

**MEETING MINUTES of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council**

**Windsor Recreation Center - Pine Room  
250 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Windsor, CO**

**November 18, 2015  
1:04 – 3:20 p.m.**

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Suzette Mallette, Vice-Chair – Larimer County  
Dawn Anderson – Evans  
Jeff Bailey – Loveland  
Amanda Brimmer – RAQC  
Aaron Bustow – FHWA  
John Holdren – Severance  
Seth Hyberger – Milliken  
Will Jones – Greeley Alternate  
Paul Lee – APCD  
Elizabeth Relford – Weld County Alternate  
Dennis Wagner – Windsor  
Martina Wilkinson – Fort Collins

**NFRMPO STAFF:**

Terri Blackmore  
Becky Karasko  
Aaron Buckley  
Alex Gordon  
Josh Johnson

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Stephanie Brothers - Berthoud  
Gary Carsten – Eaton  
John Franklin – Johnstown  
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath  
Jessica McKeown – LaSalle  
Karen Schneiders – CDOT  
Gary Thomas – SAINT

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jeffrey Boring – NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative  
Richard Duran – FHWA  
Enos Han – FHWA  
Steve McCannon – RAQC  
Jeff Purdy – FHWA  
Kathy Seelhoff – CDOT

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chair Mallette called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2015 TAC MEETING MINUTES:**

Holdren moved to approve the October 21, 2015 TAC meeting minutes. Anderson supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**2015 Q4 TIP Amendment**

**Johnson**

Wilkinson moved to recommend Planning Council approval of the 2015 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter TIP Amendment. Wagner supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS (verbal):**

**NoCo Bike/Ped Collaborative**

Boring discussed the 2015 Northern Colorado Bike and Walk Conference held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). There were 140 attendees, including Governor Hickenlooper and CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt, two walking audit sessions, and two breakout sessions. Conference keynote speaker, Mark Fenton, also presented to the Planning Council prior to their regular

meeting. Karasko noted NFRMPO staff will write a newsletter article about the conference and requested Boring send pictures of the event.

### **Regional Transit Items**

Jones reported Greeley and Fort Collins will be moving forward with the 2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE) recommendation to study transit between the two cities. GET began collecting employment data from Colorado State University (CSU) and UNC concerning home origins. Jones also reported GET had its highest ridership month ever this October with more than 60,000 riders.

### **Regional Air Quality Council**

Brimmer stated she would present information during her presentation.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **ALT Fuels Colorado**

**McCannon**

Steve McCannon with the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) presented information about the Charge Ahead Colorado and ALT Fuels Colorado programs. Charge Ahead Colorado provides funding for charging stations and electric vehicles. Grants are available for electric vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment through the Colorado Energy Office (CEO), Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), CDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Noble Energy, and RAQC. Using funding from the Colorado Energy Office and DRCOG, RAQC has allocated \$1.2 M in grants to fund 70 charging stations and 37 electric vehicles in the 7-county Denver Metro region. The CEO has awarded \$350,000 for 83 charging stations in Colorado outside of the Denver Metro region.

The ALT Fuels Colorado program combines \$15 M from CDOT in CMAQ funds administered by RAQC for the 11-county Denver Metro region, \$15 M from the CEO for statewide infrastructure projects, and \$10 M for infrastructure and vehicles from DOLA. The program pays 80 percent of the incremental cost between an alternative fuel vehicle and a comparable diesel or gas vehicle. To date, the program has funded 253 vehicles and 11 compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. The CEO allocation is station-oriented and is meant to fill gaps in infrastructure outside of the Front Range. Mallette stated McCannon spoke to Larimer County about the programs, including what is eligible and the local match required and suggested other communities might be interested a presentation as well.

#### **Implementing EPA's 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard**

**Brimmer**

Brimmer stated the EPA must review National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) every five years, leading to the new Ozone Standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb) effective December 2015. EPA looks at the fourth highest ozone level at each monitor and averages the numbers over three years. Colorado is now required to monitor ozone throughout the year, instead of just the summer ozone season. Relford asked what happens if a region does not meet the standard. Brimmer stated additional requirements would be set, including additional modeling, planning, emissions control standards, and a new Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP). If a region does not attain the standard, it may lose transportation funding for capacity improvements.

Brimmer provided a timeline for air quality attainment, beginning with the finalized new standard in October 2015. EPA will update the SIP requirement rule by October 2016 and will finalize area designations and classifications by October 2017. The Denver Metro/North Front Range region will have until October 2020 for Marginal Area attainment and for Moderate Area SIP revisions, and until October 2023 for Moderate Area attainment. Mallette asked how background ozone and SIP requirements affect local governments. Brimmer stated RAQC is evaluating control measures that are politically and economically feasible.

Brimmer also presented the region's emissions inventories. The inventories use 2011 as a base year and project out to 2017 and now consider MOVES2014a, the EPA's mobile source emissions model.

There is an expected 33 percent reduction in VOC sources in 2017 compared to 2011, and an expected 28 percent reduction in NOx emissions in the same time period.

#### **Laurel Street Separated Bike Lane Project**

**Wilkinson**

Wilkinson stated the City of Fort Collins is one of only four League of American Bicyclists, Platinum Level bicycle friendly communities in the country and has aspirations to achieve the Diamond designation. Fort Collins is focusing on increasing ridership by improving bicycle infrastructure, including: buffered and protected bike lanes; bike boxes; green markings; bike signals; and bike detection. Additionally, Fort Collins has developed a Low Stress Bike Network to provide safe biking routes for the “Interested, but Concerned” biking population. Two of the first Low Stress Bike Network projects include a pilot project on Laurel Street and a road restriping project on Remington Street. The Laurel Street Pilot Project included a buffered bike lane along three blocks, took two full days to install, required a change in the City’s traffic code, and cost \$33,000. Feedback has been positive with some mixed reviews. When polled, the percentage of riders feeling safe on this route increased from 48 percent to 60 percent. The Remington Street project restriped a two mile portion of the road to create double buffered bike lanes, removed three traffic signals and added stop signs, built a mini-roundabout, introduced two left turn lanes for bikes, and cost \$50,000. Feedback has been mixed on the mini-roundabout, but the project has been positive overall. Wilkinson stated these two projects required extensive staff time, planning, and coordination to build.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### **Freight Northern Colorado Plan Schedule**

**Karasko**

Karasko outlined the creation the region’s first freight plan, Freight Northern Colorado (FNC), which will build upon the Freight Vision from the 2040 RTP. The plan will include existing conditions, current and future plans and programs, emerging trends, and implementation sections. The plan is scheduled to be adopted by the Planning Council in September 2016, after incorporating TAC feedback and comments. Sections of the FNC will be brought to TAC in spring 2016 for review. Karasko requested TAC members send any freight data for inclusion in the plan to staff. Jones stated the Greeley Citizen Transportation Advisory Board will be interested in the Train Noise ordinance work and the effects of freight on traffic in the region. Mallette asked if the plan will incorporate safety, especially pertaining to at-grade crossings. Karasko stated the FNC will address safety issues and she will work with partners to find information about these issues; however, Fort Collins region is grouped into “Rest of Colorado” in many datasets. Purdy stated the plan should look at truck parking, the Port of Entry, and ITS technology on highways.

##### **Non-Motorized Plan Schedule**

**Johnson**

Johnson stated the Regional Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) will be an update to the 2013 Regional Bicycle Plan (RBP). The NMP will include pedestrian systems because they provide environmental and health benefits while connecting users to other transportation modes. Sections will include the benefits of being a bicycle-friendly region, existing conditions updates from the previous plan, local bike plans and programs, emerging trends, and implementation and funding. Johnson stated staff will begin asking for TAC feedback on sections of the NMP in early 2016, and the plan is scheduled to be adopted by Planning Council in September 2016. Wilkinson asked if this plan is in addition to the local plans that already exist. Johnson stated this will be an update to the 2013 RBP and will consider local plans in addition to what has been implemented, what funding sources exist to continue implementation, and what safety and connection issues still exist. Wilkinson asked what the build out vision will be. Johnson stated the NMP will be based on scenarios and corridors in the 2040 RTP, will consider TAP funding for completion of bike corridors, and will identify other funding sources for gaps in sidewalks, trails, etc. Mallette asked if the NMP will keep the same 12 corridors from the 2013 RBP. Johnson stated no corridors will be removed, but corridors will be updated to include completed sections. Jones asked if

the NMP will incorporate bike racks on buses and stated Transport, COLT, and GET track the number of bikes on buses. Johnson will incorporate this information into the plan.

**REPORTS:**

**TIP Administrative Modification Updates**

Johnson stated there is a written report included in the TAC packet. November modifications included Surface Treatment, Regional Priorities, and Transit projects. The Fort Collins Program of Projects was approved by Planning Council at their November meeting, and was included with the modifications.

**Roundtable**

Johnson distributed a draft MPO brochure that will be taken to the Regional Issues Summit on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments on the MPO brochure can be submitted to Johnson.

Blackmore reported there will be a Regional Issues Summit sponsored by the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup> and will cost \$40 per person. The Summit will include sessions on water, electricity, and transportation. Mallette asked who the intended audience is for the Summit. Blackmore stated everyone, including local government staff and elected officials. The Summit will begin with a press conference which will request the Colorado Legislature pass legislation to ensure the State can match federal funds to complete much needed transportation improvements. Blackmore stated she can send the link with more information, but the event is available through the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce website.

Karasko provided TAC members with the 2016 TAC meeting schedule.

Seelhoff stated CDOT Region 4 has moved into its new building. All staff members have the same contact information. Seelhoff also reported Myron Hora will be leaving CDOT at the end of December to work the private sector.

Mallette reported the Larimer County property value assessment has increased and the County will leverage the increased funding as the local match for CDOT grants. To date, five out of nine local communities have passed resolutions approving this designation of funds. Larimer County is aiming to get the remaining resolutions approved by the end of the year.

**MEETING WRAP-UP:**

**Final Public Comment** – There was no final public comment.

**Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions** – Karasko stated the December TAC meeting will have one presentation, the holiday lunch, and TAC Chair and Vice-Chair elections.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes submitted by:**

Alex Gordon, NFRMPO staff.

**The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room. The Holiday lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.**