

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

**September 5, 2019
Severance Town Hall
3 S Timber Ridge Parkway
Severance, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Kristie Melendez - Chair
William Karspeck
Kevin Ross
Mark Clark
Kristen Stephens
Robb Casseday
Troy Mellon
Tom Donnelly
Paula Cochran
Dave Clark
Don McCleod
Lisa Laake
Barbara Kirkmeyer
Kathleen Bracke

-Windsor
-Berthoud
-Eaton
-Evans
-Fort Collins
-Greeley
-Johnstown
-Larimer County
-LaSalle
-Loveland
-Severance
-Timnath
-Weld County
-Transportation
Commission

Voting Members Absent:

Rick Coffin
Fil Archuleta
Elizabeth Austin

-CDPHE
-Garden City
-Milliken

MPO Staff:

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

In Attendance:

Mary Adams, Ben Aste, Frank Baszler, Ken Bennett, Amanda Brimmer, Chad Crager, Kathleen Davis, Gagliardi, Randy Grauberger, Jamie Grim, Butch Hause, Myron Hora, Wayne Howard, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Laurie Kadrach, Lavonna Longwell, Dean Klingner, Dave Klockeman, Bob McCluskey, Mitch Nelson, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Evan Pinkham, Hunter Rivera, Karen Schneiders, Mike Silverstein, Robin Stoneman Tad Stout, and Mike Weiland.

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

Public Comment:

Evelyn King of Loveland provided a written public comment regarding whether cities/towns or counties should pay any additional money to the Regional Air Quality Council.

Chair Melendez requested everyone at the Council table introduce themselves. McLeod also introduced Town of Severance staff in attendance.

Move to Approve Agenda:

McLeod **moved** to approve the, *September 5, 2019 Meeting Agenda*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

Casseday **moved** to approve the *August 4, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Public Hearing:

Air Quality Conformity Determination of the 2045 RTP and FY2020 TIP

McLeod **moved** to open the Public Hearing . The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director, highlighted the objectives and key points of the Air Quality Conformity Determinations of the 2045 RTP and FY2020 TIP with the Council, noting approval of the conformity determinations required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows the Planning Council to readopt the FY2020-2023 TIP and to adopt the 2045 RTP, both on the evenings agenda. This also keeps the MPO in compliance and allows federal projects to move forward. No public comments were received during the comment period. A public meeting with the AQCC for this non-routine conformity determination will be held at their September 19th meeting.

Melendez opened the Public Hearing. There was no public comment.

Melendez closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Melendez opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written APCD report was provided.

RAQC- Serious Nonattainment Status

Amanda Brimmer, RAQC Technical Director, acknowledged new RAQC members and their appointments as follows: Don McLeod, NFRMPO; Will Karspeck, Larimer County; Stacy Suniga, Weld County; and Kathleen Bracke, representative of Transit Management Agencies. Brimmer presented *Air Quality Planning- Becoming a Serious Nonattainment Area* to the Council explaining in detail the history and dynamics surrounding the Denver Metro Area and North Front Range's (NFR) likely reclassification by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to "Serious" at the end of 2019. She cited the NFR has made great strides in reducing ground-level ozone, as much as 20% since 2006, in spite of

considerable growth. Unfortunately, the standard has been revised from .075 parts per billion (ppb) to .070 ppb making it more difficult to meet the standard.

Brimmer stressed that meeting the ozone standards in the summer of 2020 will be imperative to the region, as this will be the final year of the 3-year rolling average, of the 4th highest value, for both the 2008 75 ppb and the 2015 70 ppb ozone standards. If these averages are not met, the region may be reclassified to “Severe” in 2022, requiring more reduction strategies to be implemented. This is most easily seen in the stationary sources where under Moderate 100 tons per day (tpd) are allowed before a permit from the State Health Department is necessary. Under Serious the amount moves to 50 tpd. A Severe would mean a reduction to 25 tons per year and the completion of a Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) process.

Even though most major sources already meet RACT requirements, a RACT SIP will be required. Regardless of the NFR’s current standings, the State of Colorado and RAQC’s goal for the NFR is to get to 70 ppb in the next ten years, and they are confident it is reachable. EPA will reclassify the NFR at the end of the year, anyone may submit comments to them directly.

In response to the questioning of emission sources and various control strategies, particularly around international contributions, Mike Silverstein, RAQC Executive Director, indicated new modeling techniques showing source apportionment and strategy evaluations will help to clarify and refine much of the data received from the area monitoring stations. There are still emissions which need evaluating. He agreed to provide data to the Council from both current modeling as well as new modeling results, once available (approximately 6-7 months), showing 2017 readings and their sources in the NFR.

Following Brimmer’s technical presentation, Silverstein addressed the recent letter to north front range communities asking for financial participation. Silverstein listed the funding sources currently provided to the RAQC and how the monies are spent. He also explained the formula used to determine the requested share from each municipality/county was calculated using assessed property values and populations. He said these funds and NFRMPO funds are used for administrative costs and programs not funded by CMAQ allocations or other sources, citing the lawnmower programs as an example. The RAQC’s budget is approximately \$700k/year. Silverstein praised RAQC’s many successful public programs and local relationships, including the NFRMPO. He offered RAQC’s financial grant funding opportunities to all the communities for charging stations and additional programs, citing his enthusiasm of the probable advancement of Mow Down Pollution into the commercial market.

Following extensive Council discussion, Silverstein and Brimmer were asked to return to the Council at a later date with additional information regarding the “international contributions” exemption and 2017 data from NFR monitors created with existing modeling.

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Update

Ross and McLeod reported the ZEV hearings were complete and the ZEV mandate did pass. The mandate requires a certain percentage of ZEV’s be available for sale in Colorado to meet ZEV standards. Manufacturers will continue to have the ability to buy

and sell “carbon credits” they have accumulated over time for when they do not reach the percentage of credits. Colorado auto dealers will be given a proportional (errata) number of carbon credits to use under those same circumstances.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Melendez opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Report of the Chair:

Chair Melendez reported at the I-25 Coalition meeting Heather Paddock re-emphasized the importance of individual Council members and the MPO as a whole, send their letters to CDOT and the Transportation Commission expressing the vital need for SB 267 to be used as intended on the interstates, or more specifically, the \$350M for completion of I-25 Segment 5 to the full EIS alignment, a commitment made by the previous Transportation Commission. Mallette will draft a template for the communities' use.

Melendez clarified the letter to Governor Polis in the packet was no longer necessary as the RAQC appointments had been finalized.

Executive Director Report:

Mallette provided information on the following:

- 2019 Transportation Summit- there are four seats still available at the MPO table.
- Planning staff has reported their Public Involvement efforts have nearly double this year.
- The MPO has received more than 40 applications for the Finance Director position, 16 of which are being reviewed and considered for interview. The hope is to have the right candidate on board by early November.

Finance:

A written report was provided.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

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:

- *Air Quality Conformity Determination-Resolution 2019-21*
- *FY2019 Budget Amendment-Resolution 2019-22*
- *Executive Policies*

Action Items:

2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director, thanked all TAC members for their time on the model steering team in reviewing, as well as providing TAC level direction on the plan. Karasko said the adopted plan allows the region to move forward on projects awarded in the NFRMPO 2022-23 Call for Projects and for FHWA and FTA to authorize and obligate projects using federal funds. Public comments received are reflected in the final documents.

Kirkmeyer asserted although the 2045 RTP is a constrained plan and meets the necessary federal requirements, but the MPO needs to discuss doing a plan that meets State Statutes, gets projects identified, and positions them in the pipeline for CDOT's 10-year Development Plan. Mallette agreed, confirming the 2045 RTP does meet all state and federal requirement and noting MPO staff is currently laying the groundwork for discussion in October so they can advocate to the Transportation Commission for funding on those projects.

Ross **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-23 ADOPTING THE FISCALLY CONSTRAINED 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Readoption of FY2020-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II, stated it was necessary to readopt the TIP to demonstrate the projects and the financial constraint analysis are consistent with the newly adopted 2045 RTP. No changes were made to the TIP since it was adopted by the Council in June. The public comment period brought no public comment.

D Clark **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24 READOPTING THE FY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Presentation:

Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission (Commission) Update

Randy Grauberger, Rail Commission Project Director, explained the Commission is working to preserve and expand train service across Colorado. Southwest Chief rail service could extend into Pueblo and Colorado Springs using existing Amtrak rail and some rerouting through Pueblo and Walsenburg. The development of Front Range rail service, specifically, could potentially extend from Fort Collins to Trinidad. One 180-mile route is planned for each day and may provide multiple cross-country connections. Train speeds, which are presumed to be as high as 90 mph, and costs per ride are currently being analyzed. The Passenger Rail Commission is currently reviewing options for districting and requesting additional funding for the 2020 ballot. As the Commission begins undertaking the planning process, there have been and will continue to be, several large public involvement and stakeholder engagement efforts. Multiple committees and subcommittees are being created and will include many local stakeholders as well as others. Interested municipalities may contact Grauberger directly.

Council Reports:

Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

A Project Status Update for August 27, 2019 was provided. Bracke reported she has been diligently working on getting around the region and meeting with constituents, colleagues, and elected officials to better recognize the transportation concerns and priorities of the region and State, including CDOT's Statewide Planning Process. Bracke attended Senator Bennett's recent event held to collect information on the region's transportation priorities for highways, transit, freight and safety. She also pronounced she continues to share with the Commission the message regarding the \$350M needed for I-25 section 5.

I-25 Update

There was no additional information to report.

STAC Report

No report was provided.

Host Council Member Report- McLeod thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to Severance. He said the town had been experiencing a lot of growth, including two new neighborhoods, and soon the addition of a Dollar Store.

Meeting Wrap-Up:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

No suggestions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff