

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

**July 11, 2019**

**Weld County Administration Building  
1150 O Street  
Greeley, CO**

**Voting Members Present:**

**Dave Clark – Vice Chair**

Kevin Ross

Kristen Stephens

Robb Casseday

Tom Donnelly

Paula Cochran

Don McCleod

Scott James

-Loveland

-Eaton

-Fort Collins

-Greeley

-Larimer County

-LaSalle

-Severance

-Weld County

**Voting Members Absent:**

William Karspeck

Rick Coffin

Mark Clark

Fil Archuleta

Troy Mellon

Elizabeth Austin

Lisa Laake

-Berthoud

-CDPHE

-Evans

-Garden City

-Johnstown

-Milliken

-Timnath

-Transportation Comm.

**MPO Staff:**

Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance Director;  
Rena Steffen, Administrative Director; Medora Bornhoft and Ryan Dusil  
Transportation Planner II.

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Frank Baszler, Kathleen Bracke, Gray Clark, Butch Hause, Kathy Gilliland, Will Jones, Christine Kallhoff, Tim Kemp, Dave Kisker, Bob McCluskey, Mitch Nelson, Randy Ready, Eric Richardson, Jan Rowe, Bryan Schafer, Karen Schneiders, Corey Stewart, and Robin Stoneman.

Vice Chair, Dave Clark (D. Clark) led the meeting in absence of Chair Melendez. D. Clark called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

Ross **moved** to approve the, *July 11, 2019 Meeting Agenda*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Move to Approve Minutes:**

Casseday **moved** to approve the *June 6, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

D. Clark 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. Donnelly asked if there had been an assignment of the MPO RAQC representative. Ross replied Melendez had recently asked Governor Polis in person and had been told the assignment would be done soon.

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

D. Clark opened the MPO portion of the meeting and introduced Kathleen Bracke as the newly appointed Transportation Commissioner. Bracke said she had almost 30 years of transportation experience but still appreciates the advice and input she will receive from the Planning Council.

#### **Reports:**

##### Report of the Chair:

D. Clark recognized Kathy Gilliland for her many years of dedication and service, and she was presented with a plaque and card. Council members complimented Gilliland for her admiral representation and being an integral part of the success the MPO had seen over the past eight years. Gilliland said she greatly appreciated the honor of serving on the Council and looked forward to the continued progress on I-25 and throughout Colorado.

D. Clark also introduced Weld County Commissioner, Scott James, who had been appointed to represent Weld County at the July meeting in the absence of Commissioners Kirkmeyer and Moreno. D. Clark thanked James for hosting the meeting.

##### Executive Director Report:

Becky Karasko reported on the following in Director Mallette's absence:

- CDOT Transportation Summit in October- MPO has purchased a table and has seven seats available. Please contact Suzette or MPO staff to reserve a seat.
- Employers Council HR services have been reacquired as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- New Transportation Planner, AnnaRose Cunningham, started July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Crystal Hedberg is retiring at the end of August. The MPO is searching for a part-time Finance Director. The information is on the MPO website
- MPO staff has attended multiple public involvement events scheduled in July including the Greeley Stampede, Eaton Days, and LaSalle Days.

##### Finance:

A written report was provided.

##### TAC:

A written report was provided.

##### Mobility:

Two written reports and a newsletter were provided.

##### VanGo™ Dashboard

A written report was provided.

## **Presentation:**

### **MPO Air Quality Efforts**

Ryan Dusil, Transportation Planner II, gave the Air Quality Planning presentation in the North Front Range presentation to the Council, noting approximately 78% of the total population in Larimer and Weld Counties resides within the NFRMPO boundary. With a population growth of approximately 82% expected in the next 30 years, the moving of people and goods has huge implications for air quality. Northern Colorado must plan a transportation system ready for that type of growth.

The NFRMPO coordinates their air quality efforts with DRCOG, RAQC and the Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Dusil highlighted the following as the major air quality improvement efforts the NFRMPO was involved with for Northern Colorado; VanGo™, Public Outreach, Ozone Action Day Alert and AQ Index postings, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Regional Transportation Plan, Congestion Management Process, Non-Motorized Planning, Transit and Mobility Coordination.

Donnelly asked how the NFRMPO compared with other MPO's when it came to tangible emission reductions with programs like VanGo™. Dusil replied he did not have any actual comparisons other than the fact that DRCOG has their Way to Go vanpooling program. Both noted DRCOG has much larger funding pools for projects.

## **Move to Approve Consent Agenda:**

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

Items on the Consent Agenda included:

- *2019 UPWP Budget Amendment- Resolution 2019-16*

## **Action Items:**

### **2045 Fiscally Constrained Plan (FCP)**

Karasko presented the 2045 Fiscally Constrained Plan (FCP) to the Council, noting the MPO must complete an FCP showing the anticipated revenues and expenses over the life of the Regional Transportation Plan in which it is included. She also noted this plan was much more robust process as the 2040 FCP was shown to be lacking in several areas. Due to changes in CDOT's schedule of approving the 2045 Program Distribution, a combination of approved 2040 and 2045 estimates was used for CDOT's Statewide 2045 Program Distribution: the 2040 Program Distribution and 2045 Revenue Projections. (The actual amount is expected in late 2019.)

MPO staff vetted the methodology for estimating the 2045 RTP Fiscally Constrained Plan through CDOT and FHWA staff. If the estimates are incorrect, an RTP Amendment may be required once CDOT finalizes the 2045 Program Distribution. The "high revenue scenario" anticipates a new funding source. The new funding source raises Highway User's Trust Fund (HUTF) revenues by \$300M per year and could be anything from a state sales tax, gas tax increase, or other equivalent mechanism (similar to increases anticipated under various recent legislative or ballot proposals).

The estimates for metro planning, STBG, and TA will be updated once MPO-specific information is received from CDOT. The other programs will need to rely on the 2040 Program Distribution due to timing of CDOT's process. Because TAC members expressed concerns in May regarding the Transit Operations, Maintenance, and Capital costs, specifically that they are too high compared to Local Communities' actual expenses, there will be a Work Session on the Fiscally Constrained Plan with TAC on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Karasko noted there was a total unmet need of \$4.4B, adding currently no funding assigned to Front Range Passenger Rail as the actual cost is still unknown. Having an unmet need can be beneficial to the MPO, as it helps to make a case for the region additional funds are needed and why. The FCP will be included in the 2045 RTP which is a discussion item at the August 1 Council meeting, with adoption of the plan scheduled for September.

D. Clark asked Karasko to confirm the cost associated with unfunded projects Karasko replied there was \$2.2B of projects within the Regionally Significant Corridors (RSC's) without a funding source identified.

Donnelly **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-17 ADOPTING THE FISCALLY CONSTRAINED PLAN FOR THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### 2019 Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Dusil reviewed the 2019 Congestion Management Process (CMP) with the Council noting it is referenced in the 2045 RTP which is scheduled for adoption in September. He stated the CMP structure had not changed and identified revisions which had been made. Dusil addressed one of Council's concerns from the May meeting that the Travel Time Index (TTI) measure was not accurately capturing congestion by sharing a chart showing the average hourly TTI across the entire corridor. The chart showed a general trend and that there were not roads that are typically congested all the time; however, spikes during the AM, mid-day, and PM peak periods were still present. He noted INRIX defines the free-flow speed as the 85th percentile speed across all times of day.

Dusil stated Council had also expressed their concern that I-25 was only identified as small segments in the CMP, suggesting the true congestion experience was not captured. In response to that concern staff has proposed adding Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) to the Congested Corridor Selection Process. TTTR is very similar to Travel Time Reliability (TTR) but because it is specific to truck traffic, it is measuring the reliability for freight delivery as opposed to just commuting. TTTR is a federal performance measure for congestion and will represent I-25 more accurately.

Casseday **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-18 ADOPTING THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP)* The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### Freight Northern Colorado Plan

Dusil presented the Freight Northern Colorado Plan to the Council stating it was the NFRMPO's first region-wide freight plan and was recommended by FHWA in the 2014 quadrennial review and would be included in the 2045 RTP. The FNC will position the NFRMPO very well for increased funding. He asked for Council's feedback and suggestions,

noting their input would be very beneficial to the process. The plan is anticipated to receive TAC recommendation July 17<sup>th</sup> and be back before the Council for adoption on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Update

Ross stated the Prehearing Statement of the NFRMPO had been handed out to Council, noting the effort was made to capture the sentiment of the Council as a whole in the response to the ZEV ruling (Proposed Regulation Number 20). The identified concerns in the statement were as follows:

- Whether the ZEV's contribute monetarily, with an appropriate share, to the maintenance of transportation infrastructure through the Highway User Trust Fund (HUTF). \*Increased EV fees in parity with traditional gas-powered vehicles are being proposed.
- Whether Taxpayers are currently and will continue to subsidize the purchase ZEV's.
- Whether charging stations and infrastructure are adequate, especially in rural areas, to support ZEV's. \*A market driven approach to implementation is much more conducive to Northern Colorado.
- Whether the California regulations work for Colorado as currently presented.

The NFRMPO supports having a voice in regulations that effect Colorado residents and do not support being tied to California without any input into the program. Testimonies at the hearing will go above and beyond the items addressed in the pre-hearing statement.

Ross and McLeod will be testifying in front of the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) at the hearing August 13-16. Ross extended an invitation to any Council members wanting to attend.

#### **Council Reports:**

##### Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

A Project Status Update for July 9, 2019 was provided. Karen Schneiders, CDOT R4 noted the following:

- SH402 project has closed underneath the interchange until October due to rain delays. Ramps are still accessible.
- US287 LaPorte Bypass to SH1 construction is complete.
- CDOT welcomed the State Transportation Commissioners during their Northern Colorado tour in June.
- The Region 4 RTD position, formerly held by Johnny Olson who retired June 30th, is still open. Heather Paddock is doing an admiral job as the acting RTD.

##### I-25 Update

Although she was not officially a member of the Council, Kathleen Bracke, welcomed any assistance she could offer to the Council as she stepped into her new position as District 5 Transportation Commissioner. D.Clark asked Bracke to please be supportive of and protect the \$310M voted on by the TC for the full EIS buildout of segments 7 & 8. He then noted there had been no June meeting and added the I-25 Coalition was working on obtaining increased funding.

##### STAC Report

A written report was provided.

Host Council Member Report- Scott James welcomed everyone to Weld County, complimenting Rudy's Bar-B-Q for the food. He reported on the following transportation related projects in Weld County were the following Capital Improvement Projects: WCR 29 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Greeley which connects the towns of Pierce and Wellington; WCR 34 and WCR13 which is a major safety project; and WCR 54 and WCR17 which is a Right of Way project scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Meeting Wrap-Up:**

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

No suggestions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff