

**Meeting Minutes of the
NORTH FRONT RANGE TRANSPORTATION &
AIR QUALITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

May 5, 2016

6 p.m.

**Loveland Police & Courts Building
Police Institute Room
810 E. 10th Street
Loveland, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Gerry Horak-Chair	-Fort Collins
Jeff Hindman	-Berthoud
Kevin Ross	-Eaton
Tom Norton	-Greeley
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Sharon Lookhart	-LaSalle
Joan Shaffer	-Loveland
Linda Meisner	-Milliken
Paul Steinway	-Timnath
Kathy Gilliland	-Trans. Comm.
Julie Cozad	-Weld County
Myles Baker	-Windsor
Chris Colclasure	-CDPHE

Absent

John Morris	-Evans
Don Brookshire	-Severance
*No member	-Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance and Operations Manager; Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner; Merry Anne Hood, VanGo Customer Service Specialist/Title VI Coordinator.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Ken Bennett, Eric Bracke, Amanda Brimmer, Leah Browder, Dave Clark, LeRon Ehrlich, Jim Eussen, Myron Hora, Mark Jackson, Major Tim Keeton, Paul Lee, Suzette Mallette, Luke O'Dell, Johnny Olson, Claudia Reich, Elizabeth Stolfus, Gary Thomas and James Usher.

Chair Horak called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Luke O'Dell, District Director for Congressman Ken Buck (CO-04), introduced himself to the Council and offered his contact information and assistance on any federal issues to the Council as a whole or the member's individual communities.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

*Ross **moved** to approve the May 5, 2016 meeting agenda as presented. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ross ***moved*** to approve the April 7, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was ***seconded*** and ***passed*** unanimously. Hindman and Lookhart abstained as they had not attended the April 7 meeting.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Horak opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division Report

Chris Colclasure, CDPHE Deputy Director, gave the CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division May 2016 NFRMPO Council Presentation to the Council. He indicated that it will take approximately 3 weeks to rerun the model and said APCD is cautiously optimistic that the new results will demonstrate attainment. He believes it will be very close and they have some steps they can take to adjust or finesse the modeling results, such as different filters that can be applied to the model, the exclusion of high ozone days, and the inclusion of exceptional events that were not previously acted on by the Environmental Protection Agency. More information is available on the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) website. Colclasure briefly reviewed the Monthly Report from CDPHE May 2016 and his handout from the Bureau of Land Management with the Council.

Ross requested that the ozone numbers be shared with the Council when they were complete. Blackmore indicated that the Ken Lloyd, RAQC Executive Director, would be giving a presentation to the Council in June and should have the information then. Ross also requested more information on Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT). Colclasure agreed to get the link to the requested information to the Council as soon as possible.

Horak invited all of the Council members at the table to introduce themselves since there were several new members in attendance. Everyone at the Council table stated their name and community and introduced anyone in the audience who had attended with them.

Regional Air Quality Council –RAQC

Blackmore briefly reviewed the RACQ April 8, 2016 Meeting memo with the Council. She also mentioned that NFRMPO is considering using some excess air quality money received through CDPHE to supplement some local outreach for Ozone Aware in the North Front Range Communities to possibly purchase some bus back advertising in Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley.

Horak explained that the Ozone Aware program, which may also be discussed by Lloyd at the June meeting, was now going to be called Ozone Action and will be marketed by a new agency that will monitor user behaviors to ensure the appropriate programs, such as “Mow Down Pollution” are being provided to best reach their goals. The program was initially funded with Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRGOG) money but it is now necessary for them to receive local funding. He would like the City of Fort Collins to include the program in one of their next two budget cycles and encouraged support from other local communities as well.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Horak opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report:

Blackmore briefly reviewed information from the May 2016 Director’s Report Addendum, highlighting her updates on the FY 2017 UPWP, VanGo™ Restructuring and the NFRMPO Audit. She encouraged everyone to contact their representatives regarding Senate Bill 16-210, the FIX Colorado Roads Act, as it would need

additional support to pass in the House of Representatives. Horak added that although the bill had passed the Senate Committee on Finance with a 3-2 vote earlier that day, and would potentially pass the second reading, it would need considerable backing to pass in the House.

Report of the Chair:

Chair Horak announced that Paul Steinway, Town of Timnath Council member, had agreed to serve on the Finance Committee to replace Jan Dowker, who did not run for reelection on the Berthoud Town Board and was therefore, no longer a member of the MPO Council.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Finance:

Ross reviewed information from the April 21, 2016 Finance Committee Report, Meeting Minutes and the Accounting Software/Server Memo with the Council.

ACTION ITEMS:

MPO Office Lease/Remodel Financing-

Crystal Hedberg, Operations and Finance Manager thanked Chair Horak for his assistance with the lease process with Blue Ocean and reviewed the Office Lease memo with the Council.

She indicated that there would be a loan contract signed by Chair Horak and that the loan would have the lowest interest rate of any of the VanGo's investments which was currently only .11%, which would retain VanGo™'s interest. Gilliland asked what was involved in the remodel. Hedberg responded that the center offices were becoming a single conference room. Donnelly requested that Hedberg tell the Council about VanGo™ reserves. Hedberg explained that the program had an excess of \$800,000 over reserves and that she would be requesting an annual payment each fiscal year from the local match which will reduce the amount going into the reserves and the local communities would not be expected to put in any additional money. The funds for repayment would come from both federal and local sources. Horak added that having the remodeling costs included in the lease payment would have been substantially more money over the term of the lease, making it financially prudent to pay for the improvements separately.

*Shaffer **moved** to approve a Temporary Loan from the VanGo™ Program to Fund the MPO Office Remodeling Cost with the Loan being repaid to VanGo™ at 1/5 of the MPO Portion Per Year for Five Years. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Horak requested a motion from the Council for the MPO purchase of the accounting software/server needed specifically for VanGo™ that Ross discussed in his Finance Committee report for Agenda Item 8.

*Ross **moved** to approve the Use of VanGo™ Funds to Purchase a Server Update at a Cost of approximately \$6,700. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

2016 Title VI Plan

Blackmore briefly reviewed the FY2016 Update to the NFRMPO Title VI Plan memo with the Council to comply with federal requirements.

*Shaffer **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-07 Adopting the Updated 2016 Title IV Plan. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

PRESENTATIONS:

Traffic Incident Management

Elizabeth Stolfus, Transportation Engineer and President of Stolfus and Associates, Inc., and Major Tim Keeton of the Colorado State Patrol introduced themselves and gave the *Traffic Incident Management Program: Introduction & Call to Action* presentation to the Council. Stolfus concluded the presentation stating that they were looking for more Northern Colorado citizens to partner with them in finding solutions. Blackmore noted that when the TIM presentation was given to TAC on April 20th Martina Wilkinson, Traffic Engineer, City of Fort Collins, had pointed out the importance of letting local traffic operations offices know when there is an incident requiring traffic reroutes so they can adjust local traffic operations which would in turn impact the overall traffic flow.

US 34 Big Thompson Canyon Project

Johnny Olson, CDOT Region 4, introduced James Usher, CDOT US 34 Project Director. Usher gave the US 34 Project Update to the Council. Olson added that although CDOT wants to get projects completed as quickly as possible and save taxpayer's money, public safety is a high priority and he would like to have a 24 hour coordination center set up for emergency communications. He also commented that detour routes, such as US 36, should be strongly considered when there are lengthy delays. Shoulder improvements will be assessed with assistance from the biking community. Shaffer asked for confirmation that US 36 had been completed. Usher replied that it was completed in preparation for the canyon project and added that it would also be imperative that CR 43 is completed so it can be used as a detour route. Shaffer asked if there would be outreach meetings in each of the communities. Olson replied that there would be and a meeting was scheduled in Loveland on May 17th. Gilliland added that there would also be 1 public meetings scheduled. Horak suggested the use of social media and a video that could be viewed through local cable systems, as they are free and available to almost everyone. Donnelly asked if the existing US 34 passing lanes would be maintained by CDOT. Usher responded that they will maintain existing lanes and restore those that had not been yet been reopened. He also noted that they were working with their stakeholders on plans for slow-vehicle and recreation pull-offs.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

2016 Q2 TIP Policy Amendment

Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner, reviewed information from the 2016 Q2 TIP Policy Amendment Discussion AIS with the Council and informed them the amendment would be a consent item on the June Council meeting agenda.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported on the following:

- TIGER/FASTLANE Grants- gratitude expressed to all for their work on grant applications and letters of support. The commission granted an additional \$50M to cover express lane revenue shortage and make it whole for the next few years. Donnelly commended Gilliland's fervent effort in obtaining the additional funding.
- I-25 Express Lane from US 36- 120th -will be free for a trial period and is worth trying out. Reports so far are good and traffic flow has improved on all lanes. They are working on a way to mark a confusing section near Denver at I-270.
- Berthoud Hill Climbing Lanes Project- scheduled to break ground on May 19th.

CDOT Region 4

Olson briefly reviewed the CDOT Project Status Updates (May 2016) with the Council and reported on the following:

- I-25 Grant funding- still short \$500,000. A meeting is scheduled with Berthoud discuss their commitment and they are continuing to work with Greeley, who has provided a letter of support, on a possible commitment in the near future. He is confident they will receive the money needed.
- TIGER Grant- has been submitted looks very promising. Project is now \$237M as \$2M in ITS infrastructure was added, also \$5M from DTR for the park and ride @ Kendall Parkway.

- Flood program- permanent repair total is currently \$629M- have \$450M, may not be able to complete project in three years but want to at least complete the design.
- LaPorte Bypass- utilities are being moved. This will be the first roundabout in the region on a major arterial.
- Berthoud Hill Climbing Lanes- there will be a groundbreaking ceremony hopefully before May 19. Aaron Greco is in charge of the event.

