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PPACG's Andrew Gunning in Calhan for a member outreach session with the Town of Calhan and the Town of Ramah

PPACG Board Members and our State Delegation met at our annual Legislative Roundtable at Library 21c
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Counties
El Paso County
Park County
Teller County

Cities
Colorado Springs
Cripple Creek
Fountain
Manitou Springs
Victor
Woodland Park

Towns
Alma
Calhan
Fairplay
Green Mtn. Falls
Monument
Palmer Lake
Ramah

2022 Executive Committee

Stan VanderWerf
Board Chair
El Paso County Commissioner

Sharon Thompson
1st Vice Chair
City of Fountain Mayor

Nancy Henjum
2nd Vice Chair
Colorado Springs Councilmember

Don Wilson
Board Treasurer
Town of Monument Mayor

Dick Elsner
Board Secretary
Park County Commissioner
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was a year of transition for PPACG.

As the pandemic continued into a second year, we saw many changes in our region. Those changes brought new challenges and opportunities for growth as we continue our efforts to embody Communities Working Together.

As I read through the following annual report, I am struck by what has been achieved in the past year. Specific highlights include:

- Pandemic relief funds – we were able to work with CDOT and our local partners to accelerate the Powers/Research interchange project (region’s #1 priority), while also programming funds that were distributed to the local jurisdictions for much needed relief.

- Spent a considerable amount of time engaging with CDOT and other regional agencies on the state’s greenhouse gas emissions rule-making.

- Initiated the Tri-County Transportation Study in an effort to determine transportation needs across the entire region.

- Made financial assistance available to small businesses in the area through state funding.

- Transitioned the mobility coordination program for seniors and persons with disabilities to PPACG, along with the Federal Transit Admin grant to fund the program.

- Transitioned the Commission on Aging to PPACG to expand the focus on serving seniors to a regionwide one.

- Continued assisting seniors to navigate the pandemic, including a record number of Medicare consultations during the open enrollment period.

Despite the challenges and constraints, it has been a productive year, which would not have been possible without our Board of Directors. They have created the opportunity for PPACG to serve as a regional leader, and their hard work and leadership showed in all of the work that happened in 2021.

Andrew Gunning

PPACG Executive Director
2022 Board of Directors

EL PASO COUNTY
Stan VanderWerf, Commissioner
Holly Williams, Commissioner
Cami Bremer, Commissioner

PARK COUNTY
Dick Elsner, Commissioner
Ray Douglas, Commissioner (Alternate)

TELLER COUNTY
Erik Stone, Commissioner
Dan Williams (Alternate)

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS
Nancy Henjum, Councilmember
Dave Donelson, Councilmember
Yolanda Avila, Councilmember
Bill Murray, Councilmember (Alternate)

CITY OF CRIPPLE CREEK
Vacant

CITY OF FOUNTAIN
Sharon Thompson, Mayor
Gordon Rick, Councilmember (Alternate)

CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
John Graham, Mayor
Nancy Fortuin, Mayor Pro Tem (Alternate)

CITY OF VICTOR
Brandon Gray, Mayor

CITY OF WOODLAND PARK
Robert Zuluaga, Councilmember
Hilary Labarre, Mayor Pro-Tem (Alternate)

TOWN OF ALMA
Saam Golgoon, Mayor
Andrew Zimmerman, Trustee

TOWN OF CALHAN
Roland Gardine, Mayor Pro-Tem

TOWN OF FAIRPLAY
Frank Just, Mayor

TOWN OF GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS
Margaret Peterson, Trustee
Jane Newberry, Mayor (Alternate)

TOWN OF MONUMENT
Don Wilson, Mayor
Darcy Schoening, Trustee (Alternate)

TOWN OF PALMER LAKE
Glant Havenar, Trustee
Bill Bass, Mayor (Alternate)

TOWN OF RAMAH
William Schaal, Trustee
The Colorado Springs Commission on Aging moved to PPACG in January 2021 and became the Pikes Peak Commission on Aging. A product of Age-Friendly Colorado Springs, the Commission on Aging advises and recommends to the PPACG Board of Directors and PPACG staff action on matters regarding the development of an area wide system of advocacy and policy recommendations for older persons to enable them to maintain as much independence as possible.

Major Accomplishments

- 480 FEMA Food boxes distributed (equal to 43,200 meals)
- Administered more than $2M in emergency COVID funding
- Expanded reassurance programs across the region to reduce social isolation

2021 By the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>480</strong> FEMA Food Boxes</th>
<th><strong>7,419</strong> calls for Information and Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$84,185</strong> in Respite Care Vouchers</td>
<td><strong>2,243</strong> Webinar registrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>546</strong> Caregiver Consultations</td>
<td><strong>1,427</strong> Webinar YouTube views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>760</strong> clients served during 2021 Medicare Open Enrollment</td>
<td><strong>255</strong> Vaccination rides</td>
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Pikes Peak Commission on Aging

The Colorado Springs Commission on Aging moved to PPACG in January 2021 and became the Pikes Peak Commission on Aging. A product of Age-Friendly Colorado Springs, the Commission on Aging advises and recommends to the PPACG Board of Directors and PPACG staff action on matters regarding the development of an area wide system of advocacy and policy recommendations for older persons to enable them to maintain as much independence as possible.

PPACG delivered 480 FEMA food boxes across El Paso, Park and Teller Counties
With Covid still in full swing, the Family Caregiver Support Center team and the Caregiver Pampering Day planning group worked to ensure the 18th Annual Caregiver Pampering Day would occur. The event was held at nine different locations around Colorado Springs. This allowed caregivers to meet in small groups for much needed pampering. Caregivers at each location participated in activities lead via Zoom by several community healthcare professionals. The event pampered more than 60 family caregivers, providing them with a short respite from their hard work.

“The Caregivers Pampering Day event is one of the most important events of the year. It is a day to honor, support and spoil caregivers in our community. It is an educational event as well for caregivers to learn how to take care of themselves in the process.”
—Kim Searles, Caregiver Pampering Day Planning Committee Member

Webinar Classes

Through partnerships with the Pikes Peak Library District, Social Security Administration, Ent Federal Credit Union, and the Security Library District, the Area Agency on Aging provided educational webinars focusing on the different phases of retirement. Through these partnerships we had 2,243 people register for classes and had 1,427 YouTube views.

Medicare 101 classes were expanded into a 4-part series to allow for a more in depth examination and review of the complexities of Medicare and were accessed by consumers from all nine counties of the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) service area. The Lunch and Learn classes were expanded to Medicare mini sessions on participant topics such as Medicare and Tri-Care, Medicare Fraud and Scams, and Medicare Open Enrollment. Another important change was the expansion of the AAA/Ent Retirement Series statewide to reach more interested older adults and running the series in both spring and fall instead of just spring.
It was determined in early 2021 that an amendment to the Moving Forward 2045 Pikes Peak Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) would be necessary for the US-24/Peterson Road Interchange project to be eligible for federal funding. With the need to amend the Moving Forward 2045 Plan, PPACG staff issued a Call for Amendments in mid-April 2021. As a result of the Call for Amendments, PPACG received eleven new project requests and one request for change to an existing project.

During the amendment development process, PPACG staff reviewed up-to-date financial planning documents and developed revised financial plan estimates for the amended 2045 LRTP. Given the revised financial estimates, the proposed projects were able to get added to the 2045 LRTP without adjustments having to be made to projects currently in the plan. The plan also maintained fiscal constraint. In addition to developing revised financial plan estimates, PPACG staff examined the potential impacts of new projects in the RTP within minority or low-income concentrated areas in the Pikes Peak region. It was determined the 2045 projects, as a group, did not disproportionately impact federally protected classes and have the same potential impact (both to help and hurt) on minority and low-income concentrated areas as that of the entire region.

The Amendment to the Moving Forward 2045 Pikes Peak Area Long Range Transportation Plan was approved by the PPACG Board of Directors in October 2021.
Recognizing that traffic crash statistics locally and statewide continued to be concerning, PPACG acted on input from planners, engineers, and educators to conduct a second year of the Traffic Safety Media Campaign. Assisted by an experienced consultant, PPACG purchased and ran traffic safety awareness ads on radio and social media throughout El Paso, Teller, and Park Counties. The ad content was developed based on interviews with traffic enforcement and examination of regional crash data. PPACG also completed a grant project to create the first comprehensive map of crashes throughout the region. Traffic safety is part of PPACG’s ongoing transportation planning and funding process.

In 2019, the PPACG Board of Directors met to begin work on the creation of a Strategic Plan and through that discussion a concern was raised that there had not been an organized approach to learning more about the transportation issues, concerns, and opportunities of the wider three-county Council of Governments region. The concept of the Tri-County Study was developed in response to that concern.

Staff discovered that there were no prior PPACG-led transportation studies or plans covering the full three-county region. For that reason, the study was structured as a high-level study focused on assessment of the transportation system and support for existing concerns, issues, and opportunities. In 2021 PPACG met with representatives of each region to develop a scope of work, hired a consultant and held meetings in each county to learn about the issues local to each.

The study will be completed in 2022.

Regional GIS Web Mapping Applications

The GIS staff at PPACG have built a web application that allows users to easily compare the 2020 Census population for each municipality and county against the 2010 Census numbers, and also visualize where growth has occurred throughout the region with a cluster map of new residential construction during the same 10-year period. The PPACG Regional 2010-2020 Population Growth App can be viewed at www.ppacg.org/population-growth.

Regional Safety Education Campaign

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Happenings

PPACG met with elected officials from Park County, Alma and Fairplay to provide an update on PPACG and learn about issues local to their area’s.

PPACG Volunteer Phyllis Huggins received the 2021 Joe Henjum Senior Accolades Volunteer of the Year Award. She was joined by Kent Mathews and Joe Urban who were nominated for awards.

