

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

March 5, 2020

**Fort Collins Utility Administration Building, 222 LaPorte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Dave Clark- CHAIR
Dena Wojtach
Lanie Isbell
Mark Clark
Kristin Stephens
Brett Payton
Tom Donnelly
Don McCleod
Lisa Laake
Barbara Kirkmeyer
Kristie Melendez
Kathleen Bracke

-Loveland
-CDPHE
-Eaton
-Evans
-Fort Collins
-Greeley
-Larimer County
-Severance
-Timnath
-Weld County
-Windsor
-Transportation
Commission

Voting Members Absent:

William Karspeck
Fil Archuleta
Troy Mellon
Paula Cochran
Elizabeth Austin

-Berthoud
-Garden City
-Johnstown
-LaSalle
-Milliken

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Lisa Gagliardi, Accounting Manager; and AnnaRose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Frank Baszler, Allison Baxter, Anne Best-Johnson, Drew Brooks, Brad Buchman, Rich Christy, Chad Crager, Jamie Grimm, Butch Hause, Joel Hemeseth, Paul Hornbeck, Mark Jackson, Jeff Jensen, Will Jones, Dave Klockeman, Bob McClusky, Steve Moreno, Mitch Nelson, Jeremy Olinger, Randy Ready, Kevin Ross, Karen Schneiders, Karen Scopel, Robin Stoneman, Zac Wiebe, Kaley Zeisel, and Kelly Zuniga.

Chair Clark called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:03.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Move to Approve Agenda:

M. Clark **moved** to approve the *March 5, 2020 Meeting Agenda as Submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

McLeod **moved** to approve the *February 6, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Clark opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

Dena Wojtach, APCD Manager Planning & Policy Program, reviewed the March 5, 2020 APCD Updates, February 20th Air Quality Control Commission (Commission) Meeting notes, and Upcoming (April 16th) Commission meeting information with the Council. She announced an Oil and Gas Methane & Other Hydrocarbons Monitoring Forum would be held April 7th at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden.

Mallette asked for additional information regarding the Colorado Energy Office and their consultant, Energy and Environmental Economics update on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Roadmap (Roadmap). Wojtach explained the Roadmap can help companies prioritize their voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take advantage of a growing number of initiatives aimed at helping companies reach their climate goals. Companies are working from the 2005 base and can set their own strategies, one extreme example she gave was pipeline blowdowns. Wojtach said she likes this new concept as it provides a path forward. Isbell questioned when voluntary actions become mandatory. Wojtach responded it depends on the circumstances. She confirmed APCD is taking steps toward better communications with AQCC and developing aggressive strategy controls to address needed changes. Strategies that come forth will be shared in the APCD quarterly report. Donnelly said he and others would like to see mandatory rules on nitrogen in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). Wojtach replied statewide NOx reductions from engines would also benefit RMNP.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Clark opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Report of the Chair:

Chair Clark acknowledged former Mayor of Eaton, Kevin Ross' many accomplishments in his eight years serving on the MPO Council and congratulated him for being appointed to the Weld County Commission, serving the balance of former Commissioner Sean Conway's 2020 term. Ross is also running for this same seat in this year's election. He was given a plaque and several accolades from Council members.

Clark informed the Council the Town of Wellington had withdrawn their request for NFRMPO Membership on February 13th.

Council was asked to weigh in on the possibility of forming a Legislative Committee to follow items on pending legislation and perhaps weigh in on bills from January to May of each year, potentially giving the MPO a voice in upcoming legislation. Following Council discussion, it was decided information on bills would be shared as a starting place. Any advocacy required more detailed information.

Executive Director Report:

Director Mallette briefly reviewed the September 2018 Formula Summary with RPP handout with Council, notifying them the Transportation Commission vote had not gone with Option B (25% VMT/20% Pop/40% LM%/15% Truck VMT) as advocated by Commissioner Bracke, and supported by STAC, but instead chose the Previous Formula (50% Pop/35% LM%/15% Truck VMT). This formula is used to distribute RPP to the CDOT Regions.

Mallette presented a five-minute video to the Council as a sample of the first of many MPO 101 videos being created for informational and training purposes. The Council had a very positive response to the videos, noting the repetition of full names over acronyms was preferred. The video series will be available on the MPO website later in the year.

Finance Committee:

Accounting Manager, Lisa Gagliardi reviewed the Finance Committee report with the Council. McLeod acknowledged Gagliardi for her ability to competently take on the annual audit, quarterly financial statements, working with the Finance Committee, and other required tasks, within her first weeks at the MPO.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

FFY2019 4th Quarter Unaudited Financials

M. Clark **moved** to *approve the FFY2019 4th Quarter Unaudited Financials*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

February 2020 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment

Rose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I, briefly reviewed information on the two new project additions requested in the February 2020 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment with the Council, Expansion of the Mobility Program and North Front Range Premium Transit Analysis. She noted the public comment period would end March 12th and their approval was contingent on any negative comments through that date.

Melendez **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-10 APPROVING THE FEBRUARY 2020 OFF-CYCLE AMENDMENT TO THE FY2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

FY2020 UPWP Amendment

Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director, briefly reviewed the three amended tasks for the FY2020 UPWP with the Council, Expansion of the Mobility Program, North Front Range Premium Transit Analysis and City of Fort Collins Onboard Ridership Survey; noting their approval would allow access to the funds needed for contracting with CDOT and beginning implementation.

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVING RESOLUTION 2020-11 APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY2020 TASKS AND BUDGET OF THE FY2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Fort Collins Project Swap

Brad Buchman, City of Fort Collins, Manager, Civil Engineer stated the City of Fort Collins would like to request CMAQ FY2023 funding for the College Ave and Trilby project be exchanged with Transfort FY2022 CMAQ funding for bus replacement in the amount of \$387,371 due to project readiness. The swap will not interfere with Transfort's ability to suitably purchase buses.

Melendez **moved** to *APPROVE THE FORT COLLINS PROJECT SWAP*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) Call for Projects

Karasko indicated 14 applications were submitted: seven Bike/Ped, three transit, and four multimodal/other projects. Transfort withdrew their application for a Transit Funding Study. The remaining 13 projects had a total request of \$5,576,917. Transfort volunteered to reduce their request by \$1,909.00, to fully fund the remaining projects. TAC recommends funding all 13 projects.

Karasko introduced each presenter prior to them summarizing their recommended projects with the Council.

Bike/Ped

- Berthoud - Berthoud Parkway Trail Gap Elimination: Jeremy Olinger – Deputy Town Administrator
- Fort Collins - Laporte Ave Improvements - Fishback to Sunset: Brad Buckman- Manager, Civil Engineering
- Fort Collins - Siphon Overpass-UPRR Power Trail Grade Separated Crossing: Brad Buckman
- Greeley - Greeley #3 Canal Trail: Karen Scopel – Environmental Planner
- Larimer County - Poudre River Trail Windsor to Timnath: Zac Wiebe – Planning & Natural Resource Specialist
- Loveland - South Boyd Lake Trail: Kelly Zuniga – Parks & Recreation Planner
- Severance - WCR23/Great Western Trail Pedestrian Connection: Mitch Nelson-Town Planner

Transit

- Fort Collins - Transfort Bus Procurement: Drew Brooks
- Loveland - SH 287 West Sidewalk Gap: Dave Klockeman – Senior Civil Engineer

Mobility/Multimodal/Other

- Evans - Evans Transportation Master Plan: Anne Best-Johnson – Community Development Director
- Fort Collins - West Elizabeth Corridor – Preliminary Design Drew Brooks-Transfort/Parking Services Director
- Greeley - Comprehensive Transportation Plan: Allison Baxter – Transportation Planner
- Windsor - 7th Street Multimodal Study & Early Action: Paul Hornbeck – Senior Planner

Any additional MMOF funds which become available will be used to offset the overmatch of the highest ranked project with an overmatch. Council will be asked to approve the MMOF Call for Projects at the April 7th Planning Council meeting.

NFRMPO Boundary Focus Group

Kirkmeyer reported a meeting was held recently with Weld County Commissioners, Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly, Morgan County Commissioner Jon Becker and Jamie Grimm of CDOT, and others, to discuss developing a guidebook which would create a process for others around the state when considering changing MPO and TPR boundaries. CDOT will pay for the guidebook which will outline the methodology and proper process as well as the costs associated with modifications. Myron Hora, Senior Supervising Planner at WSP USA, has been hired to assist with the guidebook. A scope of work is in process and kick off is expected in March, with completion in June. Council members discussed whether boundary change discussion should begin before the guidelines are published.

Kirkmeyer agreed to report back to the Council following the initial meeting with Hora. At that time the Council can decide when to begin groundwork communications. Council members were strongly encouraged to get involved in the boundary discussions as there is a potential for impacts on their communities.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

Bracke reported on the following from the February 20th Transportation Commission meeting:

- The Statewide Safety Plan, co-developed with the State Highway Patrol and Department of Public Health, was approved with the data-driven, Vision Zero philosophy approach.
- The Commission reviewed and approved all of CDOT's 10-year Strategic Project lists and the list was consistent with STAC recommendations. Also, TC will discuss with CDOT staff what to do with projects from across the state which do not make CDOT's initial 10-year list of projects and identify how the "pipeline of projects" is intended to be managed if/when additional state transportation funding becomes available.
- CDOT's Statewide Plan is expected to reach completion in May, or possibly June, of this year.

I-25 Update

A Project Status Update was provided for March 2020.

STAC Report

A written report was provided. Kirkmeyer, as the Upper Front Range (UFR) representative on STAC, commented she made a change to the UFR 10-year pipeline of projects. The UFR project initially had \$70M going SH 71. She recommended moving \$35M to the US 34/US 85 interchange in Greeley (Spaghetti Junction) to allow for potential funding on Phase I and II of this project.

Host Council Member Report-

Stephens welcomed everyone to Fort Collins and thanked them for coming. She then reported on the following City of Fort Collins transportation projects:

- The City of Fort Collins held a Work Session February 25th where it was noted transit ridership is up 90% with the addition of Max. The City is planning more transit-oriented development with shared hubs for multi-transit options.
- City officials and their legislative contingent were in Washington D.C. recently where they met with the USDOT to discuss concerns about the safety of double trains, which can reach up to three miles long, and trouble with quiet zones. The Federal Railroad Administration was not open to communication; some legislation may be needed soon.

Meeting Wrap-Up:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

McCleod requested an update on the Poudre Express at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:16 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff