

Pueblo and PACOG Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
September 6, 2012

Present: George O'Brien, co-chair; Jean Benfield, vice-chair; Kristen Castor, secretary; Ralph McPherson, co-chair; Terry Skinner, guest; Jo Booms, interpreter; John Madrid, member; Ron Burke, member; Kip Morphew, City Facilities Director; Sherry Slate, County Design Engineer; Don Bruestle, member; Brenda Broyles, Pueblo Transit; Chanell Turner, MV Transportation; Pat Manzanaras, Pueblo Transit; Sam Vigil, Public Works; June Akeo, member

Last month's minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Pueblo Transit

On August 27, Pueblo Transit presented an ordinance to City Council to increase fares by 25%. Council postponed the decision until September 24th. Fare increases were designed to generate \$140,000 in income. Brenda Broyles needs to re-calculate what the deficit would be if fares for disabled and elderly were left alone and CitiLift passes stayed at \$40.00. The route changes will stay in place. Brenda will prepare a memo that will go to the Transit Board and on to Council before September 24th.

George O'Brien recommended CitiLift IDs be considered a free pass on the bus. Pat said it would make better sense for that to qualify the passenger for the discounted fare. Brenda explained that it costs \$3.50 a ride on the fixed route and \$13.50 for a CitiLift ride one way. Ron asked if the CitiLift pass could allow people to use the fixed route and Brenda said by definition people who ride CitiLift cannot ride the fixed route and the system has no other funding like Access A Ride in Denver, so it is not feasible to use the ID as a pass—it would take too much income from CitiLift.

George asked if a business could make a donation. Brenda said anyone who wants to make a donation should talk to Sam Azad, the Finance Director. This could include other businesses that get customers from Pueblo Transit.

CitiLift will not be affected by the reduction of hours on Saturday because of dialysis patients.

Regional Transportation Authority

Kristen said she has learned that the only way to get the RTA concept through the political process is to attend Commission and PACOG meetings starting in January and bring it up at every opportunity.

Annual Report

Kristen and George made the Annual Report to Council on Monday night. There were two diversions from the report itself, emergency preparation and the Black Hills contract. Kristen recommended making community service announcements showing council members putting together emergency preparation kits and demonstrating evacuation plans. There was also mention of an upcoming audit by Black Hills of their franchise fee.

Public Works

The city advertised for the annual curb ramp project yesterday. This includes 88 corners from previous projects that needed environmental and historical clearance. The citizens' request list has just received the environmental review and will be out soon. There is a joint city and county effort with the sidewalks around the Judicial Building with the city providing design work and the county constructing them. They will start soon. There are neck outs on 4th street included in the design that will slow traffic, but there will not be a signal at West.

Terry asked about the tactile strips that have fallen apart on curb ramps along Pueblo Boulevard near the North Side Walmart. The city is using cast iron strips now instead of the composite materials from previous construction. They will need to be replaced eventually. Ralph says the cast iron strips also give an audible signal for cane users.

June asked about curb ramps that go nowhere. Sam said the DOJ does recognize that the scope of work for putting in curb ramps allows for establishing a path of travel even when there is no existing sidewalk at locations where the materials and labor are available.

Emergency Preparation

George asked how we would arrange for adequate communication in light of the fact that during the Waldo Canyon fire, there was no closed captioning or interpreter service available until advocates volunteered their time and pressed the issue. If there were an emergency of that magnitude in Pueblo with the TV and radio stations are in Colorado Springs, it would take a federal mandate. This is something we need to take to David Schaad, the FEMA contact for special needs population.

Seeing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30

The next work session is Thursday September 20 at SRDA at 230 North Union from 1 to 3 pm.

The next regular meeting is Thursday October 4 at El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Union from 1-3 pm.