

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

**August 3, 2017  
Johnstown Community Center  
101 Charlotte Street  
Johnstown, CO**

**Voting Members**

**Present**

**Kevin Ross- Chair** -Eaton  
Jennifer Baker -Berthoud  
John Morris -Evans  
Gerry Horak -Fort Collins  
Troy Mellon -Johnstown  
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County  
Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
Dave Clark -Loveland  
Don Brookshire -Severance  
Julie Cozad -Weld County  
Kristie Melendez -Windsor  
Kathy Gilliland -Transportation  
Commission

**Absent**

Chris Colclasure -CDPHE  
Robb Casseday -Greeley  
Linda Measner -Milliken  
Paul Steinway -Timnath  
  
\*No member -Garden City

**MPO Staff:**

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator; Medora Kealy, Ryan Dusil and Sarah Martin Transportation Planners.

**In Attendance:**

David Averill, Jeff Bailey, Dot Dickerson, James Eussen, Matthew Gordon, Will Jones, Joel Hemesath, Wayne Howard, Chris Johnson, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Mitch Nelson, Kim Redd, Karen Schneiders, Robin Stoneman.

Chair Ross called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ross acknowledged Kim Redd, District Advocate for Congressman Jared Polis office was in the audience and thanked her for attending.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:**

*MELLON **MOVED** TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 3, 2017 MEETING AGENDA. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

*CLARK **MOVED** TO APPROVE THE JULY 6, 2017 MEETING MINUTES. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

## Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Ross opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

### Air Pollution Control Division

No report was provided.

## Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Ross opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### REPORTS:

#### Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, noted the August 3, 2017 Director's Report was in the packet and there was no addendum. She informed the Council because no auto makers could certify their steel was made in the US the MPO will be required to submit a Buy America Waiver in order to purchase a replacement vehicle for the Honda Civic scheduled to go to auction August 4<sup>th</sup>. She indicated the waiver would be submitted in the next round but was uncertain when that would be, as the FHWA had not approved the round last fall. She highlighted the Land Use and Water Training from her report adding the MPO wants to incorporate that data into their projections and be able to provide assistance to the smaller communities that don't have water specialists on staff.

#### Report of the Chair:

Chair Ross reported the Executive Committee had received the Executive Director's updated Goals and Accomplishments and he was in accordance with the information provided, citing Blackmore's excellence in meeting with the communities and staying within the budget. He explained the report was part of the Executive Director Evaluation guideline adding the Executive Committee would also be meeting with MPO staff in September as part of that process which is outlined in the Articles of Association.

#### TAC:

A written report was provided.

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### CDOT Transportation Summit Table

Blackmore reviewed information from the CDOT Transportation Summit memo with the Council. Several Council members agreed it would be beneficial to have a table at the event as it had been well-received the previous year and allowed for great networking opportunities. Blackmore confirmed no budget amendment was necessary to fund the purchase. Council members interested in attending the summit should contact Blackmore as soon as possible to reserve one of the ten seats available.

*COZAD **MOVED** TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SPONSOR A TABLE AT THE 2017 CDOT TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

#### July TIP Amendment

Medora Kealy, Transportation Planner, stated the FY 2018-2021 TIP Readoption Council approved at the July meeting had not yet been approved by FHWA and FTA but they were expected to approve it later in the month noting the July TIP Amendment, if approved by Council, would be on hold until approval of the FY 2018-2021 TIP by FHWA. She then reviewed information from the July TIP Amendment with the Council

**MELLON *MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-17 APPROVING THE JULY 2017 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2018-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP).***  
*The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

## **PRESENTATION:**

### Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Blackmore introduced Chris Johnson, Bike Fort Collins Executive Director, and explained grant writing for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) had been included in the amendment to the current year's Unified Planning Work Program. Johnson was invited to present to Council to assist SRTS with their goal of extending their training programs beyond Fort Collins to schools throughout the region. Johnson clarified that SRTS was not part of the City of Fort Collins but was a 501c3 Advocacy Group who partners with the Fort Collins but runs all program operations through Bike Fort Collins. Johnson introduced Dot Dickerson, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator who explained SRTS offers bike safety and maintenance programs to Poudre School District and Charter/Alternative elementary and middle schools on a rotation basis as well as offering family events, such as family Bike Rodeos. Bike Fort Collins has an interest in partnering with communities in the region to help them offer programs to schools in communities throughout the region. Johnson presented the Safe Routes to School presentation to the Council indicating that the cost per elementary student averages approximately eight dollars and \$18 for middle school students. Cozad questioned where SRTS funding comes from. Johnson replied the majority of the funding is from the City of Fort Collins and some is from CDOT's SRTS program. Cozad asked if they had donors or did fundraising. Johnson replied they did not currently but were considering both of those options. Clark asked what the total annual cost was to run the program. Johnson replied the cost was under \$100,000. Gilliland asked if communities other than Fort Collins were currently involved. Johnson replied not yet but he would like Council members to reach out to the MPO staff if they were interested in getting involved. Brookshire asked if their contract was with the City of Fort Collins or the Poudre School District. Johnson replied they were willing to work with all school districts but they do not currently have a contract with anyone other than the City of Fort Collins. Clark asked if they had considered charging individually for the classes. Dickerson replied they had not as they have been able to fund through Fort Collins or CDOT.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

### 2015 Transportation Profile

Ryan Dusil, Transportation Planner, noted community-specific 2015 Transportation Profiles had been distributed to each respective Council member and then presented the 2015 Transportation Profile to the Council. Melendez asked if air quality was considered in the profiles. Dusil replied air quality was only examined at the regional scale for conformity responsibilities and not at a community level. Brookshire requested more information regarding Highway Drivability Life. Dusil replied it was in relationship to life span. Blackmore explained the objective is no longer to try and project how long a highway should last but how drivable it is, therefore highest is best. Horak added it was basically whether the highway is smooth or not. Clark asked why the profile was produced. Blackmore replied to review trend lines and the data must be produced more often than every four years. The profile simply details the system, adding the 2040 Regional Transportation was the first data point. Clark asked what each community was expected do with the profile information. Dusil replied it was anticipated the profile would be a lead-in to productive community discussions such as a connection of services that improves commuting times between communities, or other improvements across geographies and across time. Clark asked what role Environmental Justice (EJ) had in the process. Blackmore replied EJ was a federal requirement which ensures programs, policies, and activities do not have disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low-income population. Dusil indicated more comprehensive information on EJ and other topics he touched on in his presentation were included in both their community profiles and the complete 2015 Transportation Profile. Morris

asked when they would receive the next Transportation Profile. Blackmore replied it could be expected in two years for the Regional Transportation Plan and would use data from 2017. Ross expressed his appreciation for the profiles and the presentation.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported the Commission was considering which criteria should be used and how to prioritize projects while considering the impact of Senate Bill 267, adding there has been discussion that there may be a transportation funding initiative on the 2018 ballot. Herman Stockinger will be giving a presentation on SB 267 at the September MPO meeting.

### CDOT Region 4

A written Project Status Update was provided. James Eussen, R4 Region Planning and Environmental Manager, made a correction to the update indicating construction was currently delayed on the SH 60 at SH 257 PR Project due to some utility conflicts and should begin in the fall. CDOT was working with business owners on US 85 from Greeley to Eaton and Eaton to Ault, and the project was on track. The Crossroads bridge project is delayed due to rain.

### I-25 Update

Suzette Mallette, North I-25 Funding Coalition Designee, outlined the following for the I-25 North Contractor Selection Process.

- 13 proposals came in from the Letter of Intent on the I-25 Expansion
- 9 firms submitted a Statement of Qualifications and 3 firms were selected from the 9 that submitted.
- A final Request for Proposal was requested from those 3 firms.
- Final RFP (with 110 files) closed on July 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Ten technical teams of 3-5 people each will review the proposals and present their technical evaluation to the Evaluation Committee.
- The Evaluation Committee is doing their own evaluation of the 3 firm's proposals.
- The Evaluation Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Oversight Committee on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Notice to Proceed with Design should go out sometime in October if Oversight Committee agrees with recommendation.
- Notice to Proceed with Construction should go out January 2018.
- Construction expected to begin spring 2018 with a 3-year time frame to completion.

### STAC Report

A written report was provided.

Host Council Member Report- Mellon welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to Johnstown. He gave regards from Mayor Scott James who was regrettably unable to attend the meeting. He reported all infrastructure had been replaced on the North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street project, East and West on SH 60 now had been successfully resurfaced and a new signal at Larimer Parkway and US 34 would be operational by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Windsor- Melendez reported the Town of Windsor met with the towns of Severance and Eaton, and Weld County to discuss anticipated growth on the CR 74 Corridor (Harmony Road). There will be news, possibly a formal submittal to the Town for the Rocky Mountain Sports Complex in the next few weeks.

LaSalle- Cochran noted school would be starting Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and suggested everyone driving on US 85 watch for kids crossing.

Evans- Morris reported the City of Evans has construction projects everywhere and the groundbreaking for the rebuilding of Riverside Park, which was severely damaged in the September 2013 floods, would be Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30- 12:30 at the Riverside Parkway entrance.

Loveland- Clark stated the Downtown Loveland Foundry Project was under way. Loveland City Council met in a very productive joint session with the Johnstown Town Council to discuss several regional issues involving the two communities.

Weld County- Cozad reported there were a lot of construction projects in Weld County and was happy to report CR49 was on schedule with a grand opening planned for November. The Freedom Parkway Coalition, which includes communities from Loveland to Kersey and those in between, Larimer County and CDOT, held two public meetings in July that were both well-attended and thanked Mellon and Morris for speaking in their respective communities and Melendez for discussing the Crossroads Project at the Weld County meeting. Significant data was acquired and they will be moving forward with the Access Control Plan and have more public meetings. She also noted that there has been discussion regarding Greeley beginning the process of changing the name of O Street to Crossroads.

Larimer County- Donnelly proudly reported Larimer County worked with Horak, the City of Fort Collins and CDOT on a solution for the 1,000 foot gap over an irrigation ditch in the US 287 expansion project from SH 1 to the LaPorte Bypass. He complimented Horak's efforts noting the project is currently in design.

Eaton- Ross reported the following:

- US 85 construction work continues
- Eaton Area Community Center opened July 9<sup>th</sup>
- Eaton is partnering with Weld County on the closure of access onto US 85 from CR72 to allow Union Pacific's expansion of a two mile Rail Junction. Eaton's railway transload facility is also expanding in that area.
- Eaton is also working with Weld County, Severance, Nunn and Pierce on a CR 29 Coalition and just drafted their Access Control Plan. This will give the County a north/south corridor from CR100 at the north end of Nunn down to SH 392.
- The NFRMPO Executive Committee completed their KOLBE testing and look forward to how the information will be processed and the opportunity to strengthen lines of communication with MPO Executive Director and staff who also completed the KOLBE testing.

## **MEETING WRAP-UP:**

### Upcoming Agenda Topic Suggestions:

1. Virtual Air Traffic Control Tower technology
2. North I-25 update

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff