

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

**February 2, 2017  
Evans Community Complex  
1100 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Evans, CO**

**Voting Members**

**Present**

**Kevin Ross-Chair**            -Eaton  
John Morris                -Evans  
Bob Overbeck            -Fort Collins  
Robb Casseday         -Greeley  
Troy Mellon              -Johnstown  
Tom Donnelly             -Larimer County  
Paula Cochran           -LaSalle  
Dave Clark               -Loveland  
Linda Meisner          -Milliken  
Don Brookshire         -Severance  
Paul Steinway           -Timnath  
Kathy Gilliland         -Trans Commission  
Sean Conway            -Weld County  
Kristie Melendez       -Windsor

**Absent**

Jennifer Baker         -Berthoud  
Chris Colclasure      -CDPHE  
  
\*No member            -Garden City

**MPO Staff:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Eric Bracke, Leah Browder, Julie Cozad, Jim Eussen, Tom Hellen, Myron Hora, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Peter Kozinski, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Kurt Ravenschlag, Fred Starr.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

***Chair Ross opened the Public Hearing for Air Quality Conformity Determinations for the Denver-North Front Range 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area and the Fort Collins and Greeley Carbon Monoxide (CO) Maintenance Areas at 6:01 p.m.***

Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, gave the Conformity Determinations for NFRMPO 2040 RTP Amendments and FY 2018-2021 TIP presentation to the Council stating the following: In September 2016, NFRMPO Staff held a call for 2040 RTP Amendments, two were received.

The conformity determination also includes a project from the Upper Front Range TPR for Weld County Road 105 (as requested by the County and the US Forest Service) as well as the projects selected in the MPO's recent FY2020-2021 Call for Projects, selected in September 2016 and part of the new FY2018-2021 TIP. While the GET Transit Center is a part of the RTP Amendment, it is not included in the conformity documents as it is not something that can be modeled.

The conformity determination is being completed now due to the following factors:

- Size/length of the I-25 project
- Recommendations from the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG)
- I-25 year of completion moving from 2040 to 2020
- CDOT receiving TIGER VIII funds for the North I-25 project in 2016 and a commitment of \$25M in local funds from communities within Larimer and Weld counties. Through these regional cooperative efforts, all \$237M needed to complete the first construction project was identified for immediate programming.

All demographics are the same as the 2040 RTP adopted in September 2015.

The pollutants tested for ozone were Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) & Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Carbon Monoxide (CO), and are listed in tons per day. The conformity reports describe socioeconomic, demographic, and transportation planning assumptions to the year 2040. Although the 2008 SIP Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB) were used for this conformity determination, the results would still meet the new 2017 SIP's MVEBs of 8 tons per day for VOC and 12 tons per day for NO<sub>x</sub> for all years.

The Fort Collins and Greeley Carbon Monoxide (CO) Maintenance Areas charts show the Carbon Monoxide results for the Fort Collins and Greeley Maintenance Areas which are below the budgets. The CO Budget numbers are from the 2002 Maintenance Plans for both areas.

No comments were received during the public comment period on the Conformity document nor during the Public Hearing notice period from November 11 through December 10, 2016 or from the Public Hearing Notice period January 4 through February 2, 2017. On December 15, the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) concurred with the positive Air Quality Conformity findings and no public comments were received during that public meeting.

The 2040 RTP Amendment and associated 2040 RTP demonstrate conformity with all ozone and carbon monoxide emission budgets. The FY2018 – FY 2021 TIP and associated FY17 – FY 20 STIP also demonstrate conformity with all ozone and carbon monoxide emission budgets and is compliant with AQCC Regulation Number 10 (Criteria for Analysis of Transportation Conformity (5 CCR 1001-12)).

NFRMPO staff requested the Planning Council approve the positive conformity findings on the Consent Agenda.

There was no public comment.

***Chair Ross closed the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.***

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:**

*Mellon moved to approve the February 2, 2017 Meeting Agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

*Donnelly moved to approve the December 1, 2016 meeting minutes as amended (with two minor corrections). The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

## **Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

Chair Ross opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

### Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) Report

A written report was provided. Blackmore noted that Chris Colclasure was currently the acting Division Director of the APCD for the Colorado Department of Health and Environment and if he were to be chosen for the position permanently the MPO would be getting a new MPO representative.

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair Ross opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

#### Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed information from the February 2017 Director's Report and added the following information:

- The NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative, APA Colorado and FC Bikes will be holding a Mobilizing Your Community's Bicycle Safety Education Programs sessions on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Windsor Recreation Center. She provided a flyer with registration information to the Council.
- Jim Souby, ColoRail President, informed her that a new bill, SB 17-153, which was introduced in the Senate on January 31 would establish the Front Range Passenger Rail Commission to oversee the preservation and expansion of Amtrak Southwest Chief Rail service in Colorado and facilitate the development and operation of a Front Range passenger rail system that provides passenger rail service in and along the I-25 corridor. The bill, if approved, would replace the existing Southwest Chief Commission and each MPO will be assigned a representative.
- The NFRMPO has been invited to join the Western Regional Alliance (WRA) which was established in 2009. Their members include metropolitan planning and transit organizations in six western metropolitan regions. WRA Membership would align the NFRMPO with Denver Regional Council of Governments and others in the region with regards to Federal Air Quality Standards and Best Practices. Current policy issues they are committing to work on include right-sizing federal transportation funding for western states and localities, advocating for fairness in federal air quality standards, promoting economic development and sharing metropolitan data and best practices between and among members. Blackmore has also been asked to serve on the board.

Chair Ross requested Blackmore take the cost of the WRA membership to the Finance Committee as a budget item. Blackmore agreed she would.

#### Report of the Chair:

- STAC and Finance Committee Assignments- Chair Ross announce he had assigned Sean Conway as STAC member for a second year and Tom Donnelly as his alternate. He also announced Tom Donnelly would serve as chair of the Finance Committee and Kristie Melendez would be Vice-chair, Paul Steinway and Paula Cochran will remain members of the committee.
- Paul Steinway letter to Council- Ross invited Steinway to read the letter since he was in attendance. Steinway said that he had intended for his letter to be read during the January meeting but that meeting had to be cancelled due to weather. He recognized that during a conversation at the December 1 Council meeting regarding interpreting information within the financial reports, he made some comments that may have led some people to believe that he was calling into question the integrity of the financial reporting. He very much regretted that was the outcome of his statements and it was not the intent of what he was trying to share. He indicated that he had personally apologized to Crystal Hedberg, Operations and Finance Manager, and wanted to make it clear that he believes the reporting is being done very well but had some personal preferences on how information is presented as he found it awkward to

determine current period budget versus actual numbers. He noted the staff had committed to present some formatting changes on those reports in the future. He wanted to clear the air that there had been any consequence to the misinterpretation that he was calling into question the integrity of the work that was being done and confirmed that he is very comfortable with the financial information that gets reported. Ross thanked Steinway for addressing the issue and discussing it with all the parties involved.

*Morris **moved** to approve Resolution 2017-03 Establishing the 2017 Committee Membership. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

#### TAC:

A written report was provided. Dawn Anderson, TAC Chair, gave an update on TAC discussions over the past several months regarding the FY2019-2021 TIP that focused on TIP Amendment policies highlighting the following with the Council:

- Currently, the FY2016-2019 TIP policy contains the language “a change in federal funds of \$1M or 25%, whichever is higher”.
- At their November meeting, TAC discussed the FY2018-2021 TIP. One of the proposed changes to TIP was the TIP Amendment threshold. TAC requested NFRMPO Staff bring an analysis of Amendments to the December TAC meeting to help TAC with setting an Amendment threshold.
- Staff brought the analysis to the December TAC meeting for discussion. At that time, TAC decided to set the threshold for an Amendment as a change from \$1M to \$2M or 25% in the federal portion of a project’s funding, removing the “whichever is greater” language for clarity regarding the threshold for a TIP Amendment.
- At the January 18 TAC meeting, CDOT staff presented on their concerns regarding the proposed changes to the threshold, specifically what constitutes a TIP Modification versus a TIP Amendment. CDOT was concerned that the existing policy in the FY2016-2019 TIP offers greater flexibility and were concerned about their ability to have enough time to react to federal changes if the TIP policy is changed. They requested the retention of the “whichever is greater” language in the FY2018-2021 TIP. TAC postponed a decision on the policy to allow NFRMPO staff to conduct more research on TIP requirements.
- NFRMPO Staff was concerned about the lack of transparency and public involvement with the funding changes CDOT anticipates for the I-25 project as TIP Amendments require public involvement and notification of the changes, TIP Modifications do not.
- NFRMPO staff researched the other Colorado MPOs TIPs, the NFRMPO was the only MPO with a percentage threshold, the “whichever is greater” language, and currently, the lowest dollar threshold (\$1M).
- On February 1, NFRMPO Staff, FHWA, FTA, CDOT Region 4, CDOT District 5 Commissioner Gilliland, and the TAC Chair met to discuss a draft TIP Amendment policy for the FY2018-2021 TIP. The following outlines the proposed policy:
  - ❖ TIP Amendments will be processed every other month, instead of quarterly.
  - ❖ TIP Amendments would only go to TAC and Council once for Action, instead of twice (once for Discussion and once for Action)
  - ❖ The Amendment threshold will be an addition or deletion of \$5M or more in federal or state funds for any project, the 25% will be removed altogether.
  - ❖ The 30-day Public Comment period will begin when the TAC packet is sent out.

