

**HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 20, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Robertson, Tom Vierzba, Derrick Harper, Larry Tobias, William Harrell, Joe Kneib, Jean Meinzer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dan Ferguson, Ed Houle  
Andrea Baker

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Geitner (on Teams), Kevin Mastin (EPC DPW), Jack Ladley (EPC DPW). Jennifer Irvine (EPC DPW), Troy Wiitala (EPC DPW), Jana Nemeckova (EPC DPW), Christian Wright (EPC PIO)

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Tobias called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ABSENCES**

**MOTION (Mr. Robertson /Mr. Kneib)** to excuse Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Houle. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Andrea Baker – unexcused**

**4. MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION (Mr. Vierzba/Mr. Zelenok)** to approve minutes of the September 15, 2021, meeting. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS / HAC MEMBERS**

- Mr. Tobias informed all that Mr. Zelenok submitted a request letter to serve on the PPRTA CAC for second term. He recommended to approve his request.

**MOTION (Mr. Kneib /Mr. Vierzba)** to approve Mr. Zelenok's request to serve on PPRTA CAC for 2<sup>nd</sup> term. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Mr. Tobias emailed all members sharing the link to the PPRTA website so each member can view anything they are interested in.

- Mr. Kneib asked who decides if road should be repaired vs. rebuild? Mr. Mastin answered and explained that DPW evaluates all County roads each year and Engineering makes the final

decision after evaluating all factors. It can be hard to get DPW's message across to citizens to understand the true condition of County's roads.

- Mr. Vierzba asked why some projects are presented and discussed at HAC meetings and some (and more projects) at PPRTA meetings? Mr. Mastin and Mrs. Irvine explained and encourage Mr. Vierzba to always log in into the link that Mr. Tobias shared for the PPRTA and asked questions about specific project he might have.

- Mr. Tobias and Mr. Vierzba complimented the "new" Service Requests Reports.

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Kevin Mastin, (Director, Department of Public Works)**

- DPW is having a difficult time to hire Engineers, however this is Statewide issue. Highway department is still experiencing big shortage of employees.
- HAC members asked what are we exploring to change our current situation in all areas not just staffing? Mr. Mastin attended a meeting hosted by Fort Carson Strategic Summit to discuss possibilities working closely with military bases, IGAs options and such. This program is still under work at this time but truly looking into this opportunity.
- Mr. Mastin thanked specifically Steve Johnson for finishing all Chip Seal this year and finishing early.
- Striping suffered this year due to broken equipment and shortage of employees.
- Tomorrow there will be the Budget meeting for 2022 at the BoCC. Mr. Mastin will share more at the next HAC meeting.
- Unfunded Mandates continue to be challenging for the County..
- Mr. Harper asked if some work can be contracted out to help DPW? Mr. Mastin – yes, we are looking into all projects and see what we can contract out.
- Mr. Harper asked for MAP of EPC to better understand what belongs to the County and what belongs to the City of Colorado Springs. Mr. Mastin asked Ms. Nemeckova to share the map.

### **B. HIGHWAY DIVISION UPDATES**

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

- Graveling Program
  - Completed Sanborn Road
  - Added to gravel list: Sandstone Drive, Limestone Road, Red Rocks Drive, Pixie Park Road (1 mile total)
  - Completed twenty-eight lane miles
- Dust Abatement / Reclamation Program
  - Completed ninety-five lane miles
  - Added 4" gravel to Milne Road

- Snow Updates 2021-2022
  - Completed snow removal training
  - Restocked salt/sand at all yards
- Customer Service Requests
  - Potholes/Crack sealing
  - Grading
  - Drainage
  - Emergency Signs repair
- Paint Striping
  - Got approval for contract striping
  - New striper being built
  - Completed eighty-six lane miles
- Mowing
  - Medians complete; working on service requests
  - 80% ROW; mainly working eastern EPC

#### **C. ENGINEERING DIVISION UPDATES**

##### **Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)**

- Mrs. Irvine talked about and explained the Greenhouse Gas Bill, proposed by CDOT. She will share updates as she learns them.
- Mrs. Irvine share more details about Hwy 105 improvements/construction per HAC members' request.

#### **D. PPRTA BUDGET**

##### **Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)**

- Mrs. Irvine presented the 2022 PPRTA proposed budget summary for capital and maintenance. Discussion followed; questions were answered.

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#### **7. AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- Any updates on the Greenhouse Gas Bill

**This meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.**

**The next HAC meeting will be on December 15, 2021, at 9 a.m. followed by Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Jana Nemeckova**

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