

**MEETING MINUTES of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council**

**Windsor Recreation Center - Pine Room  
250 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Windsor, CO**

**April 19, 2017  
1:01 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.**

**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  
Paul Lee – CDPHE-APCD  
Janet Lundquist – Weld County  
Suzette Mallette – Larimer County  
Mitch Nelson – Severance Alternate  
Karen Schneiders – CDOT  
Gary Thomas – SAINT  
Tim Kemp – Fort Collins

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud  
Gary Carsten – Eaton  
John Franklin – Johnstown  
Jennifer Gardner – Milliken  
Jessica McKeown – LaSalle

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Todd Bleess – DOLA  
Cindy DeGroen – DOLA  
Elizabeth Garner – DOLA  
Marissa Gaughan – CDOT  
Will Jones – GET, Greeley Alternate  
Josh Olhava – Windsor  
Lisa Streisfeld – CDOT

**NFRMPO STAFF:**

Terri Blackmore  
Ryan Dusil  
Alex Gordon  
Becky Karasko  
Medora Kealy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2017 TAC MINUTES**

Bailey moved to approve the February 15, 2017 TAC meeting minutes. Kemp seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

No items this month.

**OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS (verbal)**

**Northern Colorado (NoCo) Bike & Ped Collaborative** – Dusil reported the April NoCo meeting included presentations on lessons learned with bike and pedestrian counters, the 2016 Non-Motorized Plan, and the US34 PEL Study. Planning continues for the June workshop which will include transit, walk, and bike audits. The next NoCo meeting is May 10.

**Regional Transit Items** – Jones stated the Regional Route Survey for the route between Greeley, Windsor, and Fort Collins wrapped up. The survey showed a positive response and had a 73 percent completion rate, with 1,755 completed surveys. GET is meeting with Transfort next week to work on modeling, route timings, and a business plan. Construction on the GET Transit Center is going well and can be viewed online.

Averill announced Transfort is hosting the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) Conference in May.

Bailey stated COLT is evaluating its paratransit service and considering replicating Fort Collins' Dial-A-Ride model. The proposed change may enable more fixed routes.

**Senior Transit Items** – Thomas stated the Larimer County *Senior Transportation Needs Report* will be released in June. He stated he is retiring at the end of June and his retirement reception will be held June 23. Angela Woodall will succeed Thomas as Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) Chair and Gordon will serve as Chair of the Senior Transportation Coalition (STC).

**Regional Air Quality Council** – Brimmer stated RAQC published a source apportionment report based on modeling from the SIP to identify emissions by source. There is an online tool on the RAQC website which shows sources for each monitor on any day. New modeling is underway for 2023 and should be completed by June. The anticipated year for attainment based on the 2015 ozone standard will be 2023; however, there could be a delay in designations. If so, and if the region does not attain the 2008 ozone standard by 2019, the region could be designated a serious nonattainment area.

A Mow Down Pollution event is scheduled for April 29 at the Budweiser Events Center. The event offers discounts for new electric lawn mowers by recycling a gas lawn mower. Additional Mow Down Pollution events will take place May 6 in Commerce City and June 3 in Boulder. Simple Steps Better Air is the new outreach campaign, replacing Ozone Aware. The campaign kickoff event is June 4 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Control measure analysis is ongoing, including low-VOC paints and consumer products. There is a working group for the commercial lawn and garden program. The Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) is hosting meetings on their Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) analysis and is developing an oil and gas rulemaking.

Malette asked if both ozone standards are in effect. Brimmer stated there have not been any designations for the 2015 ozone standard so we are still under the 2008 ozone standard. The 2015 standard could become effective in the fall of 2017, and then both standards would be in effect for a year until the 2008 standard is revoked. Malette asked what other control measures are available. Brimmer stated there are many including lower Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) fuels, more with oil and gas, low-emission vehicle requirements, and low-VOC paints.

## **WORK SESSION**

**2045 Demographic Projections** – Cindy DeGroen with the State Demography Office presented demographic projections for Larimer and Weld counties and the state of Colorado. Population growth in Colorado is concentrated in the Front Range. Growth is expected to slow nationwide and statewide through 2050. Larimer County is aging faster than Weld County. Economic forecasts are completed with national data and county-specific base industries. Economic forecasts are created at the county level and used to estimate net migration based on labor demand and supply.

To estimate population in the NFRMPO, the unincorporated area population is based on the 2010 Census. The population estimates for municipalities use the 2010 Census as a base and new housing units and the occupancy rate to determine change. Each year, population estimates are revised back to the base year (2010).

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) is used for address-specific jobs data. DeGroen presented estimated jobs for 2015 for Larimer and Weld counties, including share of jobs by sector.

For small area projections, there are three alternative methods including forecasting based on housing unit growth, trend extrapolation, and structural models. DeGroen recommends completing all three methods and comparing results. Data is needed from local governments for these projections, including institutional population, growth constraints, capacity/build out, and land use plans. Karasko stated the small area projections for population and employment will be used as control totals for the model update, and higher quality input data will produce higher quality outputs. Karasko stated she will email the Weld and Larimer forecasting worksheets to TAC.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**March 2017 TIP Amendments** – Kealy stated the March 2017 TIP Amendment includes five requests, which will be amended into the FY2016-FY2019 TIP and four of those into the FY2018-2021 TIP. Amending both TIPs concurrently will ensure consistency and a smoother transition between the two TIPs.

Bracke requested removal of the deletion of the US34 Bypass Signal at 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave from the Amendment to keep the project programmed in the TIP. Kealy stated CDOT requested removal of the project. Schneiders replied she could take the comment back to CDOT leadership. Kealy stated the request could be removed from TAC's recommendation. Schneiders stated not recommending the request could be an issue as those funds may have already been budgeted elsewhere. Karasko stated the request could come back with the next Amendment cycle in May. Schneiders stated delaying a decision until May would mean other projects in the Amendment would miss the construction season. Karasko asked if a solution could be determined by next week, before the May Council packet goes out. Schneiders recommended retaining the project removal in the Amendment. Bracke stated he would vote against that motion.

Mallette asked for details on the project. Bracke stated the project would replace a temporary emergency signal, but there is disagreement over who will maintain the signal, the timing of the project, and the cost split. Bracke stated Greeley is contributing to the project, but cannot provide funds in one year. Lundquist asked if TAC had to take action today. Kealy stated action was not required, but the May Amendment coming to TAC next month would include a different set of requests, and if TAC chose to delay an action it would delay all of the March Amendment requests. Mallette asked if TAC could take action on some of the Amendment requests. Kealy stated TAC could. Mallette asked if the project was a CDOT project. Bracke and Schneiders confirmed it was. Bracke stated the project is still necessary and should not be removed from the TIP. Mallette asked if the CDOT funds had already been reprogrammed. Schneiders stated since there are so many active projects any funds returned to the pool are immediately budgeted. Lundquist moved to recommend Planning Council approve the Amendment for four of the projects and to postpone a decision on the US34 Bypass Signal at 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave project until the May TAC meeting. Bracke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**FY2018-2019 UPWP** – Karasko stated the Draft FY2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was sent to TAC in March for review, with comments due April 7. Comments were provided by GET, FHWA, FTA, Larimer County, and RAQC. Received comments were incorporated in the draft available at the link in the memo. The Finance Committee reviewed the budget for FY2018 in March, and the budget review for FY2019 will be completed next year. Jones asked if Evans' request for a planning study was included. Karasko stated it was not, but it could be added as an Amendment once the study is confirmed. Mallette moved to recommend Planning Council approve the FY2018-2019 UPWP. Lundquist seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Call for Projects and TIP Reconciliation** – Kealy stated errors were discovered in the FY2020-2021 Call for Projects awards and associated TIP entries, including local match amounts below the required minimum, incomplete project costs, three projects that were awarded less funds than Planning Council approved, and over programming of funds in certain fiscal years. Additionally, the estimated allocations for CMAQ, STBG, and TA had changed since the Call was held, resulting in \$23k less TA funds and additional CMAQ and STBG funds. Kealy presented proposed revisions to correct the errors and achieve fiscal constraint by year in the TIP. Kealy stated the local match and total cost corrections would be administratively modified into the TIP, and the three projects awarded less funds than intended will have their award letters re-issued. The impacted project sponsors stated they approved of the changes. Bailey moved to approve the proposed revisions. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kealy stated the reconciliation TAC discussed at their February 2017 meeting allocated funds TAC had recommended for allocation in July 2016. Information on the reconciliation was not included in the packet because the issue was discovered recently. Only one project's additional allocation from the July 2016 recommendation by TAC and August 2016 approval by Planning Council was modified in the TIP: the Weld County CNG vehicle project. The remaining funds were not programmed, including the pay back of the small communities to the large communities in the STP Metro pool. Kealy presented a proposed revision based on available FY17 funds, which combines the intention of the allocation recommendations from July 2016 and February 2017. Jones and Mallette requested the information by email. Kealy said she would email the information to TAC members and the item will return for action in May.

**2040 RTP Amendment #2** – Karasko stated a second Call for 2040 RTP Amendments was held from March 10 through March 24 and one Amendment request was received for North I-25 Additional Components from CDOT. Karasko stated the project has been added to the Travel Demand Model. The Amendment includes three pieces: the Prospect Road interchange reconstruction; the US 34 widening; and Additional Requested Elements (AREs) including the SH402 interchange realignment, extension of the Express Lanes by 1.5 mile, and replacement of several bridges. The Amendment will go to Planning Council for discussion in May and return to TAC in May as an Action item. The 30-day Public Comment period will begin when the May TAC packet is released on May 10. Bracke asked if these components were already in the 2040 RTP. Karasko stated they were, but they were not in 2020. Mallette asked about the progress of the conformity determination. Karasko stated she is working with FHWA to determine if conformity is required. At the March meeting of the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG), members raised the question of whether or not conformity was required, and decided if it was required that it would be a "routine" determination.

**FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration Program** – Lisa Streisfeld, CDOT, stated FHWA is looking for more applications for the AID Program. The AID program was authorized under the FAST Act and provides funding for innovation in any phase of a highway transportation project. Funding is capped at \$1M per grant award, and each state can submit two projects per year: one state-sponsored and one local-sponsored project. The program emphasizes performance metrics and provides funds to a variety of project types. There is a rolling deadline, but applying sooner offers a better chance of selection. Streisfeld indicated she or Tricia Sergeson, FHWA, can review draft applications prior to submittal to CDOT. Streisfeld stated she will email the presentation to Karasko to send out to TAC members.

## **REPORTS**

**Mobility Committee Updates** – Gordon stated the LCMC meeting is April 20 and will include discussion of the demographics chapter of the Coordinated Plan, an update on the Larimer County *Senior Transportation Needs Report*, non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), and an update on HB1242 for funding transportation infrastructure. NFRMPO staff are developing recommendations for a Senior Transportation representative for TAC to take to Planning Council in May. The Rider's Guide

was recently translated into Spanish. Gordon is accepting recommendations on where to provide printed Rider's Guides.

**TIP Modification Updates** – Kealy stated the TIP Modifications from Quarter 1 are in the TAC packet. Kealy asked if TAC would prefer to change the frequency of TIP Modification updates to align with the new TIP Amendment cycle schedule. Mallette stated she would prefer to keep them on the same schedule as Planning Council. Karasko stated they do not currently go to Planning Council. Kealy stated she will retain the quarterly schedule for TIP Modification updates.

**Bike/Ped Counters Update** – Dusil presented bicycle and pedestrian counter data from May 2016 through April 2017 for the two permanent non-motorized counters at the River Bluffs Open Space near Windsor and Rover Run Dog Park in Greeley. The Rover Run counter was offline in September due to a dead battery, so absolute numbers cannot be compared between the two sites. On average, there are more bicyclists than pedestrians at River Bluffs, and closer to a 50/50 split at Rover Run. Weather appears to be a larger factor for the River Bluffs site. The River Bluffs site has 80 percent higher volume on weekend days than on weekdays, while Rover Run has 30 percent higher volume on weekend days compared with weekdays. The counters provide average speed information, showing the average cyclist speed at River Bluffs is 11.4 mph compared with 7 mph at Rover Run. Information is also available by time of day. Dusil stated the May TAC meeting would include a panel of staff from Loveland, Windsor, Greeley, and Larimer County about their experiences with the mobile or permanent counters.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Schneiders stated the Quarterly Inactives Report is shown by project phase in the packet. Discussion ensued on specific projects. Schneiders announced a new staff person, Katelyn Smith, will be assuming Katrina's prior role.

Karasko stated the Transportation Planner vacancy has been filled; Sarah Martin accepted the offer and will be joining the NFRMPO on May 22.

Kemp stated the Pitkin Street Low Stress Bicycle Corridor project is beginning in May and a consultant team was hired for the Horsetooth and College Intersection project. Schneiders stated the Horsetooth and College Intersection project is being de-federalized per the March TIP Amendment as a pilot project. CDOT will absorb the federal funding the project received and substitute state dollars. De-federalization reduces some of the environmental constraints and other federal requirements.

Mallette stated CDOT is proposing another full closure for US34 in the Big Thompson Canyon this fall to speed up the project timeline. Due to budget constraints, there are four bridges in the canyon CDOT was going to construct, but now are Larimer County's responsibility. The North I-25 project is behind schedule by about a month. The Final RFP was pushed back from March to April. Blackmore stated RFPs are due at the end of July with final selection in August and the Notice to Proceed for construction is expected in December.

Averill stated bus procurement with CMAQ funds is underway. There is still potential for Sunday Transfort service. The Alternative Transportation Finance and Budget Committee at CSU approved an additional purchase of services from Transfort. There will be a Council work session on April 25 regarding Sunday service.

Lundquist thanked Schneiders for presenting to the Weld County Planning Commission about CDOT and recommended TAC members invite Schneiders to present to their groups.

Gaughan stated there is a transportation planner opening in the Division of Transportation Development (DTD) at CDOT headquarters. The position will coordinate with the Colorado Springs and Pueblo MPOs.

Schneiders stated Boulder County needs a planning intern and to send contacts to her. The Draft STIP is out for comment.

Bailey stated phase 1 for the construction project at US34 and Boyd Lake is complete. Phase 2 will start in the fall and will not impose delays.

Kealy stated the April–June NFRMPO Newsletter is out. The 2040 RTP Brochure was updated to reflect the first 2040 RTP Amendment.

Anderson stated US85 and 37<sup>th</sup> Street is complete. The 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue project is ready for bid, but Evans is waiting on ROW and approval from CDOT.

### **MEETING WRAP-UP**

**Final Public Comment** – There was no final public comment.

**Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions** – TIP Reconciliation, May 2017 TIP Amendment, ROADX presentation, air quality outreach presentation, RTP Amendment #2 for action, update on Volkswagen settlement from Paul Lee.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes submitted by:** Medora Kealy, NFRMPO Staff

**The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room.**