

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

February 5, 2015

6 p.m.

Larimer County- Carter Lake/Boyd Rooms

200 W. Oak St.

Fort Collins, CO

Voting Members

Present

Jan Dowker
Kevin Ross
John Morris
Gerry Horak
Tom Norton
Tom Donnelly
Paula Cochran
Joan Shaffer
Paul Steinway
Kathy Gilliland
Sean Conway

Absent

-Berthoud	Mike Silverstein	-APCD
-Eaton	Brian Seifried	-Garden City
-Evans	Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
-Fort Collins	Jordan Jemiola	-Milliken
-Greeley	Don Brookshire	-Severance
-Larimer County	John Vazquez	-Windsor
-LaSalle		
-Loveland		
-Timnath		
-Trans. Comm.		
-Weld County		

MPO STAFF:

Terri Blackmore, Merry Anne Hood, Alex Gordon, Angela Horn, Josh Johnson, Becky Karasko, Renae Steffen,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Eric Bracke, Marissa Gaughan, Dave Klockeman, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Bob Massaro, Steve Moreno, Johnny Olson, Bob Sakaguchi, Karen Schneiders, Jed Scott, Gary Thomas, Martina Wilkinson.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

The agenda was accepted as presented.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The January 8, 2015Minutes were approved as submitted.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Conway opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

3. Air Pollution Control Division Report – A written report was provided.

4. Executive Director Report: Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed the addendum to her February 2015 Director's Report.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Norton expounded on the importance of completing the freight analysis in spite of the time and cost required.

Blackmore replied that she was working on a \$50,000 grant to help purchase a great deal of the data that will be needed and added that Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, was hired, in part, because of her freight specialist background in Texas. Blackmore also highlighted information from the USDOT Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets handout and stated that every community can get involved.

Dowker said that she had recently met with Emily Traiforos of Go Rail, who had indicated that Colorado was quickly becoming a very popular place for elected officials to talk about the freight rail issue because of the efforts of Senator Gardner and others in the State.

Conway added that the February events for the National Association of Counties (NACO) and the National League of Cities (NLC) would provide additional opportunities to discuss some freight rail proposals with both elected officials and the legislature.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Draft FY 2016-2019 TIP- Josh Johnson

Josh Johnson, Transportation Planner, briefly reviewed information from the Draft FY 2016-2019 TIP AIS with the Council. He noted that the action needed was to release the draft for public comment for 30 days and that it would be up for approval at the March meeting following the public hearing.

Ross moved to approve the Release the Draft FY2016-2019TIP for Public Comment for a period of thirty (30) days. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Dowker asked what data was used to create the Environmental Justice (EJ) map.

Johnson replied that they map all the census tracts that are above the regional average for minority populations as required for all EJ analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). He added that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development sets the guidelines for the low income thresholds. The completed EJ map and EJ analysis will be provided to the Council in March.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**6. NFRMPO 2040 Plan Scenarios- Horn**

Angela Horn, Transportation Planner, reviewed the NFRMPO 2040 Plan Scenarios AIS with the Council.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Blackmore stated that FHWA prefers to have additional scenarios like these added to the regional plan to show what, if anything, may actually make a significant impact on the plan.

Norton inquired how these scenarios were chosen.

Blackmore replied that these scenarios were chosen to show a glimpse of extremes to help conclude what may be needed the next time they run the plan. It may also help communities determine what should be done on their master plans, perhaps even outside of transportation issues.

Norton agreed that can be a significant factor in determining build-out status.

Donnelly said the scenarios were not feasible and asked what value they provided.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the value of providing scenarios that show such extremes.

Eric Bracke, TAC Chair, clarified that these scenarios show a baseline and the two end points. The purpose of running the scenarios is to provide an exercise that shows how to get to a reasonable mid-point. He also confirmed that the final plan should reflect all local policies, including land use.

Shaffer inquired about how the final information will be relayed to the local policy bodies.

Blackmore replied that it will be documented in the 2040 final plan and be a starting point for future plans. She also indicated that it will be part of the public outreach for the Long Range Plan, thereby providing several opportunities for input from the public and every community's board or council.

Dowker referenced the second bullet of the AIS regarding investment options and asked about the possibility of pursuing Public/ Private Partnerships (P3's) on projects other than I-25.

Johnny Olson, CDOT R4, answered that although it is possible, it is necessary to assess what the plan looks like overall, have some options in between, and have the full build-out done on both ends.

Blackmore added that the bulleted item was meant show where communities will have to use their own financial resources to accommodate all of the potential traffic created from their build-outs.

Horn suggested that the Plan Scenarios are a good tool for the communities but do not replace a study.

Donnelly recognized that it was necessary to show what won't work in order to prove what will and he felt it was a good part of the planning process as it showed that neither extreme will solve all the problems.

