

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

**December 3, 2015
6 p.m.
Eaton Public Library
132 Maple Ave.
Eaton, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Sean Conway-Chair	-Weld County
Jan Dowker	-Berthoud
Chris Colclasure	-CDPHE
Kevin Ross	-Eaton
John Morris	-Evans
Gerry Horak	-Fort Collins
Tom Norton	-Greeley
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Joan Shaffer	-Loveland
Jordan Jemiola	-Milliken
Don Brookshire	-Severance
Kathy Gilliland	-Trans. Comm
John Vazquez	-Windsor

Absent

Paul Steinway	-Timnath
*No member	-Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance Manager; Josh Johnson, Transportation Planner and Merry Anne Hood, Financial/Administrative Specialist.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Chris Bagley, Jeff Bailey, Amanda Brimmer, Leah Browder, Dave Clark, Mike Crow, Julie Cozad, Jamie Grim, Mark Jackson, Joel Hemesath, Myron Hora, Melania Isbell, Suzette Mallette, Johnny Olson, Karen Schneiders, Jeremy Scott, Gary Thomas, William Wellborn.

Chair Conway called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Conway introduced Jamie Grim, Education Advocate, in Congressman Jared Polis' Fort Collins Office. Grim announced that the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act had passed the house and was still being debated by the Senate. Everyone in Polis' office is very excited about the bill and she will bring more details back to the Council once it is in effect.

Conway expressed his gratitude for Polis' leadership on the fully-funded, 5-year reauthorization and he thanked Grim for attending the meeting.

Ross introduced Melania Isbell, Eaton Town Trustee, to the Council.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

Conway suggested moving the Mill Levy Funds for I-25 Discussion Item in front of the Action Items. The Council concurred.

*Shaffer **moved** to accept the reordered meeting agenda. The motion was **seconded and passed** unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

*Ross **moved** to approve the November 5, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was **seconded and passed** unanimously.*

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Conway opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division Report

Chris Colclasure reviewed the Monthly Report from CDPHE for December 2015 with the Council. Donnelly requested Colclasure provide more information comparing ozone levels over the past 30 years to the Council and stated that he believes the per person value is very significant when considering the sizeable population increase in Colorado. Colclasure responded that although there is data going back to the late 60's, there is not really data available to address Donnelly's inquiry, but committed to provide what is available at the next Council meeting. Gilliland asked what else was responsible for keeping the area out of attainment. Colclasure indicated that the ozone that comes from other states and overseas is significant and indicated that there is a process to address that and it includes an interstate transport plan that reduces contributions from outlying areas, but it will not make a difference for the next milestone in 2017. Ross asked Colclasure if it was accurate that even with the changes Colorado was making the overall impact was minimal to Colorado's ozone levels or the effort to reach attainment. Colclasure said that was correct and cited that 1/3 reduction of emissions had resulted in only 5-6% reduction in concentration. He stated that oil and gas industry improvements, such as the centralized oil stabilization facilities, are making a dramatic difference in VOC emissions. That combined with NOx reduction provides significant health benefits for Coloradoans. He also assured the Council that they are researching their monitoring procedures, specifically at Chatfield, to identify why there is not a bigger response to the reduction percentages. Brookshire asked how local number measurements are separated from outside sources. Colclasure replied that it was a combination of monitors and modeling that requires advanced, time-intensive computer processing to determine. Vazquez expressed his concern that the standards would be lowered so much that the threshold would be unattainable. Colclasure replied that EPA should not set an unattainable goal, but also reminded them that public health is the main goal. He works with Region 8 and RAQC to set protocols, review emissions, etc. and eventually a plan will be developed that will show attainment in 2017. That plan will go through RAQC and the AQCC and may or may not get approved by EPA. Shaffer inquired about how the western states have the most direct impact on the ozone levels are working with Colorado. Colclasure responded that Colorado meets with neighboring states through Western States Air Resources Council (WESTAR). It is difficult to compel other states to reduce ozone. Colclasure believes that reductions in ozone transported from other states won't happen in Colorado before the 2017 attainment deadline. Conway asked if the dates of significant fires in surrounding states this year would be considered. Colclasure said those dates had been adjusted but high heat in earlier months had already ensured the area would not attain so analyzing the effects of the fires would not help with containment for 2015.

Regional Air Quality Council –RAQC

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Conway opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

*Dowker **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

- Approve the 2015 Q4 TIP Amendment

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed information from the December 2015 Director's Report Addendum with the Council highlighting that she would like Council feedback on the draft resolution she provided supporting the 6 principles identified by the North I-25 Coalition. Shaffer questioned whether the resolution on the support of North I-25 should include language that would garner more statewide support. Horak suggested adding the allocation of \$5M for the Berthoud climbing hill and the Crossroads project that was partnered with CDOT and possibly the effort of Commissioner Donnelly to allocate funds for the Road and Bridge Mill Levy Revenue Proposal but he wanted to hear Donnelly's presentation before making that decision. Blackmore agreed to revise the resolution and bring it back to the Council for action in January. She also summarized several handouts she had provided to the Council. Johnson was praised by the Council for the design and layout of the 2015 Annual Report.

Blackmore announced that this would be Conway's last meeting as Chair and presented him with a plaque and cake. Several Council members praised Conway for his professionalism and accomplishments as chair during 2015. Dowker also recognized his success in getting transportation issues in front of the public and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Statewide Transportation Advisory Council (STAC). Shaffer thanked him for his leadership and how effectively he ran the MPO meetings. Conway thanked Vice Chair Shaffer and Past Chair Dowker for their support and credited his accomplishments to the MPO's extraordinary collaborative team effort that he was proud to have worked with.

Report of the Chair:

Chair Conway reported that he had extended an invitation to Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) to present their data from Harstad Strategic Research, Inc. that showed the complete results from their statewide telephone survey conducted last July. He indicated that the poll showed that 73% of Coloradoans agreed that new roads and infrastructure were the highest priority, claiming that optimistic result was a testament to the work of the MPO Council, its communities and the coalitions that had been formed around the region. He recognized that there is still a lot of work to do and discussed the Bonding Tax Credit Bills and the 6 principles developed by North I-25 Coalition and Fix North I-25 Business Alliance, emphasizing the importance of having the Congressional leaders on board with those principles. He anticipates that 2016 will be an even better year and finished his report with the announcement that Julie Cozad, former member and Chair of the MPO Council, will be the new alternate for Weld County.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

A written report was provided.

Finance Committee

Ross reviewed the Finance Committee Report and Minutes from the November 18th meeting. Gilliland asked about a VanGo™ rate adjustment due to lower gas prices. Blackmore replied although that had been discussed, there will be new costs associated with increasing VanGo™ marketing and outreach so the decision was made to institute part-time ridership beginning in 2016 instead. She stated that Hedberg is finalizing the documents for the new part-time program to ensure that it is properly managed and then explained some of the challenges they are currently facing with the overall program. Shaffer asked if communities other than Fort Collins were being considered for the MPO offices. Blackmore explained that because many MPO staff members walk and/or ride bikes and use transit, it would be preferable to stay in

their current location but a smaller, newly configured space was being considered in an effort to reduce rental costs and Hedberg will be looking into options and bring her findings back to the Council in January.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mill Levy funds for I-25

Donnelly shared the Road & Bridge Mill Levy Revenue Proposal presentation with the Council. He concluded the presentation by indicating that “funding ready” projects would be prime candidates for the proposal. Conway applauded Donnelly for the regionalism the proposal encouraged.

ACTION ITEMS:

3rd Quarter Unaudited Financials

Crystal Hedberg, Finance Manager, indicated that the Unaudited Third Quarter Financial reports were in the packet and offered to answer any questions the Council had.

*Ross **moved** to accept the Third Quarter Unaudited Financials. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

The Council recessed at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Election of 2016 MPO Officers

Conway announced that John Vazquez had left the Council table, as previously arranged, and Windsor no longer had a voting member at the table and confirmed that there was still a quorum present for elections.

Conway opened nominations for 2016 MPO Chair.

*Shaffer **nominated** Gerry Horak and Ross **seconded** the nomination.*

*Brookshire **nominated** Tom Donnell. Donnelly **declined** and the **nomination** was **withdrawn**.*

*Shaffer **moved** to close the nominations for the 2016 MPO Chair. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Conway called for a vote to elect Gerry Horak as MPO chair for 2016.

*The Council **voted unanimously** for **Horak as MPO Chair** for 2016.*

Conway opened nominations for 2016 MPO Vice-Chair.

*Jemiola **nominated** Kevin Ross and Shaffer **seconded** the nomination.*

*Gilliland **moved** to close the nominations for the 2016 MPO Vice-Chair. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Conway called for a vote to elect Ross as MPO Vice-Chair.

*The Council **voted unanimously** for **Ross as MPO Vice-Chair** for 2016*

Conway congratulated Horak and Ross and informed the Council that the assignment of STAC Representative would be done at the January meeting by Horak.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland recognized Myron Hora's accomplishments with CDOT and thanked him for his 28 years of service. She said the Commission met on November 19th and reported that CDOT is working on their 10 year development plan that will bring all projects together in one database and allow them to update status, regional planning, funding needs, etc., while providing a complete overview of all their projects across the state. The plan is still in development but will kick off soon.

CDOT Region 4

Olson thanked Conway for his leadership and commitment to the Presidential Challenge and the MPO in 2015 and welcomed Horak and Ross as the new officers. He recognized several Council members for being strong advocates for the funding of I-25. He then reported that the Presidential Challenge grant was turned in with \$140M worth of great projects that met the holistic approach requirements HUD requested. It was given the title "North Colorado Connect Project" to show that it represents connections around the State, and not just I-25. Six State agencies were involved in the process. Copies are available upon request.

Hora reviewed the I-25 South of SH56 (Berthoud climbing lane) handout with the Council indicating that the proposed third lane will eventually replace the climbing lane. Gilliland explained CDOT's proposal to complete the nearly three mile section of highway needed to reach E-470 by using a loan and paying it back using the revenue from tolling. Conway thanked CDOT for being creative in financing the needed improvement in its entirety.

Olson introduced Mike Crow, CDOT Traffic Engineer, who reviewed the Top Prioritized Intersections for Detail Analysis handouts with the Council. Crow explained this analysis was data-driven because most of the funding used needed to be justified by benefit cost. He indicated that these were drafts and they were seeking Council's input for necessary revisions. He also clarified that even though the information was current to date, they want to anticipate any potential problems now. Ross inquired whether there were partnerships that could move a community up on the priority list. Olson replied that projects offering partnership funding and/or addressing safety issues would be higher on the list and explained how projects are ranked by their "level of safety service" in response to Horak's question about how the ranking is determined. Olson agreed to provide the complex ranking formula to the Council members. The Council briefly discussed some of the issues CDOT faces because schools are part of a different entity and do not consult CDOT or the local governments. Gilliland noted that is always beneficial to involve CDOT in the early stages of any project. Olson reviewed the CDOT Project Status Update with the Council.

North I-25

Shaffer announced that the December meeting was very well attended and she was very pleased with the passing of the transportation bill which provides for funding that I-25 can complete. Mellon also commented that there were many positive statements made.

Highway 34 Coalition

Conway reported that by their February meeting the PEL study matches between Kersey and Loveland would be announced as well as the type of funding needed to be matched by each of the Coalition's communities. The Election of Officers and Highway 34 Access Plan for Kersey to I-25 will be on the January 7th agenda.

Host Council Report

Ross welcomed everyone to Eaton's newly renovated library and acknowledged the architect, Roger Thorpe of Estes Park, while recognizing the library for paying cash for the project. He added that the groundbreaking for their new recreation center at CR 35 and Harmony Road was slated for spring 2016.

Loveland

Shaffer thanked the Council for their support during her time as Vice Chair and she reported that the Front Summit on November 16th was a great success with approximately 80 people in attendance. Shaffer was praised for her efforts with the Front Range Summit, for raising awareness on passenger rail and for positively representing the MPO. Shaffer said she will be taking North I-25 interests with her as she attends CML's policy meeting in Denver on December 4th.

Transportation Commission

Gilliland thanked Shaffer for serving as Vice Chair for the MPO the past year and noted that Senator Bennet had been highly praised for his involvement with the bill on transportation funding adding that many people are now in support of improvements for North I-25. She read a message from the Senator's office that recognized how the new transportation bill benefits the expansion of I-25.

Fort Collins

Horak thanked Shaffer for her nomination of him for Chair of the MPO and said he is encouraging the Fort Collins City Council to reserve funding for North I-25. He indicated that he has been encouraging the City of Fort Collins Council and the City manager to have a budget offer in March for their 2017-18 budget that is specific to helping fund I-25. He added that believed that having IGA's in place would help keep the funding on track.

Johnstown

Mellon reported that Johnstown's new Clear View Behavioral Health Center opened in October and is already at full capacity. He also indicated that Scheels sporting goods store plans to break ground on their 250,000 square foot building in early 2016 at the new Johnstown Plaza on the corner of Ronald Reagan Boulevard and Larimer Parkway and open in September 2017. He cited this project as another reason it makes sense to look at expanding US 34.

Berthoud

Dowker announced that Berthoud had plans to help fund I-25 and invited everyone to Grace Place on December 4th for Christmas in Berthoud.

LaSalle

Cochran reported that LaSalle is looking forward to an exciting 2016 and invited everyone to their town party on December 11th.

Evans

Morris announced that Evans had many transportation projects winding down and were looking forward to the new trucking company and large-scale Kum & Go Convenience stores as well as other projects on US 85.

Milliken

Jemiola invited everyone to Milliken's Festival of Lights on December 4th and reported that construction on the Johnstown-Milliken Trail project was underway.

Larimer County

Donnelly reported the following

- The roundabout at Shields and Vine in Fort Collins will have a ribbon-cutting on December 9th at 1:30 p.m.
- The IGA with Berthoud for the widening of CR 17 is near completion.
- Myron Hora recognized for all of his hard work in Larimer County.

Weld County

Conway thanked everyone for their support during his time as MPO Chair.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

There was no comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

1) Revised resolution supporting I-25

2) Report on the MPO office lease

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

*Mellon **moved** that the Council go 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 MPO's Executive Director Performance Evaluation Process for the current year and her potential salary and benefits. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

The Council entered into an Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. The session lasted approximately 44 minutes.

Chair Conway reopened the regular MPO Council meeting and announced that Executive Session Action would be taken at the January 7, 2016 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff