



April 8, 2015 Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT
Leslie Beckstrom, Weld County Public Health and Environment
Chad Reischel, City of Evans
Josh Johnson, NFRMPO
Aaron Buckley, NFRMPO
Wade Willis, Town of Windsor
Jeffrey Boring, Larimer County
Aaron Fodge, CSU
Nick Dellaca, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Tom Selders, Poudre River Trail Corridor
Ted Heyd (phone), Bicycle Colorado

Presentations

- 2010 ADA Standard Designations for State and Local Government Facilities – Wade Willis and Nick Dellaca
 - Windsor had an audit triggered from 2012 legislation to ensure ADA compliance on public facilities. 1/3 of facilities should be ADA compliant and accessible. Dellaca suggested that an attorney is essential to interpret and review adherences to ADA.
 - Willis passed out a summary handout with accessible guideline references from the Forest Service, AASHTO, etc.
 - Jacobsen mentioned ADA compliance on roadways is necessary when a trail or sidewalk touches a curb. Ramps may not need to be installed if trail does not touch curb. An 8% or less grade parallel to a roadway requirement may not have to be met if the trail does not touch the curb.
 - Hard surfaces are required for accessibility. Dellaca stated that a hardened surface is one that a wheelchair/walker can reasonably navigate. Willis added that non-slip surfaces are required. Benches are required to have an area around them that a wheelchair or walker can easily maneuver.
 - ADAG provides local resources to determine acceptable surfaces. Boring mentioned that there is an organization in Loveland to test infrastructure for accessibility before it is finalized.
 - Once improvements are made on existing infrastructure, the entire facility must come into ADA compliance.
 - Willis stated most of the benches on Windsor trails were not in ADA compliance due to design standards.
 - Boring asked what prompted the audit. Willis stated National Recreational Park Association raised the issue. Windsor town council approved the audit and a new budget to fixed non-compliance items.

- River access may be deemed "Technically Not Feasible" and would not require ADA access to the riverbed due to river flow/height changes. Expansion and contraction also make rises a challenge to compliance.
 - Selders mentioned the Poudre River Trail from Greeley to Windsor does not have river access, but does provide access to natural areas.
- Fodge asked if there was a requirement to publicly document where ADA compliant trails exist. Jacobsen stated that there was no requirement, but some wayfinding and signage on trails does mention ADA accessibility.
- Johnson discussed adding a wayfinding presentation to a future meeting. There is interest in creating a regional, uniform style of wayfinding. Fodge mentioned Fort Collins has hired Alta Planning and Design to develop a wayfinding system, and will check into having Fort Collins and Alta present.

Discussion

- Regional Trail Updates
 - Mason Trail Corridor (#8) – Boring stated there will be a permanent bicycle counter installed by CDOT in April. CSU plans to add another counter in the future. Secure bike cages at CSU and Fort Collins along the corridor should be installed by fall.
 - Extension of trails north of Poudre Trail to Wellington is in discussion with Larimer County. There was a discussion about inviting CDOT Region 4 to discuss I-25 expansion plans and bicycle/pedestrian underpasses and over passes at a future meeting.
 - Estes Valley is drafting a bike plan.
 - Poudre River Trail (#6) will be constructed by May in Timnath near Walmart/Harmony. Greeley has acquired open space along the trail from 71st to 59th. Poudre Trail awarded Building on Basics money in Fort Collins. The Woodward project in Fort Collins is providing buffered open space along the river and the trail.
 - Front Range Trail Corridor (#7) - Loveland, Fort Collins, Larimer County – Over \$350,000 in resources in grants to connect Loveland and Fort Collins.
 - North Loveland / Windsor Corridor (#5) - Willis stated Windsor Council has interest connecting West Windsor to Windsor proper.
- Bicycle Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC) – USA Pro Cycling Challenge
 - Willis stated this might be a public outreach opportunity for the collaborative. Boring felt it was beyond scope for NOCO. Fodge stated the MPO could present regional corridors.
- Conference Planning: Boring gave updates on sessions and speakers. The date for the conference is November 5, 2015 at the UNC University Center in Greeley. Mark Fenton will be the keynote speaker and there will also be breakout sessions on walkability / bikeability in Greeley. The collaborative is also trying to organize a group ride in Fort Collins for the day following the conference.
- Trails Research Proposal - Boring proposed completing a study to the real estate benefits of bicycle and pedestrian trails, and asked if there were any precedents in Colorado. There is a concern appraisal value is reduced because of property loss for trail construction. Ken Carroll might have trails examples.
- Updates/Other Business - Aaron Buckley from the NFRMPO explained the MPO has a budget for the purchase of bicycle counters for the region. An agenda item was requested to discuss locations and criteria to form a NoCo vision for placement.