

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

**April 7, 2016
6 p.m.
LaSalle Town Hall
128 N. 2nd Street
LaSalle, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Gerry Horak-Chair -Fort Collins
Kevin Ross -Eaton
John Morris -Evans
Tom Norton -Greeley
Troy Mellon -Johnstown
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County
Paula Cochran -LaSalle
Joan Shaffer -Loveland
Linda Measner -Milliken
Don Brookshire -Severance
Kathy Gilliland -Trans. Comm.
Sean Conway -Weld County

Absent

Jan Dowker -Berthoud
Chris Colclasure -CDPHE
Paul Steinway -Timnath
Myles Baker -Windsor
*No member -Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director. Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner/Mobility Coordinator. Medora Kealy and Jenna Levin, Transportation Planners.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Eric Bracke, Robb Casseday, Julie Cozad, James Eussen, Bill Hange, Joel Hemesath, Myron Hora, Galina Leiphart, Dan Mattson, Suzette Mallette, Johnny Olson, Keith Sheaffer, Cory Stewart, Herman Stockinger, Gary Thomas.

Chair Horak called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

Horak indicated that items 8 and 13 could now be removed from the agenda. Conway noted that just before the Council meeting the Executive Committee had met with Herman Stockinger, Director, CDOT Office of Government Relations, to clarify the financing for the Central 70 Funding Package so this item no longer required Council discussion or action.

*Ross **moved** to approve the meeting agenda with items 8 and 13 deleted. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Conway ***moved*** to approve the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was ***seconded and passed*** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Horak opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division Report

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council –RAQC

A written report was provided. Horak complimented Blackmore for her work on the RAQC and asked if any other member of the Council would like to attend the meetings and represent the NFRMPO. No members responded affirmatively. Shaffer said she supported Blackmore staying on as RAQC representative. Horak confirmed that Blackmore would submit for reappointment as the MPO's RAQC representative.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Horak opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed information from the April 2016 Director's Report Addendum and added that the MPO servers had been down for several days causing staff to lose email communications and internet and asked that anyone not receiving a response to any emails recently please resend it. She complimented the City of Fort Collins for their responsiveness to the situation, including the loaning of a switch. She also indicated that the approval of the audit would be delayed slightly to allow staff time to get follow-up information to the auditor, Anton Mitchell Collins, LLP. She confirmed that there was a minimal amount of data lost and the necessary equipment had been purchased to fix the problem. The MPO plans to file an insurance claim with CIRSA for the emergency equipment that was purchased and protective measures have been put in place to keep this from happening again. Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, introduced Medora Kealy and Jenna Levin, new Transportation Planners at the MPO. Blackmore announced that the MPO is in the final stages of negotiations with Blue Ocean Enterprises for the office space at 419 Canyon Avenue and they hope to begin construction sometime in the spring. Four keyboard trays were offered to any community who could use them.

Report of the Chair:

Chair Horak recognized Milliken's newly elected Mayor Pro Tem, and former Mayor, Linda Measner, and welcomed her to the Council. Other Council members recognized were Kevin Ross, who was congratulated for being elected as Mayor of Eaton, John Morris who was reelected as Mayor of Evans, Myles Baker, Mayor Pro-Tem in Windsor had been reelected to Council. It was noted that Johnstown's Mayor-elect is Scott James and Windsor's Mayor-elect is Kristie Melendez.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

DISCUSSION ITEM:Central 70 Funding Package

Item removed from the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS:

FASTLANE and TIGER GRANTS

Blackmore and Stockinger gave the FASTLANE & TIGER Grants for North I-25 – 402 to 14 presentation to the Council. Blackmore focused on the FASTLANE Grant and Stockinger on the TIGER Grant.

Blackmore expressed the importance of getting letters of support from as many communities around the State as possible, even those not directly on the I-25 Corridor. Letters should be sent to bkarasko@nfrmpo.org no later than April 12th.

Shaffer asked what the \$5M commitment for Transit and Rail was going towards. Johnny Olson, CDOT R4, explained that approximately \$4.3M was being used for construction of a new Park and Ride lot at Kendall Parkway where new slip ramps which allow buses to pull off to the side of a road to serve the Park-n-Ride lot and the remaining funds will secure the Right-of-Way and ADA accommodations at the Park-n-Ride's that service Loveland, Greeley and Windsor areas.

Ross inquired about Stockinger's success rate in acquiring TIGER Grants. Stockinger indicated that of the 22 applications he had worked on, 8 of which were completed, the three strongest of which were awarded grants. Conway noted that considering the difficulty factor recognized by some as "more difficult than getting into Harvard Law School", Stockinger's success rate is quite impressive. Stockinger said he believed this grant application had similar attributes to those that had been successful in the past and declared he believed it was a "winner".

Morris asked if the selection criteria included the effects air quality. Blackmore replied that Air Quality criterion are listed under "Community Outcomes" for FASTER and "Environmental Sustainability" for TIGER. Brookshire asked if any improvements were planned for the cloverleaf design on the interchange at I-25 and US 34 and if that interchange was causing considerable congestion. Olson responded that although it may be causing some issues because of the weave pattern at the base, they would not be changing the design because an additional lane would provide the greatest improvement for that interchange. Shaffer added that it will cost approximately \$430M to redesign the US 34 interchange and the project will be being considered over the next 10 years as communities continue to commit to local matches.

Horak thanked Stockinger and Blackmore, complimenting Blackmore and the MPO staff for putting together a very high-quality presentation. He acknowledged all of the communities for the many positive changes that have been made regarding the Council's achievements with these grant processes and recognized this year's exceptional efforts by Larimer County, Johnstown, Windsor and Loveland. Donnelly was commended for leading the efforts in Larimer County that will provide \$10M in funding. Horak felt it would be beneficial to also highlight the Berthoud Climbing Hill and Crossroads projects in the grant applications. Olson also suggested that the roundabout project at Crossroads and the improvements on SH 14 cloverleaf intersection. Johnstown was highly praised for their \$1M local match for North I-25 which equates to approximately 1/7th of their general fund, or \$400 per household.

US 34 PEL

Johnny Olson, CDOT Region 4 gave the US 34 PEL presentation to the Council. Conway stated that the Highway 34 Coalition had viewed the same presentation at their March 9th meeting and their unanimous recommendation was to go forward with the PEL Study as it was presented. He emphasized that CDOT will meet with all of the communities included in the study on their priorities for the scope of work prior to sending out the RFP. Olson confirmed that the communities will also have multiple opportunities to have timely meetings with consultants to add to the scope in their areas, and if needed they will give additional presentations to the elected officials in those communities. It was noted that any additional scope items added by a community would be funded by that community.

ACTION ITEMS:US 34 PEL Study

Conway **moved** to approve the MPO Council's RPP money for FY 2019 totaling \$2,095,204 and for RPP money for FY 2020 totaling up to \$117,596 to fund a US Highway 34 Planning and Environmental Linkage study (PEL). The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.

Conway commended Norton, Morris, Shaffer, Melon and all of the entities and their staff for their part in the regional collaboration shown throughout the 6 month process that led to getting the study approved.

MPO Support of FASTLANE/TIGER Grants

Shaffer **moved** to approve the letter outlining the MPO Support of the FASTLANE/TIGER. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.

Horak praised Blackmore for the leadership she had shown throughout the collaboration process with both MPO staff and CDOT.

MPO Central 70 Letter

Item was removed from the agenda.

COUNCIL REPORTS:Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported on the following:

- US 36 at 120th Express Lane is now open. Many were in attendance at the ribbon cutting. The next section will go from 120th to E-470.
- The Berthoud Hill Truck Climbing lane project is scheduled to begin the week of April 11th.
- The Loveland Crossroads Boulevard bridge project is going to ad in May.
- Gratitude to all for TIGER Grant support- especially the smaller communities.

CDOT Region 4

Olson thanked Horak, Blackmore, and others for attending the Town Board and City Council meetings in support of the TIGER grant and reported there will be US 34 Canyon Project meetings on April 11th & 12th, and that Construction Work Zone Safety Week is April 11-15. Olson then briefly reviewed the CDOT Project Status Updates (April 2016) with the Council.

North I-25 Coalition

Shaffer reported that the Coalition met on April 6th. She expressed their appreciation for all of the support they have been receiving and indicated they still need more letters of support from communities, large and small, whose commercial businesses and/or residential businesses are impacted by I-25 as they are still approximately \$2M short of their goal.

STAC Report- Conway briefly reviewed the information from the STAC Summary – March 18, 2016 report with the Council.

Host Council Report

Cochran thanked everyone for attending and recognized Don Juan's Mexican Restaurant for providing the food. She thanked LaSalle staff members Jessica McKeown, Victoria Perez, and Karen Frazier-Rohrer for their assistance setting up the room. She reported that spring activities are taking place at Main Park and summer reservations are already being taken at the Community Center (the former UP Depot).

Loveland- Shaffer thanked the City of Fort Collins for including Loveland in their discussions at the National League of Cities (NLC) regarding the TIGER and FASTLANE Grants as well as train horn regulations, which

the FRA will be accepting public comment on through July 5th. All communities were encouraged to participate by identifying the issues they are having since the rules changed in 2005. The US 287 Coalition has been working on addressing safety issues ahead of the train horn rule reopening and Loveland is applying for a TIGER Grant application for quiet zones. Presentations are available to interested communities and letters of support for the grant are welcome.

Greeley- Norton was happy to report that all of the contracts had been finalized for Greeley's downtown hotel, convention center and construction will begin immediately. Also, the City's annual \$12M roadway improvement program approved last November is underway.

Larimer County- Donnelly informed the Council the two Loveland, Larimer County, and Fort Collins collaborative TAP projects from the last Call for Projects, one funded by the MPO (Front Range Trail) and the other by CDOT (Longview Trail) were in design and expected to be constructed in 2017.

Weld County- Conway reported the WCR 49 project will begin construction in the next week or two on the south end, off of WCR 76 and work its way north.

Evans- Morris announced the Evan's City Council had approved a \$41M bond for a new wastewater treatment plant. The construction will begin at the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017. Planned Unit Developments were approved for Grapevine Hollow and Bella Vista Mobile Home Park, which was washed out in the 2013 floods. A DOLA Energy Impact Grant was approved to complete flood repairs and repave on 49th Street from Brantnor Road to 35th Avenue. A new 10,000 – 15,000 square foot Kum & Go convenience store is going up at 31st and US 85. Talks continue with Synergy as they prepare to drill 23 – 24 new wells in the next two months.

Johnstown- Mellon reported the only change to the Johnstown Town Council from the recent election was the new Mayor. He also announced the Atomic Wolf Pack Robotics Team from Roosevelt High School in Johnstown will be going to the VEX Robotics Competition World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky in April.

Eaton- Ross reported the Town of Eaton held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 6th with Sparq Natural Gas, Agfinity, Noble Energy, and Weld County to celebrate the Agfinity CNG station going in east of the railroad tracks on US 85. The project was funded in part through MPO approved CMAQ funding and Eaton is looking at converting their school buses as well as all of its town vehicles to CNG. He met with Weld County Commissioners on April 6th regarding the intersection at CR 76 and US 85 and there appears to be progress with the discussion.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

There was no comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

- 1) US 34 Thompson Canyon Project

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff