

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Windsor Recreation Center, Buckeye/Redwood Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introductions

- ❖ Aaron Buckley, CSU
- ❖ Allison Baxter, City of Greeley
- ❖ Bob Hinderaker, Poudre River Trail Corridor
- ❖ Brian Harding, City of Loveland
- ❖ Everett Bacon, Weld County
- ❖ Joseph Flanigan, Larimer County Resident
- ❖ Katie Guthrie, City of Loveland
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, WCDPHE
- ❖ Liz Heid, Town of Eaton / Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ Liz Young Winne, LCDHE
- ❖ Marilyn Hilgenberg, City of Loveland
- ❖ Mitch Nelson, Town of Severance
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Sarah Martin, NFRMPO
- ❖ Wade Willis, Town of Windsor

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The January 9, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives Update

Dusil reported the Collaborative had a productive discussion at the January 9, 2019 meeting. Comments from that meeting and the online survey were considered and a revised framework was drafted. A Subcommittee convened from 9am- 10am this morning to finalize the framework. The Subcommittee is about three quarters of the way through, and is focusing on making the language intentional, concise, and clear. The Subcommittee will meet again in March to finalize the framework and present final version during the March meeting for discussion and approval.

4. 2019 Walkability Action Institute (WAI)

Dusil stated a team representing the NFRMPO and the Collaborative was accepted to the 2019 WAI. The WAI is a four-day workshop in Decatur, Georgia where the team will work with national walkability experts to develop an Action Plan to implement walkability strategies in Northern Colorado. The WAI is hosted April 22-26, 2019 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), who also cover each team's travel and lodging expenses. An NFRMPO team considered applying to the WAI in 2016, applied in 2017 and was rejected, and applied again in 2018 and was accepted. The WAI team consists of Katie Guthrie (City of Loveland), Leslie Beckstrom (Weld County), Aaron Buckley (CSU), Mayor Will Karspeck (Town of Berthoud), Matt Ruder (City of Loveland), and Ryan Dusil (NFRMPO). The WAI team will rely on the Collaborative to help refine and implement the Action Plan. The NFRMPO team is one of 10 teams attending this year. 51 teams from 31 states have participated in the WAI since 2015.

The team members bring interdisciplinary knowledge and a wide geographic representation of the NFRMPO region to the table. Examples of deliverables from past teams include:

- Increasing transportation funding dedicated to active transportation by helping set MPO project priorities in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through revised scoring criteria and guidelines for the allocation process
- Launching a Complete Streets (CS) implementation process by introducing the topic to each individual agency, creating low- or no-cost demonstration projects and a best practices guide, and hosting training sessions
- Engaging agencies to reevaluate zoning and land use practices or codes that encourage sprawl and low-density development

Dusil stated the WAI Team will keep the Collaborative updated on the process and present to them after returning from the WAI. At that point, the WAI Team and the Collaborative move forward with an Action Plan and implement it.

5. 2019 NoCo Bike & Ped Work Plan

Willis stated the 2019 Work Plan should be updated in conjunction with the update of the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives. Dusil highlighted the group's 2018 goals (generated in December 2017), 2018 achievements, and potential 2019 focus areas. The tasks were divided into discussion topics, presentation topics, group recommendations/actions, and special events. The group proposed revisions and new ideas to add to the list and organized them into short-term (through July 2019), medium-term (July 2019 – December 2019), and long-term (2020 and beyond) tasks. Dusil will propose a tentative 2019 calendar based on the list and bring it to the March meeting for discussion and approval. The group acknowledged planning several months in advance will help ensure high-quality content and discussion but leaving some room for month-to-month flexibility allows the group to be nimble as things come up. **A draft 2019 calendar including all the topics discussed at the meeting is included in the appendix.** This calendar serves mainly as a guide and will be revised as things change, but generally reflects the group's priorities for the coming year.

6. Counter Data Trends

Buckley stated a couple CSU counters were recently repaired due to water leaking into the rubber housing. It is something for other agencies with Eco-Counter products to be mindful of.

Hinderaker stated he plans to install two new permanent counters along the Poudre River Trail in Greeley, filling the remaining data coverage gaps on the eastern side of the trail corridor.

Baxter stated the City of Greeley plans to install one permanent counter on the Sheep Draw Trail and use temporary counters at on-street locations across the City.

Willis stated the Town of Windsor will install one or two more counters on local trails, but locations are TBD.

Heid stated the Great Western Trail is seeing far more pedestrians than bicyclists and total volume has been higher than expected on cold weather days.

Flanigan asked how the counter data is used. Willis reported it is helpful for scheduling maintenance on or near trails, is useful in grant applications, and helps agency staff understand patterns to make other investment decisions.

