

**HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Robertson, Tom Vierzba, David Zelenok, Daniel Ferguson, Larry Tobias, William Harrell, Joe Kneib, Jean Meinzer, Ed Houle

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Carrie Geitner (EPC BoCC), Holly Williams (EPC BoCC), Scot Cuthbertson (EPC DPW), Kevin Mastin (EPC DPW), Jennifer Irvine (EPC DPW), Troy Wiitala (EPC DPW), Jana Nemeckova (EPC DPW), Natalie Sosa (EPC PIO), Blake Nielsen (EPC PIO)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ABSENCES
NONE

4. MEETING MINUTES

MOTION (Mr. Vierzba/Mr. Robertson) to approve minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Mr. Tobias welcomed new member William Harrell. Mr. Harrell introduced himself
- Commissioner Williams informed all that the State Legislature is looking at gas fee and electric fee for vehicles.
- Commissioner Williams is hopeful that the HUTF formula will stay the same.
- Commissioner Geitner stated that the State want the County to spend 30% on multimodule projects from the HUTF income. EPC does not agree with that proposal.
- Special guest, Colorado Transportation Commissioner, District 9, Lisa Hickey introduced herself. She informed all that the State plans on spending over \$10 M on rural roads, between 2020-2030.
- Commissioner Hickey informed all that she is on the Freight & Interstate Committee and shared her email to be reach.
- Everyone thanked Commissioner Hickey for joining the HAC meeting.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATION

Scot Cuthbertson, (Director, Department of Public Works)

- DPW's snow removal operations continue.
- For the additional meeting in March, County Finance Controller, Nikki Simmons was invited, and she accepted the invitation. Ms. Nemeckova will set up the meeting.
- DPW continues to identify all challenges/shortfalls in each department.

B. HIGHWAY DIVISION UPDATES

Troy Wiitala, (Highway Manager, Department of Public Works)

- DPW ongoing programs:
 - o Graveling Program – started Jones Rd
 - o Dust Abatement Program – working on Drennan Rd / Contract hauling
 - o Drainage – culvert replacement on Walker Rd
 - o Chip Sealing Program – will start about June 2021
- Snow Events 2020-2021 – 14 events including the weekend
- Highway Department advertising many vacancies.
- Snow removal was extra challenging over the weekend because of the extreme arctic temperatures.

C. ENGINEERING DIVISION UPDATES

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

- Celebrating all the Engineers during Engineering week, February 21-27. DPW has about 45 engineers and PCD about 10 engineers.
- EPC DPW is working on new program EPC Engage, it will help with all development concerns/issues and better understand County processes. Everyone can view it on the County website and view it.
- Peyton Area Drainage and Traffic Study – currently working on it. It is about 2-3 miles overall roadway network. Will update as the project progresses.
- Sand Creek DBPS (drainage basin planning study) – started to work on this and will take approximately 18 months.

D. Traffic Road Impact Fee Update

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

- Road Impact Fee Program (RIFP) was adopted in November 2012
- RIFP was updated in December 2016 to change the assessment of the fee from final plat to land use approval
- In 2018, signals and roundabouts were added to the Program to improve fairness
- The Fee program was designed with the help of a steering committee of people in the

development community, HBA, citizens and staff members from PCD, DPW, and Finance.

What is an Impact Fee?

- Impact fees are on-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
- More predictable, saves time and levels playing field for all landowners who develop
- This program is unique due to the array of choices for the developer

Discussion followed and questions were answered

E. Road Safety Plan

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

Project purpose

- Understand factors contributing to crashes throughout El Paso County (behaviors, roadway characteristics, types, external factors)
- Determine where on the system crashes are overrepresented
- Identify and recommend effective solutions
- Provide specific suggestions to improve safety in the region
- Timeline and goals for implementation and evaluation

Safety Planning Process – Guiding Principles

- Comprehensive
- Data- driven
- Network-wide
- Multidisciplinary
- Proactive

Plan Approach

- Data Gathering (data collection, database development, key document review, demographic and other data)
- Data Analysis (general trends, crash types, contributing factors, trend analysis, candidate priority locations)
- Vision, Objectives, Priorities (plan vision, mission, and emphasis areas, develop objectives, finalize priority locations)
- Develop strategies to improve safety (identify countermeasures, develop criteria for prioritizing countermeasures, gain public approval)
- Implementation Plan

Draft Vision and Mission

Reflect our community values by working towards zero transportation related deaths and reducing serious injuries through improved infrastructure and driver behavior

utilizing the five E's:

- Education
- Encouragement
- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Evaluation

Public Participation

Website: EPCSaferroads.com

Email: DOTSafetyPlan@elpasoco.com

Discussion followed and questions were answered

F. PPRTA Extension Project Scoring Information

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

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

PPRTA Capital Extension

- Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority is 1% sales and use tax that is dedicated to capital projects (55%), maintenance projects (35%), and transit (10%)
- Capital Program has a sunset clause

Project Selection First Steps...

- EPC and the Pikes Peak Region have more transportation needs than funding to address
- EPC staff is developing a draft list of specific capital projects and is developing recommendations for programs
- Project scoring will not determine final project list but will provide an initial data driven process to help inform the project/ program list
- The list will need to be narrowed to fit within the proportion of EPC allocated revenue

EPC Scoring Criteria

- Needs to be based on easy to obtain data
- Considers and uses existing planning documents
- Considers road usage and condition
- Considers safety for all transportation users
- Considers equity, economic development, surrounding land uses, and vulnerable populations
- All criteria assume that all projects will have multimodal and ADA improvements evaluated and constructed

High Priority Location

- Does the project serve the needs of a growing population, economic driver or other need?

- Some examples may be military need, school, hospital, high growth area, support regional tourism, etc.

Discussion followed and questions were answered

7. AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Mrs. Irvine to contact CDOT and invite them to next HAC meeting to speak about their projects within EPC, possibly April meeting

This meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

The next HAC meeting will be on April 21, 2021, Virtual meeting on TEAMS

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Nemeckova

Executive Assistant to the County Engineer / Board Liaison – Department of Public Works