North I-25 Funding Subcommittee

Horak announced the next meeting would be at 11:30 on May 13th at Perkins Crossroads.

North I-25 Coalition

Shaffer reported that the Coalition has been focusing on communications to help get Senate Bill 16-210 passed through the House. Gilliland commented that CDOT was neutral on the bill and would not be taking a position.

STAC Report

Blackmore briefly reviewed the STAC Summary- April 29th, 2016.

Host Council Report

Shaffer welcomed everyone to Loveland and recognized Loveland City Council member, Dave Clark and Public Works Director, Leah Browder. She also thanked Brenda Browning for her assistance in getting the meeting set up. She then reported on the following:

- Railroad Avenue – bridge reconstruction and flood recovery repairs will begin in October.
- Governor's Art Show- is on now through May 29th. It features Colorado artists and is sponsored by two local Rotary Clubs.
- US 34 at Boyd Lake Avenue- currently in Phase I of intersection improvements and preparation for US 34 widening
- Taft Avenue Bridge- replacement and bridge widening to begin in October.
- Larimer County Road 3 – working with the County provide road construction and maintenance.
- September projects- Byrd Drive Extension, Crossroads Blvd. to Earhart Drive, reconstruction of 14th Street southwest of Railroad to Taft Ave., major street overlay on Wilson Avenue.

Larimer County- Donnelly proudly announced that College for Kids at Aims Community College is celebrating 36 years of summer educational fun and this year, students ages nine to 13 will take two classes a day for just \$50 thanks to Larimer County's contribution of an additional \$50 to every child who participates at the Loveland Campus. The classes run Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weld County- Cozad commented that it was great to be sitting at the MPO Council table again and noted that she has been involved with the efforts of the US 34, I-25 and US 85 coalitions, as well as MPO meetings, whenever possible. She then reported on the following:

- CR 49- will be complete in two construction seasons. Weld County is funding \$150M using cash for the project. Updates can be viewed on the Weld County website.
- Bright Futures Program- provides funding for post-secondary education for every High School student, GED recipient and veteran in Weld County. The County exceeded its fundraising goal of \$1M by more than \$100,000 so far, and is still receiving donations. The program is expected to make a substantial impact on their economy and workforce.

Greeley- Norton reported that the group Stop Taxes on Private Projects that was trying to force a vote on a city ordinance authorizing a 60-year lease for the property at 919 7th St., where a hotel will be built, only received 88 of the 1,602 signatures required to get it on the ballot. He also noted that there will be in excess of \$200M in new construction projects in Greeley over the next year, including a major building project at UNC.

Milliken- Measner thanked the MPO for their part in funding the Poudre River Trail which will be completed very soon.

Johnstown- Mellon announced that Johnstown's BBQ Day is June 4th. He also noted Johnstown will be signing the \$1M allocation for I-25 for the grants or for any future I-25 project at their next town meeting

Eaton- Ross reported that the Town of Eaton had approved the first phase of a development project south of Governor's Ranch and they continue to work on their stoplight project at US 85.

Windsor- Baker announced that Kristie Melendez was the newly elected Mayor of Windsor and would be the MPO Council member, he will continue as the alternate. Paul Rennemeyer, Ken Bennett and Brenden Boudreau were also elected to the Windsor Town Council. He then reported on the following:

- Railroad Crossing Quiet Zones- Work is continuing on the TIGER Grant funded project.
- Windsor Rec Center Expansion- is progressing on schedule and should be complete at the end of August.
- I-25 TIGER/FASTLANE Grants- Windsor has committed to \$1M

Timnath- Steinway reported that the Harmony Road project bids came in much higher than expected so they are considering options that will allow them to continue the project this year. Timnath has proudly contributed \$500,000 to the I-25 project.

Berthoud- Hindman announced that he and Jennifer Baker had been assigned to the MPO Council in the Town of Berthoud's recent election process.

- Berthoud Hill Climbing Lanes- residents are very excited for the project to break ground as it will make I-25 access much safer and allow for the new Love's Travel Stop to be completed at the corner.
- TIGER Grant- Berthoud still considering their contribution to the funding, but do plan to participate.
- SH 56 – new pavement being laid between the roundabout and I-25.

Fort Collins- Horak encouraged members of the Council send comments to Blackmore by July 5th on how their communities have been affected by the Train Horn Noise Rule since it became effective. He noted that there will also be a session on it at the Council of Municipal League (CML) Convention in June. He announced that he had received information during the meeting that Senate Bill 16-210 had passed appropriations and would go to a 2nd and 3rd reading prior to going before the House on May 9th.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

There was no comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topics and Suggestions:

- 1) RAQC will report on the SIP and Ozone Action Program
- 2) Megan Castle will present on the Express Lane/I-25 Expansion

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff