

Pueblo ADA and PACOG Advisory Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2025

Present: Sharon Campbell, Chair; Thad Stelter, Pueblo City and County Library, Charles Roy, Pueblo ADA Coordinator; Alexis Romero Stewart, Health Department, Joshua Johnson, Emergency Planning; Mary Leonard, member, Sunny Lyon, visitor; Kent Tompkins, Transit; Chris Kregel, Citilift; Donald L. Bruestle, member, Tiffany Garcia, member; Olivia Leyva, Department of Public Health and Environment. **Zoom:** Laura Leyba, member; Sonja Baker, Canon City affiliate

After roll call and introductions, enough members came in on Zoom to make a quorum and be able to accept the Minutes of the May 1, 2025 meeting.

Public Comments: Sunny Lyon introduced herself and said that she is a caregiver for her father and was interested in finding out what the Committee was about. We welcomed her and encouraged her to come back. At the end of the meeting she said that she would be back. We look forward to that.

Guest Speaker: Thad Stelter, technology trainer for the Pueblo City County Public Library, presented on the status of the ADA Computer Station on the 2nd floor. The good news is that there is one. The bad news is that it needs to be rebuilt, or more likely, replaced since it is 10 years old. The way it will work when updated is a user will make a reservation for a two-hour session. If needed and if the computer is available, the user can stay as long as they need to. The computer is equipped with Dragon Dictate, software that lets the user speak and the computer will type out what it thought was said. The user then corrects the output. It also has a JAWS screen reader for people who need to have the screen contents voiced. This system includes a headset so the user can use both Dragon Dictate and JAWS. Possibly the software will need updating as well.

City Report Chuck reports that he is working on updating the ADA Transition Plan and passed round copies for the Committee of his current draft. He hopes to submit it to the City Council in 2 months. It is split into two sections: the Facility Transition Plan, and the Right of Way Plan, which is the draft that was handed out and will be sent electronically. Weston added that the County Transition Plan is of the same vintage. Members were asked for their comments by the next meeting so that Chuck can submit the final document to the City Council. One member suggested asking the public for comments about how they have benefitted from access, but Chuck pointed out that there are complaints as well, because the lower slope of the new ramps is leading to the accumulation of gravel and water at the base of the ramps. And people complain way more often than they compliment.

Chuck will continue to pursue the assistance of the City in taking minutes for this Committee.

City updates: There are three sinkholes that have to be fixed before they can make more progress in curb ramps.. The Street Repair Tax (SRT) was approved by voters to add a \$3/month tax on their water bills. This tax was approved for the repair and maintenance of City streets. City Council voted in 2022 to postpone the collection of the SRT funds when the City voters approved Debrucing (giving what would have been TABOR funds returned to the taxpayers to the cities instead). The Debrucing provided a surplus of approximately \$15M to support City infrastructure projects. The funds were spread over two years for Public Works for street repairs. By the end of 2024, those funds were expended. In November 2024, City Council voted again to postpone the collection of the SRT funds. The City's Street repair and maintenance budget for 2025 is \$4M, down from \$10M the previous two years. The City will be putting forward several ballot initiatives to voters this fall for possible solutions to remedy budget shortfalls. The City will be doing asphalt road repairs in the Belmont area, specifically the 1500 to 1600 blocks of Lexington and Saratoga after the trees are removed.

County Report Due to a lack of funds, very little is happening. Wesley toured the new jail/detention center/whatever other name is currently in use and is very impressed with the ADA-complaint cell. The Pueblo West DMV inside work has been completed. They still need to install the WiFi (?) network. There were enthusiastic compliments on the ease of use of new system, with the pneumatic tube system for paperwork and ability to just drive around the corner to pick up your actual license plates.

Eventually they would like to move all of the elections operations to a different building because of increased security needs. Currently, everyone needs to be run through the metal detectors.

Emergency Management Josh requested assistance from 1100 – 1200 volunteers for the September 18 Courthouse drill. The courts will be closed that day. They are looking especially for people who will be difficult to communicate with, such as PWDs and non-English speakers, as well as people with mobility difficulties.

Health Report Olivia reported that the department's Emergency Preparedness and Response team are passing out extreme heat kits for the summer heat to come particularly focused on those who are experiencing homelessness. The department has launched a pool inspection campaign that the public can access to see inspection reports. Food inspections continue to be performed, and the results for every inspection are available in the portal: <https://inspections.myhealthdepartment.com/pueblo/>. The question as to how

many pools have lifts for ADA compliance came up, and Olivia will follow up with department inspectors to see if that is a part of their routine pool inspections."

Transit Kent reported that there are road projects that will interfere with some bus routes; detours are determined and in place. A situation arose, involving a person who does not wish to be touched or have his broken wheelchair touched when riding the bus. Policy is that rider-occupied chairs must be tied down at all four wheels. Unoccupied chairs do not need to be tied down, which is a very dangerous policy and needs to be updated for the protection of all riders. It is not a "reasonable accommodation" to change the policies for him, the Committee agreed.

Citilift Chris reported that he has a full staff for now, including a part-time dispatcher. Channel 11 reported that the "free fare for all" program applies to Pueblo as well as Colorado Springs, which is NOT the case. They have not so far as anyone knows retracted that, but at least the last news story didn't repeat the error. Kids under 18 and veterans do ride for free in Pueblo.

Canon City Report There is additional work on the trail accessibility project, and they are also attempting to get a Track Chair for the City.

Old Business

1. The July 14 Work Session will be held at the State Fair Agricultural Palace from 1-3 PM
2. The Home Builders meeting is Tuesday, July 8 at 8 AM to discuss visitability. This will be a meeting of about 20 minutes. We need a short PowerPoint presentation for that. Lexie, in her Fair Housing work component, will work with that project, and Anna Jones had previously volunteered. Sharon will draft something and get it to Lexie and Anna.
3. Don brought up the Blue Envelope Program, wherein people who have atypical reactions to police stops can hand the officer(s) the blue envelope that indicates their invisible condition. The need to see if people who would need it approve or have concerns was raised.

Miscellaneous

1. Lexie reports that Pueblo Housing assists eligible homeowners with minor home repairs, to make it visitable, and install ramps. They have CDBG funds to work with. This is a first-come, first-served program.
2. Also, if someone gets a code violation citation from Code Enforcement, they will fix it and put a lien on the property. There is a Neighborhood Assistance Project Grant for fixing violations if there is a citation.

Adjournment at about 2:45 PM

Work Session topic: input on Visitability PowerPoint will be shared.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Campbell, Chair