

**HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 20, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Vierzba, Cheryl Everitt, Ed Houle, Larry Tobias, Richard Robertson, Daniel Ferguson, Jean Meinzer, Brian Galpin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Mesite, Brian Wess, Michael James

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Reid (EPC DPW), Jennifer Irvine (EPC DPW), Troy Wiitala (EPC DPW), Ellen Heaverlo (EPC DPW), Joel Quevillon (EPC PIO), Matt Steiner (EPC PIO)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ABSENCES

Jim Mesite, Brian Wess and Michael James were excused.

4. MEETING MINUTES

MOTION (Ms. Everitt/Mr. Tobias) to approve minutes of the April 18, 2018 meeting.
MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ms. Everitt extended her thanks to Mr. Reid and Ms. Irvine for attending the Goshawk Neighborhood meeting. Ms. Everitt received a lot of positive comments about it.
- Mr. Vierzba welcomed the new District 2 HAC Commissioner Daniel Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson introduced himself to the Commission.
- Mr. Vierzba also asked the commissioners for their input regarding the new bi-monthly meeting schedule. Mr. Robertson would prefer monthly meetings but does not want to put the extra burden of preparing the meetings every month on DPW staff. He suggested that if the Commission would go back to monthly meeting, those meeting could exclude the staff reports. Mr. Tobias stated that in his opinion the bi-monthly meetings have not had a negative impact because he, as well as other commissioners, stays involved in other ways, such as attending external meetings, DPW quarterly meetings and more. He also stated that an additional meeting can always be requested if the need arises. Mr. Galpin echoed Mr. Tobias's thoughts. The consensus was made to re-address this issue at the end of the year.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATION

Jim Reid (Executive Director, Department of Public Works)

- Mr. Reid thanked the commissioners who attended the Employee Appreciation Luncheon that was held during National Public Works Week in May, and invited everyone to attend the 2nd Quarterly DPW Staff Meeting & Annual Picnic on July 19th.
- Highway personnel and management have looked into the issues with grading gravel roads during the current prolonged drought, and have determined that they may stop grading if no significant moisture is received as it only produces dust and does not fix the road issues. Mr. Tobias asked how it is determined on which roads to use water and on which not to use any. Mr. Wiitala explained that the DPW Highway Division has 23 blades but only 3 water trucks. The water will be used for the roads that are being treated for dust abatement.
- Mr. Reid encouraged the commissioners to stay engaged with the community.

B. HIGHWAY DIVISION

Troy Wiitala (Highway Manager, Department of Public Works)

- Mr. Wiitala briefed the Commission on the following:
 - Graveling – ahead of schedule due to the ability to start work earlier in the year.
 - Dust Abatement – right on schedule.
 - Chip Sealing – work began the beginning of June and is on schedule
 - Customer Service Request – mainly pothole patching and mowing. Ms. Meinzer expressed concerns about ditches not being mowed which might contribute to the fire danger.
 - Ellicott Highway Bridge Replacement – about 50% complete with a completion date in mid-August.
 - Snow Removal: 22 snow events during the 2017/18 season which is down from last year's numbers.
 - Wildland Fire Support – supported 11 fires between March 17th and May 27th
 - Public Works Week Activities May 20th - 26th - static displays at Centennial Hall and the Akers Facilities, Employee Appreciation Lunch.
 - Current Staffing – having some difficulties with hiring seasonal employees, have 9 vacant full-time positions at this time and are in the process of filling those.

C. ENGINEERING DIVISION

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

- Ms. Irvine briefed the Commission on the following:
 - Senate Bill 18-001 Transportation Infrastructure Funding – one-time general fund transfer of \$495M (\$346.5M to State Highway Fund, \$74.25M to Highway User Tax Fund, \$74.25M to multimodal transportation options), and another \$150M fund transfer in FY 2019-20

- Senate Bill 18-167 Enforce Requirements 811 Locate Underground Facilities – creates an Underground Damage Prevention Safety Commission that will have rule making and enforcement authority regarding the excavation damage prevention law. The commission is also required to enter in a memorandum of understanding with Colorado 811 to facilitate implementation and administration of the law. A discussion ensued.
- PPACG 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan – assists El Paso County to obtain federal funding for transportation infrastructure. More information can be found on their website www.ppacg.org.
- Golden Lane Bridge Replacement Project – near 31st St and part of the Westside Avenue Action Plan (WAAP). This project has been in the planning stages since 2008. Good progress is being made.
- Judge Orr Rd Box Culvert (between Eastonville Rd and US 24) – funding has been received from Federal Highways and the contract has been awarded last week.
- I-25 GAP Project – Project website www.i25gap.codot.gov and email i25gap@codot.us. Project hotline 719-297-5143. \$65M INFRA Grant with construction to begin in late summer 2018. A discussion commenced.

7. PRESENTATION OF NEW EL PASO COUNTY WEBSITE

Joel Quevillon (EPC Public Information Office)

- Mr. Quevillon presented the new County website and its capabilities to the Commission. He also introduced the Commission to the CitizenConnect app/website which enables citizens to submit service requests to DPW and Parks.

8. AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Mr. Tobias requested an update on the overlay program.
- Ms. Everitt mentioned the annual Worksession on Wheels. Mr. Reid explained that DPW is working on a new concept for this event.
- Mr. Vierzba suggested a video presentation of the Gallagher Amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.

The next HAC meeting will be on August 15, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Heaverlo
Office Manager/Board Liaison – Department of Public Works