The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) serves El Paso, Park and Teller County as their Council of Governments (COG). In addition to this role, we serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Colorado Springs Region. Because roads don’t stop at government boundaries, PPACG has been working on two major projects for the entire three-county region, a Tri-County Study and an Electrification Plan.

**Tri-County Study:**

The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) Tri-County Study is a stakeholder-led multimodal transportation study of El Paso, Teller, and Park counties focusing on the rural mobility needs of the full geographic region to determine how regional networks serve those needs and identify opportunities to further enhance connectivity and resiliency. It is the first such study that encompasses the entire PPACG Council of Governments (COG) area. The study will result in a defined regional network, a set of initiatives and projects, and a conceptual implementation and funding plan.

*Continued on page 3.*
PPACG’s Board of Directors

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El Paso County

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Mayor Sharon Thompson
City of Fountain

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Councilmember Nancy Henjum
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Town of Monument

Councilmember
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City of Colorado Springs

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Town of Alma

Councilmember
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City of Cripple Creek

Vacant
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Town of Fairplay

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Mayor John Graham
City of Manitou Springs

Commissioner Erik Stone
Teller County

Mayor Hilary LaBarre
City of Woodland Park

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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
Pike's Peak Area
Park County
Teller County

Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together
Transportation Planning Continued:
The Tri-County Study included outreach and coordination with core stakeholders from each county, small group meetings with municipalities, and four focus groups formed to address specific transportation topics. The Phase 1 report, which was presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Community Advisory Committee (CAC), and Board of Directors in April and May, identified 88 initiatives and projects to improve the transportation network in the region.

The Phase 2 report will build on that effort by developing detailed analysis for selected initiatives/projects. This may include project scoping, planning-level cost estimation, conceptual design, or identification of future implementation steps as is appropriate for the project. Phase 2 will also include a database of federal, state, and public/private funding sources and identification of the most promising potential funding sources for the selected projects. Phase 2 will be completed in summer 2022.

Electrification Plan:
To assist the region in preparation of upcoming funding opportunities, PPACG has developed a draft Transportation Electrification Plan. This plan first assesses existing conditions within our Council of Governments (COG) boundary, including area population and growth, emissions, current electric vehicle (EV) adoption and barriers, and existing EV charging infrastructure. The plan then discusses EV charging infrastructure placement factors, identifies gaps in the charging network, and provides guidance regarding implementation of and funding mechanisms for EV charging stations.

This plan is in alignment with federal and state guidance and goal as well as existing local planning efforts. PPACG will seek input from the Transportation Advisory Committee and other regional stakeholders in the development and finalization of the plan. In addition, PPACG is coordinating an EV working group for interested agency representatives to help facilitate regional planning and communication.
To support transportation planning and safety efforts throughout the region, PPACG has completed a year-long effort to compile and map crash data from 2016 through 2019, creating the most accurate and complete regional crash database available for Park, Teller, and El Paso Counties. This effort included partnering with DiExSys to help staff gather crash data from CDOT and geolocate each incident, while the PPACG GIS team worked to further refine the data and publish it to a publicly viewable web map on the PPACG data portal.

The web map also includes graphs and charts illustrating the severity of traffic crashes, frequency of traffic crashes by month and day, and impaired driving crashes. Going forward, PPACG will continue to improve the map by updating it as annual crash data becomes available, and enable crashes to be easily filtered according to roadway, roadway travel direction, and intersection.

The PPACG Traffic Crashes Map is available at https://www.ppacg.org/crashmap
The 19th Annual Family Caregiver Pampering Day was held on Saturday, April 30th at the Colorado Springs Senior Center. The purpose of Pampering day is to give the hard working unpaid family caregivers with some well deserved tender loving care. Since 2003 the Family Caregiver Support Center of the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging has been pampering family members caring for a senior who is living in their own home.

Many amazing care professionals from the community partnered with the Family Caregiver Support Center to recognize and pamper the family members who do this hard work without pay. This year 22 businesses and organizations provided volunteers, money, respite care and material resources to pamper family caregivers around the theme “Take 5: Soothe All of Your Senses.”

