

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

**November 3, 2016
Eaton Public Library
132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Kevin Ross-Vice Chair -Eaton
Jennifer Baker -Berthoud
John Morris -Evans
Robb Casseday -Greeley
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County
Paula Cochran -LaSalle
Joan Shaffer -Loveland
Linda Meisner -Milliken
Sean Conway -Weld County
Myles Baker -Windsor
Kathy Gilliland -Transportation
Commission

Absent

Gerry Horak -Fort Collins
Chris Colclasure -CDPHE
Troy Mellon -Johnstown
Don Brookshire -Severance
Paul Steinway -Timnath
*No Member -Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director; Aaron Buckley, Ryan Dusil and Medora Kealy, Transportation Planners.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Julie Cozad, Jim Eussen, Joel Hemesath, Wayne Howard, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Janet Lundquist, Steve Teets, Gary Thomas.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

*Conway **moved** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

*Casseday **moved** to approve the October 6, 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.

Regional Air Quality Council

There was no report. The meeting will be held November 4th.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Vice Chair Ross opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, introduced a new Transportation Planner, Ryan Dusil, to the Council then she briefly reviewed information from the November 2016 Director's Report and added the following:

- VW Proposed Partial Consent Decree- Blackmore added that a recommendation will be made at the November 4 RAQC meeting which will include increasing the transit portion and using the majority of the settlement money in the non-attainment area of the North Front Range. Because some states will not apply for the settlement money their portion will be divided among the states that do, which could potentially increase Colorado's current portion of \$61M.
- Audit- An interview will be held November 15th for the one firm that responded to the RFQ. Because their bid was based on an increased number of staff assigned to the audit process, Blackmore will try to negotiate for fewer staff and a lower cost.

Report of the Chair:

Vice Chair Ross reported that Chair Horak wanted the Council to be informed that the results of the Executive Director's evaluation survey will go out to the Council in November. He also indicated that as outlined in the Articles of Association, there will be an Executive Session at the December Council meeting to complete the evaluation process and finalize any negotiations. In January, Council will have another Executive Session to review, discuss and deliberate, and vote on Blackmore's evaluation and contract as appropriate.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Finance:

Ross briefly reviewed the October 20, 2016 Finance Committee Report bullet points and minutes with the Council and highlighted the additional payroll funds requested for the general increase to salaries and overtime pay needed to stay in compliance with the new overtime law going into effect December 1. He also reviewed information on the VanGo™ Summary of FY 2017 Budget Amendment #1 Request with the Council.

CONSENT ITEM:

Open 2040 RTP Amendment Public Comment

Ross asked if there was any public comment on the 2014 RTP Amendment. Steve Teets, Citizen's Bus Improvement Committee, Chairman, Greeley, commented that he read in the 2040 Regional Transportation Element (RTE) that there was only one route on US 34 from Greeley that stops at I-25 and said he thought it should be extended to the transfer center at Orchard Shopping Center. He also

said he had heard the transfer center was being moved and asked where and why. Shaffer responded the City of Loveland wanted to expand the transfer center but the private property owners of the space had no interest in expanding the facility, so the center will have to be relocated. Teets suggested there should be a route on US 34 that connected to both FLEX and Bustang at I-25.

*Morris **moved** to Release the 2040 RTP Amendment for Public Comment. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Blackmore noted that the 2040 RTP Amendment Public Comment period would be open for the federally required 45 days and ending December 18th. The amendment will be on the January Council agenda for action and approval.

ACTION ITEMS:

FY2017 UPWP Amendment

Blackmore reviewed information from the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP) Amendment memo and resolution with the Council, reminding them that because the rent for the MPO Office had not been determined in 2016, only a one year UPWP had been drafted previously and it was now necessary to do an amendment to incorporate the remaining FY 2016 funding.

*Shaffer **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-15 approving the First Amendment to the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

FY 2020 & 2021 Call for Projects Recommendations

Karasko briefly reviewed information from the FY 2020 -2021 Call for Projects Recommendations memo and resolution. Conway confirmed that there had been no changes since the recommendations had been presented to the Council in October. Ross noted that documents from the 2014 Call for Projects process regarding project selection and scoring criteria had been emailed to Council on October 24th to address concerns presented by Norton at the October 6th meeting.

*Casseday **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-16 adopting the FY 2020-2021 Call for Projects. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEM

2016 Q4 TIP Amendments-

Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner briefly reviewed information from the 2016 Q4 TIP Amendment AIS with the Council, and clarified that the numbers are represented in thousands, therefore the total funding amounts would equal \$195M (Federal \$61,001M + State \$112,433M + Local \$22,050M). He confirmed this conversion will be noted on future documents. The 2016 Q4 TIP Amendments will be on the December agenda for action and approval.

PRESENTATION

NFRMPO Website Upgrade

Medora Kealy, Transportation Planner, explained that the MPO website had been updated by staff to reduce the cost of the host and content management system, gain more control and make it more mobile-friendly. She then presented the NFRMPO Website Update to the Council, identifying new attributes and functionality of the updated website. Ross and other Council members praised Kealy and the MPO staff for their time and effort on the new website, citing it was now much more user-friendly.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported on the following:

- CDOT's 2016 Transportation Summit was very successful, sold out. She thanked all who attended and mentioned she would like to get some of Utah's presentation slides to the Council, to show their impressive per capita transportation spending as well as the increased budget they give their committee when they have only half the expenses of Colorado.
- I-25 funding is currently secure, even with Governor Hickenlooper's reduction in SB 228 money.
- OTTO, Uber's self-driving Truck Company, partnered with Budweiser to complete the first real-world commercial shipment using an autonomous truck to haul more than 50,000 cans of beer from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs. There was a driver tucked in the sleeper berth who monitored the two-hour voyage. More test runs will be done in the near future.

CDOT Region 4

Jim Eussen, CDOT R4 noted the Council had received the CDOT Project Status Updates (October 25) handout and offered to answer questions. Conway asked about North I-25 and the completion date for the Berthoud Hill Project. Eussen explained that although the project will not be completed until spring 2017 the third lane on southbound I-25 near the Berthoud exit is still scheduled to be open to traffic on December 1, if not sooner. He also announced that award letters for full and partial TAP project funding had gone out and many North Front Range projects had been selected. Gilliland asked about the new round of Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grants that had been issued. Blackmore noted that although the process was starting earlier this year they will still have only six weeks to complete applications. She suggested that with the I-25 expansion project not rolling yet it may not be beneficial to apply for FASTLANE money. Blackmore also noted that the criteria was for projects starting at \$100M that either had a freight component or were a bottleneck solution. She explained the Council would need to choose projects immediately in order to have the application ready by the deadline. There was a comprehensive discussion regarding the logistics of applying for the currently issued FASTLANE funding and projects coming out of the US 85 PEL.

Gilliland cautioned that although new community projects that connected to the I-25 expansion project could be brought forward from the US 34 PEL, if they change the scope the cost will be carried over to the communities. She also noted that even though the budget proposal from Governor Hickenlooper included more cutbacks in funding than expected, CDOT wants to work in whatever projects they can, but they must be presented, with funding, by January. Blackmore added that smaller projects could be funded with Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds. Eussen and Conway noted that Spaghetti Junction and US 85 to 104th north were two top priority projects for new FASTLANE funding. The Council briefly discussed the two potential projects noting that the particulars were not yet clear and more information would be available in the coming months, following on-going negotiations.

North I-25 Coalition

Conway reported the following:

- The Coalition had a successful meeting with the Transportation Coalition on November 2nd.
- All legislators have been invited to the December 7th meeting. The Coalition will request at the minimum they keep State transportation funding at the current level, based on budget projections. All are invited and encouraged to attend.
- Sandra Solin and David May gave an update on the development of a potential bill which was predicated on the six principles that the Coalition adopted.

Highway 34 Coalition

There was no report. The next meeting is at 4pm on January 5th in Milliken.

STAC Report

Conway thanked Gilliland and other Transportation Commissioners who attended the very successful STAC meeting on October 28th where many misperceptions were broken down. There will now be a luncheon with the two groups at least twice a year to continue to improve communication and relationships.

Host Council Member Report- Ross thanked everyone for coming to Eaton. He recognized the efforts of Chris Bagley, Town Clerk, who arranged the food and room setup. He acknowledged McCarty's at the Eaton Country Club for providing the food. He encouraged everyone to drive by the new Eaton Town Square on Collins Street and the progress of the new Eaton Recreation Center on 3rd Street at County Road 35, which will be opening in June. He noted there is a new subdivision on the south side of town as well as a CNG fueling station on the east side of US 85 which has been instrumental for several CNG vehicles in Eaton and Greeley. Dominoes will be opening soon as will other businesses that have not yet been officially announced. He proudly stated that the Eaton Public Library was designed by Roger Thorp and paid for with cash by the Eaton Library District.

Loveland- Shaffer announced that Loveland's Halloween celebration was very successful. Loveland City attorney, Tami Yellico, has taken a position as Municipal Legal Services Manager at the Colorado Municipal League (CML), Claybourne Douglas will be the interim. Steve Adams is doing well in his new position as Loveland City Manager. She wished everyone good luck in the upcoming elections.

Windsor- Myles Baker reported the following:

- Windsor's Community Recreation Center (CRC) is now open they held a Ribbon Cutting event on October 8th
- Northern Colorado's Largest Pickle Ball complex was opened in Windsor. The outdoor complex has 6 courts. The sport — combines elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton.
- Windsor's \$3.3M TIGER grant project, the Railroad Quiet Zone Certification Program, will begin the 21-day waiting period in November with completion by the end of the year.
- The \$13M Public Works Facility has broken ground. \$1.5M came from DOLA, the remainder is being paid in cash.
- New Liberty Road, which runs east and west from the west side of Water Valley towards CR 13, will be completed soon.

LaSalle- Cochran reported that residents were beginning to move in to the new Dove Hill subdivision. She also noted that a new concession stand complex was going in near the baseball diamonds.

Evans- Morris announced the following:

- US 85 Access Control Plan identified improvement on 37th Street and Highway 85 is in process and scheduled to be completed by the beginning of June 2017.
- Final flood repairs are being made on Brantner Road and Industrial Road.
- Engineering plans for Riverside Park are 90% complete. They hope to break ground in December.

Weld County- Conway reported that the Weld County Commissioners had toured WCR 49 which is progressing well and is on schedule. Cozad is working with Morris and others on the WCR 54 project. Also, WCR 29 has a working group keeping the projects infrastructure needs on target, the state demographer has predicted there will be 490K travelers on portions of that road in the next 20 years.

Greeley- Casseday announced the following:

- Greeley citizens excited that West 20th Street between 71st Avenue and 83rd Avenue has been widened to four lanes.
- Two community meetings were held to discuss what the next twenty years will look like for the City of Greeley. There was a lot of good feedback regarding transportation issues that need addressed.
- All are invited to the Greeley Lights the Night Parade at 5:30 on Saturday, November 26th from 9th Avenue to Lincoln Park. More than 50 floats are participating.

Milliken- Measner thanked the Council for the very nice get-well card she had received in October. She reported that Milliken's Field House was open and their recreation department was making good use of the new facility which is expected to have a substantial amount of traffic. They are considering the installation of a second stoplight to mitigate congestion at that intersection. Milliken is working on their town budget and look forward to finalizing it very soon.

Berthoud- Jennifer Baker reported that the Berthoud Town Board had approved renovations at the Guaranty Bank & Trust building that will soon house their new Town Council Chambers in its basement. The facility will be nearly double the size of their current facility and is expected to be completed at the first of the year. Berthoud held a very successful Strategic Planning Session on October 28th and 29th with the new Town Board and Mayor. They reviewed their 20-year plan and aligned many town board goals with staff.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

Steve Teets, Citizen's Bus Improvement Committee, Chairman, Greeley, commented that the connecting van that had been going from Loveland to Greeley and back for medical trips and had allowed others to ride had stopped in September. He encouraged the Council to bring back the 34 Express. He also requested information for a better transportation plan from the 34 Express Subcommittee be provided to him. He said he understood that the plan was to have a route from downtown Greeley to Loveland's Orchard Square. He said he thought that was a good transit system that would have lasted. He added that people from Loveland and Fort Collins that rode the connecting van wanted to go into Greeley for medical treatment as well. He believes all communities would benefit from having transit along US 34 like the connecting van sponsored by several organizations that was intended for patients but others were also able to ride. He also commented that he was surprised to see the much-needed work being done on US 85 between Eaton and Greeley. He asked if the project was eventually going to go up north and down south to Platteville. Ross replied that he understood that currently the intersection at SH 392 and US 85 was being completely redone, with pavement from O Street north to Eaton and then eventually to Ault. Blackmore agreed to look into providing Teets with information from the 34 Express Subcommittee Plan.

Next Month's Agenda Topic and Suggestions:

- 1) MPO Officer Elections

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff