

**Meeting Minutes of the
NORTH FRONT RANGE TRANSPORTATION &
AIR QUALITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

**October 4, 2018
Riverside Library & Cultural Center
2700 Golden Street
Evans, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Tom Donnelly - Chair -Larimer County
William Karspeck -Berthoud
Kevin Ross -Eaton
Mark Clark -Evans
Robb Casseday -Greeley
Paula Cochran -LaSalle
Dave Clark -Loveland
Elizabeth Austin -Milliken
Don McLeod -Severance
Kathy Gilliland -Transportation Comm.
Julie Cozad -Weld County
Kristie Melendez -Windsor

Voting Members Absent:

Rick Coffin -CDPHE
Gerry Horak -Fort Collins
Troy Mellon -Johnstown
Aaron Pearson -Timnath
*No Member -Garden City

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance Director; Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator; Medora Kealy, Transportation Planner II; and Shane Armstrong, Vanpool Services Coordinator.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Butch Hause, Myron Hora, Will Jones, Ken Martin, Mark Peterson, Ginger Robitaille, Karen Schneiders and Steve Teets.

Chair Donnelly called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment:

Steve Teets, Citizens Bus Improvement Committee in Greeley, commented going to Denver from Greeley was very difficult before you get to Loveland, and then it was fantastic. He indicated routes between Fort Collins or other cities, and Greeley were also challenging, and something needed to be done. He cited a recent difficulty when he and others were trying to get to the Weld County Mobility Council travel training in Denver, noting the immediate need for better mobility and accessibility, especially for the disabled, who often have to settle for the hardship of taking a taxi. He commented that mobility was very good west of I-25 but US 34 traffic was horrible, and he believed a transit route system would help with connectivity to services such as Bustang and FLEX, highway congestion, education and employment needs. He asked Council members for ideas on getting regional mobility.

Casseday announced Greeley, Windsor and Fort Collins were working collaboratively on a 2020 Regional Transit Route which will connect the three communities, link to Denver, and include alternative routes. Donnelly informed Teets there was a discussion item on the agenda for a One Call One Click, a Dial-A-Ride type service for seniors, disabled, and others, for Larimer County and he believed there was potential for it to be broadened to a regional program. He encouraged Teets to stay for discussion and thanked him for his comment.

Move to Approve Agenda:

Ross **moved** to approve the, *October 4, 2018 Meeting Agenda*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

Ross **moved** to approve the *September 6, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Donnelly opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided. Commissioner Cozad is currently the MPO's RAQC representative but will be leaving elected office at the end of the year. Cozad indicated she was willing to continue as the MPO RAQC representative after December when her term as Weld County Commissioner and MPO Council member ends as her RAQC appointment from the Governor is valid until June. The Executive Committee will track any expressed interest from other members to become the representative and discuss the option of retaining Cozad at their upcoming Agenda Review meeting. The appointment will be an action item at an upcoming meeting.

Air Quality Action Item

Proposed Regulation 20 Colorado-Low Emission Automobile Regulation

Mallette distributed and reviewed information from the approved Application for Late Party Status by the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) which identified several policy, factual, and legal issues and allows the Council to participate in the prehearing and hearing processes as one body. Donnelly recapped that proposed Regulation 20 as the adoption of California Low Emission Vehicle standards in place of the current federal standard in Colorado. The federal and California standard are the same at this time, however, the EPA is indicating that the current federal standard will be relaxed. Colorado Governor Hickenlooper directed APCD to propose rulemaking to move to the California standard. These standards affect passenger vehicles, light duty and medium duty trucks, beginning in the 2022 model year. Donnelly requested Council members' feedback on moving forward with party status and submitting a pre-hearing letter for the hearing scheduled November 14-16. Donnelly encouraged all Council members to engage in the conversation.

Several members expressed their concerns regarding the very short timeframe not allowing them to clearly understand the proposed regulation or take it to their individual boards. Mallette surmised the timeline was tight as they need to give auto manufacturers a two-year lead time to produce vehicles that will meet the new standards. Council engaged in a robust discussion in which the following points were cited:

- There has not been enough time for vetting the proposed regulation and most do not understand how implementation will be handled.
- Without having a thorough cost-benefit analysis many do not feel prepared to make an informed decision.
- If the Federal standard is relaxed it would not be good for Colorado or other states' public health and air quality.
- Approximately 14-16 states, mostly coastal, are going with the California standard so far, but is not necessarily desirable for Colorado to move toward more strict standards.

- This regulation is based on greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and is not part of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as it does not address the criterion pollutants affecting North Front Range. Regulation 20 offers a very minimal air quality benefit to the NFRMPO
- Consumers may feel they are losing their ability to choose purchasing vehicles from neighboring states, especially Wyoming, and new residents would be unable to register a new vehicle in Colorado until it has 7500 miles. This may be frustrating and confusing to Colorado citizens.
- Due to the need for new catalytic converters along with other expected manufacturing costs, it is believed average new vehicle prices will rise \$3k- \$6k in states that choose to adopt the California standards.

Following the lengthy discussion Donnelly requested a presentation by a health department expert at the November 1st meeting. Others made requests for the presentation to include Regulation Number 20 fact sheets, fiscal cost analysis, and detailed implementation information. Cozad indicated the importance for her to have clear direction as the RAQC representative. It was determined the MPO would retain party status and continue with the process at least until there was clarity.

Cozad **moved** to approve Director Mallette draft a pre-hearing submission letter on behalf of the MPO Council based on the points listed on the Party Status Application that will be vetted via email discussion in time for the October 9th deadline. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with a majority vote of 11-1, with Karspeck voting against the motion and Gilliland abstaining.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Donnelly opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Report of the Chair:

Chair Donnelly did not have a report.

Executive Director Report:

Mallette provided information on the following:

- Certification Review Recommendations from FTA and FHWA- Nothing significant was found. Although not part of the regulations, FHWA has requested a Delegation of Authority Policy from the Council in the event something happens with the Executive Director, they will be formally notified. NFRMPO responses to all recommendations will be sent back in early October.

Finance:

A written report was provided. Melendez noted the MPO would not be moving their Great Plains accounting software to a cloud-based server due to cost.

HR Committee:

A written report was provided.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

Move to Approve Consent Agenda:

Casseday **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- *FY2018-FY2019 UPWP Amendment -Resolution 2018-19*
- *2045 GOPMT*

Action Items:

Executive Director Review Process

D Clark briefly reviewed information from the Executive Director Evaluation Process memo, noting the HR Committee's original suggestion was for only MPO staff and the Executive Committee to complete the survey. Mallette explained she had considered sending the survey to only the three main committees she worked with regularly, Executive Committee, Finance Committee and HR Committee, but once she realized only five Council members would be excluded, her recommendation was for all fifteen Council representatives to participate. Ginger Robitaille, HR Consultant, said with Mallette only having been active as Executive Director for approximately four months, she agreed the survey should go to those who have been actively involved with Mallette. Robitaille confirmed the HR Committee was also in consensus.

Following a brief discussion on options for others outside the MPO to participate or provide comments, Robitaille indicated the goal was to ensure they don't dilute the responses by keeping the survey within the Council and staff, but comments could be made at the end of the survey by Council members, whether their own or from others, in the region, and any concerns presented would be addressed immediately. She also noted there was an area to identify specific strengths and goals for the next year to help gain perspective on how to proceed going forward. The NFRMPO Executive Director Evaluation form 2018 will go to staff and Council members in late October with a hard deadline set to allow final results to be tabulated and brought back to the December 6th MPO Council meeting for discussion in Executive Session. In January the review process will be completed.

M Clark **moved** to approve the Executive Director Review Process with the MPO Staff and Council Members only completing the Executive Director Performance Evaluation 2018. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Targets

Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator, noted there were handouts of the updated memo and resolution for the item, explaining the item needed to be split because Greeley-Evans Transit (GET) was not included in the Statewide Transit Asset Management Plan as they have been previously. GET has been given a thirty-day extension to request inclusion, therefore MPO staff now asks Council for the approval of the presented TAM Targets Resolution, as required prior to the September 2018 TIP Amendment next on the evening's agenda. Gordon noted Council would be asked to approve a revised resolution in November or December which included the approved GET TAM Targets.

Cozad **moved** to approve *Resolution No. 2018-20 To Set Targets by Supporting the Targets Established by CDOT and Transfort for Transit Asset Management (TAM)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

September 2018 TIP Amendment

Medora Kealy, Transportation Planner II reviewed information from the September 2018 TIP Amendment AIS which included four Amendment requests for the related cycle; two from CDOT, and one each from the City of Fort Collins and the NFRMPO.

Ross **moved** to approve *Resolution No. 2018-21 Approving the September 2018 Amendment to the FY2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

September 2018 Call for Projects Process

Kealy presented a high-level overview of the 2018 Call for Projects Process along with additional background information to the Council. Cozad expressed her concern with the prohibiting of projects requiring vehicle Buy America waivers noted in the Call Overview, suggesting if Buy America issues were resolved the MPO would not have any projects listed in this year's call. It was stated there was no indication a resolution was on the horizon as the current restrictions make it virtually impossible to comply, many projects were already trapped in the current freeze on all Buy America waiver processes. Kealy reassured the Council this language could be revised in a future call, if appropriate. Council briefly discussed what other options there may be for CMAQ funding. When asked why CMAQ funding could not be used for the \$25k of ozone modeling strategies, Kealy explained CMAQ funded projects need to demonstrate the amount of air quality benefit it produces, therefore modeling was not eligible. Mallette identified it was basically a "good neighbor policy" to support the ozone set aside funds to pay for the modeling the MPO uses.

Casseday expressed his desire to wait until after the November elections to decide on projects to which Kealy responded the schedule was designed specifically to conclude following the elections, although some deadlines were earlier due to the length of many of the processes, adding it was possible to get a two-week extension and still adopt the TIP on time, she offered to provide the alternate schedule and information for the communities to consider. It was confirmed the Call for Projects process would once again include small pots of set aside money which were more feasible for smaller communities' projects. Karen Schneiders, CDOT R4, offered CDOT assistance to the small communities when completing their applications.

Gilliland **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2018-22 ADOPTING THE PROCESS FOR THE 2018 CALL FOR PROJECTS*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

VanGo™ Update

Shane Armstrong, Vanpool Services Coordinator, provided the VanGo™ Update presentation to the Council noting the number of Active Riders had risen to 262. The occupancy rate is around 85-88% and is a good spot to be because it allows new riders to join as gas prices continue to increase. Donnelly asked what the fare collections were in comparison to the program's cost. Crystal Hedberg, Finance Director, indicated based on YTD 3rd Quarter, approximately ½ of the interest earned is used to cover operating costs, and capital costs are covered with City of Fort Collins money and the sales of vans taken out of service. She added the reserves are basically untouched, making VanGo™ nearly self-sufficient. VanGo™ Dashboard figures were included in Council handouts for additional financial information.

Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission

Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, shared the Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission presentation with the Council, identifying the members and their charge, a summary of steps toward implementing passenger rail service along the Front Range, and their administrative directives and grant funding opportunities. She noted Amtrak had recently made some very unfavorable decisions, regarding suspending Southwest Chief tracks and not matching funds as promised, indicating they are now expected resolve these issues and keep the services operational. D Clark questioned the exorbitant costs for the rail service and the use of existing tracks and right-of-way. Following a brief discussion, Karasko was asked to explain how she became involved with the Commission. She said she was chosen to represent the MPO and its priorities when the Southwest Chief and Front Range Rail Commission requested an MPO staff

member to join them as they prepared to expand passenger rail service to the whole State of Colorado. Karasko offered to present Council feedback at the commission meetings as requested.

One Call-One Click

Donnelly indicated the idea of a One Call-One Click (OC-OC) transportation service for Larimer County had been in process for several years as part of their Strategic Plan which Mallette worked on while employed as their Transportation Program Manager. He said the initial reason for looking into the project was to address the growing transportation needs for seniors living healthy, independent lives, but in need of easily-accessible, on-demand, transportation. He believes this service need is actually more regional in scope and would like to explore potential opportunities with the NFRMPO and other communities in the North Front Range. Mallette shared information from the Larimer County One Call-One Click presentation, highlighting the following:

- The genesis of the study for the strategic plan was for the consultant to identify transportation needs of seniors (60+) in unincorporated Larimer County.
- A survey and four focus groups across Larimer County involved seniors sharing their specific needs. MPO Mobility Coordinator, Alex Gordon, also assisted with the process.
- Larimer County contributed a \$5k match to the grant from the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) who is funded by FTA and administered by Easterseals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a).
- The County also provided a \$16k match to the FTA 5304 grant that funds the building of the business plan, which is currently developing an expert panel to help identify the best software platforms for the program.
- The NFRMPO could be very beneficial, not necessarily financially, but as a conduit for the program and in assisting with the FTA grant process.
- Existing service providers who may be included under the OC-OC umbrella are Berthoud Area Transit Services (BATS), Berthoud Rural Alternative for Transportation (RAFT), Transfort, City of Loveland Transit (COLT), Senior Alternatives in Transportation (SAINT), Heart & Soul Paratransit and others.
- The first two years will be the most expensive, with the integration of the service providers and the implementation of the software.

Cozad noted she represents the Fourth Congressional District of the Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) and was personally interested in both presenting and partnering with others and believed Weld County may also be interested. She felt very strongly about the need for the dial-a-ride type service, citing new issues which have arisen for veterans in Weld County since their medical services clinic was moved to Loveland. Karspeck agreed with Cozad's points and noted his interest for the Town of Berthoud to partner with both counties as well as other communities. The Council engaged in a brief discussion regarding the scope of the business plan and whether it would be scalable. Mallette agreed to follow-up on the expansion options and Cozad offered to bring information from CCOA. Donnelly said he would like to give Council members time to discuss with their individual boards and get back information on the business plan and software before bringing the item back but hoped it could be in the next couple months.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2045 Regional Transit Element (RTE)

Gordon provided information from the AIS and presentation for the 2045 Regional Transit Element which acts as the transit component of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and is also incorporated into CDOT's Statewide Transit Plan. Gordon noted the RTE provides eligibility for federal funding and the expanded potential for federal grants and noted the importance of educating the public on the many services that are available to them, so they are beneficial and meet the targets which were set earlier in the meeting. Council will take action on the item in November.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

Gilliland reported there would be a Town Hall event October 9 at 5:30 at the Milliken Town Hall and a Telephone Town Hall October 16th at 6:30.

I-25 Update

A written Project Status Update for September 27, 2018 was provided. Karen Schneiders, CDOT, noted the US 34 at I-25 Park-n-Ride will be closed October 6th for line painting.

STAC Report

No report was provided.

Host Council Member Report- M Clark welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming the Riverside Library and Cultural Center in Evans. He reported the City will be receiving approximately \$1M grant money for 37th Street overlay project which will begin with some stormwater drainage work and utilities preparation. They hope to complete it next year. He also noted Evans inclusion in the contract for Freedom Parkway project looks to be approved and they hope to move forward soon. The City's priority is to fix many of their roads and hope to pass a sales tax initiative in November to provide funding necessary.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

Presentation on proposed Regulation Number 20

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff