

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

**August 1, 2019
Milliken Town Hall
1101 Broad Street
Milliken, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Kristie Melendez- Chair	-Windsor
William Karspeck	-Berthoud
Kevin Ross	-Eaton
Mark Clark	-Evans
Kristen Stephens	-Fort Collins
Robb Casseday	-Greeley
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Dave Clark – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Don McCleod	-Severance
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Barbara Kirkmeyer	-Weld County

Voting Members Absent:

Rick Coffin	-CDPHE
Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Lisa Laake	-Timnath

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director, Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance Director; Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator; Medora Bornhoft and Ryan Dusil, Transportation Planner II; and AnnaRose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Frank Baszler, Allison Baxter, Karl Buchholz, Aaron Bustow, Sean Conway, Chad Crager, Jim Eussen, Butch Hause, Joel Hemesath, Wayne Howard, Mark Jackson, Dave Kisker, Bob McCluskey, Pepper McClenahan, Mitch Nelson, Heather Paddock, Randy Ready, Jan Rowe, Tim Singewald, and Robin Stoneman.

Chair Melendez called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Public Comment:

Weld County Commissioner Sean Conway reported a member of the public attended a Weld County Commissioners meeting and suggested a Bustang route between Estes Park and Fort Morgan. Commissioner Conway noted the need for a dialogue to start between CDOT, the NFRMPO, and Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region (UFRTPR) to consider this as a potential route.

Move to Approve Agenda:

Ross **moved** to approve the, *August 1, 2019 Meeting Agenda*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

Kirkmeyer **moved** to approve the *July 11, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes with one change*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously. Kirkmeyer noted Kathleen Bracke was appointed as Transportation Commissioner, not Weld County Commissioner.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Melendez opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

No report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Mallette noted the next RAQC meeting is August 2, 2019.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Melendez opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Report of the Chair:

Melendez reported on the following:

- CDOT has a Statewide Transportation Plan survey available online through September. The survey is meant to get information from residents about what the needs and priorities for the statewide transportation system are. The survey is available at www.yourtransportationplan.com.
- Melendez noted the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission has a survey out regarding passenger rail. The survey is available in English and Spanish at frontrangerail.metroquest.com.

Melendez recognized Finance Director, Crystal Hedberg, for her many years of dedication and service, and presented Hedberg with flowers, chocolate, and a card in honor of her pending retirement.

Executive Director Report:

Mallette reported on the following:

- The NFRMPO has hired a new Transportation Planner I, AnnaRose Cunningham.
- The NFRMPO is hiring a new Finance Director to replace Crystal Hedberg. The job posting closes August 7. Mallette noted an interim solution could be having financial statements prepared by the auditors and other tasks taken on by Merideth Kimsey, Accounting Clerk III.

Finance:

A written report was provided.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

TIP Modification Update:

A written report was provided.

Move to Approve Consent Agenda:

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

Items on the Consent Agenda included:

- *2nd Quarter Unaudited Financials*
- *Freight Northern Colorado Plan - Resolution 2019-19*

Action Items:

July 2019 TIP Amendment

Bornhoft presented on the five proposed amendments to the FY2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). D. Clark asked if the projects are cost-neutral. Bornhoft responded some projects recently received funding while other projects are being separated based on scope. Donnelly asked if the CMAQ project changes require updates to the estimated emissions reductions. Bornhoft noted the projects had emissions benefits calculated at the time of project submittal and therefore do not need additional calculations.

Casseday **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-20 APPROVING THE JULY 2019 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Executive Director Policies

Mallette noted the policies were initially brought to the Planning Council in February based on suggestions in the NFRMPO's Federal Certification Review. The policies have been thoroughly vetted with the HR Committee; however, the Employers Council has provided recommendations not yet seen by the HR Committee. The recommendations include clarity on signatory authority, an immediate succession plan, limiting what is binding in the policies to what is legally required, and using "shall strive to" instead of "shall". Donnelly noted the HR Committee has held conference calls and feels satisfied with the changes. Planning Council agreed this could be a consent item at the September 5, 2019 Planning Council meeting.

2045 Regional Transportation Plan

Karasko presented on the overall 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, which has been brought to Planning Council in various sections. Karasko noted the Plan has been reorganized into fewer chapters with subsections, organized into the Current Transportation System and the Future Transportation System.

D. Clark asked how the RTP correlates to the CDOT's 10-Year Strategic Plan. Karasko noted the first four years of the TIP and STIP must be fiscally constrained, while the following six

years are projects in development. CDOT is currently working on the Statewide Transportation Plan, which will build off the transportation plans of each TPR.

Bracke asked how often performance measures are updated. Karasko noted federal performance measures have a set timeline to be reevaluated: safety targets are adopted annually, while other performance measures can be reevaluated in 2021 and 2023. For the regional performance measures, they are updated with each RTP update. Melendez asked how the plan is kept up-to-date and current. Karasko noted NFRMPO staff analyzes data on a constant basis and each plan is updated prior to the full RTP. Stephens asked how public comment is incorporated into the RTP. Karasko noted there is a full section dedicated to public outreach. Comments from TAC and other stakeholders were incorporated as they were received. The public comment period opened August 1, 2019 and will be open for 30 days.

Readoption of FY2020-23 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Bornhoft presented on the FY2020-23 TIP, which was previously adopted under the 2040 RTP. The TIP must be consistent with the current RTP, meaning it needs to be adopted under the 2045 TIP. Bornhoft noted this item will be brought back for Action at the September 5, 2019 Planning Council meeting.

Work Session:

NFRMPO Call for Projects Process

Karasko supplied Council members with information about the three main transportation funding sources allocated to the NFRMPO:

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), which has been used for intersection improvements, signal timing, transit projects, CNG fueling stations, and vehicle replacements and purchases.
- Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG), which has been used for highway capacity, bridges, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- Transportation Alternatives (TA), which has been used for bicycle and pedestrian, trail, Safe Routes to School, and stormwater projects.

Karasko reviewed the previous three Calls for Projects (2014, 2016, and 2018), including what kind of projects were funded and where they were built. Karasko noted a Scoring Committee made up of TAC members and NoCo Bicycle and Pedestrian Collaborative have given feedback on projects to the overall TAC, which then makes a recommendation to Planning Council.

Donnelly asked how much flexibility the Planning Council has in changing CMAQ criteria, specifically if there could be a small community funding pool similar to STBG. Mallette noted the air quality benefit is the intention, so projects would still need to show emissions reductions. Aaron Bustow, FHWA, confirmed a small community pool is possible.

Kirkmeyer noted the process needs to be fair and attainable, specifically so small communities have a fair chance to submit projects. Mellon, Ross, and Donnelly noted the amount of work necessary for federal grants, making it more prohibitive to apply for funds. Donnelly noted NFRMPO and CDOT staff are available to assist with project applications. Kirkmeyer noted the need to focus on regional corridors because the funding is allocated

to the region. Ross noted transportation corridors should be prioritized and D. Clark noted the need to look at projects' regional benefits overall.

It was agreed to have a more in depth work session with Planning Council, so they are able to provide policy direction on the next Call for Projects. MPO staff will work to set this up in late September or early October. At that meeting an analysis of the past three Calls will be discussed as well as maps that show the RSCs and funded projects. Council advised that the data should be kept at the 20,000-foot level without too much detail.

Council Reports:

Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

A Project Status Update for July 23, 2019 was provided.

Melendez introduced Heather Paddock as CDOT's new Regional Transportation Director.

Paddock highlighted I-25 Segment 6 will have a groundbreaking on September 12, with invitations being sent out soon. CDOT is undertaking two Construction Agreed Price (CAP) negotiations. The Little Thompson southbound bridge will begin construction in fall 2019. The I-25 Segment 6 Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) is on board and will be run under the Construction Management General Contractor (CMGC) process. Prices have come in well from contractors. Paddock noted funding is in place for this project.

Paddock reported Transportation Commission (TC) gave permission to move toward the full I-25 EIS configuration and alignment. The funding is committed, and work is continuing to decide on how the project will be delivered.

Bracke noted she attended her first TC meeting on July 18, 2019. The priorities for the TC for the upcoming year include safety, asset management, mobility, and funding. The next TC meeting and work session will be held on August 14 and 15, 2019.

I-25 Update

Meeting will be held on August 7th.

STAC Report

D. Clark noted the \$310 Million for I-25 Segment 7 & 8 is not in the current budget but will be available in coming years.

Mallette reported NFRMPO and CDOT Region 4 staff reconciles its funds every three to six months, allowing unused funds to be reallocated to other projects as needed. As part of the most recent reconciliation, CMAQ funds were listed with a line item for CDOT HQ which unconstrains the TIP and puts the TIP into a negative balance for FY 2021. CDOT Executive Director Lew stated CDOT is evaluating the funding sources to make sure projects are being funded strategically and with the right sources. CDOT and NFRMPO are working on a solution to this issue.

Host Council Member Report- Elizabeth Austin welcomed everyone to Milliken. Work is progressing on the town's second traffic signal, which is needed for safety and traffic flow improvements. Milliken received a DOLA grant for arterial flow work on WCR46, where a new school will be sited. Milliken Beef N Bean Day will be held on Saturday, August 10.

Meeting Wrap-Up:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

No suggestions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff