

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, October 11, 2017
Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room
250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introduction

- ❖ Aaron Buckley, CSU
- ❖ Aaron Fodge, CSU
- ❖ Annemarie Heinrich, LCDHE
- ❖ Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT
- ❖ Kelly Smith, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kyle Fehr, City of Evans
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, WCDPHE
- ❖ Mark Heidt, City of Brighton
- ❖ Rachel Hultin, Bicycle Colorado
- ❖ Robert Ward, Poudre Heritage Alliance
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Terri Blackmore, NFRMPO
- ❖ Tom Jones, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ Shanen Weber, City of Loveland
- ❖ Wade Willis, Town of Windsor
- ❖ Will Jones, GET

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The September, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. 2018 Walkability Action Institute

This item was moved up in the agenda for continuity with the pre-meeting discussion.

Dusil explained the Walkability Action Institute is a four-day applied learning workshop for teams from MPO regions to develop policy, systems, and environment (PSE) action plans. Teams must consist of an MPO representative, a public health representative, a transportation professional (preferably in engineering) and an elected official. Teams may also add two additional team members from related fields. The application for the 2018 Institute application will open around October 30, and a team from the NFRMPO region is planning to apply. Fodge explained some initial action plan ideas the group came up with in their pre-meeting:

- Expanding walk audit efforts to the NFRMPO region with assistance from universities
- Developing a regional wayfinding standard or program to host events in communities
- Focusing on the "first and last mile" walking connections for daily commutes, especially transit

Jacobsen suggested the group could build off current or past state efforts like the Colorado Downtown Streets Manual. Willis stated there will be more support for the eventual action plans if walkability can be tied into downtown development, economic development, etc. Jacobsen stated the workshop really emphasizes policy outcomes that will ultimately result in long-lasting infrastructure changes. Heinrich stated the group could use the MapNOCO tool to engage people that aren't normally part of the policy discussion. Jacobsen said when CDOT put a statewide team together for a past Walkability Action Institute, having non-profit and elected officials present helped bring perspective from outside the planning profession.

Blackmore stated she would like to see the project co-led by the MPO and the public health representative. Heinrich stated she will ask her team about their interest and Beckstrom will ask Eric Aakko in case she is not able to attend. Dusil will send out more information and follow up with other interested parties not in attendance. Willis stated he sees value in having an elected official from a smaller community rather than a larger community.

4. NFRMPO and NoCo Fiduciary Agreement

There were no further comments on the fiduciary agreement. The group nominated Willis to serve as the designated signee on behalf of the Collaborative. Willis asked what happens if he is no longer a part of the Collaborative in the future. Blackmore stated the agreement is between the Collaborative and the NFRMPO and his signature represents a decision made by the group, not Willis alone. The Agreement will be signed by both parties and an account will be set up.

5. Non-Motorized Funding Project Recommendation

Willis provided a brief history of the discussion. The City of Fort Collins withdrew their request from the pool, leaving the Great Western Trail and the Windsor Greeley #2 Canal Trail. Tom Jones stated Mitch Nelson with the Town of Severance thought the project may still have a chance at securing the necessary local match. Jones described the timeline and funding breakdown provided in the project sheet. The Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) would like to approach the towns of Windsor, Severance, and Eaton for a one-time \$50,000 contribution on top of their individual annual \$10,000 contributions. Tom Jones will be discussing the matter November 7 meeting in Eaton, after which he will have a better idea of their chances at securing the required match. The grant would allow them to complete seven miles in one shot rather piece-by-piece with future funding. Jones stated the ultimate goal is a paved trail, but that is many years away. Fodge stated the trail is unique and significant both regionally and statewide. Tom Jones stated there has been good support from Eaton and Severance on the current segment. Fodge asked about support from Weld County. Jones responded that although much of the trail is in unincorporated area, the County has not been actively supportive. Willis stated Windsor could use the money for their trail project, but believes the Great Western Trail has more regional significance and should be recommended by the group. Heidt asked if the GWTA could ask for a loan instead of one-time contribution to lessen the lump-sum ask from each town. Tom Jones responded the towns own the trail while the GWTA manages it and makes recommendations as to how the towns invest in that property. Heidt believes the funding shortfall is too small for the GWTA not to pursue these additional funds. Jacobsen asked if the Collaborative would like to recommend the Great Western Trail project on the grounds they can secure the required local match, with the Windsor project as a back-up recommendation. The group agreed to this recommendation unanimously. Tom Jones will have an update on the project after the November 7 meeting and will move along accordingly. Jacobsen asked if letters of support from individual members of the Collaborative would be helpful. Tom Jones stated they would. Blackmore suggested Dusil send a follow-up email to request letters of support from Collaborative members be sent to town mayors and town managers.

6. November NoCo Meeting / Other Upcoming Bike & Ped Events

Willis proposed the November meeting be cancelled due to other bicycle and pedestrian-related events scheduled in early November.

- **Thriving Weld Summit (November 8 in Greeley):** Beckstrom stated registration is nearly full, so register soon
- **CDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Design Classes (November 9 in Greeley):** Jacobsen stated CDOT is hosting eight classes for bicycle and pedestrian facility design. The November 9 event in Greeley is focused on bicycle facility design. CDOT engineers are now required to take the classes every five years. There is space in the eight classes for local professional partners. Willis asked what has changed in bicycle and pedestrian design. Jacobsen stated the emergence of National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guidance has changed a lot. Protected bike lanes are fairly recent developments and CDOT is working with a new agency in their design efforts.
- **Data Working Group Infrastructure Assessment Events (Date TBD):** Heinrich stated the data working group is working to create a multimodality index for two locations in Loveland and two in Fort Collins. Dusil will send out more information when dates and arrangements are finalized
- **Parking Professionals Event (Early November in Boulder):** Fodge will send more information on the event
- **VeloSwap (November 4 in Denver):** In partnership with CDOT, attendees can practice putting bikes on a Bustang bus.

Jacobsen stated the APA Colorado conference in Telluride last week was good and encourages others to consider attending next year. Dusil stated he attended the Bicycle Colorado Annual Summit last week. Hultin stated there was a presentation at the Summit on the efforts between the Town of Limon and the Citizen's Institute on Rural Design to build community support for bike lanes and a proposed bond measure for further improvements. Dave Stone with the Town of Limon is a good contact to follow up with. Heidt and Willis stated they attended the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conference in late September.

7. Updates / Other Business

Willis asked Blackmore for an update on the I-25 project. Blackmore stated CDOT will be receiving Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from contractors on November 2. The NFRMPO is putting together an INFRA grant for segment 6 from SH402 to the Little Thompson bridge.

Dusil stated the Town of Severance requested a letter of support from the NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative. A letter was drafted and sent to the group with the agenda. One comment was received and the wording in the letter was changed slightly. The group unanimously approved of the letter of support

Willis stated the Town of Windsor will be hiring a Parks Manager and Willis' role will change slightly as a result. Windsor had a successful Walk to School Day on October 4.

Smith stated Loveland will be bringing an e-bike demonstration in front of the town commissions this month to raise awareness of e-bikes as the City weighs potential policy alternatives. E-bikes are currently not allowed on Loveland trails. The Long View Trail went out to bid a week ago and a contractor has been selected. Construction will start this month. The Front Range Trail will be completed in November and the City is now looking at signage for the trail. Smith asked Heidt what Brighton has done for signage on their portion of the Front Range Trail. Heidt stated Brighton does not have specific signage to denote the Front Range Trail. The City of Loveland is looking at opening Prairie Ridge Natural Area land south of coyote ridge to the public to better connect the City to Larimer County Open Space and Fort Collins Natural Areas.

Fodge state two new buildings will be constructed near Drake Road and the Mason Trail. CSU is looking to develop a multi-use trail through the Foothills Campus to better connect the facilities on the campus. The Shields Street underpass at Elizabeth Street is now open. This was a \$10M project with the city. There is a permanent bicycle and pedestrian counter in the underpass. They have been observing about 1,500 people per day. The Pitkin Bikeway is also complete and traffic has responded well to both investments.

Dusil stated the NFRMPO purchased and received two new permanent counters and a mobile counter through Eco-Counter. NFRMPO would like the Collaborative to be active in selecting locations for the two permanent counters. Dusil can train local staff how to use the mobile counter. Willis stated the Collaborative should take a more active role in completing trail counts across the region. Windsor has used the counters to gain internal support for trail-related efforts. The Collaborative will discuss the counters in more detail at the December meeting

Willis stated there was a vendor at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conference selling benches that count passersby using cell phone pings.

Will Jones stated Greeley Evans Transit (GET) is taking the Regional Transit Route Study to Greeley City Council on November 28. The route would connect Greeley, Windsor, and Fort Collins.

8. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Willis will present the NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative update at the November 15, 2017 TAC Meeting.