Dusil stated the NFRMPO's temporary counters are available for check out and NFRMPO staff can assist with training, installation, data collection, and data analysis. The Town of Eaton used two tube counters in Fall 2018 mainly to count motor vehicle traffic. This feature can be leveraged to encourage counting because the counters can still count bicyclists at the same time as motor vehicles.

Dusil stated the Strava Metro dataset ~~is available to all agencies via a user agreement between Strava and CDOT.~~ **Amendment 5/3/19 from Betsy Jacobsen:** CDOT purchased data in 2017 and the contract expired in July 2018, so CDOT does not have access to the data anymore. Additionally, any local agreement for data was made between STRAVA and the local agency. CDOT paid for the data, but left it up to STRAVA to manage the individual requests for access. The data mostly covers recreational cyclists but is useful in understanding which roads and trails are frequented by this user group. Larimer County used it to identify popular bike routes on the county road network to inform future investment decisions. Buckley asked how to access the data. Dusil stated agencies can contact CDOT to get enter an agreement with Strava. The dataset is very large and detailed, but there is a detailed user guide. Flanigan asked what format the data is in. Dusil responded it is tabular data that can be linked to geographic data to perform spatial analysis.

7. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Dusil state he will report to TAC on the update to the Collaborative's Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives framework, the 2019 Work Plan, and the Collaborative's anticipated facilitated discussion on future organizational structure at the April 10, 2019 meeting. He will highlight the group will be considering pursuing a more formalized structure if they determine it will best serve their Vision and Mission. Options the group would like to discuss include pursuing a formal status within the NFRMPO as a committee or subcommittee, pursuing 501(c)(3) non-profit status, or other unidentified avenues. The group agreed the facilitated discussion should include the Collaborative, NFRMPO Leadership, NFRMPO TAC representation, and NFRMPO Planning Council representation if possible. The facilitation team is made of Larimer County staff. The Collaborative plans to discuss the outcome of the facilitated discussion and their intended next steps with the TAC their April 17, 2019 meeting.

8. Community Updates / Other Business

Flanigan provided a handout regarding Personal and Affinity Devices (PAAD), and explained pedestrians are polymorphic, meaning the type and intensity of assistance they require can take various forms. While the conversation on bicyclists and pedestrians is intended to include all ages, abilities, and assistive devices, they are often not properly accounted for in practice, and infrastructure, laws, and ordinances often preclude the use of affinity devices necessary for basic transportation for many people. Flanigan requested the Collaborative discuss how to better bring all affinity devices into the mainstream and change the terminology and conversation around bicycles and pedestrians.

Guthrie stated the City of Loveland has begun planning for June Bike Month and there will be seven on-bike events across the City.

Bacon reported Weld County will soon embark on a Transportation Plan update in coordination with its Comprehensive Plan update. Staff are discussing how to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian transportation into the update in a more robust way. Bacon also stated the Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) recently presented to the Weld County Commissioners regarding improvements for safe crossings at county roads. Bacon and Heid agreed the conversation was productive and the entities are working together for solutions.

Bacon added the Collaborative can visit mobilityworldwide.org to see examples of international projects related to the discussion on PAAD.

Hilgenberg stated the City of Loveland is working with CDOT on the trail right-of-way under the Big Thompson River bridge. She also stated the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board prohibited e-bikes on soft-surface trails and has received immediate pushback from residents who have used the trails this way for years.

Harding stated the City of Loveland Park Planning Department is working with BNSF and developers to connect the Long View Trail to the existing northeastern portion of the Loveland Recreation Trail.

Baxter reported the City of Greeley was awarded funding into the NFRMPO Call for Projects for citywide traffic signal retiming and fiber optic infrastructure installation.

Heid reported the GWTA is meeting with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to discuss turning one trailhead into a community park.

Hinderaker reported he is organizing a Leaders' Ride on the Poudre Trail in and around Greeley and joined a webinar recently on the Colorado Trails Explorer (COTREX) web and phone application.

Buckley reported CSU is developing a map to geofence areas for e-scooter regulation. The map could be used to digitally control the speed of a device as it enters or leaves a certain area for safety. The advent of e-scooters and e-bikes is also bringing up issues of trail capacity. Buckley would like to see the region assess opportunities for expanding trail width or creating separate facilities by user type.

Beckstrom stated talks have resumed regarding the Wildcat Trail from Milliken to Firestone. The alignment may need to change due to a conflict with a bald eagle nesting area. Beckstrom stated there may be interest from stakeholders in pursuing state or county park status for the Wildcat Mounds historic area.

Young Winne reported the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association (CPRA) is hosting the Public Health/Parks and Recreation Summit on Friday, March 8 from 8:30am – 4:30pm in Westminster. The theme is "For the Sake of Healthy Places and Community Spaces: Exploring Collaborative Solutions to 3rd Place." Young Winne will pass the information along to Dusil for distribution to the group.