The 2021 Caregiver Pampering Day was spread across multiple sites and connected via Zoom.

John Liosatos, PPACG’s Transportation Director, presented to the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs.

PPACG met with elected officials from Park County, Alma and Fairplay to provide an update on PPACG and learn about issues local to their area’s.
Happenings

PPACG Partnered with CDOT to host an open house regarding Highway 115 projects.

The Pikes Peak Commission on Aging attended the El Paso County Fair to provide outreach on Senior Day.

In coordination with Maria’s Place we delivered activity boxes to older adults.

The Octogenarian Golf Tournament.

The Regional Advisory Council had a booth at the annual Juneteenth Festival.
ENVIRONMENT

Ozone in the Pikes Peak Region

Ozone levels continued to rise in 2021 as the continued wildfires across the United States impacted everyone. Throughout the year, PPACG continued to work with the Air Quality Technical Committee (AQTC), EPA’s Ozone Advance Program, and with the State of Colorado’s Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to stay aware of regional ozone measurements and impacts as well as possible reduction efforts. The Pikes Peak Region is at risk of ozone non-attainment and we will continue to work hard to reduce ozone pollution throughout our region. As we enter 2022 we are having discussions with the business community as well as our AQTC and other partners looking for options and opportunities to reduce ozone pollution.

The State of Colorado maintains a website with real time air quality measurements at monitors throughout the state. These monitors help our region respond to air pollution concerns.

Check it out at www.colorado.gov/airquality/ or sign up for air quality alerts at www.enviroflash.info.
A New Name - JLUS to Compatible Use

From 2015 to 2021 PPACG was the recipient of a Joint Land Use Study Grant, helping to provide a focus point to address land use issues that crossed the boundaries between local governments, communities, and our military bases. In 2021 that grant was renamed the Compatible Use Study Grant and our duties grew.

Wildfire Mitigation

We formed a wildfire mitigation working group made up of emergency management leaders throughout the region. In just three meetings we highlighted major focus points and developed a draft wildfire mitigation funding document and a draft wildfire mitigation mapping report.

Stormwater

In 2021 we met with the United States Air Force Academy, the Town of Monument, and El Paso County on the JLUS stormwater task to understand and coordinate a response to stormwater issues.

Partnerships

Developed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between PPACG and the City of Colorado Springs for a 30% design study on the US-24/Peterson Road entrance to Peterson Space Force Base.

Assisted Schriever Space Force Base with developing an Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Energy Resiliency Study.
2022 WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Area Agency on Aging

• Advocate for the housing needs of the elder community across the region, and make it a priority in all service areas

• Coordinate grants/funding to assist with Mental and Behavioral Health for seniors

• Conduct quarterly meetings with our service providers to exchange information, discuss changes, Request for Proposal (RFP) cycle, etc.

• Continue to enhance ways to coordinate mobility for specialized transportation needs (seniors and residents with disabilities) as the designated recipient of FTA 5310 grant

Transportation Planning

• Begin Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Rulemaking Compliance and Reporting requirements, and begin exploring a voluntary trip reduction program with major employers in the region

• Explore new Federal Transportation Bill for enhanced regional opportunities, with an emphasis on leveraging the new State opportunities created by the passage of SB-260

• Begin work on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, including the corridor and modal plans that feed into it

• Complete the Tri-County Transportation Study

• Enhance our traffic safety education efforts regionwide by engaging with DriveSmart Colorado
**Military Planning Program**

- Continue coordinating regarding wildfire mitigation needs and grant funding opportunities to fund mitigation around military installations.
- Coordinate with the City, County, Peterson Space Force Base and other partners to generate a design plan for safe access through the Peterson North Gate.

**Environmental Planning**

- Air quality — pursue ozone advance strategies to keep the region in attainment with ozone standards, and explore grant opportunities to assist with wildfire mitigation.
- Water quality — conduct outreach, education and awareness around water quality issues, and begin watershed planning research.

**Other**

- Enhance our legislative advocacy with our state and federal delegation, particularly with the federal transportation funding equity issue for Colorado.
- Convene a Regional Forum with other partners with a focus on how to achieve our vision for the region.
- Engage proactively with our regional partners along the Front Range Mega-Region for stronger collaboration around addressing our challenges and identifying needs.
- Engage with city/town/county managers, especially on collaboration and training opportunities.
- Engage with city/town/county planners to coordinate around growth-related issues, forecasts and needs.
STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

**Advocacy**
Serve as an effective advocacy voice for common ground issues.

**Information Sharing**
Serve as a significant resource for PPACG members to collect and share information with regional partners.

**Aging**
Expand and extend senior access, awareness, education, and connectivity to support age-friendly communities and empower individual seniors.

**Transportation**
Maintain and improve a coordinated, validated plan for transportation needs across the PPACG region.

**Program Excellence**
Continue to excel in the key fundamental areas of PPACG: Military support, Environmental programs, Transportation, Area Agency on Aging, and regional communication and collaboration.