Conway cited T-REX on I-25 as an example of a plan that had required both transit and lane expansion to solve issues brought about by future growth projections.

Steinway asked if the scenarios assumed future social norms and technology since it looked forward 28 years.

Blackmore replied they did not, they only utilized current technology.

Bracke added that is why the plans are done every 5 years.

7. Preliminary Conformity Results - Horn/Karasko

Horn briefly reviewed information from the Preliminary Conformity Determination Results AIS and gave the Preliminary Air Quality Conformity Results –Ozone and Carbon Monoxide (CO) presentation to the Council.

Steinway questioned why the model made it appear that emissions of CO are dropping so radically.

Suzette Mallette, Larimer County Transportation Program Manager, (formerly MPO Regional Transportation Planning Director) responded that more efficient emission standards on vehicles since the 1980's have helped lower carbon monoxide immensely, putting most areas around the U.S. into maintenance mode.

Steinway asked for confirmation that the emissions of individual vehicles are being driven downward by technology even though the number of vehicles is rising.

Mallette affirmed that was correct.

Horn added that the current maintenance status for Carbon Monoxide should expire in 2023 for Fort Collins and in 2019 for Greeley; the new attainment status will not require CO reporting. Ozone status will not be changing status at the end of that same ten year plan.

Blackmore informed the Council that the APCD presentation in March will review the possibility of lowering the ozone standard. She was unable to confirm what the new standard would be but indicated the range was expected to be between 0.065-0.075 ppm.

Donnelly asked if any public comment had been received on the conformity results.

Horn replied that no public comment had been received as of yet.

Donnelly suggested that the model data seemed to indicate that vehicle emissions were not the cause of ozone issues in the North Front Range MPO non-attainment area.

Blackmore replied that vehicle emissions caused about half of the ozone in that area.

Conway added that he and Donnelly had pointed out in 2009 that over time the scientific data would demonstrate that vehicle emissions were not a major contributor to ozone.

Blackmore stated that vehicle emissions testing is only required at the state level.

Conway stated he would be sharing this data with legislators in the hope that vehicle emission testing will eventually cease in Colorado.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

8. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) - A written report was provided.

9. Finance- Kevin Ross, Finance Committee Chair, briefly reviewed the Finance Committee Report and Finance Committee Minutes from January 21st. He highlighted the committee's request of Council members to share the draft procurement policies with their purchasing departments for review and offer suggestions back to the Crystal Hedberg, Finance Manager.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Morris inquired about the additional cost of the A-133 audit.

Blackmore replied that she expected the additional cost to be between \$5000-\$6000 and that it would be split between all of the communities.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Chair Conway acknowledged that Steve Moreno, Weld County Commissioner, was present and welcomed him to the meeting.

Transportation Commission: Kathy Gilliland, Transportation Commissioner, District 5, reported the following:

- Shailen Bhatt, the new CDOT Executive Director, will be touring Colorado. He will be at the Weld County Administration Building on February 12th from 10:30-11:30. She invited all to attend.
- Bustang will be introduced to the public in March, and will be part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Fort Collins. Elected officials are invited to ride Bustang in the parade, or walk along the parade route.

CDOT Region 4: Johnny Olson, CDOT R4, passed out the CDOT Project Status Updates (February 5, 2015) handout and reviewed it with the Council.

Shaffer asked if the Council was interested in sending a letter to Don Hunt to thank him for his years of service with CDOT and a letter to Shailen Bhatt welcoming him to Colorado.

Blackmore noted that Bhatt had been invited to attend a meet and greet prior to an MPO meeting when his schedule could accommodate it.

Conway agreed that sending letters would be appropriate and asked that Blackmore draft the letters and he would sign them. He added that he and Dowker had the chance to personally thank Hunt, on behalf of the MPO, for his service, especially concerning his efforts during the flood recovery.

Shaffer requested that Governor Hickenlooper also be copied on the letters.

Conway asked Olson for an update on SH34 E.

Olson replied that it was expected to be significantly complete sometime in July.

Donnelly questioned the reevaluation of the 287 Bypass project, stating he did not believe that a change of the base course material would get the project in line with the estimate and asked what the plan was to move it forward.

Olson replied that he strongly believed the project was high level and would get to RAMP governance. He added that the budgets have also been raised to stay up with the market sector.

Donnelly asked for an update on the SH 34 at Big Thompson project.

Olson reported that the project would be Construction Manager/General Contractor CMGC and they had approximately 20% design. He said the hope is to have an RFP out in the next few weeks and added that the project design would be phased.

Donnelly expressed concern over questions his constituents were asking about how CDOT was allocating the funding provided by the MPO for North I-25 in light of the fact that Bustang had just been launched.

Olson replied that a certain percentage of MAP-21 and FASTER funding has to be dedicated to transit or it would go to other communities.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need for an inter-connected transit system in Northern Colorado and how Bustang will help complete many necessary connections and meet much of that need.

Conway thanked Olson for his report.

Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) Report: Jan Dowker, STAC Representative, briefly reviewed information from the January STAC Report with the Council.

Conway commended Dowker's persistence at the meeting when questioning why the Greeley Evans Transit (GET) program did not receive their requested funding.

Dowker indicated that CDOT determined that Greeley was not an underserved area when it was not awarded a bus match. She thanked CDOT R4 staff for providing the appropriate information prior to the meeting. She confirmed that CDOT was making another attempt to receive the funding for GET and that there was nothing Greeley should have done differently or could do now. She explained how the formulas work when combining different pots of money and suggested this may not always be beneficial to the smaller communities.

Morris thanked Dowker for her efforts.

Gilliland stated that Mark Imhoff, CDOT Director of Transit and Rail, would be reviewing the process to assess if the criteria are set properly and the guidelines are being followed consistently throughout the State.

North I-25: Shaffer and Conway reported on the following:

- There was not a January meeting.
- NACO will be attended by Conway and Barbara Kirkmeyer.
- Adams County will be representing North I-25 at the NLC.
- DRCOG is now participating in the N I-25 meetings.
- Shaffer attending NLC. Because the date was moved to early March, it now conflicts with congressional members' schedule. Shaffer has requested Senator Bennet's office help provide her an opportunity to meet with transportation leadership from the senate side. She is seeking assistance from others as well. Conway will also help provide opportunities.

Host Council Member Report: Donnelly welcomed everyone to the Larimer County Courthouse in beautiful downtown Fort Collins. He reported on the following:

- December 23rd was the ribbon cutting for CR 27 at the "Narrows" of the Buckhorn Canyon. The road is currently open, but will not be paved until spring.
- Total flood recovery efforts are estimated at \$125M in infrastructure on roads and bridges which includes approximately \$40M on CR43/Glen Haven Road.
- The NFRMPO was thanked for partnership on roundabout projects on CR 30, CR 11 and 11c from last Call for Projects. Installation is complete and they have improved those intersections dramatically.
- CR 17 project with the City of Fort Collins to replace structurally deficient bridge over the Poudre River is in progress.

- Larimer County is actively pursuing some migration over to CNG. A \$400,000 fleet conversion plan has been partnered with Ward Alternative Energy to develop two CNG stations in the County. They are currently looking for a site in north Fort Collins.
- Antonio's Burritos from Loveland was acknowledged for providing the food for the meeting.

Conway thanked Donnelly and Larimer County for the meal and for hosting the MPO Council meeting.

Other Council Reports:

Timnath- Steinway reported that Timnath is accelerating the town's funding for the widening of East Harmony Road to help with congestion at the I-25 and Harmony Road intersection brought on by the opening of Costco in Timnath.

Loveland- Shaffer reported on that Loveland's Valentine re-mailing program is wrapping up for the year. The final date for local mailings is February 10th. The program involves hundreds of volunteers, some who have dedicated several years of their time to the effort. She also stated that Chilson Recreation Center report shows it is operating at capacity and twelve members of the Loveland Youth Advisory Commission will be attending NLC this year.

Berthoud- Dowker announced that Love's Travel Stop at the I-25 SH 56 interchange in Berthoud is coming along. Other developers have expressed interest in that four corner's location.

Fort Collins- Horak applauded CDOT for their work on the Mulberry Bridge in Fort Collins.

Evans- Morris reported that Evans and surrounding communities are seeing a lot of interest in development along the US 85 corridor as well as residentially. The Riverside Park Redevelopment plan was authorized earlier in the week. They hope to open the park in late 2017 or early 2018. He is looking forward to finalizing repairs on some of the flood-damaged roads in Evans. CDOT will start on their Park-n-Ride in April.

Final Public Comment: There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ross moved that the Council enter into an Executive Session Pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(f) of the Colorado Revised Statutes for Discussion of a Personnel Matter Involving the Current Year's 360 Evaluation of the MPO's Executive Director and her Potential Salary and Benefits. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

The Council entered into an Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. The Session lasted one hour and 28 minutes.

Conway reopened the regular MPO Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT:

Conway stated that the Council had completed the Executive Director's 360 evaluation and had come to an agreement with her on contract changes. The Council will take formal action at the March meeting.

FINAL WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions: Gilliland suggested that the Executive Committee formalize a standard process for the Executive Director's annual review with Blackmore and bring it to Council for discussion in March.

Conway thanked Gilliland for the suggestion and agreed to add the discussion item to the March agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff