

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

**April 2, 2020  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Voting Members Present:**

**Dave Clark- CHAIR**  
William Karspeck  
Lanie Isbell  
Kristin Stephens  
Brett Payton  
Troy Mellon  
Tom Donnelly  
Elizabeth Austin  
Paula Cochran  
Don McCleod  
Lisa Laake  
Barbara Kirkmeyer  
Kristie Melendez  
Kathleen Bracke

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

**Voting Members Absent:**

Dena Wojtach  
Mark Clark  
Fil Archuleta

-CDPHE  
-Evans  
-Garden City

**MPO Staff:**

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Lisa Gagliardi, Accounting Manager; Alex Gordon, Mobility Manager/Transportation Planner II; and Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II.

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Frank Baszler, Allison Baxter, Ken Bennett, Anne Best-Johnson, Drew Brooks, Brad Buchman, Rich Christy, Chad Crager, Jim Eussen, Abra Geisler, Jamie Grimm, Butch Hause, Joel Hemeseth, Paul Hornbeck, Wayne Howard, Mark Jackson, Jeff Jensen, Will Jones, Dave Klockeman, Michelle Martin, Dan Mattson, Steve Moreno, Mitch Nelson, Jeremy Olinger, Kevin Ross, Karen Schneiders, Karen Scopel, Mike Silverstein, Eric Tracy, Wade Troxell, Zac Wiebe, and Kelly Zuniga.

Chair Clark called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

Kirkmeyer **moved** to *approve the April 2, 2020 Meeting Agenda as Submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Move to Approve Minutes:**

Karspeck **moved** to *approve the March 5, 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)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Mike Silverstein, RAQC Executive Director, reviewed the March 30, 2020 Monthly Briefing Memo with the Council, noting RAQC staff continues to develop the new serious area ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP), and although they do not anticipate the need for any new emission control strategies to be included, ozone control measures for the future are still being developed and considered. The new SIP is scheduled for RAQC approval in August. The April 3<sup>rd</sup> RAQC meeting will be held via video conferencing on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Public comment is requested via advance emails, and not during the meeting. Details are available on their website.

Donnelly asked how the greatly reduced traffic, due to the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home Order, may impact emissions. Silverstein responded even though emissions are generally lower every spring, the decreased traffic would be beneficial as the lower monitor recordings will become part of the data points. Kevin Ross, Weld County Commissioner, asked for additional information on the use of voluntary and/or mandatory measures or strategies. Silverstein indicated there were always considerations regarding the need to evaluate and increase the success of volunteer initiatives and ensure they can be funded, and new regulatory programs may need to be implemented to positively impact areas such as fuel specifications, inspection maintenance programs, and employer-based reduction procedures. Silverstein will continue to provide monthly updates to the Council.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair Clark opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Report of the Chair:

Chair Clark acknowledged Mayor of Windsor, Kristie Melendez, for her many accomplishments while serving on the MPO Council and wished her luck in all her future endeavors. Melendez mayoral term will end in April and she is running for Weld County Commissioner in this year's election. Melendez commented how she was proud to be part of the Council who had done a lot of good work for Northern Colorado, especially on I-25. She was given a plaque (virtually) and received appreciation and accolades from Council members.

Executive Director Report:

Director Mallette reported the following:

- NFRMPO office would be following Larimer County guidelines for COVID-19 and, therefore would remain closed until at least April 17<sup>th</sup>, barring any future revisions.
- Both TAC and Finance meeting will be held virtually in April.
- The VanGo<sup>TM</sup> vanpooling program will be closed for the month of April. No fares will be charged to vanpooler during this suspension.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written reported was provided.

VanGo<sup>TM</sup> Dashboard

A written reported was provided.

CONSENT ITEM:

Donnelly **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-12 ADOPTING THE 2019 MULTIMODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) CALL FOR PROJECTS*. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### March 2020 TIP Amendment

Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II, briefly reviewed information on the three project requests in the March 2020 TIP Amendment with the Council: Revising funding for the *North I-25 Design Build* project; Removing the *US 287 & US 34 VMS Signs* project, and adding 13 projects from the 2019 MMOF call for projects. She noted the public comment period would end April 9<sup>th</sup> and Council's approval was contingent on receipt of any comments through that date.

Melendez **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-13 APPROVING THE MARCH 2020 AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### North I-25 Segment 6 Update

Abra Geissler, CDOT Resident Engineer and Project Director for I-25 North: Berthoud to Johnstown, presented the I-25 Segment 6 Project Update to the Council stating the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) was a very favorable delivery method for this project as it will allow for construction to begin during design. Kirkmeyer asked about the apparent \$13M shortfall in project funds. Geissler explained the evolution of the project's cost and funding noting the final numbers are still subject to change, potentially for the good, due to continually evolving contractor options. She will continue to update the Council on the progress of the project and funding. Weekly updates can be found at: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/north-i-25/johnstown-to-fort-collins>.

### US 34/US 85

Dan Mattson, CDOT Resident Engineer, Central Greeley gave a comprehensive presentation of the US 34/US 85 Interchange Reconfiguration to the Council. Mattson identified the interchange, more commonly known as Spaghetti Junction, needs to become less confusing and be able to handle the higher volume of traffic which has been forecasted. Because funding for the entire project is not available currently, it has been broken-down into six phases with an overall cost estimate of \$170M.

### Poudre Express Update

Will Jones, Deputy Director, Greeley Public Works, explained to the Council although the Poudre Express was a relatively new service for the region which began in January, it had been part of Greeley Area Transit's (GET) 2016 Strategic Plan, along with the NFRMPO Regional Transit Element (RTE), and CDOT's Interregional Plan. The Poudre Express is operated by GET with regional funding support from CSU, City of Fort Collins, City of Greeley, Town of Windsor, and CDOT as a Grant Planning Funder. Jones reported the trajectory of ridership was off to a great start, peaking at five riders per hour the second week of March, and just prior to its suspension on March 25<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19 restrictions. Generally, a transit program can take approximately 3 years to reach its ridership goal, which in this case is 15 riders per hour, or 80K riders per year. Based on the early numbers (4.78 out of 5 customer rating) and positive feedback from connecting communities, the program is expected to be quite successful.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

### NFRMPO Boundary Focus Group

Kirkmeyer reported although CDOT has put the topic on hold due to COVID-19, the project scope of work reads as follows:

1. Document Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) pertaining to TPR boundary analysis and revisions
2. Examine and define the process for TPR boundary revisions
3. Document the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) governing the establishment of an MPO and/or Transportation Management Area (TMA) designation
4. Examine and define the process for becoming an MPO and/ or TMA
5. Document the CFR requirements for administering an MPO and/or TMA
6. Analyze the financial implications of the establishment of a new or revised MPO/ TMA/TPR
7. Develop a methodology for boundary modifications based on changes to Census Urbanized Areas
8. Develop a methodology for accessing growth patterns along TPR, MPO and/or TMA boundaries

Jamie Grim, CDOT Government Liaison, confirmed the goal was still to have the guidebook completed in June.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### Transportation Commission Report /CDOT Region 4

Bracke reported on the following:

- Director Lew and CDOT staff are working diligently to protect staff as they respond to COVID-19.
- The Transportation Commission is holding online meetings and have incorporated a page on their website specifically for public comment.
- The RPP formula is being re-reviewed due to a previously split decision by the TC. It is unclear whether the discussion will go through the STAC.
- CDOT is potentially looking to recover some lost revenue with transit funds from the current CARES Act.

### I-25 Update

A CDOT Region 4 Project Status Update was provided for April 2020.

Heather Paddock, CDOT R4 Transportation Director reviewed the CDOT Region 4 Update with the Council, noting CDOT is taking advantage of the COVID-19 traffic reduction to move more diligently on I-25 construction projects, as they ensure they adhere to the guidelines, keeping their workers protected.

### STAC Report

A written report was provided.

### Host Council Member Report-

Kirkmeyer welcomed everyone to virtual Weld County and thanked them for attending. She then reported on the following Weld County transportation projects:

- Weld County is making updates to both their Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Land Use Plans and expect to have them completed by the end of the year.
- Work is being done on the CR 54 (SH402) & CR 17 Roundabout.
- CR39 railroad project in the Town of LaSalle is complete and open and helping with eastside traffic access and emergency response when there is a train.
- Weld County is working with CDOT on a solution for the US 85 at O Street issue and hope to move forward on the corridor project.
- She participated in a conference call with Mallette, Paddock, Rebecca White, CDOT Director Lew, Larimer County Commissioner, Tom Donnelly, Weld County Commissioner, Kevin Ross, in which they were reassured I-25 projects were, and would continue to be, progressing. She complimented Director Lew for being a great communicator and providing updated information to Northern Colorado.

Kirkmeyer announced the April meeting would be her last meeting with the NFRMPO Council as she was transitioning out of many of her duties as she prepares to end her term as Weld County Commissioner in December. Ross will be filling her position on the Council through the end of the year.

## **Meeting Wrap-Up:**

### Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

There were no suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 p.m.  
Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff