

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

**Windsor Recreation Center - Pine Room
250 North 11th Street
Windsor, CO**

**February 21, 2018
1:02 – 2:58 p.m.**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Klockeman, Chair – Loveland
Will Jones, Vice Chair – Greeley
Dawn Anderson – Weld County
Janet Bedingfield – SRS
Amanda Brimmer – RAQC
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Tim Kemp – Fort Collins
Rusty McDaniel – Larimer County
Mitch Nelson – Severance
Karen Schneiders – CDOT
Joe Smith – Evans
Dennis Wagner – Windsor

NFRMPO STAFF:

Suzette Mallette
Ryan Dusil
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Medora Kealy
Sarah Martin

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud
Gary Carsten – Eaton
John Franklin – Johnstown
Wendy Heywood – LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Aaron Fodge – CSU, NoCo Bike & Ped
Marissa Gaughan – CDOT
Alana Koenig – CDOT
Walt Satterfield – FHWA
Kelly Smith – Loveland, NoCo Bike & Ped
Ulysses Torres – GET
Shanen Weber – Loveland, NoCo Bike & Ped
Wade Willis – Windsor, NoCo Bike & Ped
Kaley Zeisel – Transfort

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Klockeman called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 17, 2018 TAC MINUTES

Anderson stated the open houses identified during roundtable were for the *Weld County Road (WCR) 29 Access Control Plan*, not WCR 49. Anderson moved to approve the January 17, 2018 TAC meeting minutes as corrected. Kemp supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

None this month.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

Advancing STBG Funding for US34 Widening Project – Kealy stated the FY21 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) pool became fiscally unconstrained by \$85,092 due to a reduction

in the planning estimate. Over \$400,000 in unprogrammed funds in FY19 are available to make up the difference. Only one project has funding in FY21 as well as FY20, which is the City of Loveland's *US34 Widening: Boise Avenue to I-25* project. NFRMPO staff asked the City of Loveland if they could accommodate advancing a portion of their \$750,000 FY21 funding to FY19 to achieve fiscal constraint. Kealy reported Loveland staff responded they would like to advance as much funding as possible. The advancement would not impact other projects or change the total award to Loveland. Staff requested TAC approval to advance \$350,000 from FY21 to FY19 for the *US34 Widening: Boise Avenue to I-25* project. Jones moved to approve the advancement of funds. Wagner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

FY2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Process – Kealy stated the NFRMPO is converting to an annual TIP adoption cycle to better align with CDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The funded Call for Projects will remain on a two-year cycle, which means there will be two types of TIP adoptions. Kealy presented the typical schedule for both types of TIP adoptions. A Call for Projects was opened on February 9 and closes on February 23 for projects with funding that need to be added to the new FY2019-2022 TIP. A funded Call for Projects to award funding will be held in late 2018. The policies in the current TIP will be carried forward into the FY2019-2022 TIP. The Draft FY2019-2022 TIP will be a Discussion Item at TAC in March.

CDOT Draft 2018 Ballot Project List – Karasko stated CDOT developed a draft ballot project list in response to the Denver Metro Mayors' proposed 2018 ballot initiative for increased transportation funding. Once the ballot is filed, CDOT will have 45 days to finalize the project list. It is expected the list will need to be finalized by August. The draft list was presented to the Colorado Transportation Commission and the CDOT Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC). CDOT is requesting the NFRMPO review the projects to ensure they reflect regional priorities. The draft ballot project list was brought to Planning Council for their review in February, and Council requested TAC provide their input first.

The draft ballot project list identifies 89 projects across the state, five of which are within the NFRMPO region. The list is a subset of CDOT's 10-Year Development Program. Mallette asked if the projects are ranked. Karasko stated they are not ranked within the list. Schneiders stated the four Transportation Planning Region (TPR) Chairs, including the NFRMPO Chair, agreed on the priorities for Region 4. Their first priority is I-25, followed by I-70 and then I-76. Another seven corridors make up the top 10 priorities, which feed into the 10-Year Development Program. After those priorities were identified, there were some corridors whose priority ranking was changed due to new opportunities, including SH402 due to its possible devolution from state control to local control. Schneiders stated only state facilities are included in the list, and the 10-Year Development Program is based on the Regional Transportation Plan, so it should reflect regional priorities. Karasko stated not all projects from the 10-Year Development Program are included on the draft ballot project list.

Gaughan stated the entire 10-Year Development Program can be accessed online by searching for "CDOT Development Program". The online list can be viewed as a map and is searchable by corridor.

Mallette asked if the five projects reflected the priorities in the region, and TAC members agreed they did. This item will return for Action in March.

NoCo Bike/Ped Collaborative-TAC Structure – Klockeman stated the interaction between NoCo and TAC needs to be clarified. Jones stated NoCo presented an item to Planning Council at their February 1 meeting, but TAC did not have an opportunity to review the item. He suggested Action items that emerge from NoCo need to be brought to TAC before going to Planning Council. This is not intended to limit NoCo, but rather provide an opportunity for TAC members to give a recommendation to their Planning Council representative.

