

**MEETING MINUTES of the
NFRMPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Windsor Recreation Center - Pine Room
250 North 11th Street
Windsor, CO**

**January 18, 2017
1:00 - 2:14**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dawn Anderson, Chair - Evans
Dennis Wagner, Vice-Chair - Windsor
Jeff Bailey - Loveland
Eric Bracke - Greeley
Amanda Brimmer - RAQC
Aaron Bustow - FHWA
Eric Fuhrman - Timnath
Tim Kemp - City of Fort Collins
Rusty McDaniel - Larimer County
Karen Schneiders - CDOT
Larry Squires - FTA
Gary Thomas - SAINT
Nick Wharton - Severance

NFRMPO STAFF:

Terri Blackmore
Aaron Buckley
Ryan Dusil
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Medora Kealy

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nagle with Bike Fort Collins requested CDOT and other public entities consider safer non-motorized connections across I-25, which ideally would be several grade separated crossings every few miles between Johnstown and Wellington.

Nichols, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator for the City of Fort Collins, stated the goal of the program is to get 50 percent of K-12 students safely walking and bicycling to school. According to US Census data, youth aged 17 and younger constitute 20 percent of the Fort Collins population. The current Prospect and I-25 interchange looks complex and daunting for bicyclists, pedestrians, and school-aged youth. Students attending the proposed new Poudre School District campus at Prospect and County Road 5 on the east side of I-25 would have to negotiate this interchange. Putting in a protected facility would provide safer access across this interchange. The SRTS program would take sixth-grade PE students across this facility to access destinations on the west side.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2016 TAC MINUTES

Bailey moved to approve the December 21, 2016 TAC meeting minutes. Bracke seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Brothers - Berthoud
Gary Carsten - Eaton
John Franklin - Johnstown
Janet Lundquist - Weld County
Jessica McKeown - LaSalle
Milliken

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Averill - Fort Collins
Marissa Gaughan - CDOT
Will Jones - GET, Greeley
Lauren Nagle - Bike Fort Collins
Nancy Nichols - Fort Collins
Kathy Seelhoff - CDOT
Wade Willis - Windsor, NoCo Bike & Ped

CONSENT ITEMS

No items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

No items this month.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS (verbal)

Northern Colorado (NoCo) Bike & Ped Collaborative - Willis provided a memo concerning non-motorized connections across I-25. Harmony Road, which is the standard proposed for the Prospect Interchange, is a road most riders consider unsafe. He proposed including more grade-separated crossings for non-motorized users across I-25. Windsor recently had a box culvert designed wider to offer bicyclists and pedestrians an opportunity to use it in the future. Willis would like TAC to be aware of the facilities and would like to invite Larimer County Transportation Program Manager, Suzette Mallette to have a discussion with the NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative.

The NoCo Bike and Pedestrian Collaborative will be holding three to four half-day workshops in 2017. The first workshop will be with the City of Fort Collins on February 8 about bicycle education.

Anderson stated she participated in NoCo Bike & Ped and recognizes the concerns for non-motorized users.

Regional Transit Items - Bailey stated the new COLT transit center opened at the Food Bank for Larimer County on January 14.

Averill stated the Transfort ridership numbers for 2016 were nearly 4M, a 25 percent increase over 2015. Route shifts, MAX, and CSU contracts may be responsible for the increase.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY2018-2019 UPWP Tasks - Blackmore presented the draft UPWP tasks; however, no funding information has been provided by CDOT. The UPWP Tasks include regional transit studies, the Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Transit Element, and Travel Demand Model development. Gaughan will provide estimated budget numbers for the UPWP. Blackmore stated the NFRMPO will meet with CDOT and FTA on February 22 and will bring the items to TAC in March or April. The tasks are only for the NFRMPO, and do not include VanGo™. The NFRMPO would like to receive comments before February 22.

Anderson asked for clarification on the UPWP schedule. Blackmore stated the budget needs to be reviewed and information will be supplied in March. Transit planning studies should be sent to Blackmore as soon as possible to be included in the UPWP.

Averill stated he will be submitting a task. Squires asked to have the Region 4 CDOT staff reach out to the Division of Transit and Rail for information on upcoming planning projects. Jones stated the FTA §5311 redistribution for the route from Fort Morgan to Greeley is part of the effort.

TIP Q1 Amendment - Buckley stated the City of Fort Collins submitted 20 new projects for the Quarter 1 TIP Amendment, including two FASTER entries, one FTA §5304, three FTA §5307, two FTA §5310, and 12 FTA §5339. The total funding amount is \$9.45M which comprises \$5.97M federal and \$3.48M local.

Schneiders asked if the information should be represented in funding pools. Buckley stated they were received as individual projects and would be added to the TIP as such.

Coordinated Plan Update - Gordon explained the schedule for the 2017 Coordinated Plan. The schedule is for Council to adopt the Plan in December 2017. The Plan is required for organizations which receive FTA §5310 funding and is developed through a public input process. The goal of the funding is to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities. Demographic information for the disabled population or over age 65 for both Larimer and Weld counties was presented. Gordon requested feedback for the public outreach program, which included researching senior centers and community centers across the region, and the community events the NFRMPO have previously attended.

Bracke asked if NFRMPO staff had attended all of the events listed. Gordon stated the NFRMPO has attended each event at least once in the past two years and anticipates attending them again this year.

Squires asked if the service gaps have been identified. Gordon mentioned the connections between small to large communities and education is a known gap. Thomas stated rural transportation is a gap for the region overall.

Squires asked if Lyft or Uber have been considered. Thomas answered the voucher program for rural transportation has not been expanded to Lyft or Uber yet. Blackmore stated VanGo™ uses Lyft and Uber for their guaranteed ride home program. A receipt is required for reimbursement. Averill stated Transfort has been examining options with Uber and Lyft for first and last mile trips.

Gordon mentioned some communities are working on social media pages for ride matching services. Blackmore stated senior centers sometimes put together ride connections. Lyft and Uber were used for the VanGo™ guaranteed ride home to help reduce the wait.

Jones indicated Greeley has some potential events and Senior Resource Services would be a good contact for public involvement. The Greeley Arts Festival was suggested as a community event the NFRMPO could attend.

Anderson stated Evansfest is coming back in September. She asked about the timing of the plan. Gordon stated the Plan should be wrapping up in September to be on schedule for December adoption.

Regional Travel Demand Model TAZ Update - Dusil noted the UPWP has a task to update the TAZs and the NFRMPO is looking for review and comment on the methodology. A TAZ is the basic geographic unit for land use and socioeconomic data, which allows trip origin and destination work to be completed for travel demand modeling. The national standard TAZ practices were listed concerning spatial information. Census block boundaries will be included in this update. The TAZs for Severance will be updated and be reduced from 17 to 16 TAZs, which fit better with the growth management area. The size of a TAZ corresponds to the population, expected growth, and future land use. LaSalle was also reviewed and had a reduction from seven to four TAZs, which removed over 35 square miles outside of the town's boundary. Summary information for Fort Collins and Windsor TAZs was presented as well; however, their changes were less substantial than other communities. Next steps include updating other communities, discussing updates with each community, refining the updates, and obtaining 2045 future land use shapefiles from each community.

Averill asked how the NFRMPO reduces the land area in the model. Blackmore stated the land is more accurately reassigned to the County and is not removed from the model. Averill asked where the control total is obtained. Blackmore stated the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) provides the control total. Averill asked if it is possible to include lessons learned from the 2007 decline. Blackmore stated it will be included in the model, not the TAZ update. Blackmore stated Severance provided information which allowed the TAZs to be further refined.

Anderson asked how often this is updated. Karasko stated the model is updated every four years with the Regional Transportation Plan. Blackmore added TAZs typically do not change as often and this is a complete review and redesign of the TAZs.

FY2018-2021 TIP Policy- Schneiders presented on CDOT's concerns regarding the proposed changes to the TIP policy in the FY2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), specifically what constitutes a Modification and an Amendment. CDOT provides the majority of TIP changes for the NFRMPO's TIP. A key concern is the existing policy in the FY2016-2019 TIP offers flexibility, which is beneficial to CDOT as the future of transportation funding is unknown. CDOT is concerned about their ability to react to federal changes if the TIP policy is changed. Currently, the FY2016-2019 TIP policy contains the language "whichever is higher"; however, the draft FY2018-2021 TIP has that language removed. The difference in the language would change the threshold for an Amendment versus a Modification. With the current language, the I-25 project would allow an \$11.75M modification (on a \$47M project), but the new language would require an Amendment for changes in federal funds over \$2M. Unknowns in the future include the president-elect's infrastructure plan, statewide transportation ballot initiatives, federal grant applications (such as TIGER and FASTLANE), future major projects in the NFRMPO area including I-25 phases, US85/US34 interchange, US85 PEL outcomes, and US34 PEL outcomes.

Blackmore asked why there is such a sense of urgency for projects when a contract cannot be implemented in 90 days. Schneiders stated for the I-25 project, the Transportation Commission loan amount could require additional federal funds, which would require a 90-day Amendment process, which in turn could delay the I-25 design build project. This is in conflict with the existing CDOT timeline. Seelhoff stated depending on the date of the Amendment submission, it could take nearly 180 days for the Amendment to be processed.

Blackmore asked if CDOT would complete the public involvement for the new project funding they would like Administratively Modified into the NFRMPO's TIP. She stated she is concerned about the lack of transparency for the funding changes.

Schneiders stated the Prospect Road Interchange using state and local funds went through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessment and that it has been through the NFRMPO public process for the RTP Amendment and the TIP policy amendment.

Blackmore and Karasko stated the I-25 Prospect Road Interchange was not part of the 2040 RTP Amendment. Blackmore stated the NFRMPO is uncomfortable with the lack of public process for the I-25 Prospect Interchange as a Modification. The NFRMPO is responsible for transparency with public funds and this project, which includes two regionally significant facilities, has not gone through the regional public involvement process.

Schneiders stated the "whichever is greater" language should be retained in the FY2018-2021 TIP.

Blackmore asked if CDOT is lobbying other MPOs to include the language, as other MPOs in the state do not have a percentage and do not have "whichever is greater" language.

Blackmore stated more research is needed and a decision should not be made today. With the current update to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CDOT and the MPOs, the NFRMPO is being requested to do public involvement which means the MPO is liable. She does not believe 90 days for a TIP Amendment is excessive.

Buckley passed out a comparison page which highlights the publicly available STIP Amendment information, the Amendment criteria for the five Colorado MPOs, and the public involvement for each Amendment process.

Anderson asked if the 2018-2021 TIP will be on the February Planning Council agenda. Blackmore stated it was pulled from the agenda to give TAC time to review the information. There is currently no urgency to pass the FY2018-2021 TIP.

Anderson asked if members wanted time to review the documents and to discuss at the February TAC meeting. Members agreed.

REPORTS

Federal Inactives Report - Schneiders gave updates on projects. The North Fort Collins Adaptive Signal System needs to be closed out. Schneiders recommended TAC members work with Jake Schuch and Katrina Klobberdanz to get projects finished.

Mobility Committee Update - Gordon stated the quarterly Mobility newsletter was included in the packet.

TIP Modification Updates - Buckley stated the quarterly TIP Modification updates include three projects in December and one project in January.

NFRMPO Counter Program Update - Buckley stated the handout passed around concerns the bicycle and pedestrian count devices purchased by the NFRMPO in late 2015. Data gathered from the two permanent count sites was explained and the usage of the three mobile count devices was outlined. A six-month free trial of the Drakewell count data analysis software was included with the purchase of the permanent count devices. After the six-month trial concluded Larimer County secured an additional year of free service and will begin the paid service after the year concludes. Bracke asked if the information would be included in the NoCo Bike & Ped meeting materials. Buckley confirmed it would be included in the February information.

ROUNDTABLE

Anderson stated the 37th Street and US 85 Highway Access Control Project has had some delays but should be complete this week. The signal infrastructure switch has experienced some minor delay. The US 85 and 31st Street project design had a kickoff meeting. Trees will be cut down for the 65th Avenue project in Evans on January 19, 2017. City Council has narrowed the City Manager candidates down to top 3 finalists.

Karasko stated the NFRMPO has submitted a purchase request for the UrbanSim Census Block level model for the Regional Travel Demand Model update.

Buckley stated the Bicycle Colorado discount code for the Moving People Forward Conference was emailed to everyone. Secondly, he accepted a Transportation Demand Management Professional position with Colorado State University and will be working on transportation options for employees.

Kemp stated there will be a significant construction season for 2017 in Fort Collins. The College and Prospect intersection will start in February.

Jones stated GET will be breaking ground on the transit center on February 13.

Kealy stated the NFRMPO Newsletter is now available. Kealy stated communities may contact her for printed copies to distribute.

Wagner stated the railroad quiet zones are now in effect in Windsor.

Fuhrman stated the Timnath Harmony Road Project is on schedule.

Averill stated Transfort is still examining Sunday service options. Due to difficulty in finding funding partners, a more limited service may be offered.

Bustow stated last week the final USDOT performance measures were released, including the pavement and bridge condition measure and the system performance, freight, and CMAQ measure. External webinars will be available Wednesday, January 20 and Thursday, January 21 around lunch.

Bracke stated he read an article about level of service changing to hours of person delay. Bustow stated he has not read the performance measure notice, but will update the group.

Squires stated the previous FTA Region 8 Regional Administrator, Linda Gherke, left in 2016 and the new Regional Administrator is Cindy Terwilliger will join from Region 7 in Kansas.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment - There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions - Anderson stated TIP Policy will be examined. Karasko stated the Q1 TIP Amendment, and information from the February Council will be included.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

Aaron Buckley, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room.