

**MEETING MINUTES of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council  
Windsor Recreation Center - Pine Room  
250 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Windsor, CO  
February 19, 2020  
1:02 – 2:14 p.m.**

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mitch Nelson, Chair – Severance  
Eric Tracy, Vice Chair – Larimer County  
Dawn Anderson – Weld County  
Allison Baxter – Greeley  
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins  
Aaron Bustow – FHWA  
Walt Elish – Berthoud Alternate  
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath  
Omar Herrera – Windsor  
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans  
Dave Klockeman - Loveland  
Karen Schneiders – CDOT

**NFRMPO STAFF:**

AnnaRose Cunningham  
Ryan Dusil  
Alex Gordon  
Suzette Mallette

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Amanda Brimmer – RAQC  
Marco Carani – Johnstown  
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD  
Pepper McClenahan - Milliken  
Jeff Schreier – Eaton  
Town of LaSalle  
Ranae Tunison – FTA

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Annie McFarland - FHU  
Candice Folkers – COLT  
Darren Davis - GET  
Katie Guthrie - Loveland  
Tamara Keefe – FHU  
Annabelle Phillips – Fort Collins/Transfort

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 15, 2020 TAC MINUTES**

Schneiders moved to approve the January 15, 2020 TAC minutes. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no consent items this month.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**February 2020 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment** – Cunningham stated NFRMPO staff is requesting the addition of the *Expansion of Mobility Program* project with \$600K Multimodal Options Fund State Funding and \$600 local

funds in FY2020 and the *North Front Range Premium Transit Analysis* project with \$125K Multimodal Options Fund State Funding and \$125K local funds in FY2020. Anderson moved to approve the February 2020 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment. Oberschmidt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**FY2020 UPWP Amendment** – Gordon stated the NFRMPO Planning Council approved funding for two NFRMPO-led projects using Multimodal Options Funds (MMOF). For the NFRMPO to access and use these funds, the projects need to be amended into the FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). One project amends an existing task, the *Expansion of the Mobility Program*, and the other adds in a new task, the *North Front Range Premium Transit Analysis*. Gordon also stated Transfort is amending in the *Onboard Ridership Survey*, which was approved by Planning Council at their February 6, 2020 meeting as part of the FY2020 Program of Projects (POP). The Finance Committee will address the budget at their February or March meeting. Klockeman moved to approve the FY2020 UPWP Amendment. Schneiders seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative Update** – Dusil stated NoCo meets monthly to discuss topics related to improving biking and walking in northern Colorado, and the group has established goals of coordination, promotion, education, and growth measurement. The meetings are open to everyone, but attendees typically consist of NFRMPO member agency staff, CDOT staff, advocacy and educational organizations, trail authorities, and interested citizens. In 2020, NoCo created a five-person leadership team to guide the group. NoCo recently formalized its organizational principles and would like to give quarterly presentations to TAC and biannual presentations to the Planning Council.

Guthrie highlighted many of the recent discussions and special initiatives including e-bike and e-scooter policy updates, the CDOT 10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects, and a walk audit in Berthoud. In 2020, NoCo plans to conduct another walk audit in Severance, a bike audit in Berthoud, and assist with upcoming NFRMPO plans and processes. Guthrie stated the group recently created promotional materials to highlight the value the group brings to communities and the region and familiarize new or prospective members with the group's efforts.

## **DISCUSSION**

**10-Year Strategic List of Projects Work Session** – Mallette stated CDOT anticipates an additional \$500M in state transportation funding could become available annually between 2024 and 2030. If this occurs, approximately \$150M would be allocated to the NFRMPO. Mallette stated the Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) each took differing approaches in creating their list when considering whether to fully or partially fund projects in need. After negotiating with one another, each TPR created a list of prioritized projects for the STIP. The NFRMPO, DRCOG, Upper Front Range TPR, and Eastern TPR have agreed to contribute a combined \$196.4M of this anticipated funding to I-25 Segment 5, between SH66 and SH56. The Loveland to Greeley Transit Service would receive \$13.2M. The Transportation Commission will take action on the list in March 2020 and the list is subject to change based on regional priorities.

Nelson asked if the projects will go through the normal discussion and action processes with TAC and Planning Council. Mallette stated as money becomes available, the projects will be treated as a TIP Amendment. Mallette stated the Planning Council will want to revisit the list to reassess priorities before any money becomes available.

Buckman asked if the I-25 Segment 5 project scope was scaled back, given the reduced cost estimate. Schneiders stated it has not, the estimate just changed.

Anderson stated the US85 Highway Coalition has expressed support for adding Phases 1 and 2 of the US34/US85 interchange (Spaghetti Junction) project to the list. These phases would include restriping, signage improvements, and bridge replacement for roughly \$33M. Mallette stated Upper Front Range TPR has expressed they would help fund this project even though it is not in their region.

Mallette stated in the Colorado State Legislature, there is currently a proposal called Empower MPOs (E-MPO) to allow MPOs to act as the taxing authority of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for transportation projects. Each Planning Council representative would have the ability to vote on behalf of their community in favor of placing an initiative on the ballot. The legislation would make it easier to propose regional transportation funding mechanisms. Mallette noted if a ballot initiative were to pass in the DRCOG region, it would reduce the likelihood of passing future statewide transportation initiatives.

There is also a four-pronged proposal in the State Legislature to fund transportation through a \$50M General Fund transfer, the ability to bond, increasing the state gas tax, and increasing alternative fuel vehicle registration fees.

**Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) Call for Projects** – Cunningham stated there were 14 applications submitted, including seven bicycle and pedestrian, three transit, and four multimodal/other projects. Transfort withdrew their Transit Funding Study application. The remaining 13 projects had a total request of \$5,576,917, which was \$1,909 more than the available funding. Voting members of the Scoring Committee consisted of project sponsors. Non-voting members included additional community representatives, CDOT staff, and NFRMPO staff. Transfort agreed to reduce their request by \$1,909 to fully fund the remaining projects. The Scoring Committee recommended funding all 13 projects with this change.

Klockeman asked if the project rank order matters moving forward. Cunningham stated it could be used to determine which projects could reduce their overmatch if any additional funding becomes available. TAC recommended any additional MMOF funds that become available be used to offset the overmatch of the highest ranked project with an overmatch. Cunningham stated project sponsors must give a brief presentation on their project at the March 5, 2020 Planning Council meeting. Cunningham will reach out to project sponsors regarding the presentation format.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**Fort Collins Project Swap (CMAQ)** – Buckman stated the City of Fort Collins would like to request CMAQ FY2023 funding for the College Ave and Trilby Rd project be exchanged with Transfort FY2022 CMAQ funding for bus replacement in the amount of \$387,371 due to project readiness. The swap does not delay any of Transfort's timelines, whereas the College Ave and Trilby Rd project potentially may not receive State and Federal concurrence if all available funding is not in place at the time of Final Office Review (FOR) or project advertisement.

Anderson asked if the request involves scope changes to either project. Buckman stated there are no scope changes. Klockeman moved to approve the Fort Collins Project Swap. Oberschmidt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS**

**NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative** – Written report was provided.

**Regional Transit Agencies** – Davis stated Poudre Express rides are free through February. The regional bus service is approaching 3,000 riders since opening on January 2, 2020 and is averaging 75-100 riders per day.

Phillips stated the Fort Collins City Council approved the Volkswagen Settlement agreements allowing Transfort to procure electric buses.

Folkers stated COLT is preparing its National Transit Database (NTD) reports.

Schneiders stated Elkstang will operate again in 2020 between Denver and Estes Park via US36.

**Senior Transit Items** – Gordon stated the NFRMPO is confident it will be receiving a grant for Trip Discovery Software and will know for sure within the next month.

## **REPORTS**

**NFRMPO Boundary Update** – Mallette stated the Town of Wellington is interested in joining the NFRMPO but must first get agreement from Upper Front Range TPR to leave. If Wellington were to join the NFRMPO, Estes Park would be the only remaining Larimer County community in Upper Front Range TPR. Planning Council would like to take a larger look at the boundaries through a study. The study would outline the pros and cons of various boundary scenarios and how they would tie in with potential Urbanized Area (UZA) and Transportation Management Area (TMA) boundary changes following the 2020 Census. CDOT would likely manage the study, with financial support from the TPRs. It would take between six and nine months to complete.

Mallette stated CDOT is also planning to create a guidebook outlining the process for changing MPO and TPR boundaries. Mallette asked Bustow if FHWA has a role in approving boundary changes. Bustow stated FHWA does not but will review and offer comments.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Baxter stated the City of Greeley is working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) on a wayfinding pilot project to better connect bicyclists and pedestrians between the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), Downtown Greeley, and the Poudre Trail as UNC students have reported feeling disconnected from the rest of the community. The City of Greeley also collected drone footage from their first arterial roundabout at 81<sup>st</sup> Ave and 20<sup>th</sup> Street and found large trucks can navigate it fine. The intersections of US34 and 35<sup>th</sup> Ave as well as US34 and 47<sup>th</sup> Ave are under design and Greeley is working to get the right-of-way deeded to CDOT.

Oberschmidt stated the City of Evans is working to obtain appraisals for right-of-way acquisition for the 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue project and he may reach out to other TAC members for insight on the process.

Buckman stated the City of Fort Collins is hosting a Transportation Projects Fair on Thursday, February 27 to highlight various upcoming projects. The City's highest priority project is the Vine Dr and Lemay Ave overpass to ease congestion with the railroad. The City needs an additional \$10M and could start as early as 2021.

Nelson stated the Town of Severance is working on its Transportation Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan updates and is planning to do a walk audit in downtown to hopefully inform planned downtown improvements.

Klockeman stated the business cards he distributed are for residents and visitors of Loveland to gauge whether the summary of feedback from Connect Loveland is accurate. The City is currently advertising for a Civil Engineer II position. Klockeman stated the design for the ultimate build out of the I-25 and US34 interchange consists of three single point urban interchanges (SPUIs) where US34 meets I-25, Rocky Mountain Ave, and Centerra Parkway. The project would cost \$270M. Klockeman suggested inviting CDOT back to update TAC on the I-25 project.

Schneiders stated the Call for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications closed on January 20, 2020 and the Scoring Committee will meet on February 26, 2020 to review them. Ten applications were received in Region 4, for a total request of \$9.2M with \$5.4M available. Region 4 hopes to have the TIP Amendment to the NFRMPO in April.

Anderson stated Weld County is working on their Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan and has been doing outreach at various community events. The County is also working on the Weld County Road (WCR) 74 Access Control Plan with Severance and Eaton.

Malette stated Lisa Gagliardi started as Accounting Manager for the NFRMPO on January 24, 2020. The NFRMPO recently ran a Select Link Analysis using the Regional Travel Demand Model to estimate where trips originate for people using I-25 Segment 5. The results estimate over 40 percent of current trips come from the Denver region, followed by the Loveland, Fort Collins, and Berthoud Growth Management Areas (GMAs).

Guthrie urged TAC members to distribute the Connect Loveland business cards throughout their networks.

Herrera stated the Town of Windsor is nearing adoption of their Transportation Master Plan and there is a Town Board work session next Monday. The Town recently met with CDOT regarding coordination of the SH257 and Eastman Park Drive intersection construction. CDOT plans to resurface SH257 from Walnut Street to US34.

#### **MEETING WRAP-UP**

**Final Public Comment** – There was no final public comment.

**Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions** – Gordon stated the Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) will return for Action, the March TIP Amendment will come for Action, and there may be a presentation from CDOT staff on I-25 project updates.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes submitted by:** Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO Staff

**The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room.**