

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

**April 4, 2019  
Greeley Family Fun Plex  
1501 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Greeley, CO**

**Voting Members Present:**

**Kristie Melendez - Chair** -Windsor  
Kevin Ross -Eaton  
Mark Clark -Evans  
Gerry Horak -Fort Collins  
Robb Casseday -Greeley  
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County  
Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
Dave Clark -Loveland  
Frank Baszler -Severance  
Barbara Kirkmeyer -Weld County  
Kathy Gilliland -Transportation  
Commission

**Voting Members Absent:**

William Karspeck -Berthoud  
Fil Archuleta -Garden City  
Troy Mellon -Johnstown  
Elizabeth Austin -Milliken  
Aaron Pearson -Timnath  
Rick Coffin -CDPHE

**MPO Staff:**

Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; and Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II.

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Allison Baxter, Chad Crager, ,Butch Hause, Joel Hemeseth, Wayne Howard, Will Jones, Dave Klockeman, Steve Moreno, Mitch Nelson, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Randy Ready, Jan Rowe, Karen, Schneiders, Bryan Shafer, Corey Stewart, Robin Stoneman, Elizabeth Stolfus.

Chair Melendez called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

Ross **moved** to approve the, *April 4, 2019 Meeting Agenda*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Move to Approve Minutes:**

Casseday **moved** to approve the *March 7, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

## **Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

Chair Melendez opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

### Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

No report was provided.

### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

No report was provided. The next meeting is April 5.

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair Melendez opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### **Reports:**

#### Report of the Chair:

Chair Melendez moved her recognition of Gerry Horak to later in the meeting.

#### Executive Director Report:

Karasko provided information on the following:

- The Larimer County Senior Transportation Implementation Planning Election Committee is currently in negotiations with the consultant chosen for the 9-month program with the One Call One Click Center which is funded through an FTA 5304 Grant.
- The RAQC Board meeting will be held Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in Loveland. Presentations will be given by MPO Planner, Ryan Dusil, Fort Collins and Greeley on the efforts being made to improve Northern Colorado's air quality.
- The first summer outreach event will be the Fort Collins Earth Day Event on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- "MAX turns 5" Station Celebrations will be held May 11<sup>th</sup> 11-2. MPO staff will have a table at one of the stations for the event.
- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant should be released prior to April 19<sup>th</sup>. The deadline is mid-July.
- VanGo<sup>TM</sup> Statistics and Dashboard from the first quarter of 2019 were a handout.

#### Finance:

A written report was provided. D. Clark noted the 2018 Audited Financials would be reviewed by the Finance Committee at their next meeting and then brought to the Council in May as an action item.

#### TAC:

A written report was provided.

#### Mobility:

A written report was provided.

#### 2019 Walkability Action Institute:

A written report was provided.

### **Action Items:**

#### March 2019 TIP Amendment

Medora Bornhott, Transportation Planner II, explained there were three requests to revise the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which require amendment because they either add over \$5M of state or federal funds or they are completely new projects being added to the TIP. B briefly reviewed the projects from the Agenda Item Summary (AIS) noting no public comments

were received prior to the meeting and an Environmental Justice Analysis had been included in the packet for the two new projects.

Ross **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-06 APPROVING THE MARCH 2019 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### FY18 TIP Project Delay Review

Bornhoft explained the TIP Project Delay Review procedure was a NFRMPO policy created to ensure projects awarded through the Call for Projects process are making progress and using the federal funds. When a project has a first-time delay in the process steps TAC may grant a one year extension, but a project with a second delay must be taken to the Council who may either vote to remove funds from the project or in cases where a delay is outside the control of the project sponsor, grant a second one-year extension. Bornhoft briefly reviewed information from the AIS regarding the two projects requesting a second extension. She did not know the likelihood of either of the projects ability to be completed in the one year extension time.

Ross **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-07 APPROVING SECOND ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS FOR THE FY2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT DELAY REVIEW*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### Discussion Items:

##### CO 257 and CO 392 Network Feasibility Study

Elizabeth Stolfus, Stolfus and Associates/CDOT Consultant Project Manager, distributed a summary of the Community Survey Results from the March 28<sup>th</sup> Open House at the Windsor Fire Station Number 1. She explained the Network Feasibility Study changed its title from "Windsor Area" to "CO 257 and CO 392" to clarify for both the public and stakeholders, their regional approach to diverting traffic away from downtown Windsor while including transportation priorities and concerns from the entire study area. Stolfus briefly reviewed the summary and the CO 257 and CO 392 Network Feasibility Study (study) presentation with the Council, noting the open house event brought in 105 community participants and 62 survey responses. The most cited concerns were for safety near schools, the use of existing infrastructure, and protecting the environment.

