

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

**May 7, 2015
6 p.m.
LaSalle Town Hall
128 N. 2nd Street
LaSalle, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Kevin Ross -Eaton
John Morris -Evans
Gerry Horak -Fort Collins
Tom Norton -Greeley
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County
Paula Cochran -LaSalle
Jordan Jemiola -Milliken
Paul Steinway -Timnath
Kathy Gilliland -Trans. Commission
Sean Conway -Weld County
Myles Baker -Windsor

Absent

Jan Dowker -Berthoud
Troy Mellon -Johnstown
Brian Seifried -Garden City
Joan Shaffer -Loveland
Don Brookshire -Severance
Chris Colclasure -APCD

MPO STAFF:

Terri Blackmore, Crystal Hedberg, Merry Anne Hood, Renae Steffen, Mary Warring

IN ATTENDANCE:

Eric Bracke, Leah Browder, Joel Hemesath, John Holdren, Myron Hora, Tyra Litzau, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Bob Sakaguchi, Fred Starr, Gary Thomas, Steve Tool.

Chair Conway called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02 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 March 5, 2015 Minutes were approved as submitted.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Conway opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

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

- 4. **Regional Air Quality Council** – A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Conway opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

- 5. **Executive Director Report:** Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, reviewed the March 2015 Director’s Report and May 2015 Director’s Report Addendum with the Council and noted that both reports should read May, not March.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Donnelly asked how often the VanGo™ vans are seen by the MPO staff and/or maintenance crews.

Blackmore replied that about half of the vans are in attendance at either the Larimer County or Greeley annual safety meeting and all of the vans receive maintenance at Transfort or Greeley at least twice a year.

Donnelly inquired about how vanpool coordinators are notified of their routine maintenance schedule.

She explained that maintenance notices are provided on stickers that are placed on the vans near the odometer. A backup van is provided during the service time. The FTA will now require a log showing when each van was inventoried and either VanGo™ or Transfort or Greeley staff will record its condition.

Norton expressed his concern regarding Steve Teet’s request for reinstatement of 34-Xpress bus service because there does not appear to be enough ridership and/or connections to justify the cost.

Blackmore indicated that the transit agencies have been working with staff on the Regional Transit Element (RTE) recommendation and have recommended a full analysis of service options between Loveland and Greeley to determine the practicality of service there. It would not be called the 34-Xpress .

Norton asked for confirmation that it would be part of the Regional Transit Recommendation.

Blackmore confirmed that it would be one of several possible recommendations, including service between Greeley and Loveland; Greeley and Fort Collins; Greeley and Denver and improved service on Fort Collins/Loveland Express (FLEX). There were still questions regarding how service may be done in conjunction with Bustang.

Blackmore requested that all Council members complete and sign a current Conflict of Interest Agreement at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- 7. **Mobility** – There was no report as the April meeting had been cancelled due to weather.

8. **Finance-** Kevin Ross, Finance Committee Chair, briefly reviewed the Finance Committee Report and Finance Committee Minutes from April 15th.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. 2014 Unaudited Financial Statements- Crystal Hedberg

Crystal Hedberg, Finance Manager, introduced Tyra Litzau, Audit Director for Anton Collins Mitchell LLP. Litzau briefly reviewed the Financial Statements & Independent Auditor's Report For Year Ended December 31, 2014 and the Audit Wrap Up: May 7, 2015 with the Council.

Ross made a motion to approve the 2014 Audited Financial Statements. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

10.Planning Council Designation of FTA- Mary Warring

Mary Warring, Mobility and FTA Grants Coordinator, briefly reviewed the information from the Designation of Signature Authority Memo with the Council.

Gilliland moved to approve Resolution 2015-07 Authorizing the Execution and Filing of an Application for Federal Transit Administration Funds. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

11.Transportation Summit- Sean Conway

Conway handed out the Transportation Summit 2015 informational flyer draft to the Council and asked if they were in agreement that the MPO be a sponsor of the event and added that there was no fee to do so.

