

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Minutes – Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550



1. Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **AnnaRose Cunningham**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Dave Dixon**, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ **Erika Benti**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Evan Pinkham**, Weld County Public Works
- ❖ **Justin Scharton**, City of Greeley
- ❖ **Katie Guthrie**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Kelly Zuniga**, City of Loveland Open Lands
- ❖ **Kim Meyer**, Town of Johnstown
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Liz Young Winne**, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- ❖ **Matt Ruder**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Mitch Nelson**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Piep van Heuven**, Bicycle Colorado
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Park Planning
- ❖ **Tessa Greegor**, City of Fort Collins FC Moves
- ❖ **Tom Jones**, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ **Wade Willis**, Town of Windsor
- ❖ **Will Karspeck**, Mayor – Town of Berthoud
- ❖ **Zac Wiebe**, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

Ice Breaker: What website or app doesn't exist, but you really wish did?

Bird nesting information, Comprehensive Plan Autofill, Best Happy Hour Near Me, Food Inspection Results (2), Scan Leaf to Identify Tree (2), What Can I Make with the Ingredients I Have?, Fort Collins Train Tracker, Personal Security, Disable Kids Apps, Control Kids' Behavior, Yelp for Campsites, Hold Green Light Longer for Approaching Bikes, Buzzwords Dictionary, Shazam for Bird Calls, Phone Book, One Transit Pass for All Systems plus Scooter and Bike Rental.

Finalizing NoCo Bike & Ped Promotional Materials

Leslie Beckstrom distributed a fact sheet and trifold brochure that can be used to promote the value of the group to colleagues, elected officials, prospective members, and the general public. The brochure contains a succinct summary of the group's vision, mission, other basic information. The fact sheet contains more details related to the benefits of active transportation, the benefits of participating with NoCo, and examples of initiatives or projects NoCo has been involved with in recent years. The materials will be posted on the [NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative webpage](#).

Fort Collins and CSU E-Bike and E-Scooter Updates

Greegor stated the City of Fort Collins is approaching the end of its one-year pilot program allowing Class I and Class II e-bikes on paved trails throughout the City. Class I e-bikes have a pedal assist only when the rider is

pedaling, up to 20 mph. Class II e-bikes have a throttle up to 20mph and do not require pedaling. The pilot program runs from May 2019 to April 2020. City staff has collected public feedback through various means and conducted education and studies of speed, crashes, and volume of e-bikes on trails and local sales. Findings do not show major issues and most feedback has been positive. While no crashes have been reported, some negative interactions with e-bikes have been. Supporters of e-bikes have cited the positive impacts on mobility and mode shift. Opponents have expressed mainly safety concerns. The City estimates 1.15% of bicyclists are using e-bikes, a growing figure. City staff plan to recommend permanently allowing Class I and II e-bikes on paved trail to City Council while continuing to educate, monitor, and evaluate as e-bikes grow in popularity.

NoCo members discussed how certain trails are not wide enough to accommodate higher speeds, but enforcement is difficult even for standard bikes. Class III e-bikes are like Class I but allow speeds up to 28mph. They are often indistinguishable but have not been viewed favorably on trails in many communities for fear of high speeds. Boulder County research found e-bike speeds are typically lower than standard bikes, while Fort Collins has found a very minimal difference between the two. Boulder County has also found e-bikes have no larger impact on trails than standard bikes. State laws states e-scooters can be disallowed locally, but if allowed, they must be treated the same as bikes. Greeley is drafting a code for e-bikes and other communities are allowing them.

Fodge stated the RFP process has been key to the success of CSU and the City's contract with Bird Scooters. The open bidding process allowed the agencies to ensure vendor accountability for safety and system management. Both agencies required bidders to agree to terms on dismount and slow zones, obstruction of right-of-way, rebalancing, encroachment, equity, maintenance, education, data sharing and more through a shared mobility agreement. Overall both agencies are happy with the program so far. Scooters have proven a more expensive mobility option for the user than the bike share system and each seems to serve different needs. While the scooters are currently limited to Fort Collins' urban core, the agencies may look to expand the area soon to include the CSU Foothills Campus. Working with one company has been helpful, revenue goes back into the infrastructure, and CSU plans to work with Bird on a research project. Hospital intake forms have also been adjusted to collect information on scooter crashes and their location to address areas of concern.

Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) Project Scores and Updates

Cunningham shared the MMOF scoring meeting results with the group, highlighting that seven of the 13 projects were bicycle and pedestrian projects and all will be fully funded for a total of \$2.27M.

CDOT 10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects: NFRMPO Priorities and Next Steps

This item was moved to a future meeting due to time.

Roundtable Updates

Dixon stated Bike Fort Collins will be starting its Spring Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programming very soon. Bike Fort Collins has also been working with Larimer County Engineering, CDOT, and [Your Group Ride](#) to prioritize locations to install "Bikes May Use Full Lane" and "3 Feet to Pass" signs in new locations or to replace existing "Share the Road" signs. There are several proposed locations on SH14 and US34 as well as various county roads. Dixon is hopeful the highest priority locations will have signs installed by Fall 2020.

Scharton stated Greeley's project receiving MMOF funding will connect to another section of trail sooner than expected. A segment of the Poudre Trail will be closed for three months to deal with riverbank erosion. The City is doing a river restoration study on the Poudre Trail west of 95th Avenue. 1,000 acres of new open space will open in the City soon.

Jones stated the Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) must use their Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant money by the end of June. Although the GWTA is working to resolve a right-of-way dispute with an adjacent landowner, they will be putting 5.5-miles out to bid starting in Eaton and construct the trail to the edge of the disputed area and can roll some funds over to the next Fiscal Year 2021 if needed.

Wiebe stated the spur trail connection to River Bluffs Open Space will be completed this Spring.

Bassinger stated the City of Fort Collins is working on acquiring easements to construct the Poudre Trail to I-25. Construction would likely take place in 2022. The City has also compiled the 2019 trail use figures across the community. Because the estimates for the final section of the Power Trail to get to and across Harmony Road on either end is \$10M or higher, the City is looking at less expensive grade-separated crossings to construct. The highest priority project is the Siphon Overpass over the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad between Harmony Road and Trilby Road to connect to the Power Trail.

Guthrie stated Loveland is expanding Bike Month to Walk and Bike Month this year. June will include various celebrations and events around biking and walking.

Zuniga stated the Prairie Ridge Trail connecting to Coyote Ridge should be completed by mid-March with an official opening on May 2nd. Loveland is also working on the remaining to segments of the Loveland Rec Trail which will be completed over the summer. The City also installed additional wayfinding across the trail system.

Meyer stated Johnstown is updating its standards and specifications for bike lanes. The Town is starting work soon on a segment of the Little Thompson Trail between WCR17 and WCR19 that will eventually connect to Milliken. Johnstown is also kicking off its Comprehensive Plan update and wants to identify ways to take advantage of easements for sidewalks and bike facilities.

Fodge stated he is meeting with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) about the Dixon Canal Trail at the CSU Foothills Campus. Denver will be hosting the Association for Commuter Transportation' (ACT) annual conference August 2nd through the 5th. ACT is a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) organization focused on increasing and improving alternative transportation strategies.

Debo stated Evans will begin its Transportation Master Plan update once the MMOF funds have been received.

Pinkham stated Weld County is working on its Comprehensive Plan update and stated NFRMPO staff presented at the February Planning Council meeting on a potential North Front Range Premium Transit Feasibility Study.

Young Winne stated the Larimer County Built Environment Learning series will continue in March or April with a focus on community engagement.

Karspeck stated the Town of Berthoud would like to do a Bike Audit this Spring. The Town will soon begin work on the Berthoud Parkway expansion and is looking forward to incorporating the updated Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards (LCUASS) into their local development standards. The Town is also working with the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) on a shared Little Thompson River Trail and wildlife crossing at I-25.