

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

**February 1, 2018  
Weld County Administration Building  
Events Center Room  
1150 O Street  
Greeley, CO**

**Voting Members Present:**

**Tom Donnelly - Chair** -Larimer County  
Mark Clark -Evans  
Gerry Horak -Fort Collins  
Robb Casseday -Greeley  
Troy Mellon -Johnstown  
Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
Don Brookshire -Severance  
Aaron Pearson -Timnath  
Kathy Gilliland -Transportation Comm.  
Julie Cozad -Weld County  
Kristie Melendez -Windsor

**Voting Members Absent:**

Jennifer Baker -Berthoud  
Chris Colclasure -CDPHE  
Kevin Ross -Eaton  
Dave Clark -Loveland  
Linda Measner -Milliken  
\*No Member - Garden City

**MPO Staff:**

Suzette Mallette, Interim Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Medora Kealy and Ryan Dusil, Transportation Planners.

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Aaron Buckley, Rich Christy, Sean Conway, David Dalgarn, Spencer Dodge, Jim Eussen, Joel Hemesath, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Myron Hora, Wayne Howard, Mark Jackson, Tom Jones, Will Jones, Will Karspeck, Lou Keen, Dave Kisker, Zeke Lynch, Jacki Marsh, Mitch Nelson, Johnny Olson, Mark Peterson, Scott Rees, Karen Schneiders, Fred Starr, Steve Teets, Robin Stoneman, Shanen Weber, Michael Welch, and David Woolfall.

Chair Donnelly called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Steve Teets, citizen of Greeley, asked the Council if the Loveland Transfer Center would stay in its current location near the Loveland Food Bank or if it would be moved again in the future. He also asked about the success of Fort Collins/Loveland Express (FLEX) and Bustang and the possibility of bringing back the 34-Xpress to help people in Greeley, Loveland, Fort Collins and Windsor connect to family, employment, education, and doctor/medical appointments. He commented transit connectivity and service are very different on the west side of I-25 than on the east side and wanted to know why. He said he would like to see the region work on a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) because people need help to get where they need to go in the region. Donnelly thanked Teets for his comments and said someone would respond to his questions.

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

*GILLILAND **MOVED** TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2018 MEETING AGENDA. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

*CASSEDAY **MOVED** TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 4, 2018 AND JANUARY 25, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

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

Chair Donnelly opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided. It was noted Chris Colclasure will attend the March meeting.

### Air Pollution Control Division

A written report was provided.

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

Chair Donnelly opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

## **REPORTS:**

### Report of the Chair:

Chair Donnelly acknowledged Weld County Commissioner, Sean Conway's nine years of service on the MPO Council with a Certificate of Recognition plaque. Conway thanked the Council members for the many positive changes, which had occurred during his time serving with them. He proudly noted the MPO's successful involvement with North I-25 as well as many other projects the communities had collaborated on through completion, adding the MPO's regional accomplishments would continue. Donnelly announced Conway would continue to serve the MPO as a Statewide Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) representative along with Becky Karasko who would provide information at the meetings. Conway thanked Donnelly for allowing him the honor of continuing to serve in that capacity.

Donnelly announced newly elected, City of Loveland Mayor, Jacki Marsh, was present and welcomed her to the meeting.

Donnelly stated it was necessary to recommend a RAQC representative for Weld County who would be required to go through a formal application process and be appointed by Governor Hickenlooper. Horak, RAQC representative for Larimer County, briefly outlined what holding the position would involve. Donnelly recommended Weld County Commissioner, Julie Cozad, for the position as she had an extensive background in land-use planning and science as well as experience with public policy. Following his offer for Council members to recommend others and receiving no recommendations, Cozad accepted. Mallette agreed to send the application to Cozad and write the letter to Hickenlooper to move the process forward quickly.

### TAC:

A written report was provided.

### Quarterly TIP Modification Report:

A written report was provided.

## **CONSENT ITEMS:**

### January 2018 TIP Amendment

### 2014-2018 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures

*GILLILAND **MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

## **ACTION ITEM:**

### NoCo Bike & Ped Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding

Tom Jones, Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) Chairman, briefly reviewed information from the NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding Recommendation Memo.

*COZAD **MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOCO BIKE AND PED TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) FUNDING.** The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### North I-25 Express Lanes Project

Scott Rees, CDOT Project Director for the North I-25 Johnstown to Fort Collins project, and Rich Christy, CDOT Design Manager for the project, reviewed the North I-25 Express Lanes: Johnstown to Fort Collins presentation with the Council. Mallette asked if the managed lanes would tie in with managed lanes south towards Denver through the use of one express toll. Christy replied there was a partnership with E-470 as a back office operator which will use the same express toll strategy as the Denver area with switchable High Occupancy Vehicles, a carpool with a driver plus two passengers, known as HOV 3/toll transponders or license plate tolling for those without transponders. He added transponders would be required to use the lanes for HOV3. Johnny Olson, CDOT R4, noted the Express Lane would be managed east based on Travel Time Reliability (the measure of how dependable the travel time on a given roadway is during different times of day). HOV 3 and buses will be able to move more freely and the non-motorized trail under the Cache de Poudre River Bridge will be compatible to all non-motorized transportation modes, including equestrian. The delays are anticipated to be minimally disruptive, but delays should be expected. Olson indicated Governor Hickenlooper, elected officials and others in the North Front Range would be invited to the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony.

Donnelly asked if there would be temporary third lanes in place during construction on the 12 miles through Segments 5 and 6 similar to those being used in Segments 7 and 8. Rees answered there would not be. Olson added there was not funding to do a temporary configuration. Gilliland said the 10-year Development Plan was for approximately \$650M and included in the plan are Segments 5 and 6, which need total reconstruction. The Express Lanes across the State allow for an additional 10% capacity and the toll roads around Colorado help all lanes get needed improvements. Horak added express lanes are crucial for funding. Brookshire asked if the \$650M included the necessary infrastructure, such as widening of off-ramps, for the communities along the corridor. Olson outlined how Segments 5 and 6 will be built for future configuration compared to Segments 7 and 8. Brookshire clarified Olson was indicating the gaps between the segments would need significant infrastructure in the future. Olson confirmed Brookshire was correct and indicated the \$1.8B only included basic groundwork for future infrastructure needs. Cozad asked if the project costs were based strictly on today's dollar value, year-to-date. Olson responded CDOT expected a \$25-35M per year increase due to inflation. Horak commented Segments 5 and 6 may have a lower inflation rate because there were not many interchanges, bridges, or structures and roads are generally inexpensive compared to rest of the project. Brookshire asked if the funding would be able to keep up with the inflation. Olson

replied there are plans to complete interim projects and infrastructure and explained funding from tolls would never be enough but are still vital because other revenues have been greatly reduced due to vehicle efficiencies. Horak added the Council and the I-25 Coalition continue working on ways to get more revenue, including working with Denver to get a ballot initiative that may help everyone. He predicted once Congress passes a new infrastructure bill, they will also try for an infrastructure grant.

### US 34 PEL

Lou Keen, CDOT R4 Resident Engineer introduced Project Manager, Chad Hall and Consultant Project Manager, Zeke Lynch. He then reviewed the US 34 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study presentation with the Council. Olson said in the 10-year plan \$140M is potentially slated for US 34. Mallette asked for clarification of the exact area the Access Control Plan (ACP) covered. Keen responded currently there was an ACP in place from the western side of Greeley to CR 3, which preserved quite a bit of right-of-way and the infrastructure can be easily expanded, making it a model for what ACPs can do. The ACP Mallette is referring to is on the western side of the corridor and starts near Denver Avenue in Loveland through town to approximately CR 29. Although there is already a lot of development in the area, in the future there will be opportunities for redevelopment with the groundwork they are laying. Cozad asked if part of the reason for completing a PEL was to get improvements done along corridors which will encourage additional funding. Keen agreed and added the importance of stakeholders having a bigger vision and wanting to invest more and help implement progress. Olson stated CDOT's hope is the local communities will work with CDOT to build a better transportation system, it is imperative CDOT is aware of the land-use needs in order to use funding efficiently.

Cozad indicated the Weld County Board of Commissioners would appreciate a work session on the 34 PEL and questioned if the team would be attending the US 34 Coalition meeting on March 1. Hall responded they would be able to schedule with Weld County soon but did not think they would have enough progress to attend a Coalition meeting until April. Casseday complimented CDOT with presenting innovative alternatives with ACP plans and said he felt this plan would be very beneficial to Greeley, noting the City had given their feedback and would continue to be engaged in the process. Donnelly complimented former Greeley Mayor, Tom Norton, and Weld County Commissioner, Sean Conway, and others, for starting the Coalition. He also noted the many hurdles state DOT's need to overcome to move forward with these types of projects. He said PELs allow the region to get programs in a proactive manner. He complimented the Council for working together and their willingness to put MPO funding towards the 34 PEL, even if it did not impact their community.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

#### NoCo Bike and Ped Letter to CDOT

Marilyn Hilgenberg, City of Loveland Open Lands and Trails Manager, introduced Aaron Buckley from CSU Alternative Transportation and Will Karspeck, Town of Berthoud Trustee, all were representing the NoCo Bike and Ped Collaboration. Hilgenberg and Buckley presented NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative Support of Memorandum to CDOT Regarding Trail Connectivity and I-25 Expansion to the Council. Following the presentation Chair Donnelly noted the item was on the agenda for discussion and no decision on supporting the memo would be made. Olson was unable to estimate what the cost would be for the recommended I-25 infrastructure crossings, but noted his general support of bike and pedestrian systems in Northern Colorado. Hilgenberg stated she understood the cost would be approximately \$5M for a culvert system on each crossing. Olson raised concerns the proposed trail infrastructure would require revisions to the Record of Decision (ROD). Horak suggested it may be better to wait and do an addition to the final project, but either way the Council needed more information and the TAC needed to review the projects. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the types of appropriate funding NoCo Bike and Ped could obtain and a process for them to follow. Hilgenberg expressed the importance of getting the infrastructure in place as soon as possible as I-25 has been a significant barrier to connectivity in regards to bikes and pedestrian accesses and it would be decades before there may be funding available if the proper strategies are not put into place

with the current improvements scheduled on I-25. Donnelly finalized the discussion by requesting they meet first with Olson and CDOT and then have information on both the support of the letter and funding strategies vetted by the TAC. Olson replied he was happy to meet with the group and analyze the situation.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### Transportation Commission/CDOT R4 Report

Gilliland reported there are two bills being considered in the Legislature to improve rising fatality statistics. One is a mandatory seatbelt law and the other to combat distracted driving. In 2017, out of 399 passenger vehicle deaths, 211 were unbelted. At a recent P3 conference HPTA Director David Spector won the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's P3 Entrepreneur of the Year award for US 36 Express Lanes. She noted there was also a lot of conversation regarding potential transportation funding from the \$2B of potential infrastructure funding, but reminded the Council the funding was for all infrastructure not just transportation. Local match money will be a significant factor in determining which transportation projects will get chosen. Olson made a correction to the number of dollars going to US 34 as \$203M, not \$140M.

### STAC/TC Memo- Potential 2018 Ballot Question-

Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, stated at the January STAC meeting CDOT staff presented a draft list of projects for the proposed 2018 ballot initiative for the new statewide revenue source the Metro Mayors and Denver Chamber are currently pursuing. If they file the item to be on the ballot CDOT and the commission would have 45 days to produce a project list. The list was presented to the Commission prior to the STAC meeting and was approved as a "draft" list. The list draws from CDOT's 10-year Development Plan and contains 89 projects from all five CDOT regions and are CDOT's "best guess" of each region's priority, as well as four statewide projects. STAC members will be asked to approve the list if the ballot initiative moves forward, potentially in August. STAC requested time to take the list to their respective MPOs and TPRs to ensure the prioritizations are correct in each of the regions. She noted the list of five NFRMPO projects had been distributed to the Council members and explained how the lists were set up. The request from STAC is Council members review the list with their respective community boards and councils and ensure the priorities are, in fact, the NFRMPO's priorities. She passed around the complete list to anyone wanting to review the entire document indicating it was also available on the website. Horak asked if the TAC will also review the list. Karasko replied they would at their next meeting. Donnelly asked Council members to take the project list to their individual councils/boards as well as their transportation staff. Karasko finished by noting they have until August to finalize the list.

Host Council Member Report- Julie Cozad welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to Weld County. She thanked Conway for his many years of representing the NFRMPO, all the hard work and positive changes there have been to the region, noting she was grateful to be back at the table for what would technically be her tenth, as well as, her final year. Cables local Pub and Grill in Greeley for many years, was recognized for catering the dinner. Cozad mentioned Weld County's 2017 Summary was provided for all and included information on the WCR 49 design/build project which completed early and under budget. IHC is working on the final phase up to SH 392, including substantial intersection improvements and is expected to be finished in early fall 2018. She proudly announced the innovative project was featured in Public Works magazine. She will send the link to the story. She then reported on the following:

- The Weld County Courthouse celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and several displays are still up in the Events Center.
- July 25<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Weld County Fair. All are invited to attend.
- The 2018 Budget and Briefs includes new graphical information to improve communication to the public on how money is earned and spent in the County. Copies were made available.
- A constructive US 85 Corridor meeting was held recently in Fort Lupton where it was reported they are able to minimize the number of county road closures from forty-nine to only eleven.

They continue to work with the effected communities although they face some challenges in working with the railroad, she appreciates everyone's willingness to continue to negotiate.

Donnelly thanked Cozad and Weld County for hosting the meeting.

**MEETING WRAP-UP:**

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

There were no suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff