

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

**August 4, 2016  
Riverside Library & Cultural Events Center  
Banquet Room  
3700 Golden Street  
Evans, CO**

**Voting Members**

**Present**

**Gerry Horak-Chair** -Fort Collins  
 Jennifer Baker -Berthoud  
 Kevin Ross -Eaton  
 John Morris -Evans  
 Robb Casseday -Greeley  
 Troy Mellon -Johnstown  
 Tom Donnelly -Larimer County  
 Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
 Linda Measner -Milliken  
 Don Brookshire -Severance  
 Paul Steinway -Timnath  
 Johnny Olson -Trans. Commission/  
 CDOT R-4  
 Sean Conway -Weld County  
 Kristie Melendez -Windsor

**Absent**

Chris Colclasure -CDPHE  
 Joan Shaffer -Loveland  
 \*No member -Garden City

**MPO Staff:**

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, Aaron Buckley and Medora Kealy, Transportation Planners; Shane Armstrong, Vanpool Services Coordinator; Val Vollman, Administrative Specialist/Title VI Coordinator.

**In Attendance:**

Gary Cyr, Leah Browder, Joel Hemesath, Myron Hora, Wayne Howard, Will Karspeck, Jason Licon, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Karen Schneiders, Fred Starr, Steve Teets, Gary Thomas, Jason Wallis.

Vice Chair Ross called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Steve Teets, Citizen's Bus Improvement Committee, Chairman, Greeley, stated that on the east side of the underpass at 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and US 34 there were two cement slabs coming up, one very pronounced. He wondered if the State could do something to fix the problem before it gets worse, and expressed his concern for driver's safety. He said that he had mentioned the problem to Joel Hemesath who recommended he approach the State, so he brought it to the MPO Council in hopes they would communicate with the right people to get it fixed. Secondly, he pointed to Mayor Norton's comments from

the June meeting regarding medical rides for people with disabilities and seniors that are on Medicaid and Total Transit not always doing their job well and sometimes even using the cab companies and Greeley-Evans Transit (GET). He went to the Weld County Commissioners to discuss the problems that exist for these people and wanted the Council to also understand that the transportation situation is horrible for many people. He thanked Blackmore, the MPO and the City of Evans for their efforts regarding the gap between Hill N' Park and local bus service. He asked that the Council bring their resources together to get a route system developed and consider that they are all neighbors and added that providing this service to the nearly 800 people in Hill N' Park would help both Greeley and Evans since many of those people want to shop in their cities. He said he knows that funding is often available but goes to other places.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:**

Vice Chair Ross suggested that the Report of the Chair be moved to the Council Reports section of the meeting as Chair Horak was at a City of Fort Collins event and would be late.

*Conway **moved** that the Report of the Chair be moved to the Council Reports section of the meeting and the agenda be approved as amended. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

*Conway **moved** to approve the July 7, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

### **Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

Vice Chair Ross opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

#### Air Pollution Control Division Report

A written report was provided. Conway requested APCD staff evaluate the impact of smoke on the exceedances in the North Front Range area, specifically Weld/Greeley Tower. Blackmore agreed to relay the request to Colclasure.

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Vice Chair Ross opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

#### Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, indicated that the August 2016 Director's Report Addendum had been handed out and then highlighted the following items:

- CDOT Transportation Summit 2016
- Electric Driving Experience
- \*Casseday added that registration was also open on an Electric Vehicle Workshop on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 at the DRCOG office in Denver.
- FHWA Alternative Fuel Corridors Work Group
- Future Projections and Census Data
- Bike/Pedestrian Counters
- Alternative Fuels Map-

Conway explained that at the July STAC meeting that FHWA suggested that by August 1<sup>st</sup> each state submit a list of highways they would like to designate as alternative fuel corridors. There is currently no funding connected with this however, it was part of the Highway

Reauthorization Bill and seems likely that some money will go to these corridors. He thanked and praised Blackmore, Elizabeth Relford from Weld County and Elise Jones from Boulder County for their efforts participating in the process and proudly announced the following Northern Colorado corridors had been successfully designated as Tier I Alternative Fuel Corridors:

- I-70: Utah State Line to Kansas State Line -CNG/Electric/Hydro
- I-25: Wyoming State Line to New Mexico State Line -CNG/Electric
- US 34: Loveland to I-76 -CNG/Electric
- US 85: I-76 in Denver to Wyoming State Line- CNG only

Conway indicated that this is still a work in progress and he will report any updated information from the STAC working group back to the Council at the next meeting. CDOT is required by FHWA to submit these designations on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and then a confirmation letter will be sent to STAC at the end of the month.

Blackmore showed a photo of the new Ozone Aware bus advertisements (bus backs) that will be on Transfort, FLEX, COLT and GET buses and indicated that she would like to consider cobranding with VanGo™ in the future.

Two new MPO staff members, Shane Armstrong, Van Pool Services Coordinator and Val Vollman, Administrative Specialist/Title VI Coordinator who will handle VanGo™ billing, were introduced to the Council.

***Vice Chair Ross turned the meeting over to Chair Horak at 6:20 p.m.***

TAC:

A written report was provided.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Additional STP Metro, CMAQ and TAP Funding Allocation

Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner, briefly reviewed information from the Agenda Item Summary (AIS) with the Council.

*Conway **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-13 adopting an Amendment to the FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Regarding Allocation of Additional STP Metro and CMAQ funding. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

FY2016 Q3 TIP Amendment – US 34 PEL

Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner, briefly reviewed information from the AIS with the Council. Blackmore noted that this would be the only item on the agenda for September if it was not approved at the August meeting.

*Casseday **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-14 adopting an Amendment to the FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Regarding Transferring FY19 RPP Funds from NFR I-25: Post EIS Design & ROW to US 34: PEL Study. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Conway thanked the Council for the US 34 PEL study funding on behalf of the US 34 Coalition.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Greeley-Weld County Airport

Gary Cyr, Greeley-Weld County Airport Manager, showed the Greeley-Weld County Airport (GWC Airport) video to the Council. After challenging the Council to guess how many aircraft were based at the GWC Airport he specified there were 220 based aircraft and then highlighted some of the corporate aircraft also based there. Conway asked Cyr to discuss the corporate relationship the airport has with AIMS Community College. Cyr briefly described AIMS robust flight education program at the airport. He also discussed the current \$1.46M expansion of the airport terminal and board room as a multi-use space as well as the replacement of very old asphalt on the west side of the complex. The airport is anticipating receiving a grant from the FAA for \$6.5M for the runway rehabilitation of their 10,000 foot runway, the longest runway in Northern Colorado, north of DIA. Bid requests for the 2017 runway project went out at the end of July. The airport had the honor of hosting the Rocky Mountain Air Show in 2014 and on May 21st EAA Chapter 1117 and Aims Community College hosted the 2016 International Learn to Fly Day Event at the airport at which over 200 participants attended. He commented that exposure for the airport is key to its success. Horak asked what the airports revenue sources were. Cyr indicated that their four sources of income were ground rental, hangar rental, fuel flowage fees and business licenses. Conway proudly noted that there was no funding from the City of Greeley or Weld County.

### Northern Colorado Regional Airport

Jason Licon, Northern Colorado Regional Airport (NCR Airport) Director, gave the NCR Airport presentation to the Council. Baker enquired about a start date for the remote tower project. Licon replied that although the FAA was currently still looking to procure a private entity to develop the project's video and tracking technologies and then create the system, they are hoping to see some progress this year. He explained that regular towers can cost \$5M- \$7M and take 5-7 years to complete, but the remote tower should be less expensive and take less time. Cyr declared that the GWC Airport had strongly supported the location of the project at the NCR Airport. Licon offered to share updates on the project with the Council as they became available and added that it is already capturing international attention because it is so advanced and innovative. Horak asked what attributes of the NCR Airport were different from the GWC Airport. Licon responded that basically the NCR Airport was primarily corporate and general aviation and GWC Airport's focus was primarily commercial service, emphasizing that the two complement each other well and that the interaction between them provides a critical transportation asset to the region. Horak thanked Cyr and Licon for their presentations as well as Steinway for recommending they present to the Council.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

### Northern Colorado Freight Corridors

Jason Wallis, CDOT Freight and Planning Analysis Program Manager, reviewed the Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors July 2016 and Critical Freight Corridor Designation Map information with the Council. Conway questioned if there was a specific allocation for each MPO within the state. Wallis replied there was not. Conway asked how the municipalities should prioritize if they do not know how many road miles the NFRMPO is able to submit. Wallis replied that they were using some creative terminology for what a network is and explained that instead of designating miles they would be identifying appropriate projects.

Conway asked Olson if CDOT had everything they needed for the I-25 corridor in regards to the TIGER Grant, and if this funding would then be in addition to that. Olson confirmed that was correct. Donnelly asked if there were corridors on the map that were on both the National Highway Freight Network and Colorado Freight Network as they were both light and dark green, and for clarification of which network included US 85. Wallis replied the light green corridors were part of the National Highway System and US 85 was on both networks and indicated the map primarily showed what was eligible for designation, the interstates were removed from the map given to the

Council because they are already considered part of the National Highway Freight Network. Conway questioned whether they should include the US 34 PEL for designation as it would likely be a project in the future. Olson explained they would do that only if it was a quick expenditure project that would be done in the next year or two to maximize those dollars. He added the process was adaptive, but it would require a submission to the Freight Advisory Council, DTR, and DTD requesting the project get on their priority list. Wallis clarified that the process had not been completely established yet, but currently when a project that used formula freight funds is complete, CDOT will pull those miles back into their pool and redesignate them. Olson clarified that to apply for the next round of FASTLANE, projects would have to be on the NHS and designated on the Colorado Freight Corridor. Conway observed that SH 14 should be designated as NHS on the map. Olson responded that was correct as it connects two interstates and is critical to the system. He assured the Council the map would be corrected and Wallis committed to the Council he would ensure the mapping tool was correct. Olson confirmed that no action was currently needed from the Council.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### Transportation Commission Report

Olson reported that the Transportation Commission had ranked their priorities for 2017 at their retreat in July. These priorities will be made public once they work through all of the details. CDOT has budgeted to spend \$790M this fiscal year and they spent \$764M which was an achievement they were recognized for and is allowing them to now align more with policy and get out from under PMO and cash management. They will need to start adjusting their expenditure curves over the next year as RAMP is complete.

### CDOT Region 4

Olson proudly announced that a \$15M TIGER grant had been awarded and although it was \$10M less than had been applied for, it was considered a huge success and indicated that it was very likely CDOT would be funding the remaining of the \$202M needed for the I-25 project. He noted that they would continue to seek other funding including \$7M in RAMP discretionary funds through the HPTE Development Fund, TNR and RPP money. Although there are concerns regarding timing for approval of the I-25 south to 56 in the RTP with air quality conformance due to questions with AQCC schedule they hope to have the project in its design phase by fall with construction beginning in January 2017 and completed in 2020.

He also announced that at the North I-25 Local Funding partners meeting earlier in the evening the elected officials that had committed money to the North I-25 project had selected Suzette Mallette, Larimer County Transportation Program Manager, as the Coalition's local designee. Janet Lundquist, Engineering Support Services Manager for Weld County Public Works, will be the alternate. Their roles and responsibilities will be defined in writing in the next few weeks.

The Berthoud Hill Project is on track for a December 2016 opening, but it may be sooner. A contractor has been selected for the Crossroads project which should begin sometime in August. Horak commended Olson and Gilliland, on behalf of the MPO, for their work on the commission and the many successes, such as the Berthoud Hill Project, they had experienced, especially over the past year, and encouraged them to continue to look for funding that would allow them to keep moving forward. Brookshire complimented CDOT with how well traffic has been moving through the Berthoud Hill project.

### Highway 34 Coalition

Conway reported that the 34 Coalition members selected Janet Lundquist to assist CDOT with the consultant selection.

### I-25 Coalition

Conway noted his pleasure with CDOT's commitment to fund the \$237M needed for the I-25 project. He announced that David May had given a presentation on a new TRANS Bond II strategy that he will be taking to the Legislature and asking them to refer a measure to voters this fall. The measure would permit the state to issue transportation bonds for construction. Basically, this would be a renewal of the TRANS bond program voters approved in 1999. He encouraged Council members to continue to communicate with their legislators. Conway proudly announced that Fix North I-25 Coalition, the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance and the North I-25 Coalition have been awarded A Regional Spirit Award by BizWest's Bravo! Entrepreneur Awards. There will be an awards ceremony breakfast is on August 17<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. He acknowledged the Council for their collaborative work with CDOT and others.

### STAC Report

Conway reported that the STAC retreat will be held on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and noted that this year all the transportation commissioners have been invited.

Evans (Host Council) - Morris welcomed everyone to Evans and reported the following:

- Construction began on the new Kum N' Go market store at 31<sup>st</sup> Street and US 85. There are approximately twelve acres south of the store that the City has designated for pad site and development.
- An MPO Access Control Project is expected to get underway for 37<sup>th</sup> Street and US 85 in the month of August and it will include shutting off some frontage road access and rerouting traffic.

Berthoud- Baker complimented CDOT on the Berthoud Hill project and noted how important the project is to the Town of Berthoud's community and announced that Berthoud will have a special election on August 9<sup>th</sup> to elect a new mayor.

Greeley- Casseday reported the following:

- Summer events are wrapping up for the year. Friday Fest will continue through September.
- CDOT is working on a traffic light solution for the intersection of the US 34 Bypass and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street (Two Rivers Parkway) to help with increased traffic due to recent development in the area. It was moved to a number one priority following the most recent accident there. If necessary an interim solution will be used until a permanent one can be funded.

Larimer County- Donnelly invited everyone to the Larimer County Fair that would be kicking off on August 5<sup>th</sup> and running through August 8<sup>th</sup> at The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex, located in Loveland. The free annual event includes a carnival, parade, rodeo, and 4H Exhibitors. He boasted that Larimer County has the largest 4H program in the State of Colorado.

Johnstown- Mellon reported on the following:

- Gravel road on SH60 east of I-25 intersection known as LCR14/ WCR50, is paving the 2 ½ mile section that meets up to the paved section of WCR 50. It is a \$1.6M project that is important to the town because it completes the north Johnstown bypass and will relieve traffic on SH60. The project is also expected to be submitted for the Call for Projects.

Windsor- Melendez announced the following:

- Windsor will have \$6M of street maintenance, which includes an extension off of Liberty Road and a roundabout, completed at the beginning of October.
- The town is anxiously awaiting the arrival of Jimmy Johns and a drive-thru Starbucks which will be breaking ground soon.
- The Revitalization of the Old Mill project is awaiting the results of a feasibility study to determine what type of redevelopment can be done.

Severance- Brookshire reported the following:

- Phase I of Severance's Downtown Improvement Project, which includes storm drainage and roadway enhancements, is expected to be completed by the end of summer.
- Severance Days are August 12 & 13. All are invited to attend.

LaSalle- Cochran announced the following:

- The Public Works department will work with LaSalle residents on cleaning up from the recent hail storm
- New housing development, Dove Hill is in progress west of US 85.
- School starts August 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone should use extra caution at the US 85 crossing.

Milliken- Measner reported the following:

- The MPO thanked for the newly completed Trail system which is getting a lot of use.
- Milliken's new Field House also getting a lot of use.
- Beef 'N Bean Day is August 13<sup>th</sup>. The event starts at 6 a.m. with a breakfast. All are invited.

Fort Collins- Horak thanked the entire Council for their efforts with the North I-25 project and noted the remarkable progress made over the past two years and he requested that there be an I-25 update with a timeline on the Council's regular meeting agenda. He then reported that Blackmore had provided the Council with her goals and accomplishments for the past year in preparation for the Executive Director Evaluation process. The Executive Committee (Horak, Ross and Conway) are scheduled to meet with MPO staff on September 12<sup>th</sup> to help determine which evaluation process will be appropriate to administer in October. The results of that survey will go to the Council in November in preparation for the Executive Session discussion in December. In January there will be an Executive Session and negotiation with Blackmore. Horak vowed to stay on the schedule stated in the Articles of Association. He credited Blackmore with being an integral part of the I-25 process, especially over the past year, noting not only her participation, but also her leadership role with the North I-25 Funding Subcommittee and others, noting he had not seen that type of commitment from any other MPO Executive Director.

Conway recognized Horak for his participation and leadership in with the North I-25 project citing his commitment for Fort Collins to cover the potential \$0.25M shortfall as well as chairing the North I-25 Funding Subcommittee.

Horak finished his report by announcing that the City of Fort Collins was working with Larimer County, Timnath and CDOT on a time-sensitive GOCO Grant for \$1M -\$2M to help with a project that will allow the Poudre River Trail to go safely under I-25. The project will allow access to the 30 mile section of the trail that goes all the way from Watson Lake to Greeley.

**MEETING WRAP-UP:**Final Public Comment:

Steve Teets, Citizen's Bus Improvement Committee, Chairman, Greeley, complimented Blackmore for doing an excellent job. He also complimented Julie Cozad, Weld County Commissioner, and Menda Warne, Executive Director at Access and Ability, for their help with Hill N' Park project he had mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. He referenced the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan for the NFRMPO and stated he thought US 34 should go all the way to Orchard Square and not just to I-25 as shown in the Transit Plan, as it would then tie into FLEX and be able to go north and south in Greeley. He also asked for an update on the success of Bustang. Olson responded that the most successful routes were currently Denver to Grand Junction and Denver to Fort Collins, which may get an additional bus and added that the one route struggling was Denver to Colorado Springs. The program is doing very well and will be considering rural routes to tie to local routes and providers. Teets said he would like to see Greeley get a connection with Bustang. Horak thanked Teets for his comments.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

*Casseday **moved** to approve cancelling the September 1, 2016 Council meeting. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff