

**HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reb Williams, Ed Dills, Jean Meinzer, Joseph Ennis, Donald Martinez, Brian Galpin, Tom Vierzba, Cheryl Everitt, Jim Mesite, Jane Dillon, Larry Tobias

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joan Lucia-Treese

OTHERS PRESENT: Darryl Glenn, EPC BOCC, André Brackin, EPC DPW; Troy Wiitala, EPC DPW; Victoria Chavez, EPC DPW; Jim Reid, EPC DPW; Ellen Heaverlo, EPC DPW; Don McAllister, EPC DPW; Robert Evans, EPC DPW; John Clack, EPC DPW; Jennifer Valentine, PPACG

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

1. ABSENCES

Joan Lucia-Treese was absent.

MOTION (Ms. Dillon/Mr. Dills) to excuse absence of Ms. Lucia-Treese. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. MEETING MINUTES

MOTION (Ms. Everitt/Mr. Tobias) to approve minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. NEW MEMBER

Donald Martinez, District 3, introduced himself to the Commission.

4. COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS

- County Commissioner Glenn extended his thanks to the snow crews.
- Ms. Meinzer expressed her concerns about the lack of economical and efficient grading in the southern part of county. She also expressed concerns about the need for patching several roads.

- Chair Williams thanked Mr. Brackin for his 20 years of service to El Paso County and its citizens, and also expressed his appreciation to the snow crews for all their work in such adverse weather conditions.
- Chair Williams asked the members of the commission to notify Ms. Heaverlo if they will not be able to attend meetings.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATION

- Mr. Reid briefed the commission on the recent snowstorm: over 2000 hours of personnel time were logged, and a total of \$81,000 has been spent so far. There will be additional expense in overtime as the cleanup continues. This storm was difficult to deal with due to the wet and heavy snow. There were several stranded motorists that needed to be plowed out, and our snowplows also assisted first responders with opening up roads for them. Some mailboxes were damaged during the snow plowing efforts. These are being replaced by the county. Chair Williams suggested marking mailboxes with reflective striping to make them more visible. Mr. Reid agreed that this would be worth looking into. Mr. Galpin expressed concerns about citizens displaying a hostile attitude towards the plowing and road crews. Mr. Reid stated that this has happened a few times and he is working with the Sheriff's Office to see what can be done about this, and has provided the Sheriff's Office specific Colorado Revised Statutes that may assist the deputies. A 'Verbal Judo' class will also be taught to Public Works employees to prepare them better on how to de-escalate these situations. Mr. Dills asked how the Public Works budget is doing after all these snowstorms. Mr. Reid stated that at this time the budget is still good as Public Works usually plans for these events during the 1st quarter of the year.
- Mr. Reid briefed the commission on the Zonar system that is being installed in all Public Works vehicles, and how it will assist with tracking routes and vehicles, remote engine diagnostics, and fuel consumption among many other capabilities.

B. ENGINEERING DIVISION

- Mr. Brackin advised the commission that this will be his last Highway Advisory Commission briefing due to his upcoming retirement the end of May. He thoroughly enjoyed this task and thanked the commission for their support.
- Ms. Irvine briefed on the status of current projects.
 - The Black Forest Road Culvert project which began in mid-March was designed by DPW's engineering staff. This project is currently on schedule and on budget. The contractor is Pate Construction from Pueblo. The completion date for this project is July 1st.
 - The Gleneagle Transportation Enhancement Project began the beginning of April. The department applied for federal funds for this project about 5 years ago and has received funds with matching funds coming from the Road & Bridge budget. This project was designed in-house also, and the

construction is managed in-house as well. The contractor is Even-Preisser who is from Colorado Springs. This project should be complete within 30 – 60 days and will provide pedestrian access where there is none at this time, and also include access to the HOAs and to Antelope Trails Elementary School.

- The construction phase for the Marksheffel South Improvement Project began in late December 2015. A lot of grading work was done early this year as well as installation of drainage culverts. This is a \$30M capital PPRTA project. The design was done by a consultant. The project manager is Dennis Barron who has been doing a great job working with all entities involved to include CDOT, the City of Colorado Springs, Peterson Airforce Base and the City of Fountain. This project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2017.
- The Baptist Road West Improvement Project is entering its final stages of completion. This is another one of the original PPRTA voter approved capital projects. This project provides a bridge over the railroad which replaces an at-grade crossing thus preventing first responders from being delayed by trains when responding to an emergency. This is the only access to the developments west of the train tracks. This is a \$13M construction project. A ribbon cutting event will be scheduled possibly in early May.

- Mr. Clack presented an update on the Right-Of-Way permits including type, purpose, requirements and fees. Total fees collected in 2015 were \$443,724.45. Fees collected for the 1st quarter of 2016 were \$157,612.84.

Mr. Dills inquired as to how many staff members are administering this program. Mr. Clack stated that there is one full time Inspector I with oversight by supervisors and reviews by Mr. Clack.

Mr. Williams inquired as to the entities that are paying for those permits. Mr. Clack explained that the telecommunication permits are entities such as the cable companies, telephone providers and such. The non-telecommunication permits include water lines and sewer lines such as Colorado Springs Utilities and the Southern Delivery System. Special district would be entities such as water districts and sewer districts, which are exempt from paying the fee by Colorado Revised Statutes.

Mr. Dills expressed a concern as to the amount of the required bond, \$1M being too low. Mr. Clack agreed that this issue needs to be discussed with the County Attorney's Office for a possible increase.

Mr. Tobias asked how long the contractors' bond amount, \$20K, has been in place. Mr. Clack stated that it has been increased to its current amount over the past few years, and the current amount has been in place since August 2015.

Mr. Galpin inquired as to the timeframe for permits to be issued. Mr. Clack stated that it usually takes 72 hrs. There are special provisions if there is an emergency.

Mr. Williams asked if bond and insurance policies are different for capital projects such as the Marksheffel project. Ms. Irvine explained that each capital construction project is unique as to the requirements such as insurance and bonds.

- Mr. Brackin gave an update for the 2016 Major Transportation Corridors Plan (MTCP). This plan is updated every 5 years. At this time public feedback is being gathered. So far we received some good feedback but some of it pertains to city issues rather than county issues. Ms. Everitt asked if the data is being shared with the City of Colorado Springs. Mr. Brackin replied that his staff works with the city engineers on a regular basis. Mr. Vierzba asked if we can identify the demographics of the citizens that have provided feedback. Mr. Brackin stated that we can track by zip code only.
- Construction funding for Charter Oak Ranch Road was discussed as it pertains to obtaining a TIGER grant.
- On April 13, the PPACG Board of Directors released the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2017-2022.

Copies of the presentations are attached to the minutes

C. HIGHWAY DIVISION

- Mr. Wiitala introduced Highway Superintendent Robert Evans who is in charge of the graders, the truck string and the asphalt crew, and Grader Foreman Don McAllister who works at the Calhan Yard to the commission.
- Mr. Wiitala also briefed this year's Dust Abatement Program. This program has already begun and the crews are working on Calhan Road South at this time depending upon the weather. This schedule, and others, can be located on the El Paso County website at:
<http://adm.elpasoco.com/publicservices/transportation/pages/RoadProjects.aspx>
 The spreadsheets on this website will be updated to show the progress of these projects.

6. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Heaverlo
 Office Manager – Department of Public Works