

# Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

## 1. Introductions

- ❖ Aaron Fodge, CSU
- ❖ Allison Baxter, City of Greeley
- ❖ Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT
- ❖ Bob Hinderaker, Poudre River Trail Corridor
- ❖ Dave Klockeman, City of Loveland
- ❖ Jamie Gaskill-Fox, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Katie Guthrie, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kelly Smith, City of Loveland
- ❖ Laura Smith, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, WCDPHE
- ❖ Liz Young, LCDHE
- ❖ Mitch Nelson, Town of Severance
- ❖ Nancy Nichols, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Sarah Martin, NFRMPO
- ❖ Stacy Sebeczek, Pace Bike Share
- ❖ Suzanne Bassinger, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Tom Jones, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ Wade Willis, Town of Windsor
- ❖ Will Karspeck, Town of Berthoud

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

## 3. Fort Collins Wayfinding System Guidance

Greigor provided an overview of the *Fort Collins Wayfinding Network Master Plan* adopted in 2015, including the planning process, vision, wayfinding principles, placement strategies, design standards, and lessons learned during the creation of the plan and during the implementation of the system. Greigor added the guidance from the plan offers a template for other communities to adapt, and the system is consistent with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidance. Implementation of the system is being funded largely through Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) federal funding program.

Jacobsen highlighted a similar, more targeted effort on the C-470 Trail in the Denver Metro area, a CDOT-owned trail. Jacobsen added signage is always a consideration for roadway projects, and wayfinding consideration should be a consideration for bike and pedestrian projects. Bassinger asked if the C-470 Trail has emergency markers. Jacobsen responded it does, for both maintenance and emergency purposes. Bassinger asked Greigor if the City has received requests to advertise on trails. Greigor responded they have not.

Fodge asked what Greigor would recommend for new communities looking to improve their wayfinding system. Greigor responded it depends on the amount of money available and how far along the system is, but investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure is typically more important in the early stages. Willis asked if the City has been able to measure the success of their wayfinding system. Greigor responded they have not but have received anecdotal feedback that people are riding more since the wayfinding has been improved. Gaskill-Fox and Nichols added they have heard similar feedback.

The group discussed how to measure the success of a wayfinding system, how and when communities can include wayfinding in the development of their low-stress bike networks, and possibly including wayfinding in the scoring criteria in the NFRMPO's Transportation Alternatives (TA) application and scoring process.

#### 4. Regional Bike Share

Sebeczek explained the history of the bike share system in Fort Collins and provided an overview of the new Pace system, a docked/dockless bike share hybrid adaptation of the City's previous provider, Zagster. Sebeczek highlighted the public outreach, marketing, sponsorships, daily operations, and data analysis that have made the system successful.

Smith asked how a community can start its own bike share program. Sebeczek responded in the case of Fort Collins, it was important to build a strong base of sponsors to help fund the bikes. The earliest sponsors included the City, CSU, New Belgium Brewing, O'Dell Brewing, Kaiser Permanente, UCHHealth, and even an auto dealership.

Jones asked about the cost of a station. Sebeczek responded the cost is roughly \$7,500 per station and \$1,500 per bike. Fodge added these costs also pay for a full-time employee to manage, maintain, and improve the system, which is a major improvement over the bike library model the City used previously.

Smith asked if the City has been able to track data on the system's usage. Sebeczek responded they are, but they have not done any in-depth analysis since the new Pace system opened. Pace will provide periodic reports to sponsors to let them know how often and where their sponsored bikes are being used. Fodge added the rights to see and use the data had to be included in the contract and is an important component of the negotiation process.

Karspeck asked if the bikes can be parked anywhere. Sebeczek responded they can, but the Pace app will follow up with patrons who exhibit bad parking behavior, asking them to park at a station or public bike rack. Baxter asked if there is an incentive for patrons to park bikes at the stations rather than a bike rack. Sebeczek stated there currently is not, but it may be considered after further monitoring of the use and misuse of the system.

Young asked if Pace has coordinated with any transit agencies. Sebeczek responded Transfort is an active partner and they are still getting familiar with each other's systems. Gaskill-Fox added many Transfort drivers have expressed interest in promoting the system to riders.

Martin asked about the cash payment option. Sebeczek explained a patron must call customer service to request the option, then an option will appear in the app to link a PayPal account, bank account, or PayNearMe account which is recognized at certain retailers including CVS, 7-Eleven, and Family Dollar.

Smith asked how Loveland could partner with Pace. Sebeczek stated expanding the system is a possibility, but will require a significant rebalancing of resources within the current system and expansion would depend on the specific needs of the community. Sebeczek added initial

sponsorships would be important and that the recent system expansion in Fort Collins must prove successful first, but there is always room for discussion of expansion.

Nichols asked what happens if a patron's bike breaks down in the middle of a ride. Sebeczek stated she/he can call rider support who will help her/him troubleshoot the situation and/or get to their destination, but the service does not yet assist in calling a taxi, Uber, or Lyft.

Hinderaker asked what the pricing is. Sebeczek stated it is \$1 per 30 minutes but there is a monthly membership option for \$30, allowing for unlimited 60-minute trips.

Smith asked what the average trip distance is per rental. Sebeczek stated she did not know but the average trip length is 34 minutes.

## 5. Northern Colorado Leaders Ride

Dusil explained the Education Subcommittee is tentatively planning on a date in early October and is considering shorter alternative routes to accommodate more riders, account for shorter daylight hours, and adjust to the Fossil Creek Trail construction schedule. The ride may go from Front Range Community College in Fort Collins to Mehaffey Park in Loveland, or vice versa. Jacobsen stated CDOT may be able to offer funding for some of the event costs. Gaskill-Fox added the group is considering pedicabs or golf carts to make the ride more accessible to all invitees. Jones asked what time of day the event will be held. Dusil responded they are aiming for 1:00PM - 5:00PM. Hinderaker asked who will be invited. Dusil responded elected officials at various levels, community leaders, representatives from local and regional boards, and other important leaders. The Education Subcommittee will meet again in early August to make sure the invitation is out at least two months prior to the event.

## 6. Counter Data Trends

Willis stated NoCo will have a standing agenda item for members to share trends from bike and pedestrian counts. Dusil stated the on Bike to Work Day (Wednesday, June 27) some count sites in Fort Collins, Larimer County, and Greeley exhibited increases between 100% and 300% of the normal morning counts. The two NFRMPO-purchased counters on the Poudre River Trail at River Bluffs Open Space in Larimer County and at Rover Run Dog Park in Greeley have damaged sensors that are causing undercounting up to 20%. Dusil added he recently tallied counts from 2017 across permanent counters in the NFRMPO region and estimated there were roughly 3 million visitors to the trail system. Hinderaker asked how this compares to 2016. Dusil responded he does not have enough data from 2016 to produce an estimate. Jacobsen asked if there is count data on the impacts of road diet projects from the region on bike traffic, stating data showing increased use of these improved facilities can help with public perception of such projects. Fodge stated the Remington Greenway project completed in 2015 may be a good example. Greigor stated the Mulberry Protected Bike Lane Pilot Project, to be completed this summer, may be a good example as well.

Jones stated the Great Western Trail Authority is hoping to get some counts on the trail near Eaton. Willis stated he could help with the installation of the counter.

Willis encouraged other members to bring reports or observations from counters with them to future meetings. Greegor and Fodge stated they would bring reports in the future.

## 7. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee

Dusil stated the TAC approved NoCo's memo at their June meeting. Dusil added the NFRMPO Call for Projects will open in late August and TAC will be reviewing the 2016 Transportation Alternatives (TA) scoring criteria at their July meeting. NoCo stated they may consider non-motorized counters and wayfinding plans when reviewing and scoring project applications, but have not yet decided how to incorporate these components into the process. Jacobsen asked if the requirements could be worked into the existing criteria. Dusil responded they could be incorporated into the "Integration With Plans and Community Documented Support," in reference to the wayfinding guidance and bike and pedestrian count location guidance included in the appendices of the NFRMPO's *2016 Non-Motorized Plan*.

## 8. Update / Other Business

Dusil stated the new Colorado the Beautiful grant closes on August 1 and the NFRMPO Call for Projects will open in late August.

Beckstrom stated the Ride & Revel! Bike Ride is Saturday, July 21 in Greeley. Beckstrom added it was recently found that construction of the Wildcat Trail will have a negative impact on bald eagle nesting and would like to talk with anyone who has lessons learned with similar findings.

Bassinger stated construction on the Fossil Creek Trail began last Monday and a substantial completion date has been set for November 9, with an ultimate completion date of November 30. The City is working on plans for the Power Trail's grade-separated crossing of Harmony Road.

Nichols stated the City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program received a BNSF Railway grant which will allow the program to acquire new equipment and a new trailer.

Karspeck stated the Town of Berthoud recently approved a Trails Master Plan.

Jacobsen stated the CDOT SRTS grant will likely open in late August, with an online application form. The call for applications is for two years, as opposed to one as was done in the past. Jacobsen added the State will begin working on a new Statewide Bike Plan this year, and a new Pedestrian Plan next year. The State currently has a combined Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Gaskill-Fox stated the City will be conducting a League of American Cyclists Certified Instructor certification class. Anyone who has taken the Smart Cycling courses can apply through the City's Engage website. Jacobsen added CDOT is training all its maintenance drivers in Bicycle Friendly Driving.

Young stated the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment has hired a new Community Engagement Specialist to replace Daniel Morali. Her name is Brooke Bettolo.

Young added Larimer County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan and will hold public events on July 19 in Fort Collins and July 26 in Berthoud. Young will send the information to Dusil to forward to the group.

Hinderaker stated he would like to discuss e-bike policy at a future meeting to explore how neighboring communities can remain consistent with one another. Willis added this may be an opportunity for NoCo to come to a group recommendation for regulation of e-bikes and potentially develop language for communities to adopt. Bassinger asked if allowing e-bikes could impact eligibility for non-motorized funding. Willis stated it should not.

Hinderaker asked the group who the right contact would be for the missing segment of trail between Timnath and River Bluffs Open Space. NoCo members responded it is Zac Wiebe.

Smith stated the Long View Trail will hold public grand opening and ribbon cutting events in mid-August and will send the details to Dusil to forward to the group.

Guthrie stated the City of Loveland has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the update of its Transportation Master Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and Transit Plan.

Baxter stated the City of Greeley is printing new bike maps, some of which will be in Spanish. The City is also submitting a Bicycle Friendly Business application.

Gregor stated the City of Fort Collins will soon start work on the Mulberry Street Protected Bike Lane Pilot Project, which will consist of a road diet and protected bike lanes. Gregor added in August the Transportation Board will be recommending a one-year trial program allowing Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on the City's trail system to monitor their impact. Gregor stated a survey was done at the Open Streets event in June and most people supported allowing e-bikes on trails, which is different from past survey results.

Willis stated the Town of Windsor will be submitting an RFP for a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan next year. The Town will be sending out a community-wide survey on open space and trails this year. Willis started a summer bike series leading groups from various parks to Boardwalk Park for the Summer Concert Series.

Fodge stated the trail leading from the Shields Street and Elizabeth Street underpass east onto campus is 90% complete. Fodge added students funded a bike maintenance trailer that will be stationed around campus to help students with maintenance issues as they ride by. CSU will be having a Bike-In football game on August 25 for the game against Hawai'i.

Martin encouraged all NoCo members to follow the NFRMPO on social media.