

Hay Creek Road. The bridge opened for traffic on Dec. 23, 2015.

BRRTA also works with the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, as well as the state, to obtain capital project funding.

Background on CDOT reimbursement

BRRTA was established in a November 1997 election to improve Baptist Road's traffic safety, operations, and capacity. Only two BRRTA residents, retired Army Col. Phillip Weinert and Joan Weinert of Kingwood, voted in this controversial election that produced a unanimous vote of 2-0 for BRRTA's creation. (ocn.me/v3n1.htm#plank, ocn.me/v3n2.htm#plank)

PPRTA was established in a November 2004 election. The member governments are the cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, El Paso County, and the town of Green Mountain Falls. The original 10-year lifespan of PPRTA was extended another 10 years—through 2024—in a November 2012 election. PPRTA has financed its road construction debt with two sequential temporary 10-year one-cent sales taxes within its service area. (pprta.com)

The Town of Monument's Board of Trustees chose not to be part of PPRTA in 2004 because the town's eastside residents would be paying a BRRTA sales tax.

The El Paso County Department of Transportation staff has administered BRRTA and PPRTA road construction projects that

have improved Baptist Road and Struthers Road. BRRTA had to reimburse PPRTA for "cash advances" after PPRTA had paid \$900,000 of BRRTA's costs for engineering and land acquisition for Baptist Road widening.

PPRTA has contributed substantially to Baptist Road widening improvements and loaned BRRTA money to pay some of

its expenses when BRRTA's sales tax revenues, which did not begin until July 1, 2007, were initially insufficient. Since then, BRRTA has reimbursed PPRTA for all its loans.

On Aug. 11, 2006, the BRRTA president, County Commissioner Wayne Williams, announced that the state Transportation Commission would



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