Norton made a motion to approve the North Front Range MPO sponsorship of the Transportation Summit 2015. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Conway informed the Council that sponsorship included a booth space and invited every entity to participate in the June 15th exhibit at Island Grove in Greeley.

Norton thanked Conway and Weld County for his efforts in putting the very timely, relevant conference together adding that this was one way to get transportation funding the consideration it needs.

12.TRANS Bonds – Sean Conway

Conway said his original intent was to have the Council take action on the Transportation Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS Bonds) as a ballot initiative, but the bill was not passed through the Colorado Legislature. He introduced Steve Tool, Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance (NCLA), and asked him to speak to the Council about the TRANS Bond program.

Tool briefly outlined of the history of the first TRANS ballot initiative (TRANS I) approved by the Colorado General Assembly in 1999. He explained that TRANS I provided a financing mechanism allowing CDOT to issue bonds to accelerate 24 strategic transportation projects across the state, commonly referred to as 7th Pot Projects, and included the expansion of I-25 north to Hwy 66. The bonds were used to fund portions of these

projects statewide and are scheduled to be paid off in 2016. In March of this year, NCLA held a meeting with members of Governor Hickenlooper's staff and CDOT Executive Director, Shailen Bhatt, to discuss Senate Bill 272, also known as TRANS II, which would have utilized 50% of federal gas tax revenue (approximately \$220M annually) for a 20 year bonding program to generate approximately \$3.5B in funding. Projects funded by TRANS II would have been various sizes and located throughout the State. Governor Hickenlooper's office opposed the bill because they had reservations about CDOT's lack of long-term funding and Senate Bill 228's lack of success.

Tool explained that although TRANS II passed the Senate, it was assigned by Speaker Dickie Lee Hullinghorst to the State Affairs Committee, where it died on a party-line 6-5 vote on May 4th. Political polling conducted by Magellan Strategies identified that although 61% of the people of Colorado were supportive of the bill they are basically opposed to an increase in the gas tax and tolling on the I-25 corridor. Tool believes that even though TRANS II did not pass, awareness was raised on the need for transportation funding. He thanked Johnny Olson, Myron Hora and Kathy Gilliland for their efforts and said NCLA is still dedicated to finding \$3.5B in funding to aid the in the completion of the 60+ projects around Colorado.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Gilliland recognized the willingness of the MPO Council to help fund I-25 and the additional lane and said she hopes the discussions will continue with a very open dialog and she believed the upcoming Transportation Summit 2015 would provide that opportunity. She clarified that CDOT was in favor of TRANS bonds as an option but there are other sources for consideration. She thanked the FIX I-25 Alliance staff for the work they had done.

Tool reminded the Council that FIX I-25 Alliance was formed by members of NCLA.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of TRANS Bonds and the immediate need for transportation funding.

Conway thanked Tool, NCLA staff and members of CDOT for their efforts on TRANS, affirming that now the State Legislature can start the discussions that will begin the change because they now have a clear idea of what the issues for transportation really are. It is imperative that a viable solution is agreed upon directly.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

13. RAQC Memorandum of Agreement – Terri Blackmore

Blackmore briefly reviewed information from the Draft MOA NFRMPO and Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) Memorandum.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Morris noted that the date would need to be changed.

14. Executive Director Evaluation Process- Troy Mellon

Conway handed out the Executive Director Evaluation Process Draft to the Council as Troy Mellon, Articles of Association Committee Chair, was not in attendance. He requested that Council members review the document and email any concerns, question or revisions to Mellon. He indicated that the Committee would hold a formal, noticed meeting prior to the June 4th Council meeting. The process will be on the June agenda for discussion

and July agenda for adoption. The Articles of Association Committee includes, Mellon, Shaffer, Brookshire, Jemiola and Blackmore.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Jemiola requested that the meeting be scheduled after 5p.m.

Blackmore agreed to send out a scheduling poll to all the Committee members with that timeframe.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission: Kathy Gilliland, Transportation Commissioner, District 5, announced that the date for Bustang's service launch was set for July 13th, with a maiden voyage from Fort Collins set for June 9th at 10 a.m. An invitation will be sent to all Council members with the details. They are working on how to set policies for Park n Rides to address the current issues in Fort Collins and Loveland, many will be required to now park in other locations.

Hora added that flyers outlining the new parking enforcement will be handed out throughout the month of May and staff will begin physically monitoring on-site in June.

CDOT Region 4: Myron Hora, CDOT R4, handed out the CDOT Project Status Updates (May 7, 2015) handout and reviewed it with the Council. He also reported on the following:

- The new Deputy Executive Director for CDOT is Mike Lewis from Rhode Island.
- Chief Operating Officer, Scot Cuthbertson, left CDOT in pursuit of other opportunities.
- Shailen Bhatt held an Ice Cream Social at the Larimer County Courthouse building in honor of Public Service Employee Appreciation week.
- Correction to status of US 287 resurfacing project from Harmony Road to Mulberry Street in Fort Collins. The project will move forward with the single bid provided thanks to new legislation that was passed that allows contracts that come in above the anticipated amount upon further review and approval by the Executive Director as long as the costs can be justified.
- The dangerous intersection at 71st Avenue and US 34 will become right in/right out (RI/RO) only.

Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) Report: Blackmore indicated that the Draft STAC Meeting Minutes had been provided in the packet for March 27th. Conway reported that there had been a very spirited conversation about TRANS Bonds at the April 24th meeting. Blackmore added that it was announced that STAC is finally forming a greatly-needed Freight Committee. There is a concern that if only STAC members are allowed on the committee they will not have the expertise needed to make appropriate decisions. She would like to recommend Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director and asked for the Council's input.

The Council as a whole agreed that it would be beneficial to have Karasko represent the MPO on the Freight Committee since she had extensive freight knowledge.

Gilliland said she would pass the Council's recommendation on to STAC and added that it was often difficult to bring all of the right people to the same table but they do plan to engage a very broad contingent across the State.

Host Council Member Report: Cochran welcomed everyone to LaSalle and recognized Jessica McKeown for the doing a great job on the room set up and Don Juan's Mexican Restaurant who provided the dinner. She invited everyone to attend LaSalle Days, July 17-19 and thanked CDOT for laying the strips and conducting the studies in preparation for putting turn signals on US 85 this summer.

Other Council Reports:

Eaton- Ross announced the recent opening of the newly renovated Eaton Public Library and looks forward to hosting the MPO Council there in October.

Milliken- Jemiola reported that Milliken is very appreciative of intersection improvements at SH 60 and SH 257 that were part of a grant received from the MPO. A contractor will be chosen soon for the Johnstown/Milliken Trail which will be either recycled asphalt or concrete.

Fort Collins- Horak informed the Council that Fort Collins is currently working with Loveland to possibly create a police training facility at the Fort Collins/Loveland Airport for shooting, explosives and driving track and is looking for other municipalities who are interested in partial ownership.

Evans- Morris announced that there is a lot of road construction starting in the next 4-6 weeks in Evans, as well as a \$75M structure for ARB Midstream going up just west of LaSalle and a large 1200 unit housing development going up in west Evans.

Greeley- Norton reported Greeley has approximately four times the single/multi-family development than Greeley had last year.

Windsor – Baker reported that Windsor is currently working on their Comprehensive Plan, the Pelican Fest Triathlon, scheduled for May 23rd, and expansion on the Windsor Rec Center, which will begin this summer. There is an MS Walk on Saturday, May 9th at Boardwalk Park.

Timnath- Steinway informed the Council that concrete had been laid for the Poudre River Trail and completion through Timnath is scheduled for later this year.

Weld County- Conway reported that the Parkway Project, which is the bridge over the Poudre and Platte Rivers, is on schedule for late August or early September and there will be a dedication ceremony with Governor Hickenlooper. He will update the Council once the date is finalized.

Blackmore announced that she was scheduling times and dates to meet with each community on the topic of their choice, and would bring her list to each meeting in hopes of getting everyone on the schedule in the next couple of months.

Final Public Comment: There was no final public comment.

FINAL WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions: There were no suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff