

# Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room  
250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

## 1. Introductions

- ❖ Aaron Buckley, CSU
- ❖ Aaron Fodge, CSU
- ❖ Adam Hill, City of Evans
- ❖ Becky Karasko, NFRMPO
- ❖ Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT
- ❖ Jamie Gaskill-Fox, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Jim Flesher, Weld County
- ❖ Kelly Haworth, Larimer County
- ❖ Kelly Smith, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kyle Fehr, City of Evans
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, WCDPHE
- ❖ Michele Shimomura, City and County of Denver
- ❖ Mitch Nelson, Town of Severance
- ❖ Nancy Nichols, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Suzanne Bassinger, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Tessa Greggor, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Tom Jones, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ Will Jones, City of Greeley
- ❖ Zac Wiebe, Larimer County

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The January 10, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

(Later in the meeting Bassinger stated the January 2018 meeting minutes should be amended to say the Fossil Creek Trail is scheduled for Summer 2018 completion rather than 2019 and that it is going to bid in April.)

## 3. Denver Vision Zero Presentation

Shimomura presented on the history, internal and external investment, and data involved with the Denver Vision Zero Action Plan aimed at eliminating traffic deaths by the year 2030. The project was initiated by the Denver Department of Public Works in partnership with the Department of Public Health. Development of the Action Plan involved engaging several community organizations, forming a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and improving inter-departmental collaboration. Implementation of the Action Plan will be achieved through improved data and transparency, enhanced city processes and collaboration, creating safe speeds, buildings safe streets for everyone and promoting a culture of safety. Several strategies are included within each of these focus areas. For the Action Plan, staff generated a High Injury Network, compared it with Communities of Concern (CoC) for equity, and are prioritizing action based on need.

Fodge asked how the Denver has managed to maintain positive messaging amidst worsening crash trends. Shimomura responded they had ambassadors interacting with the public and held train-the-trainer events among other extensive public engagement efforts.

Gregor asked who the initial champion was for Vision Zero. Shimomura stated the Public Works Department spearheaded the effort and then Public Health joined the cause.

Tom Jones asked about the rates for crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians. Gaskill-Fox stated 2% of crashes involved bicyclists (with a 5% death rate) and 7% of crashes involved pedestrians (with a 30% death rate).

Nichols stated there are several national-level safety initiatives that cities or organizations can join or pledge their support to.

#### 4. NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative - TAC Structure

Will Jones stated the NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) would like to clarify the processes by which the Collaborative and the TAC communicate with one another moving forward. This will be an agenda item at the February 21 TAC meeting. Karasko stated one idea is to include a written report from the Collaborative quarterly in the TAC packet so important items are seen and summarized in a report that is received by both TAC and Planning Council members. Aaron Fodge and Wade Willis will be present at the February 21 meeting on behalf of the Collaborative.

#### 5. I-25 Memo to CDOT Update

Dusil stated Marilyn Hilgenberg with the City of Loveland, Aaron Buckley with CSU, and Will Karspeck with the Town of Berthoud presented the I-25 Memo to CDOT at the February 1 Planning Council meeting as a discussion item. The presenters asked Planning Council to request that CDOT include bike/ped underpasses at Boxelder Creek and the Big Thompson River as part of the North I-25 expansion project. Planning Council asked that the item return to the TAC in February for discussion on potential funding sources for the underpasses and whether Planning Council should support the Collaborative's memo to CDOT. Dusil stated on Friday, March 9, members of the Collaborative will meet with CDOT staff to discuss infrastructure and alignment alternatives, cost estimates, potential funding sources, and the potential timeline and processes for constructing underpasses at these locations.

Fodge stated he has been updating people involved with the Colorado Front Range Trail on the I-25 Memo discussions. He stated these people are willing to discuss the topic with the Governor if the Collaborative wishes. Fodge added he has heard the inclusion of these underpasses could impact the overall North I-25 expansion project timeline. Jacobsen advised the Collaborative to proceed with the February 21 TAC discussion and March 9 meeting with CDOT before considering any other action. Karasko added it is unlikely the North I-25 project timeline would be altered because of the federal funding involved. Jones asked if the group had cost estimates for the underpasses. The group agreed to generate some figures for the upcoming meetings. Bassinger asked if CDOT would reopen the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Karasko responded it would depend on the impacts to the roadway.

## 6. 2018 Workshops, Trainings, Events

Dusil stated he and Gaskill-Fox discussed potential 2018 workshop/training topics prior to today's meeting. They discussed trying to plan a Northern Colorado Leaders Ride between Loveland and Fort Collins that would be geared towards local elected officials and staff to showcase recently completed projects like the Front Range Trail or the Long View Trail (2018) in late summer or early fall, followed by a social event at a brewery. The ride would focus on educating staff and leaders on intergovernmental agreements (IGAs), grade-separated trail crossings, trail counters, the value of trails, and other important project components.

Gaskill-Fox stated the region held a similar event a couple years ago, attracting 30-40 riders. Nelson stated there may be interest from the Severance Town Board in participating. Wiebe stated there will likely be a grand opening event for the Long View Trail in 2018, which might be a good time to promote a Leaders Ride. He stated there was a similar event for the Front Range Trail in 2017 that was well-received.

Dusil stated another training idea was centered around winter maintenance best practices for the bicycle and pedestrian network. The training could focus on the partnership between CSU and Fort Collins to keep facilities operational, and could potentially be held as part of the 2018 Snow and Ice Conference, be held as a half-day event with stops at CSU and Fort Collins facilities, followed by lunch.

Anyone with questions or ideas should contact Dusil and he will begin compiling information for these events.

## 7. Updates / Other Business

Dusil stated March agenda items will include a presentation/discussion on local bike/ped count programs. Confirmed presenters include Nick Heimann with FC Moves and John Klingaman with the Fort Collins Parks Department. The discussion will center on count program philosophy, data analysis, and how data is being used. Other contributors may include staff from the Town of Windsor and CSU. There will also be a discussion on trail project cost realities highlighting the costs associated with recent/current projects like the Front Range Trail, Long View Trail, etc. Contributors may include staff from the City of Loveland, The City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and anyone else able to share figures.

Dusil added there is no update to share at this time regarding the NFRMPO's 2018 Call for Projects. On February 22, American Trails is hosting a webinar called "Trail Construction Cost Realities."

Flesher stated Weld County staff and Commissioners recently met with the Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) to discuss how trail signage will be handled at county road crossings. Talks will continue as the project develops.

Gregor stated the City of Fort Collins has updated its e-bike code to match the state's code, prohibiting e-bikes on the City's trails. Smith stated Loveland is currently allowing Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on their trails. Bassinger asked what Larimer County's stance is. Wiebe stated they currently prohibit e-bikes on their trails but will likely defer to city codes and that they

recognize the Loveland and Fort Collins codes currently conflict with one another. Greigor added the Fort Collins Bicycle Advisory Committee is collecting public feedback on the matter to ultimately make a recommendation to the Transportation Advisory Board. Jacobsen stated the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) is going through a similar process.

Hill stated he recently joined the City of Evans and looks forward to working with the Collaborative.

Tom Jones the TA funding recommendation for the Great Western Trail was approved at the February 1 NFRMPO Planning Council meeting. GWTA and NFRMPO are working on the MOA for the trail counter. Smith asked what the GWTA decided for the width of the trail. Jones stated they will plan to construct 10' width with early termination if necessary.

Will Jones stated the City of Greeley is installing its first Hawk Signal for pedestrians and will include an educational component. The City presented to the Town of Windsor on the Regional Transit Route and will be going to Fort Collins next.

Fodge stated CSU is conducting a survey of Wellington residents who work or study at CSU regarding a potential transit route to campus and has received positive initial feedback.

Jacobsen stated CDOT will soon begin working on an online application for the next round of Safe Routes to School funding.

Beckstrom stated the Colorado Health Foundation hired the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to engage residents and stakeholders to help make neighborhood health improvements. The ULI will perform a week-long assessment and arrive at recommendations for the neighborhood. Extensive background work has been done so far.

Bassinger provided an update on the City's GOCO Grant for the Poudre River Trail from the Environmental Learning Center to I-25, the Harmony Road trail underpass, and closing the small gap between the Spring Creek Trail and the Power Trail.