

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introductions

In attendance:

- ❖ Aaron Buckley, CSU
- ❖ Aaron Fodge, CSU
- ❖ Becky Karasko, NFRMPO
- ❖ Chris Johnson, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ Chris Vogelsang, OV Consulting
- ❖ Dawn Anderson, City of Evans
- ❖ James Johnson, Town of Windsor
- ❖ Janet Meisel-Burns, City of Loveland
- ❖ John Ringland, Resident of Wellington
- ❖ Katie Guthrie, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kelly Haworth, Larimer County
Department of Health and Environment
- ❖ Kyle Fehr, City of Evans
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, Weld County
Department of Public Health and
Environment
- ❖ Mark Connelly, CDOT
- ❖ Mark Heidt, City of Brighton
- ❖ Nancy Nichols, City of Fort Collins Safe
Routes to School
- ❖ Robert Ward, Poudre Heritage Alliance
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Suzanne Bassinger, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Wade Willis, Town of Windsor

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The March 8, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Regional Trail Updates

J. Johnson and Willis presented on Windsor's experience with the NFRMPO bicycle and pedestrian counters. Windsor had the counters from November 2016 through March 2017. Staff dealt with a number of maintenance issues with all three counters throughout the winter. The TRAX Cycles Plus tube counters had problems identifying types of users and are best for capturing bikes alone. Windsor set the counters up using the L4 tube configuration. Staff had to download the latest version of TraxPro software from the Jamar website. J. Johnson demonstrated how to power up the HI-TRAC infrared counter and how it could be fastened to a tree/poll/etc. The HI-TRAC had problems counting random objects in its sight line. Windsor staff used the HI-TRAC side-by-side with the TRAX Cycles Plus to get mode split. However, some counts would register more bikes than total users. This suggested the HI-TRAC unit may be susceptible to sensor obstruction. J. Johnson demonstrated how to get the data into the TraxPro software and how it can be visualized. Windsor has found the hourly data useful for scheduling trail maintenance.

One TRAX Cycles Plus unit was placed near the intersection of CR13 and Poudre Trail, east of the trail. The second unit was placed at 7th Street and Poudre Heights. The HI-TRAC started at the Community Recreation Center (CRC), then was moved to the CR13 and Poudre Trail location. These locations help staff understand the impacts of new additions to the community like the CRC. Staff had to check on the counters fairly often. They suspect people tampered with and moved the tubes in a few cases. Fodge asked J. Johnson about set up time for the counters. J. Johnson said it took about ten minutes in the

field with the TRAX Cycles Plus and up to 30 minutes with the HI-TRAC depending on how well staff was able to connect via Bluetooth. Fodge added the count data is great to add into budgeting cycles and has seen it happening more often. Willis said Jamar products are geared towards engineers and there is a learning curve. Buckley quickly summarized his experience with Eco-Counter units on CSU's campus.

4. NFRMPO Non-Motorized Plan Overview

Dusil and Buckley talked about the 2016 NFRMPO Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) adopted in February 2017. Buckley described how the plan provides an inventory of local community plan and bike/ped elements as well as a GIS inventory of facilities in the region. The NMP builds on the 2013 Bicycle Plan with the addition of a pedestrian component and will be incorporated into the next NFRMPO Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The NMP can be downloaded directly from the NFRMPO website. Dusil displayed maps of the Regional Non-Motorized Corridors (RNMCS) on the screen for the group. Ringland asked why RNMCS 7 crosses to the east side of I-25. Fodge explained this is so the route can pass through CSU's Agricultural Research Development and Education Center property. The trail will cross back west of I-25 at the underpass just south of Wellington. The routes depicted on the map are conceptual in nature and are intended to convey a connection, not a particular alignment. Meisel-Burns updated some of the projects underway to complete RNMCS 7 and 8 between Loveland and Fort Collins.

5. US 34 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Vogelsang explained the process for environmental impact statements and other planning processes before funding is identified for a project. The desired outcome of this PEL study is to identify what improvements should be made in the US 34 study area, how they relate to one another, and how well they meet an overall goal. These connections can then feed into an implementation plan. US 34 and SH 402 each have proposed RNMCS and were identified by the group as major barriers to be addressed in the study. Vogelsang stated the first US 34 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting will be held April 19 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Windsor CRC. Their first public meetings are May 1 in Loveland and May 3 in Evans with locations and times TBD. Fodge asked if the study would look at barriers to the regional bike network, such as I-25. The group expressed a desired outcome from the PEL study is to have clearly defined locations for crossing I-25 and other major barriers. Willis highlighted the importance of crossings along SH 402 and US 34. Vogelsang explained SH 402 will be considered to an extent because of its proximity as a connecting route to the US 34 corridor. Dr. Ward asked whether historical sites would be included in the study. Vogelsang confirmed they would. Meisel-Burns asked how quickly feedback is needed because Loveland has updates to the alignment shown on the maps. Dusil will send contact information and other materials to the group along with the meeting notes.

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC) Discussion

A conference call will be scheduled to discuss the Collaborative's role in continuing regional bicycle and pedestrian education. This will likely happen sometime after the June 14 workshop.

7. March Workshop Recap / NoCo Workshop Committee

Regarding the Pathways to Health Summit, Johnson stated he would like to explore hosting/promoting a speaker series and would like feedback on the idea. Fodge suggested pursuing an annual health report for the region with equity embedded in the process. Regional plans and processes should include all

voices, acknowledge disparities, and present data to clearly connect planning and equity. Data gives practitioners the ability to tell a more compelling story and catalyze a regional policy discussion. Karasko added this discussion may fit into future NFRMPO plans, but would like to discuss the possibilities further before bringing it back to NoCo. Haworth stated Larimer County has health data to offer anyone who is interested. The health equity and policy discussion will be continued at a future meeting following a small group discussion. Fodge stated the CDC 500 Cities data would be a good lead in to discussions with Loveland, Fort Collins and Greeley over the connection between safety and health outcomes with the absence of infrastructure to critical services.

8. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Dusil asked if anyone could be present at next week's TAC meeting to represent NoCo Bike & Ped. At the May TAC meeting, Karasko would like a joint presentation to update TAC on counter data from Windsor, Loveland, Larimer County and Greeley staff.

9. Updates / Other Business

Dusil mentioned May 10 is National Bike to School Day. Communities may request promotional materials from CDOT. The Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee is looking for a parent representative to review grant applications and score projects. Interested applicants should contact Dusil for more information.

Haworth mentioned the MapNoCo website will go live in late April and be ready for use at the June 14 workshop. Larimer County will have funding available to host the website until August 2018.

Nichols stated Fort Collins Open Streets will begin June 4, Walk and Wheel Skills Club for kids and adults will begin soon, and May 8-12 is Bike Week in Fort Collins.

Beckstrom stated Kress Theatre in Greeley will show the film *Two Shining Seas* as a fundraiser for the UNC Chapter of Student Veterans of America on April 19. Family Fun Rides kick off in May. Dusil will pass along event information to the group.

Johnson stated the Colorado Ride of Silence will take place May 17, starting in Old Town Square Fort Collins. Fort Collins is now up to 59 bicycle friendly businesses. A new program, Upshift is working with low income communities to provide bike repairs, bike lights, maps, assist with route finding, and more.

Heidt wants to ensure Brighton remains connected with the NFRMPO region, especially regarding the South Platte River/American Discovery Trail. Brighton has bids going out this summer for two of the three Colorado Front Range trails, connecting Denver to Brighton. Their next step is moving north toward the Weld County line. The city will also host fun rides for adults and teens and a bike-in movie night in the coming months

Meisel-Burns stated Loveland's June Bike Month is the city's major focus right now. There will be up to ten events spread over the month. National Trails Day, June 3, starts with a ceremonial opening of a trail closed since the 2013 floods with a 1.75 mile ride beginning at Fairgrounds Park. The section of trail officially opens the end of April. Loveland is also hosting several bike rodeos and two art rides with

information featured in local utility bills to reach 120,000 residents. The city is also starting an eight-week bike challenge for major employers willing to participate. The winner will receive a traveling trophy.

Anderson updated Riverside Park permitting is under review in Evans and will be re-bid mid-May.

Bassinger updated Fort Collins is working on two trails to connect with Loveland, among other projects scattered across south Fort Collins.

Fodge updated CSU is two weeks away from instituting a policy requiring all campus buildings to have amenities to support commuters. This includes amenities such as showers, break rooms, lactation rooms, prayer meditation areas, and other considerations to reduce the need for people to leave campus. CSU is also converting 250 bathrooms to all gender bathrooms. All new campus buildings will have the amenities listed above. Fodge suggests the group schedule a tour of campus in the fall to discuss multimodal planning as well as CSU's collaboration with the city on parking and transportation for the new football stadium.

Willis updated Windsor is working to get the Poudre Trail repaired where it was washed out. Permanent repairs will not occur until fall of 2018. Windsor is also working on several other linkages, including easements to connect Windsor to the River Bluffs Open Space.

Dusil shared the NFRMPO quarterly newsletter features the NoCo workshops on the front page. It highlights the events from February and March with a notice about the June topic and date. Anyone who wants more copies to display in their communities should contact Dusil.