- ❖ Emergency Response funds for natural disasters/emergency roadway repairs to major regional corridors will still be able to be placed into the STIP and then placed into the TIP and used in a timely manner.
- ❖ Staff will work to clarify a Regionally Significant Projects definition to alleviate any confusion as well as include a process for emergency repairs that are not funded through Emergency Response funding.
- ❖ Everyone in attendance at the meeting was in consensus that this would be an effective plan for all parties involved.
- Currently the NFRMPO is the only MPO in Colorado with a percentage requirement in their TIP and the current \$1M is the lowest TIP Amendment threshold. The proposed policy aligns more closely with the State's other MPOs and will allow NFRMPO staff to use same criteria which will in turn, also help CDOT.
- The proposed TIP Amendment policy will be taken to the February TAC meeting for discussion/action and then to Council in March.

Gilliland commended NFRMPO staff for coming up with a solution that addressed CDOT's timing concerns indicating that certain funding may have gone to other regions because timelines were not previously aligned properly for the NFRMPO and Region 4. She added that this would be a much cleaner process that allows projects to be executed in a way that benefits everyone.

Blackmore noted that the proposed policy brought the NFRMPO in alignment with both DRCOG and CDOT's \$5M policy for state and federal funding in Region 4. Morris agreed that this was a positive policy change but expressed his concern that the policy allowed adherence to the required 30-day public notice. Blackmore assured the Council that it would. Chair Ross thanked Anderson for her hard work and her presentation to the Council.

#### Finance:

Donnelly briefly reviewed information from the Finance Committee Report and Meeting Minutes from the December 15, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting. It was noted that a new format for the financial statements would be presented following the MPO audit. Steinway added that his request was strictly for reformatting the information and did not correct any financial information or change which financial information would be presented.

#### Mobility:

A written report was provided. Blackmore announced to the Council that the Mobility Coordination bags at their place had been ordered by Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator, to use with Human Services and senior community members to represent the value of human services and get seniors to engage in the development of the 2017 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan which is due at the end of the year.

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

#### Air Quality Conformity

#### 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment

#### 2016 Non-Motorized Plan

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

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### FY2016 TMA Program of Projects (POP)

Kurt Ravenschlag, Transfort General Manager, briefly reviewed the key points from the FY2016 TMA Program of Projects (POP) AIS with the Council. Blackmore added that the item did require a public hearing which had been held in Fort Collins prior to the cancelled January 5<sup>th</sup> MPO Council meeting.

*Conway **moved** to approve Adopting an Amendment to the FY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Regarding FTA §5307, §5310, §5339 Fort Collins/Loveland/Berthoud Transportation Management Area (TMA) Program of Projects for FFY16. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

### FY2017 UPWP Amendment #2

Ravenschlag briefly reviewed information included in the 2.0 Transfort- MAX Station Area Planning Project sheet and Resolution 2017-06 with the Council.

*Conway **moved** to approve Resolution 2017-06 Approving the Second Amendment to the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Budget. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Blackmore requested the motion adopting the FY2016 TMA Program of Projects (POP) be amended to include the resolution number.

*Conway **moved** to amend the previous motion to include "Resolution No. 2017-05". The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### RoadX

Peter Kozinski, CDOT RoadX Program Director, gave the Road X presentation to the Council. Gilliland announced the City of Evans was among the communities along the targeted Hyperloop route from DIA to Greeley. Kozinski explained that CDOT was approached with the Hyperloop concept, which is a proposed long-distance, high-speed, elevated tube transport system which Elon Musk launched a 2015 global competition among mainly student teams. The two organizations helping to spearhead the program are Hyperloop One and Hyperloop Transportation Technologies. The Colorado route with Greeley as an end point connecting to DIA was chosen as one of the thirty-five finalists from 2,600 applications because of the amount of green space that would allow for greenfield development opportunities. CDOT will be going to Washington D.C. on April 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the next steps and opportunities. He completed his presentation by reiterating that the key purpose of RoadX is to keep people safe and save lives.

Conway questioned how insurance models would change since the policies would now be with the vehicle manufacturers and not the drivers. The Council engaged in a brief discussion regarding the possibilities. Ross surmised that computerized key fob technology similar to that used currently by some insurance companies to track everything from speed, road type and usage, would have advanced technology and be used by all vehicles, including freight and commercial vehicles.

Blackmore questioned how the \$2M for RoadX included in the North I-25 project was being used. Kozinski responded the money would be used to install and invest in additional fiber and technologies such as virtual/advanced lane markings, smart work zones, which would require special technology for construction cones. Gilliland mentioned that autonomous vehicles would also require special technology for work zones, including cone recognition. Chair Ross thanked Kozinski for his presentation.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### FY2016-2019 TIP Q1 Amendment-

Karasko reviewed information from the 2017 Q1 TIP Amendment AIS with the Council. She noted that the amendment would be an action item at the March 2 Council meeting. Blackmore noted that with the new TIP process discussed earlier by Anderson, this would be the last time the Council would see TIP amendments twice. She also noted that Karasko was presenting the item because Aaron Buckley had taken a job with CSU and was no longer with the MPO.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported on the following:

- CDOT is very excited about Hyperloop, it is an excellent opportunity for Region 4 and Colorado. Trip costs have not yet been determined.
- CDOT is testing the Colorado Road Usage Charge Pilot Program (RUCPP) which uses data collected through special key fobs or handwritten mileage logs to test whether road usage charging—an approach where, instead of paying an approximate gas tax of .75 per gallon, drivers pay a fee for how many miles are traveled—could be feasible for Colorado. The program will also help equalize the cost paid by owners of all vehicles, including electric and alternative fuel vehicles that do not pay as much gas tax. CDOT will gain real-world experience about road usage charging as a funding alternative. Approximately 100 diverse Colorado drivers, from rural to urban, mountains to plains, and cars to trucks will participate in the pilot study, which will end in spring 2017. The research team will share its findings later in 2017. CDOT will look to successful programs like the one in Oregon to develop a program for phasing in Road Usage charges while regular vehicles share space with autonomous vehicles.

### CDOT Region 4

Jim Eussen, Region 4 Planning and Environmental Manager, briefly reviewed the CDOT Project Status Updates (February 1, 2017) with the Council. Clark asked what the date was for the opening of the US 34 Poudre Canyon project phase I. Clark responded it would be in May. Conway noted that better communication was needed to inform the public of timelines on closures etc. for the Berthoud Truck Climbing Lane project when the closures occur again in spring. Eussen agreed and indicated that would be taken care of. Blackmore indicated that the traffic on northbound Harmony Road backs up ¼ mile to the exit daily and asked what the plan was to address the issue. Eussen replied the issue would be addressed in the next plan and said he would get that information out to her.

### I-25 Funding Subcommittee

Gilliland reported on the following from the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- NCLA Board looking at options of funding at various levels of government and staying focused on options for funding I-25 improvements and identifying known funding sources, what could be added to the list specifically options not currently enabled in Colorado. One ongoing funding revenue option being discussed is replacing SB228 with a mechanism to provide 5% to transportation without a threshold or contingency. Legislators need to have a focus on getting General Fund money for transportation. The Hospital Provider fee option is off the table now, transportation funding needs to be separate. There are new revenue conversations on state sales tax. It was reported that 1 cent raises \$42M and .67 cents raises \$58M. At least 60% approval in polling is needed for a tax increase to be successful with voters. Blackmore added that there will be a discussion at the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding voters holding their own legislators accountable if they don't refer a ballot measure which puts the pressure on the legislators and not the voters. Handouts were provided to Council.
- There is currently a \$1B shortage which would require a .9 cent increase. The goal is to gain \$750,000M on average annually through a .75 cent increase. They are also still looking at

bonding and using sales tax to replace gas tax. Polling supported by numerous groups including club 20, Metro Mayors, Colorado Springs and CCA is being conducted. The final solution needs to be a legislator's decision, not the stakeholders'.

US 34 Coalition- Conway reported the following:

- The US 34 PEL process is progressing well. The study will be completed by CH2M and they have chosen a project schedule that is divided into six different tasks. They are looking at shortening the original 18 month timeframe to expedite infrastructure improvement options. One-on-one interviews allowing input from the communities will hopefully be completed by the end of February. They are grateful for the \$2M in MPO funding. This will be a very busy year for the Coalition. Tom Norton will be the new Chair of the Coalition and Tom Donnelly will be Vice Chair.
- Gilliland added that CDOT is working diligently to have projects ready allowing them to be more competitive.
- Everyone is invited to attend the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Larimer County.

STAC Report- A written report was provided. Conway noted his appreciation of Commissioner Gary Reiff being in attendance at the January meeting as requested in 2016 to help foster relationships between CDOT and STAC. The entire Commission is scheduled to be at the February 16<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting with STAC. The goal is to have the two groups come together twice a year. There was a slightly contentious discussion regarding whether the five options for the \$35M Freight Corridor recommendations had been fully vetted through the MPO's. He wants the NFRMPO to weigh in and has asked CDOT to come to Council before making their recommendations to STAC.

Host Council Member Report- Morris welcomed everyone to Evans and thanked Palomino Mexican Restaurant for catering the delicious food. He then reported on the following:

- The 37<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 85 Access Control Plan project is in final stages and the frontage road has been detoured around and new lights are being installed.
- The City of Evans is starting the MPO funded project on 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 37<sup>th</sup> Street to Prairie View Drive in the spring.
- Evans has a new City Manager, Jim Becklenberg, Assistant City and County Manager from Broomfield, starting February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Loveland- Clark announced the City of Loveland is excited to be working with Johnstown, Larimer County and Weld County on an adding an additional I-25 base project to tentatively widen US 34 to three lanes both ways across the interstate and a rebuild of the SH 402 interchange. It is a \$53M project which CDOT is looking for approximately \$16M in local match. US 34 west of I-25 at Boyd Lake Avenue is getting a new signal and some other possible improvements. Loveland is also looking to get three lanes from I-25 west to the outside of Loveland to close an existing gap. The project will require some additional funds. He is grateful to Leah Browder, Public Works Director, for her help getting the projects moving forward.

Windsor- Melendez proudly announced Windsor officials will celebrate the successful implementation of the Quiet Zone project at a special ceremony and ribbon cutting at 2 p.m. February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Art and Heritage Center, 116 5th St. in Windsor. This zone will be tested as a model for the Country. Windsor paid a little under \$300,000 and received a TIGER grant for \$2.1M to complete the Quiet Zone.

Fort Collins- Overbeck reported that the Prospect Road project east of College Avenue will require drivers to take Lemay Avenue to get on Mulberry or Drake through the spring.

Milliken- Measner announced Milliken is working on a of couple annexations. They also have some subdivisions that have been approved and they would like to do some additional development agreements but have issue with them not wanting to pay for the access roads.



Johnstown- Mellon reported the town of Johnstown is going out to bid with their North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street improvement project in the northern part of the historic district. One of their Weld County Road projects is now contingent on I-25 project funding request. The town is uncertain if more money can be committed to the I-25 project as they had previously hoped.

Timnath- Steinway announced that east of I-25 on Harmony Road there will be a lane shift to the north onto the new expanded bridge over the ditch at Three Bells intersection. There was a ribbon-cutting on January 28<sup>th</sup> for their beautiful new fire station located east of I-25 that will serve Timnath, eastern Fort Collins, and I-25.

Greeley- Casseday reported that the City of Greeley is very excited about making the final list for Hyperloop locations. The traffic signal at 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and the US 34 bypass is now working. He is proud to have Tom Norton elected as Chair of the US 34 Coalition.

### **MEETING WRAP-UP:**

#### Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

There were no new topic suggestions.

Chair Ross announced that the Council would take an eight minute break and then return for the Executive Session.

The Council meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*Donnelly **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 8:25 p.m. The session lasted approximately 55 minutes.***

Chair Ross reopened the regular MPO Council meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION:**

#### Executive Director Contract Amendment

*Conway **moved** to approve the Fourth Amendment of the Employment Contract for the Executive Director. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

#### Executive Director Coaching

*Morris **moved** to approve the budget for the Executive Coaching contract. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff