

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introductions

In attendance:

- ❖ Aaron Buckley, North Front Range MPO
- ❖ Annemarie Heinrich, Larimer County Health Department
- ❖ Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian/Scenic Byways
- ❖ Dawn Anderson, City of Evans
- ❖ Erika Benti, CSU
- ❖ Janet Meisel-Burns, City of Loveland
- ❖ Katie Guthrie, City of Loveland
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ Medora Kealy, NFRMPO
- ❖ Nancy Nichols, City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to Schools
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, North NFRMPO
- ❖ Suzanne Bassinger
- ❖ Tom Jones, Great Western Trail
- ❖ Wade Willis, Town of Windsor

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The February 8, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Regional Trail Updates

Buckley, Dusil, and Willis provided updates on non-motorized counts from the region. The group had a discussion on Eco Counter vs Jamar. Willis offered to present data on the MPO mobile counters in April. Willis offered an update on the Poudre Trail and their progress towards transitioning to a development position away from a manager position to look at the trail as more of a corridor.

4. I-25/Prospect Road Interchange Follow-Up

Dusil summarized the public comments and memo presented to TAC in February. A sub-group of NoCo held a conference call with Suzette Mallette of Larimer County on February 3rd. Mallette indicated the proposed grade separated crossings could be included in the project if the cities brought dedicated funding by March 31, 2017. Bassinger stated Fort Collins would not be pursuing Box Elder Creek as a possible crossing. Meisel-Burns would still like to see about improving Big Thompson Bridge for Regional Non-Motorized Corridor #3. The project may be added to an I-25 Additional Requested Elements (ARE) list for inclusion if there are significant efficiencies during construction.

5. February Workshop Recap / NoCo Workshop Committee

Dusil explained the February 8th Workshop, “Mobilizing Your Community’s Bicycle Safety Education Programs”, received great reviews. The event drew 22 participants. Feedback showed interest in a future workshop themes on how to create the curriculum for children’s and adult bicycling education programs. This may be the theme of a fall NoCo workshop.

Heinrich detailed the March 23rd summit, “Pathways to Health: Connecting Neighborhoods and Streets for All.” Dr. Richard Jackson will be the keynote speaker. There will be a panel on community engagement and equity, with breakout sessions on the connections between transportation, health, and the built environment.

Guthrie summarized the plan for a June 14th workshop in Loveland as one of the City’s Bike Month events. It will likely be an all-day event beginning with a speaker on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and livability. Participants will be introduced to bicycling, walking, and transit infrastructure audit tools and will perform an audit of their own on a short route in Loveland. Attendees will analyze the results together and discuss how infrastructure audit tools can be implemented across the region. Larimer County is investing in the MapMatters platform, an online bike/walk/transit/connectivity audit tool and will present it during the morning portion of the June workshop. Other audit tools might be presented to compare and contrast options that fit differing community needs. There will be a networking lunch followed by an afternoon audit where participants choose the mode they want to audit (bike, walk, or transit) using one of the tools presented. After the audit, participants will meet to share results, discuss what worked, what didn’t work, and more. Loveland will need help from NoCo with route development, test rides of the routes, and route leaders at the event.

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC) Discussion

Willis summarized the BPEC discussion from the December 14th, 2016 meeting. NoCo could possibly take on the educational components, giving them a regional focus. Guthrie suggested the group take on some of the roles because the loss of BPEC would leave a big gap in regional education. Jacobsen added she was very impressed with the Bicycle-Friendly Driver course. CDOT is putting in a budget request to turn the course into a statewide program, which would not conflict with NoCo taking on BPEC. Buckley added he will be leading educational courses for CSU. Meisel-Burns and others think it makes sense for NoCo to take on BPEC, and a sub-committee of NoCo members should have a conference call to discuss the program. Those in attendance who would like to be included in the sub-committee were Buckley, Dusil Guthrie, Heinrich, Jacobsen, Nichols, and Willis.

7. US 34 PEL Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Dusil explained Chris Vogelsang, a consultant from the US 34 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) project would like someone from NoCo to be on their TAC for a commitment of four meetings. Guthrie expressed interest in representing NoCo on the TAC. Vogelsang will be at the April TAC meeting to discuss existing conditions along the US 34 Corridor.

8. FY2018-2021 TIP Amendment Policy

Kealy explained changes to the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Policy. The changes will take effect in October for the FY2018-2021 TIP. The new procedure modifies the current Amendment and Modification language as well as public comment period timelines. It applies to projects receiving state or federal funding. This change would apply most directly to NoCo Bike & Ped with regards to Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funding.

9. Non-Motorized Plan Update

Dusil explained the 2016 Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) was approved at the February 2nd, 2017 Council meeting in Evans. The final document is on the NFRMPO website. Buckley and Dusil will present an overview of the NMP at the April meeting.

10. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

There will not be a March TAC Meeting

11. Updates / Other Business

Dusil passed out information on the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) Science Forum to be hosted on the University of Colorado-Boulder Campus on April 20th.

Beckstrom said the Wildcat Trail is underway with GOCO funding. If people are interested in riding the route on fat tire bikes before construction, contact Leslie. Riders will be filmed via drone and are encouraged to wear helmet cameras.

Meisel-Burns mentioned the Front Range Trail is going out to bid on March 16th. They hope to start work around Memorial Day and should be done before Labor Day. Meisel-Burns also provided an update on the Carpenter Road project. Regarding these projects and Long View Trail, an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Larimer County, Fort Collins and Loveland still needs to be completed. The projects are about 3 months apart from one another.

Bassingier provided a Fossil Creek Trail Update. The city is working on boring under the railroad to connect Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area to the Mason Trail. The city is also working with land owners to move portions of the trail off the street. They hope to begin construction in the fall and finish in 2018.

Jones stated three engineering firms are looking at the Great Western Trail Project for seven miles of construction. They are looking to create a foundation for the project to leverage funding. Jones would like help from anyone who has experience in starting foundations.

Jacobsen provided an update on the Colorado Downtown Streets Manual and Main Street Program. CDOT will host a workshop in each region. The Region 4 workshop will take place in Brush on Friday, March 24th.

Nichols provided an update on The Big Jump Project Grant the city received from People for Bikes. Fort Collins was the smallest of ten recipient cities. The grant will be used to double or triple bike ridership in District 6, Northwest Fort Collins.