Activities offered included:
- Aromatherapy
- Cardio Drumming
- A Fruitful Journey
- Being Green
- Laughter Yoga
- Jump ‘n Jive
- Sitting Still Like A Frog
- Gratitude Jars
- Creative Hands
- Pampered Hands
- Caring Conversations
- Dog Therapy
- Tea Station
- Resource Table
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Every year the PPACG Board of Directors develops a Legislative Themes document to guide our work throughout the legislative session. In our 2022 Legislative Themes we called out 3 major initiatives that we would be working on during the session: Senior affordable housing, Wildfire Mitigation funding, and Financial support for GHG emissions compliance.

In January the Legislative Session began and the PPACG Legislative Committee began meeting weekly to review new legislation. In the first 2 weeks of the session 263 were introduced and the Legislative Committee began running. Many bills came out relating to wildfire mitigation funding and were supported by PPACG.

In February we hosted a Long Term Care Roundtable and brought together PPACG Board Members, experts in the field of Long Term Care, and people with first hand experience with the issues being faced today. After our roundtable, the legislative committee strongly supported SB22-053: Health Facility Visitation During Pandemic, which concerning visitation rights at health-care facilities. After many hearings, it passed on the final day of the session.

PPACG hosted our annual Legislative Breakfast in Denver on March 4th. It was an outstanding session with almost all of our regional legislators in attendance. A lot of discussion was had about the ongoing Long Term Care issue, but we also engaged heavily with our delegation on the Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemption and our other 2 legislative initiatives.

In April the Legislative Committee was informed about a bill that was being worked on regarding Collective Bargaining for County Employees. The PPACG Board of Directors sent a letter to the bill drafters and our regional delegation opposing the concept. Sadly, almost a month later SB22-230 was introduced and fast-tracked through the legislature.

May 11th, 2022 was the final day of the legislative session. By the end of the final day, 418 bills had been introduced in the house and 239 in the senate. PPACG had taken a position on 50 different bills.
SENIOR MOBILITY COORDINATION

One of the roles PPACG plays is Mobility Coordination. Mobility coordination starts with understanding how people want and need to get around in their community for either recreational purposes or everyday life necessities. Agencies involved in mobility coordination seek to create physical networks of accessible transportation options for individuals and families. These networks include public bus transit, specialized transit, paratransit, and pedestrian paths designed to get people where they want or need to go safely and efficiently.

In February, PPACG opened the new Request for Proposals (RFP) for organizations that provide transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities. The funding is to be used to “enhance the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities.” This RFP process is how agencies that provide mobility and transportation assistance for older adults and individuals with disabilities can access federal grant funding for their programs.

In March, the PPACG team worked with the Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS) of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to analyze all the proposals and make funding recommendations based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of need for the service in the community
2. Past performance managing AAA, FTA 5310, or CDOT grants
3. Financial management capacity
4. Alignment with PPAAA's Four-Year Plan, PPACG’s Strategic Plan, and the Specialized Transit Plan.

In April, PPACG staff brought forth to the Board of Directors the funding recommendations from the TRS, which were approved and recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). At the April Board of Directors meeting, the Board officially opened up a period for the public to comment on the funding recommendations.

In May, the Board of Directors reviewed public comments and granted final approval for distributing these funds. Now PPACG staff will prepare contracts to make funding available to the providers starting July 1, 2022. These funds will directly assist older adults maintain their independence through access to transportation.

You can learn more about PPACG’s Mobility Coordination program at www.ppacg.org/aging/mobility-management
Military Program: Compatible Use Study

In the first quarter of 2022, PPACG released a draft document on state and federal, current and upcoming, grant sources for wildfire mitigation efforts. With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), significant new federal funds are expected to become available for wildfire mitigation. At the same time, two wildfire mitigation sub-area teams were formed to discuss cross-jurisdictional opportunities for addressing wildfire risks. The sub-areas are anchored by the Air Force Academy and the Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station. The objective is to find ways to increase the resiliency of each installation to the threat of wildfire, and to enhance the safety of the surrounding community at the same time.

Enhancing safety and assuring mission security has also been the aim of a new design study for an improved access to Peterson Space Force Base via the North Gate at Peterson Road. An RFP for design work was issued and contract negotiations are now underway with the selected firm to begin the design work. Discussions have also begun concerning stormwater needs along Monument Creek north of the City of Colorado Springs. The discussions have included El Paso County, the Town of Monument and USAFA. The objective is to find solutions to stormwater erosion problems affecting USAFA.
Specialized Transportation Needs Assessment
In March, PPACG was awarded a $20,000 grant by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center to conduct a needs assessment for El Paso County. The goal of the needs assessment is to quantify the need for specialized transit in our area and understand the gaps in services. This project began in March and will extend through the end of September. We will be working with a project steering committee to help identify data available to support the project and promote participation in focus groups. The needs assessment will help providers, and funders better understand the capacity needs to serve our area’s growing, diverse community.


Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
PPACG has been providing information and resources to our members regarding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also sometimes referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The bill was signed into law in November 2021 and seeks to repair, improve, and modernize America’s infrastructure. In addition to transportation infrastructure, the IIJA includes funding for water systems and storage, broadband internet, electric grid and clean-energy programs, environmental cleanup, and other programs.

Totaling $1.2 trillion over 5 years, the IIJA reauthorizes surface transportation and water/wastewater legislation and provides for $550 billion in new spending, establishing several new formula-funded and discretionary grant programs.

The IIJA contains three types of funding:
• Highway Trust Fund – These are funds taken from either the Highway Account or the Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund.
• Guaranteed Appropriations – These are funds added by the bipartisan agreement and used to either increase funding for existing programs or create and fund new programs.
• General Fund – These are funds that have been “authorized” to be spent but require future action by the Appropriations Committee to be made available.

PPACG has created a resource webpage for our members as well as hosting a workshop to provide additional information and assistance. We plan to continue to provide support to our members as they apply for these grants.
WHAT’S COMING NEXT?

Mobility Guide:
PPACG Staff will release the Pikes Peak Regional Mobility Guide in May 2022. This guide can be used by anyone looking for transportation options in our three-county region, Park, Teller, and El Paso Counties. The guide features specialized transportation, medical transit, paratransit, car-pool, regional and local bus, and active transportation providers. In addition, each listing has tips on how to book a ride and the provider’s hours of operation. This guide will be released in both English and Spanish.

Printed copies will be available throughout the community and it will be available online at www.ppacg.org/mobility-guide. Call (719) 471-2096 for information on how to get a guide.

Transportation Electrification Plan Public Comment:
PPACG Staff will release the draft Transportation Electrification Plan for public comment during summer 2022. Keep an eye out for the public comment period on the PPACG website www.ppacg.org and our social media @PPACG on both Twitter and Facebook.

PPACG Area Agency on Aging Program Development Team:
Looking at the next quarter, with the successes of housing in Colorado Springs, Program Development is taking a closer look at rural housing needs. We will continue to monitor and advocate for behavioral health services through the newly created Statewide Administrative Office and funding as well as supporting the newly launched Pikes Peak Elder Justice Center.

WELCOME 3 NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Melanie Hendrickson
Direct Services Team Supervisor

Amanda Bandfield
Ombudsman

Carol McBroom
Controller
# 2022 PPACG Meeting Schedule

## June - August

### June 2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>PPACG Board of Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Commission on Aging</td>
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<td>22nd</td>
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<td>28th</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
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<td>29th</td>
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<td>26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th</td>
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<td>Air Quality Technical Committee</td>
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<td>25th</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Aging Regional Advisory Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Community Advisory Committee</td>
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**Area Agency on Aging Calendar of Events**

- **Social Security 101**
  - July 18 at 4:00 PM
  - November 21 at 4:00 PM

- **PPLD 4-Part Medicare Series**
  - 5:30 PM June 2, 9, 16, 23
  - 5:30 PM August 4, 11, 18, 25

- **Ent Retirement Series**
  - August 15 - Medicare Basics
  - August 22 - Estate Planning
  - August 29 - Retire By Design
  - September 12 - Making the Golden Years Golden
  - September 19 - Social Security
  - September 26 - Meaning and Purpose in Retirement

Events details and registration available at [www.ppacg.org/events](http://www.ppacg.org/events)

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**PPACG will be closed July 4 for Independence Day**

Meeting materials and locations can be found at [www.ppacg.org](http://www.ppacg.org)