

**HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Everitt, Larry Tobias, Richard Robertson, Jean Meinzer, Jim Mesite, Ed Houle, Tom Vierzba, David Zelenok

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniel Ferguson

OTHERS PRESENT: Stan VanderWerf (EPC BoCC), Holly Williams (EPC BoCC), Scot Cuthbertson (EPC DPW), Kevin Mastin (EPC DPW), Jennifer Irvine (EPC DPW), Anton Ramage (EPC DPW), Troy Wiitala (EPC DPW), Victoria Chavez (EPC DPW), Pete Vujcich (EPC DPW), Jana Nemeckova (EPC DPW). Andy Stecklein (CDOT), Monica Ramey (CDOT)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Tobias called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ABSENCES

MOTION (Mr. Robertson/Mrs. Everitt) to excuse Daniel Ferguson's absence. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mrs. Everitt informed all that Michael James will not apply for re-appointment and is no longer participating.

4. MEETING MINUTES

MOTION (Mr. Vierzba/Mrs. Everitt) to approve minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Commissioner VanderWerf said that Planning Department has met with the Commissioners and they all discussed details about the El Paso County Master Plan. It is difficult today for the County DPW to maintain the existing transportation infrastructure, given the current growth and future projection – the problem is only growing, it is a very significant policy level concern and it seems to defy as easy solution.

- Commissioner VanderWerf stated that negotiation between the City and El Paso County in regards annexation policy is ongoing. The goal is to create an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) between the El Paso County and the City in regards all future annexations.
- Commissioner Williams talked about County taxes and discussion followed.
- Commissioner Williams asked how much money would the County save if DPW (Department of Public Works) did not plow priority roads #3?

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE UPDATE

Victoria Chavez (Principal Transportation Planner, Department of Public Works)

- Road Impact Fee Program (RIFP) was adopted in November 2012 and was updated in December 2016 to change the assessment of the fee from final plat to land use approval. In 2018, signals and roundabouts/intersections were added to the program to improve fairness.
- Impact fees are one-time payments required of a new development to provide new or expanded public capital facilities needed to serve the impact from the new development. Based on CO Revised Statute 29-20-104.5. Impact fees do not apply to existing homes and uses.
- Impact fees are related to an adopted calculation and methodology which ties the fee to the measurable impact of the development.
- Impact fees do not provide funding for the County to operate or maintain roads. The funds are all held in accounts that are completely separate from county funds.
- Program Built on Choice – this program is unique and provide payment choices and option how to use credit. No other jurisdiction provides these choices.
- Consensus Building and Public Policy – In 2018, County staff and a developer were invited to present how the county, HBA and groups of developers came to agreement on the fee amount, process and the use of Public Improvement Districts. In 2014, the Fee Program won an APWA award for Innovation in Public Administration.
- Mrs. Chavez presented the Fee Schedule and discussion followed; questions were asked. She also presented the Road Impact Fee Revenues for each year and explained how credits are being used.

B. ADMINISTRATION

Scot Cuthbertson, (Executive Director, Department of Public Works)

- DPW is staying busy with snow removal.
- The Anti-Icing Program is very effective and overall will reduce DPS's cost.
- Engineering Department is working on the Stormwater Asset Management Program.
- Fleet Department is receiving all the new heavy equipment.
- Mr. Vierzba asked that the intersection of Higby Rd and Fairplay to be evaluated, he stated that it is a dangerous intersection. Mrs. Irvine informed all that this road is in a process of being annexed by Tri-View Metro District.

- Mr. Vierzba also asked about updates on Baptist/Hodgen/ Rollercoaster – Mrs. Irvine stated that this intersection is being evaluated for traffic control, the traffic analysis are ongoing. She also informed all that funding for these improvements has not been identified yet. Temporary and less expensive interim improvements are all part of the traffic study.

C. ROAD AND BRIDGE BUDGET

Pete Vujcich (Finance Manager, Department of Public Works)

- Mr. Vujcich presented detailed Budget Revenue Sources, yearly Program Expenditures and Combined El Paso County Road & Bridge, and PPRTA annual Expenditures. Questions were asked and answered, discussion followed.

D. 2020 ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

Troy Wiitala (Highway Manager, Department of Public Works)

- Pavement Maintenance:

Objectives: Preserve & extend life of paved roads. Maintain current roadway operations.

Work Involved: No change to geometry. Repair/replacement of surface materials.

- El Paso County's roadway system increases every year.
- Review Process
 - Start with a \$10 million fiscal constraint
 - Committee reviews road segments and removes segments as necessary (proposed capital projects/ proposed development/ proposed utilities)
 - Committee creates logical segments; adding and removing segments as necessary
 - Inspect roads to verify rehabilitation; adding and removing as necessary
 - Select the most cost effective roads within the budget, typically around \$4 million
 - Finalize Draft List
 - Highway Advisory Commission review and endorsement
 - Board of County Commissioner's resolution
- Detailed 2020 Maintenance List was presented.

MOTION (Mrs. Everitt/Mr. Robertson) to approve the 2020 Maintenance List.

MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. CDOT PRESENTATION

Andy Stecklein (Project Engineer/Manager, CDOT)

Interchange at Powers Blvd. and Research Blvd. - project overview

- This project is part of a broader, ongoing CDOT plan that has been sequentially providing improvements to interchanges all along the Powers Blvd. Corridor due to growth in that area.
- The current configuration is an at-grade signalized intersection. Key issues at this intersection:
 - excessive vehicle wait times
 - inadequate left turn lanes
 - multimodal movements are not currently well-accommodated
 - excessive vehicle congestion

Recommended Improvements

The State Transportation Commission approve approximately \$40 million to fund construction of the new Powers Blvd and Research Interchange. Construction is anticipated to start summer 2020.

The project is intended to produce the following improvements:

- Reconstruction of the interchange resulting in improved safety and increased capacity – in and around the Powers & Research intersection
- Improved riding surface (smoother and stronger pavement)
- Bridge construction
- Resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation

Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)

Following additional screening and analysis of interchange types, CDOT identified the DDI as the Preferred Alternative for reconstruction of the interchange at Powers Blvd and Research Pkwy.

Benefits of a DDI at CO 21/Powers Blvd and Research Pkwy

- Improved peak hour levels of service at ramp intersections
- Reduced traffic delays at ramps
- Substantially shorter traffic queues
- Substantial decrease in crashes due to reduction in congestion and less conflict points
- Meets the needs of all road users – accommodates motorized vehicles including large trucks, pedestrians and bicyclists
- Additional sidewalks will increase safety and better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists
- Relatively lower cost improvement

Website: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/cp-21-research-parkway-interchange-study>

8. AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- ADA ECM changes update

This meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.

The next HAC meeting will be on April 15, 2020 at 2880 International Cir., C/S

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Nemeckova

Admin Tech for Engineering / Board Liaison – Department of Public Works