Final

STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date:	08/20/2013	ATTENDANCE

Time: 09:00 AM to 10:50 AM Baumgardner

Buck

Everett

Place: El Pueblo History Museum, Coram

Pueblo, Colorado

This Meeting was called to order by Fischer

Representative Tyler Jones
King

This Report was prepared by Kraft-Tharp

Kelli Kelty
Lawrence
Lee

Mitsch Bush Moreno Peniston Primavera Scott

Scott Todd Heath Tyler

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:		Action Taken:
	Field Hearing - Pueblo	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

09:00 AM -- Field Hearing - Pueblo

Representative Tyler, chair, called the meeting to order. No roll call was taken. The members of the committee and staff introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their district representation and committee membership. Representatives Navarro and Garcia introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to Pueblo. Representative Garcia commented on issues of concern in Pueblo, in particular the I-25 corridor. He commented on the need to consider maintenance along I-25 and opportunities for legislation addressing the issue in the upcoming session.

09:06 AM

Representative Tyler explained what the committee is hoping to learn from the field hearings and stressed the importance of understanding the critical needs and concerns of Pueblo. Representative Tyler noted that Senator Angela Giron was present at the meeting. She introduced herself.

09:07 AM

Ms. Debra Espinoza, Director of El Pueblo History Museum, introduced herself to the committee. She commented on the historic background of Pueblo.

09:09 AM

Commissioner Bill Thiebaut, Colorado Transportation Commission, Mr. Tom Wrona, Regional Transportation Director, Region 2, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and Mr. Kurt Morrison, CDOT, introduced themselves to the committee. Commissioner Thiebaut expressed his gratitude for serving on the Transportation Commission and stressed his view of a statewide transportation system. He commented on excess cash funds and the importance of the budgeting and expenditure process. He said that he needs to know what CDOT is doing right and wrong so that he can effectively serve the needs of the entire state. He commented on the expertise of Commissioner Buffie McFadyen and how he values their relationship moving forward in serving the transportation needs of the state. Mr. Wrona said that I-25, U.S. 50, and State Highway 96 are the priority areas in Pueblo. He gave a brief overview of the work that CDOT has done in Pueblo. He said that the highest priority is the reconstruction of I-25 through Pueblo. He estimated that this project will cost \$750 million. He stated that Pueblo is dealing with a drought year and that CDOT is trying to stay on top of the issue. He commented that the widening of U.S. 50 West is the second top priority of CDOT in Pueblo and that the project will increase capacity on a very congested highway. He said there is no good alternate route for travel and that U.S. 50 is a very important highway for CDOT and the state. He estimated the cost of the project at \$125 million.

09:20 AM

Representative Tyler asked if these projects are currently funded. Mr. Wrona said that the projects are in the long-range planning process but that there is no construction funding identified. Mr. Wrona commented on a Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) application for small segments of both projects. Representative Kraft-Tharp asked for more information about the reconstruction of I-25. Discussion ensued concerning whether the project is unique to Pueblo or if it is common on other highways throughout the state. Mr. Morrison said this stretch of I-25 is the oldest in the state so it is a higher concern due to its significant degradation. Mr. Wrona said that the section of I-25 in Pueblo was built in the late 1950s and early 1960s and is in need of reconstruction. Representative Lawrence asked about reduced speeds on I-25 through Pueblo in certain areas.

09:26 AM

Senator Baumgardner asked about the cost of purchasing right-of-ways in Pueblo compared to La Junta. Representative Tyler commented on a right-of-way project in Lakewood. Representative Tyler asked about phasing for projects in Pueblo and whether they will include purchasing the right-of-way first before the rest of the project moves forward. Senator Heath asked for more information about the project needs in Pueblo and whether they are "must do" projects. Discussion ensued concerning projects and needs in Pueblo, particularly I-25 and U.S. 50.

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09:34 AM

Senator Jones asked about excess cash funds and RAMP projects. Mr. Morrison gave a brief overview of funding and how CDOT spends dollars. He clarified that dollars are being allocated faster for projects. He said that CDOT is looking towards a grant program through which cities and counties may apply for funding for projects. Discussion ensued concerning CDOT projects and RAMP funds. Representative Tyler commented on how other states have similar instances of cash fund balances and how to develop a system to manage the funds.

09:39 AM

Representative Lawrence asked if CDOT looks at safety or volume of traffic when considering the priority of projects in the state. Mr. Wrona said that traffic volume weighs heavily when deciding the priority of highway projects in the state. Senator Baumgardner asked about U.S. 50 and the addition of passing lanes. Commissioner Thiebaut commented on the Transportation Commission and the statewide transportation system. He commented on the distribution of RAMP funds.

09:48 AM

Mr. Earl Wilkinson, Director of Public Works for the City of Pueblo, Mr. Scott Hobson, Assistant City Manager for Community Investment for the City of Pueblo, Mr. Steve Nawrocki, City Council President for the City of Pueblo, Mr. Chris Kaufman, City Councilman for the City of Pueblo, and Mr. Jerry Martin, Pueblo West Metro District Board Member, introduced themselves to the committee. Mr. Nawrocki commented on issues and needs in Pueblo. Representative Peniston asked about accessibility for the Pueblo community and whether the city agrees with CDOT's prioritization of projects for the city. Councilman Kaufman commented on the history of Pueblo and stressed the importance of changing the impression of the city.

10:01 AM

Mr. Wilkinson commented on Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) funding and the current overlay program. He commented on the use of Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) funds for current projects and discussed current projects in Pueblo. Mr. Hobson gave a brief overview of the collaboration between governmental agencies in the city. He commented on projects submitted for RAMP funding. He commended CDOT regional staff for their work and effort on projects in Pueblo.

10:13 AM

Mr. Martin commented on economic development and Pueblo West. He stressed the importance of relieving congestion on U.S. 50.

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10:16 AM

Commissioner Liane "Buffie" McFadyen introduced herself to the committee. She noted that Commissioner Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner, was also present. She said that Merl Manwyler was present and that together they are working on a few projects. She commented on the deterioration of I-25 and stressed the significant collaboration amongst the city, county, and CDOT in prioritizing projects. She reiterated that the section of I-25 in Pueblo is the oldest section of the highway in the state. She commented on the congestion on U.S. 50 West. Discussion ensued concerning roads in Pueblo.

The following members of the public testified:

- **10:35 AM** -- Ms. Gina Nance, representing Colorado Energy Recyclers, introduced herself to the committee. Ms. Nance read a prepared statement.
- **10:43 AM** -- Mr. John Ary, representing A+S Construction, introduced himself to the committee. He commented on the construction industry and the bidding process. Representative Peniston thanked Mr. Ary for his testimony. Representative Lawrence asked about the bidding process.
- **10:46 AM** -- Mr. John Barnosky, representing Colorado State University (CSU) Pueblo, introduced himself to the committee. He commented on a master plan update to the campus and vehicular access.

10:50 AM

The committee adjourned.

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