1:30 p.m.
PPACG Conference Room

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum / Introductions

Chairman Buttery called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was established and introductions made. In attendance were:

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Buttery, Chairperson
Corinne Donahue
Wendy Pettit
Sally Payne
Bill Haas
Scott Stevens
Craig Blewitt
Janet Stephens
Craig Casper

REPRESENTING

City of Woodland Park
City of Colorado Springs
CDOT
CDOT
FHWA
City of Fountain
City of Colorado Springs
El Paso County
PPACG

GUESTS PRESENT

Jude Willcher
Bill Keller
Mary Frye
Ken Prather
Warren Whiteaker

REPRESENTING

City of Colorado Springs
Colorado Springs Airport
PPACG, Transportation
PPACG, Transportation
PPACG, Transportation

2. Agenda Approval

Agenda approved by general consent.

3. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Ms. Pettit. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Revised Regional Transportation Planning Public Involvement Procedures

Ms. Frye stated she is requesting a recommendation of approval for the revised Regional Transportation Planning Public Involvement Procedures. Ms. Frye indicated that the recently enacted Federal transportation legislation, SAFETEA-LU, included new requirements with regard to public involvement. She briefly discussed the new requirements and how those are addressed

in the document. The 45-day public review period has now concluded. Ms. Frye requested that the TAC recommend approval of the Public Involvement Procedures to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Haas requested that the specific language included in SAFETEA-LU be used in the document to reference regulatory, resource and management agencies. Ms. Donahue motioned to recommend approval of the revised Regional Transportation Planning Public Involvement Procedures with the inclusion of language consistent with SAFETEA-LU. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and was unanimously passed.

6. Functional Classification

Mr. Prather reminded members that last month a spreadsheet had been electronically mailed describing requested changes to roadway functional classification. During the TAC meeting, it was discovered that several revisions were needed. The agenda item was then postponed until this month.

Mr. Prather reported that CDOT had indicated a concern regarding the proposal to change the functional classification of US-24 from I-25 to Manitou Springs. CDOT is conducting an Environmental Assessment on that facility and is concerned that such a change would be confusing and may cause problems for the EA. CDOT is therefore asking that portion of US-24 to remain at its present functional classification. Mr. Prather said that PPACG staff has no problem with doing that. Changing a facility's classification does not affect the amount of Federal funds except that only facilities classified as rural major collector or higher are eligible for Federal funds.

Mr. Whiteaker indicated that, in speaking with Mr. Keller, the list of functional classification changes should be amended to include facilities near the Colorado Springs Airport.

A motion to approve the function classification changes as amended was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Blewitt. The motion passed unanimously.

7. MPO Boundary Changes

Mr. Casper reported that PPACG had received a proposal to add eastern El Paso County into PPACG's metropolitan transportation planning area. PPACG staff developed pros and cons of the proposal, which Mr. Casper said led them to recommend against expanding the PPACG MPO boundary to include eastern El Paso County. A motion to recommend against the proposal of adding Eastern El Paso County to the MPO planning area was made by Mr. Liming and seconded by Ms. Donahue. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Transportation Director's Report

- Mr. Casper stated that in talking with Ms. Pettit, there appears to be about \$253,000 in additional FY-2006 Federal Transportation Enhancement funds available. This is enough money to fully fund the two projects that had received partial funding in the Transportation Enhancement priority projects approved by the PPACG Board on September 14, and have \$225,000 left. He explained the options for use of that money: 1) move a 2007 project to 2006 and still have extra money for 2007; 2) add a project from the projects that were not selected; and/or 3) move a project from 2007 into 2006 and resubmit for the projects we are selecting right now. The money needs to be obligated as soon as possible.

Chairman Buttery asked PPACG staff to list the Transportation Enhancement projects that had been approved by the PPACG Board and to also list the TES' priorities. Mr. Whiteaker responded that the Board had approved the Manitou Avenue Streetscape Phase 2B, the Rampart Range Road Sidewalk, and the Sand Creek Trail projects for FY-2006; and the Colorado Springs Area Bike Map, the Manitou Avenue Streetscape Phase 3, the Midland Avenue Sidewalk, and the Midland Trail Phase 3 Construction projects for FY-2007.

Mr. Whiteaker noted that the next projects on the TES list were the Fairview Avenue Sidewalk at \$40,500, the Lake Avenue Sidewalk at \$143,000 and the two El Pueblo Road Trail projects. Mr. Casper stated that PPACG staff would present this item to TES for its recommendation and bring it back to TAC next month.

- Mr. Casper discussed TIP and plan development changes due to passage of SAFETEA-LU.
- Mr. Casper indicated that the first meeting of the Safe Routes to Schools group would be next Monday [September 19]. School District 11 has established a Transportation Advisory Committee, with whom PPACG staff will try to work.
- Mr. Casper noted that the Front Range Planning Forum is scheduled for Wednesday to discuss coordination with other Front Range areas and CDOT. Governor Owens is opening the session and national technical level people will be involved in discussions. The forum will be held at the Denver Convention Center, on October 21.
- Mr. Casper noted that the travel demand model funding and scope of work had been approved by the Board. PPACG staff is working with CDOT to finalize the contract for an October 1st notice to proceed to the consultants.
- Mr. Casper stated that PPACG Staff is working on a Non-Motorized Plan RFP.

9. Member Entity Announcements

- Ms. Donahue stated there will be three open houses to introduce the new Mountain Metropolitan Transit service and buses. Tuesday, September 20, Wednesday, September 21, and Thursday, September 22. All will be held from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Blewitt stated that the South Metro Accessibility Project, the \$60 million project funded through the RTA to improve access from I-25 to the airport, is underway. The City of Colorado Springs' portion is a new expressway between Powers and Academy.
- Mr. Blewitt noted that the Colorado Springs City Council would like to do a pedestrian plan next year if they have the money for the project.
- Mr. Blewitt stated that there will be a Powers Blvd Environmental Assessment open house on September 28, at Mesa Ridge High School, and September 29 at Friendship Assembly of God Church.

10. Action Items for Next Meeting

There were no action items.

11. TAC Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Liming. The motion passed unanimously and Chairman Buttery adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.