

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, April 13, 2016

1st Floor Conference Room, Windsor Town Hall

301 Walnut Street Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introductions:

In attendance:

Leslie Beckstrom, Weld County

Terri Blackmore, NFR MPO

Jeffrey Boring, Larimer County

Sarah Boyd, City of Greeley

Aaron Buckley, NFR MPO

Mark Heidt, Town of Brighton

Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT

Tom Jones, Great Western Trail

Jenna Levin, NFR MPO

Janet Meisel-Burns, City of Loveland

Chad Reischel, Town of Evans

Tom Selders, Poudre River Trail Corridor

Robert Ward, Poudre Heritage Alliance

Wade Willis, Town of Windsor

Selders requested a discussion on trail liability at the April meeting and stated the CSU research student who presented at the January meeting was questioning her research area.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chad Reischel's name was misspelled. Wade confirmed that wayfinding should be included in the NFRMPO Non-motorized transportation plan. The group agreed to explore funding for wayfinding and develop a plan based on the FC Designs. (Note: There was a more detailed discussion with NFRMPO regarding their plan and wayfinding during this meeting – see below – which also support the comments for the March notes.)

The minutes of March 9 meeting were approved.

3. Regional Trail Updates:

Buckley shared counter information from the Mason Trail counters. Interesting to look at weather events.

The NFRMPO is moving forward on their counting program and JAMAR staff will provide training on April 26 at 9:00-11:00, 419 Canyon Avenue, Fort Collins. Any NFRMPO members that want to use the counters need to attend the training. A video will be available for those who can't make it. They'll be installing a permanent counter in the afternoon. People interested in attending the training need to e-mail Aaron, but there's no formal registration.

April 26 River Bluffs Open Space, Poudre River Trail in Larimer County 1:00 pm install.

April 27 Rover Run Dog Park, Poudre River Trail in Greeley 1:00 pm install.

The permanent counter's Piezo sensors can define six different user groups (i.e. bike, stroller, etc.)

Willis – installed an Eco Counter on the trail on the south side of Eastman Park. Shared info collected from Feb-March.

Brief discussion regarding data and that more counters would be beneficial on segments of the trail.

4. 2015 NoCo Bicycle & Walk Conference Recap:

The debrief notes were distributed.

- The planning group has finalized costs.
- Total was a little over \$15,000 using funds from CDOT and City of Fort Collins CMAQ grant.
- Beckstrom's time was about \$6,000 on top of that (provided by a Walk and Wheel grant).
- 1/3 was used for our keynote, Mark Fenton. In addition to the keynote, he did two walking audits and the council session.
- Other costs were food, AV, location, etc.
- Registration was \$30/person. 107 official registrations and additional comps. About 135 registrants total.
- The planning committee spent a lot of time getting quality speakers and if we wanted to replicate that model, we'd need to start early (even now) thinking about speakers.
- We weren't terribly successful in getting elected officials to the event, so next time maybe the location or focusing on the electeds would be good.
- Conference was videotaped and available on the NFR MPO website.
- Gregor: Are the videos on the Public Access Channel?
- CPRA conducted a follow-up survey and the results were discussed at a prior meeting.
- If we wanted to provide Continuing Education Credits, it would require work from someone from association connections.
- The group confirmed it wants to do another event in the fall of 2017.
- Look at possible conflicts may be coming up?
- Purpose and funding would need to be discussed. Conference planning group will start meeting in May at 9:00 (prior to the regular NoCo meeting).

5. Trail User Liability Discussion:

Tom Selders distributed information on Colorado statutes regarding liability.

As much as possible, he suggested getting public ownership of land adjacent to trails. The Poudre River Trail is more than 50% publicly owned. Private owners have concerns about trail liability with easements. However, if a user wanders off onto the private property, it would be considered trespassing and the property owner shouldn't be liable for any injuries. That said, the full statute should be read and reviewed from a lawyer's perspective. Trail owners should document the condition/safety of their trails (identify any issues and document what actions you've taken to mitigate the problem).

6. NFRMPO Non-Motorized Plan:

NFRMPO is starting a non-motorized plan. Aaron distributed the table of contents draft. A survey was also distributed that will go out to communities for feedback.

Previous plan was done in 2013 and was only for bicycles. The new plan will include pedestrians and will update information from the 2013 plan. The prior plan will not be diminished, but by adding the pedestrian component the overall plan will be more complete. Target completion is December, 2016.

A memo from Aaron Fodge was distributed and a discussion about walking audits ensued. The MPO doesn't have the resources for every corridor and region, but maybe some audits could be done at particular locations or where there are high crash rates. The plan could reference walk audits and encourage communities to do them. The Plan could provide a template on how to do a walking audit. Communities could use this tool to enhance their transportation network. It could also be used in working with developers.

An inventory in GIS of sidewalk conditions would be helpful. Fort Collins, Evans, Greeley and possibly Loveland would have them.

A separate steering committee will be developed that includes other stakeholders.

Language in the plan could include that the communities match their park and rec plans with their transportation plans.

Will look at existing trails that are started and existing connections to the network. Need to be careful not to step on local toes. For some areas, widening shoulders is appropriate rather than a separated path.

Wayfinding – recommend in the plan that wayfinding be included in all projects (transit, bike, ped) so it's consistent throughout the region. Wayfinding is important for numerous reasons – economic impact to get visitors (tourists) to specific locations; getting to/from transit stops and other destinations.

7. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee:

TAC meeting is April 20 at 1:00 pm. Talking about the counter program. Wade is attending. He will mention that NoCo supports the inclusion of pedestrians in the plan and will recommend as a separate steering committee.

8. Updates/Other Business:

Fast Lane grant (which is actually a freight grant) is due today. NFRMPO is applying for it to raise the Poudre Bridge to allow for adding a connection for underneath the bridge. CDOT provided bike counts. Should know this fall. CDOT's construction plan would go out for bid in 18 months. There's

also a TIGER grant that's already submitted. CDOT's been doing design on the corridor and has 30% of the design completed.

Robert Ward wants to have all the jurisdictions along the trail to join the Poudre Heritage Alliance

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) has been re-labeled Transportation Alternatives (TA). The NFRMPO and CDOT will maintain funding pools.

Beckstrom: Wildcat trail is doing a conceptual trail. Firestone, Milliken, Platteville, Frederick, and others to discuss the trails. Masters MURP student coming to work with Weld County to meet with these communities and work on the trail.

Wildcat Mound south of Milliken. There's been some interest from developers to use part of it for park land.

Next Agenda, discuss grant applications that are being developed among group members.