Gilliland asked what the initial matters were for the study. Stolfus said the original focus for the study was on traffic growth, congestion and safety, but because they received multiple non-localized comments regarding modes of travel and interest in free-flowing transportation from Fort Collins to Greeley, it will be necessary to determine if their concept of potential alternatives fit what was needed for the future of the area. Kirkmeyer asked who had decided the study was needed, noting the map included WCR 19, but to her knowledge Weld County had not been included. Stolfus replied the study had been an item of discussion between CDOT and the local communities for some time, however not everyone was supportive of using of CR 19 and wanted other routes to be considered. Ross observed CR 74 was used by commuters in volumes very similar to CO 392 according to the study. Stolfus noted there was definitely a need for them to spend more time with TAC reviewing traffic patterns in the area.

D. Clark commented although Crossroads Boulevard is one of the diversion options, the City of Loveland had formally raised three main concerns: 1) They do not want to take already limited funding from former commitments on US 34 and SH 402; 2) Traffic, development and land use has already been established; 3) Certain access points based on existing traffic patterns have also been established and need to be honored, noting there were roundabouts east of Loveland which were probably not intended to take on heavy traffic loads. Stolfus agreed these were valid concerns and said they will preserve Crossroads Boulevard's planned functionality in the area.

Melendez said CDOT is also meeting with developers working along the corridor to discuss viable options. Stolfus agreed a meeting with key developers would be regionally significant. She informed the Council that broader regional outreach was planned in conjunction with meetings with the focused Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the regular TAC, and the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee which represents all of the communities involved. These groups will focus on technical evaluations and make certain the study area is appropriately perceived.

All of the communities involved in the study were offered a presentation to their individual boards or councils; however any comments made at those meetings are not part of the open house summary data. Baszler reported many Severance residents attended the presentation to their Town Board and raised concerns regarding safety at the CR 74 intersection due to so many Northbound commuters now taking CR 19 instead of SH 257. He also noted the majority of comments were from Windsor residents traveling to Fort Collins and Greeley for work and asked if they specified which area of Fort Collins. Stolfus said that citizen group may have over represented the retired community; therefore, commuting patterns from that particular data set may have been too heavily weighted to draw solid conclusions. Melendez, who was in attendance, concurred and asked about upcoming open house events. Stolfus indicated their schedule included a second public open house sometime in the summer, but she would need to discuss appropriate next steps and locations with the project team, since they had received different data than predicted. There are no hard dates for the study, and it is no longer anticipated it will be completed by the end of June.

#### Greeley STBG Project Adjustment Request

Karasko explained to the Council how following the awarding of \$1.4M of STBG funds from the 2016 Call for Projects to partially fund the City of Greeley's O Street Capacity Project, the US 85 PEL Study adopted in 2017 recommended the closure of O Street access east of US85. With the access being moved to CR 66 the original project scope became unnecessary and not a good use of funds. Due to circumstances outside Greeley's control, the project is no longer viable and they are requesting the funds be used instead for a roundabout at the intersection of O Street and 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Allison Baxter, City of Greeley Transportation Planner, presented the STBG Project Adjustment Request – Follow Up to the Council comprehensively explaining the benefits of the roundabout project and the methodology used by the City of Greeley staff. Casseday expressed Greeley's gratitude for the opportunity to bring the much more significant project for consideration within the scope of their original application.

#### 2019 NFRMPO Title VI Plan

Karasko informed the Council as a subrecipient of FHWA funds the NFRMPO is required to update the Title VI Plan approximately every three years. The 2016 Title VI Report was updated in March of 2017 with minor changes requested by CDOT. She reviewed information from the 2019 Title VI Plan memo with the Council. The new plan will incorporate FTA and FHWA requirements. The Triennial period ends May 21, 2019. Council will be asked to take action at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting.

#### FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Bornhoft explained the annual TIP cycle had been updated to work in conjunction with CDOT's STIP adoption cycle. CDOT is changing their STIP policies; therefore, the MPO will reconsider the TIP adoption cycle once the STIP policies are set. She reviewed the Draft FY 2020-2023 TIP AIS, presentation, and changes with the Council. Kirkmeyer asked for clarification of the new definition for a capacity project and the difference between traveling at least one mile in a lane or at least two lane miles, and why it was changed. Bornhoft explained it was necessary to know if a project would trigger air quality conformity and previously it was interpreted as a center lane mile. If the project is adding at least one mile in each direction than conformity is required. If the project is adding two lanes in each direction in a half-mile segment, it will trigger conformity. In order to

clarify the policy, the more common term “lane miles” was used rather than “travel lane.” Horak asked for rephrasing of the delay definition to improve grammar. Bornhoft agreed to look into rephrasing. The item will be brought back to Council for adoption on June 6<sup>th</sup>, following the 30-day comment period.

#### Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Update & Next Steps

Ross stated the Council would be using the attorney services of Bruce White to obtain party status and Director Mallette will contact him as the May deadline gets closer.

### **Council Reports:**

#### Report of the Chair

Melendez recognized the many efforts and accomplishments of Horak who was ending his time on the Fort Collins City Council and the MPO Council at the end of the month. She noted the many committees and coalitions he had been a member of, as well as being a key player in building funding for the expansion of I-25. Other Council members noted Horak’s ability to lead, provide guidance, positive perspective, and tenacity, as well as his desire to get projects funded through a more regional approach. Horak thanked the Council for their kind comments and credited Weld County Commissioner, Sean Conway, for his collaboration efforts on the Berthoud Climbing Lane project, which helped make useful changes within the Council. He closed by stating I-25 had truly been the unifying force for the region and NFRMPO.

#### Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

A Project Status Update for April 1, 2019 was provided. Gilliland reported the Commission would be taking a road trip in June to the eastern plains, Greeley, Fort Collins, Loveland and other areas of Northern Colorado. She will provide more information at future meetings. CDOT Director Shoshana Lew visited with the Commission and Region 4 staff. Also invited were the MPO Executive Committee, Larimer County Commissioners and Weld County Commissioners. The meeting was a good opportunity to share ideas for improving transportation. Gilliland noted Lew’s goal of evolving the planning process and possibly changing from a four-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) to a ten-year rolling plan, although she did not have details on how that may work. She also was excited there would now be one department for transit, rail, bike and pedestrians so efforts could be collaborated into one complete system. Melendez was pleased to hear Lew’s refreshing vision for the entire State of Colorado and her desire to spend money in the best way possible to make the biggest impact. D. Clark noted Lew’s understanding of spending money now on certain projects to save a lot in the future and the importance of finishing projects before adding new ones. She was also very impressed by the impact the MPO’s collaboration had on North I-25 and the region. Gilliland reported there will be a workshop in May for the Commission to discuss fund disbursement from SB 1 and SB 267 funds currently available. She offered the opportunity for a Council member or two to attend the workshop and speak to the need of funds for North I-25. There may also be opportunity at the Commission’s May meeting during the public comment period.

#### I-25 Update

Heather Paddock, Acting Region 4 Director, told the Council she feels very positive the request for \$250M for sections 7 & 8 to the EIS build from available SB1, COP and General Funds will be granted as CDOT has worked hard to display the benefits the \$250M would have. She noted the investing now saves over \$300M in future infrastructure costs, \$100M when adding the third general purpose lane, and another \$550M in benefits such as travel time savings, emissions savings and user costs. Local match money previously given by the NFRMPO has been highly praised and there appears to be support for an additional commitment in the future, showing a true vested interest, however there is still a great need for additional funds. Director Lew has shown great interest in a multi-modal solution, specifically transit hubs. North I- 25 and the center-loading bus service along with Bustang have shown great ability to provide capacity improvements on the

corridor. Although the Park N' Ride in segment 6 was not funded, Paddock met with David Krutsinger, CDOT Director of Transit and Rail who said design funds were being requested to advance the center-loading bus station at Berthoud, and he felt confident that construction funds would follow. Paddock shared the completion of the SH 402 Interchange was scheduled for October 2019, noting other milestones are on the horizon. Horak offered some quick solutions for the locals to come up with some of the remaining funding over the next few years, stating he was confident a commitment for the suggested \$5M could be made.

#### STAC Report

A written report was provided.

Host Council Member Report- Casseday welcomed everyone to Greeley and thanked staff members who helped set up the meeting. He then reported on the following transportation related projects in Greeley:

- The turn lane expansion project at the intersection at 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the 34 Bypass has begun.
- The design for 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to F Street is currently underway. The roundabouts at O Street are being done in partnership with Weld County.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Street Phase II construction will begin again. There will be a public meeting to inform residents of what they should expect during the construction.
- Construction is planned to finish 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 90<sup>th</sup>, which will include a roundabout at 20<sup>th</sup> which has become a major connector for traffic out of the bypass going west.
- Greeley staff is preparing for the Poudre Express Regional Route project in the next year.
- A downtown parking plan went into effect the first of April which includes an app to signal drivers when their meter time is done.
- Friday Fest will begin soon with live music in the Go-cup District throughout the summer.

#### Meeting Wrap-Up:

##### Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

D.Clark suggested having a presentation on the waiver of air quality standards (Rule 179B) which was in place under Governor Hickenlooper, but Governor Polis will not be filing for this year. Ross requested an overview presentation of the VanGo™ vanpooling program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff