



Colorado Springs ♦ El Paso County ♦ Manitou Springs ♦ Green Mountain Falls ♦ Ramah

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Main Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

El Paso County HAC

Mr. Steve Hicks
Mr. Scott Turner
Mr. Brian L.A. Wess

Citizen-at-Large Alternates

Mr. Mitch Christiansen
Mr. Jay Lower
Mr. Brian Risley

Colorado Springs CTAB

Mr. Jim Egbert
Mr. John Nuwer

Town of Green Mountain Falls

Mr. Robert McArthur

Citizens-at-Large

Mr. David Chestnutt
Mr. Donald Feigel, 2nd Vice Chair
Mr. Tom Harold, Chair
Ms. Bev Johnson
Mr. Tom Rogers, 1st Vice Chair

Town of Ramah

Mr. Dennis Carpenter
Ms. Cindy Tompkins

City of Manitou Springs

Mr. Ray Ferguson
Ms. Amy Filipiak

MEMBERS ABSENT

Citizens-at-Large Alternates

Ms. Ann DeVere

Colorado Springs CTAB

Mr. Rick Hoover

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff of Member Governments and Citizens

PIKES PEAK RTA STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Rick Sonnenburg, Program/Contracts Manager
Ms. Beverly Majewski, Financial Manager
Ms. Jacquelyn Puett, Program Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Tom Harold established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., and read the objectives of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Scott Turner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donald Feigel, to approve a revised agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period for Items Not on the Agenda

There were none.

4. Approval of the April 6, 2011, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jay Lower made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mitch Christiansen, to approve the April 6, 2011, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Financial Reports

Ms. Beverly Majewski, Pikes Peak RTA Financial Manager, presented the financial reports. The PPRTA received \$5,141,470 in February sales and use tax receipts, which was \$566,613 or 12.4% over the monthly budget. Year-to-date actual figures compared to budget were \$670,616 above the 2011 budget and 4.42% above the same period last year.

6. 2011 Capital, Maintenance, and Public Transportation Contracts

A. City of Colorado Springs

Mr. Robin Kidder, Interim City Engineer, requested approval of the following five contracts:

- 1) URS, Capital (Fillmore Street Corridor, I-25 to Centennial): \$350,604.00
- 2) A Higher Power Electric, Capital (Congestion/Incident Management/Signal Improvements): \$543,444.00
- 3) Concrete Sidewalk Solutions, Inc., Maintenance (Curb/Gutter/Sidewalks): \$41,250.00
- 4) Colorado Springs Utilities, Capital (Vincent Drive Bridge and Extension): \$71,310.33
- 5) Schmidt Construction, Maintenance (Roadway Maintenance): \$100,500.00

Ms. Cindy Tompkins arrived at the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Mr. Brian L.A. Wess arrived at the meeting at 1:49 p.m., but did not vote on this item due to an excess of voting members.

Mr. John Nuwer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom Rogers, to recommend the Board of Directors approve the five City of Colorado Springs contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

B. El Paso County

Mr. André Brackin, El Paso County Engineer, requested approval of the following three contracts:

- 1) AA Construction Co, Inc., Maintenance (Annual Maintenance – Concrete): \$592,101.00
- 2) URS Corporation, Capital (Meridian Road North): \$17,028.00
- 3) Lawrence Construction Company, Capital (South Academy Boulevard): \$22,447.00

Mr. Steve Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brian L.A. Wess, to recommend the Board of Directors approve the three El Paso County contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Member Government and Other Reports

A. Proposed Resolution by CAC Member

Mr. Mitch Christiansen requested the Committee consider a draft resolution opposing the use of PPRTA funds for Metro Transit's FREX, Ute Pass Express, and Vanpool programs. He stated that PPRTA transit

funding was originally intended to serve the El Paso County area and that these three programs, by traveling outside the El Paso County service area, constitute a violation of the proper use of PPRTA funds. He highlighted a proposed need to create a separate regional transportation system set up by all participating counties, such as Douglas and Fremont.

Mr. Donald Feigel inquired about paragraph 2 in the resolution, which states, "It is the public's opinion..." Mr. Feigel asked Mr. Christiansen when he conducted a poll of the public on this matter. Mr. Christiansen replied that the statement was based on his discussion with citizens during his campaign for City of Colorado Springs mayor.

Mr. Christiansen reiterated that FREX provides transit services outside of the PPRTA boundaries.

Mr. Tom Harold requested that Mr. Christiansen show the Committee where it says in the ballot language that the services cannot cross PPRTA boundary lines.

Mr. Scott Turner felt that Mr. Christiansen had a legitimate point and that the services should be examined. It is possible that a need exists for a larger regional transportation authority to administer long-range transit services.

Mr. Andy Garton, City of Colorado Springs, stated that the City of Colorado Springs contributes \$3.1 million in general funds to the regional transit system. Mountain Metro Transit is the regional governing authority designated to receive federal funds for the entire Pikes Peak region from the Federal Transportation Administration.

Mr. Garton also stated the PPRTA-funded portion of FREX is within El Paso County. El Paso County north of Colorado Springs is serviced using fare box revenue. Most FREX passengers are going to Denver to work and coming back to Colorado Springs to reside.

Ms. Beverly Majewski, PPRTA Financial Manager, offered brief comments on the PPRTA's decision to fund FREX. She stated that the El Paso County Commissioners on the PPRTA Board of Directors felt it was appropriate to contribute to FREX as many of their constituents, who contribute to the 10% of PPRTA transit funds, use the service although they do not have access to local bus service.

Mr. Garton emphasized that the Future of Regional Transit Study concluded through the use of public opinion polls that transit in the Pikes Peak region is a concerning issue to citizens after they are educated on transit's funding history. The poll information is posted on the MMT website.

Ms. Amy Filipiak stated the Ute Pass Express is funded 80% through the federal CMAQ program and 20% with local monies coming from the City of Colorado Springs. Mr. Andy Garton clarified that \$20,000 of grant match was received from the PPRTA for the Ute Pass service, a service that Green Mountain Falls, a PPRTA member, benefits from.

Mr. Garton stated the MMT vanpool service does not use a penny of PPRTA or City of Colorado Springs funds. The service is funded entirely through federal CMAQ grants and the fares collected from the program users.

Mr. Mitch Christiansen requested Mr. Garton prepare a cost analysis for the FREX service and also requested the agenda item be set aside until the Committee has a chance to examine those figures.

Mr. Jim Egbert commented that he appreciated Mr. Christiansen bringing this to the Committee's attention, as this is a public outreach issue.

Ms. Amy Filipiak stated that she felt the underlying issue is a question of whether it is reasonable for transit services paid for by PPRTA tax dollars to leave the region. She felt it was important for the Committee to decide whether it is reasonable to ensure the public is not misinformed on this matter.

Mr. Tom Harold highlighted that it is not within the CAC's purview to task the member governments to generate reports, adding to their workload. If the committee wants to take a formal vote on the issue, the request should be taken to the transit director to determine if it is feasible for the City staff to prepare the report.

Mr. John Nuwer agreed that it is important to clarify the main issue: Are PPRTA funds being expended beyond the service area of PPRTA?

Mr. David Chestnutt felt, based on the information presented, that the entire resolution became a moot point. Also, if the FREX cost analysis data is readily available, the request to provide the information would not be a request to generate a new report.

Mr. Garton agreed to go back to the City to determine if the information requested is readily available. If it is, it is considered public information and will be provided.

Mr. Jim Egbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scott Turner, to recommend the Board of Directors approve the proposed resolution as presented. The motion failed by a 0-17 vote.

Mr. Brian L.A. Wess made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robert McArthur, to recommend the Board of Directors request MMT provide whatever financial information they currently have available regarding the funding of FREX and how those dollars are accounted for.

Mr. Mitch Christiansen requested a friendly amendment to Mr. Wess' motion to include cost accounting as well. The amendment was not opposed.

The motion, with the amendment, passed by a 13-4 vote.

B. City of Colorado Springs Woodmen Road Widening & Interchange Project Update

Mr. Dan Krueger, City of Colorado Springs, gave a presentation on the progress of the nearly complete Woodmen Road Widening & Interchange Capital project.

Mr. Ray Ferguson departed the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Mr. Rob McArthur departed the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

C. City of Colorado Springs Monthly Change Order and Property Acquisition Report

This is an information item.

D. El Paso County Monthly Change Order and Property Acquisition Report

This was an information item.

8C. Request from Town of Calhan to Join the Pikes Peak RTA

Ms. Cindy Tompkins, Town of Calhan, presented the Town's request to become a member government of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority.

Mr. Brian L.A. Wess made a motion, seconded by Mr. John Nuwer, to recommend the Board of Directors accept the Town of Calhan's proposal to join the Pikes Peak RTA. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Cindy Tompkins abstaining.

Ms. Cindy Tompkins departed the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

E. City of Colorado Springs Transit Services Monthly Update

Mr. Andy Garton, Mountain Metropolitan Transit, City of Colorado Springs, presented the monthly report, highlighting increased FREX ridership, local fixed route and limited Saturday bus service and ADA ridership.

8. Administrative Actions and Reports

A. Report of Recent Board Actions

This was an information item.

B. Public Outreach Subcommittee Monthly Report

This item was postponed until the June CAC meeting.

9. Communications

There were none.

10. Adjournment

Chair Tom Harold adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.