Mallette stated the structure between NoCo and TAC has been loose, with the main interaction being NoCo providing recommendations to TAC on project selection for Transportation Alternatives (TA)

funding. Mallette stated a closer tie between NoCo and TAC could limit NoCo's scope. Karasko added NoCo provides a monthly verbal report to TAC and a subset of NoCo served as the steering committee for the NFRMPO's *2016 Non-Motorized Plan*. However, NoCo also includes members from areas outside of the NFRMPO region and is more focused on education and advocacy.

Klockeman suggested specific project recommendations from NoCo need to go through TAC before going to Planning Council. Klockeman stated TAC needs to be more engaged in NoCo as well by attending NoCo meetings. Karasko stated NoCo meetings are held the same day the TAC packet goes out, but despite the time limitation, an executive summary of the NoCo meetings will be included in future TAC packets. Karasko asked TAC members to let her know if the summaries are helpful or not.

Mallette asked NoCo members how autonomous they wanted NoCo to be. Fodge stated the NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative is highly functioning and seeks to give voice to bicycle and pedestrian issues across the region. Regarding autonomy, Fodge stated NoCo is open to any structure to improve the effectiveness of NoCo.

Dusil stated the timing of the NoCo and TAC meetings could be contributing to a gap in communication between the two groups. He stated the meetings are only one week apart, so perhaps providing the NoCo meeting executive summary in the TAC packet will help close the communication gap.

Fodge suggested NoCo provide annual updates to TAC on the implementation of the regional bicycle system. Karasko stated that information could be added to the NFRMPO website as well.

Klockeman suggested NoCo identify a member to attend the North I-25 Coalition meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, since funding for the I-25 project is frequently discussed. Klockeman stated a key question is if more money was available, what are the region's priorities for this project?

Mallette stated TAC members used to coordinate attendance at the NoCo meeting, and asked if someone from TAC has been attending recently. Jones stated he has been switching off with Sarah Boyd from the City of Greeley. Anderson stated Weld County will be attending NoCo more often. Nelson stated he attends both NoCo and TAC regularly.

TAC members asked NoCo to bring actionable items to TAC as a Discussion and/or Action Item before going to Planning Council, not just as a report. Fodge stated he would bring that request back to NoCo, and he does not foresee any issue with bringing Action items to TAC in the future.

NoCo Bike/Ped Collaborative Memo to CDOT Request – Karasko stated a group of NoCo members presented to Planning Council at the February 1 meeting on a memo NoCo sent to CDOT. The memo requested installation of box culverts at the Box Elder Creek and Big Thompson River Crossings as part of the North I-25 Segments 7 & 8 project. Fodge stated the *2013 Regional Bicycle Plan* identified these locations as strategic trail crossings. In the fall of 2017, NoCo wrote a memo to CDOT requesting the preservation of these crossings. Fodge stated NoCo recognizes the large contribution from local communities to the North I-25 project, and NoCo is not requesting local communities fund the culverts or build the trails. Instead, NoCo is requesting CDOT preserve the crossings. Mallette asked if NoCo is requesting to preserve access or if it is requesting building box culverts. Fodge stated NoCo is asking to preserve access by installing box culverts.

Fodge stated the memo was revised at the request of CDOT, and the revised memo is in the packet. Tom Glass from the Western Lands Group, which is involved in overseeing the Colorado Front Range Trail, has offered support for this project. Fodge asked if TAC and Council support these projects if funding was not an issue and if they agree that now is the most cost efficient time to preserve future bike corridors.

Mallette stated the memo requests CDOT pay for the installation of the two underpasses. Since it is almost guaranteed CDOT does not have additional funds, the question is what are the region's priorities?

NoCo, along with NFRMPO staff and some TAC members, are meeting with CDOT on March 9 to discuss alignment, viability, funding sources, and cost estimates. Mallette stated this item will go back to Council in April.

Fodge stated the North I-25 project has a much higher share of local contributions than other projects. Klockeman stated the higher local match allowed the acceleration of the project and is becoming the new norm.

Willis asked if TAC would support this infrastructure investment if trail-specific money were to become available, and TAC members agreed the investment would be worthwhile. Fodge asked if TAC could put that support in writing and identify now as the most advantageous time. Mallette agreed now is the most advantageous time, but stated the source of money dictates the priorities. Schneiders stated most of the project's funding is ear-marked for specific uses and cannot be flexed.

Mallette asked if there could be another type of letter for the NFRMPO to support grant funds for these projects, instead of requesting CDOT fund them. Fodge stated he would ask NoCo.

Anderson asked for the minutes from the March 9 meeting to be shared with TAC; Karasko stated they would. Schneiders asked if an NFRMPO staff member could take minutes at the March 9 meeting and also if the NFRMPO could bring the amount of unprogrammed TA funding. Karasko stated NFRMPO staff would do both.

Mallette asked if TAC is interested in having the I-25 Design team present on the project's priorities, and TAC members agreed they were interested.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS (verbal)

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative – Fodge stated the City of Denver presented their Vision Zero policy and NoCo discussed their memo to CDOT, the NoCo-TAC structure, and the possibility of reviving the bike ride with elected officials at the February 14 NoCo meeting.

Regional Transit Agencies – Zeisel stated Transfort posted a parking service position, is executing an agreement to purchase at least six buses, and is discussing revising the prioritization methodology for capital projects. Torres stated he met with the Windsor Town Board regarding the Greeley-Windsor-Fort Collins Regional Route Study and will meet with Transfort next. Klockeman stated the transit center purchase, transit manager position, and paratransit contract are all in process. Schneiders asked if combining the Transfort and COLT systems is still a possibility, and Klockeman stated it may eventually happen. Schneiders reported improperly parked vehicles at the Loveland Park-N-Ride have prevented Bustang buses from getting through the lot.

Senior Transit Items – Bedingfield stated SRS hired another intake coordinator and is anticipating reducing the waitlist to zero by the end of March. With the relocation of the Veterans' Outpatient Clinic from Greeley to Loveland, SRS will ensure riders can access the new facility.

Regional Air Quality Council – Brimmer stated designations for the 2015 ozone standard are anticipated in April. EPA is expected to finalize their finding of adequacy in March for the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Moderate Area SIP for the 2008 standard. CDPHE is finalizing the exceptional event analysis for wildfires, which, if accepted by EPA, would allow CDPHE to request a 1-year attainment date extension. Last week the DC Circuit Court decided the EPA did not have the authority to revoke the 1997 ozone standard. The Denver Region attained the 1997 standard, but a maintenance plan might need to be completed due to the court ruling. The Commercial Lawn and Garden grant is still open. The Mow Down Pollution residential program will hold an event in Loveland later this year. Ken Lloyd, executive director of RAQC, announced he will retire this summer and afterward work part-time for RAQC.

REPORTS

Bike/Ped Counter Updates – Dusil stated the map in the packet identifies all of the permanent counters in the region, including the three that will be installed in 2018. The new counters will be installed at the Great Western Trail in Severance and two locations in Loveland. Data for the two permanent counters purchased by the NFRMPO is included in the packet, but Drakewell noticed a configuration error and the values are likely undercounted. The corrected counts will be included in the next report to TAC.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko stated the federal certification is underway. The site visit will be March 27. The Model Steering Team kickoff meeting is February 22 at the NFRMPO Office. The North I-25 Funding Committee is meeting on February 28 to discuss preferred criteria for the proposed federal infrastructure bill.

Zeisel stated the COLT paratransit IGA will go live April 2. Also, Transfort will be posting the Transit Manager position.

Smith stated the City of Evans developed an advisory group to discuss transportation issues and innovative solutions for local funding of transportation maintenance and capacity.

Schneiders announced Alana Koenig is the new Region 4 STIP Planner.

Weber stated she recently joined the City of Loveland as a Parks and Recreation Planner.

Mallette stated the Planning Council formed an HR committee, which is meeting with the HR consultant to develop a search process for the NFRMPO Executive Director position. The process and scope will be presented to the Planning Council at their March 1 meeting. If Planning Council approves the proposal, the hiring process will commence.

Mallette stated Larimer County is convening a task force next month to consider how to fund transportation, and would like to start a county-wide conversation.

Anderson stated Weld County hosted two open houses for US85 railroad crossing closures. Next week staff is meeting with businesses along O Street regarding the closures. Two additional open houses were held for the *WCR 29 Access Control Plan (ACP)*. The WCR 29 ACP will go back to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption next week. Jim Flesher is transitioning to a Long Range Planner role with Weld County.

Jones announced Greeley hired Scott Logan to fill the Traffic Engineer position. Greeley is working on a Quality of Life tax renewal for 2022.

Klockeman stated Loveland is about to release an RFP to update their Transportation Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and Transit Master Plan. The City Council approved funding and an IGA for the SH402 ACP. The Planning Department is also leading a corridor plan for SH402. Loveland is considering putting a sales tax initiative on the ballot, and staff is developing a project list.

Schneiders suggested adding a standing agenda item on potential ballot measures, perhaps every other month.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – Suggested agenda items for next month include a presentation from the I-25 Design Team, the Draft FY19-22 TIP for Discussion, allocation of unprogrammed FY18 STBG and CMAQ funds for Discussion, the March TIP Amendment for Action, the Draft Ballot Project List for Action, and the NoCo Memo to CDOT for Action. Karasko stated the federal pavement performance measures could come to TAC next month, depending on the SWMPO meeting. Klockeman suggested bringing the 2045 RTP schedule, and Karasko stated she would bring that in April.

Anderson asked if there will be an update on Buy America Waivers. Bustow stated applications are not being accepted anymore. The approval process stopped around the 3rd quarter of 2016, but there is no further information. Gaughan suggested bringing this issue to STAC since Upper Front Range also receives CMAQ.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

Medora Kealy, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room.