

**MEETING MINUTES of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council**

Virtual Meeting

April 15, 2020

1:01 – 2:55 p.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mitch Nelson, Chair – Severance
Eric Tracy, Vice Chair – Larimer County
Dawn Anderson – Weld County
Allison Baxter – Greeley
Amanda Brimmer – RAQC
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Marco Carani – Johnstown
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Karen Schneiders – CDOT

NFRMPO STAFF:

Medora Bornhoft
AnnaRose Cunningham
Ryan Dusil
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Jeff Schreier – Eaton
Town of LaSalle
Ranae Tunison – FTA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Abdul-Kareem Barzak – Severance
Richard Christy – CDOT
Daren Davis – GET
Candice Folkers – COLT
Jamie Grim – CDOT
Katie Guthrie – Loveland
Myron Hora – WSP
Lindsey Jones – CPYI
Katlyn Kelly – Fort Collins/Transfort
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Katrina Kloberdanz – CDOT
Dan Mattson – CDOT
Annabelle Phillips – Fort Collins/Transfort
Eric Salemi – CDOT
Jake Schuch – CDOT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2020 TAC MINUTES

Oberschmidt moved to approve the March 18, 2020 TAC minutes. Schneiders seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

No Items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

FY2019 & FY2020 STBG Additional Funding Allocations – Bornhoft explained there is \$1.4M additional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding available to be allocated to projects which were partially funded in the relevant call for projects and have not been completed. There are two projects from the FY16-19 Call for Projects eligible to receive the funding: Greeley’s *10th Street Access Control Implementation* project and Fort Collins’ *US 287 Intersection Improvements* projects. Bornhoft explained 98 percent of the funding is from FY19, and NFRMPO staff is recommending to allocate all funds to projects from the FY16-19 Call instead of allocating two percent to projects from the FY20-21 Call. Specifically, staff recommends allocating \$538,135 to Greeley’s project and \$876,816 to Fort Collins’ project. Bornhoft stated there is additional Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) funding which will be brought back to TAC once the exact amount is known. Baxter asked what the timeline would be for receiving these funds. Bornhoft explained the Greeley project can be completed with an administrative modification to the TIP after Planning Council approves the award at their May meeting as it is adding funds to an existing project. The Fort Collins project will be amended into the TIP in June as a new project Klockeman moved to approve the Additional Funding Allocation. Oberschmidt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

US34/US85 Update - Dan Mattson, CDOT, presented the preferred alternative for the US34 and US85 interchange in Greeley that will address safety, update aging bridges, and improve connectivity. Mattson outlined the ultimate configuration, the phased implementation plan, and the cost estimates. The implementation plan consists of six phases with phase one being signing and striping to help improve short term functionality and phases two through six being full buildout of the interchange. Mattson emphasized the phased approach will evolve as funding becomes available. The total cost estimate is \$170M, but funding has not yet been identified to complete the project. Mallette noted the US34/US85 intersection is part of the Ten-Year Pipeline of Projects that Planning Council approved earlier in the year.

DISCUSSION

FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY2021 Tasks – Karasko explained Planning Council will approve the UPWP budget for FY2021 at their June meeting along with any additional tasks to be added for FY2021. Karasko outlined and described the four tasks being changed or newly added: the *2020 Household Survey* which is being moved from 2020 to 2021; the addition of the *Greeley Multimodal Transportation Plan*; and splitting the *Mobility Management* and *One Call/One Click* into separate projects. She noted any comments or changes must be submitted to her by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020. Schneiders asked if the *Evans Transportation Master Plan* and the *West Elizabeth Corridor Study*, which received NFRMPO Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) awards, needed to be added to the UPWP. Karasko noted the projects can be included and will work with TAC members to get the tasks and products written up and included.

NFRMPO Vision Zero Policy Discussion – Karasko recapped the discussion at the March 18 TAC meeting about the possibility of adopting a Vision Zero policy for the NFRMPO. Upon direction from TAC, NFRMPO staff researched best practices from MPOs around the country for adopting Vision Zero policies. Cunningham presented two examples of MPO Vision Zero or safety plans, both of which address the desire to go above and beyond the federally required safety performance measures: DRCOG’s *Taking Action on Regional Vision Zero* and the Central Lane MPO *Transportation Safety Action Plan*. TAC discussed the examples presented and recommended staff further research how rural crashes and crashes caused by human behavior can be addressed. Karasko noted that staff will continue to do more research, looking into how CDOT’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan addressed these issues, and stated this will be brought back to TAC for discussion at the May meeting.

NFRMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Pipeline of Projects – Dusil outlined the Non-Motorized Pipeline of Projects, which includes any project on or connecting to one of the Regional Non-Motorized Corridors (RNMC). Dusil noted this is similar to the Pipeline of Projects completed by the NFRMPO for CDOT earlier in the year and the bike and pedestrian projects included in the NFRMPO’s overall list are also included in this list. He noted the list will be updated as needed by either NFRMPO staff, NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative members, or TAC members. The purpose of the list is to prepare the region for the Call for Projects and any grant opportunities which may arise and to ensure there is current information going into the upcoming update for the *Regional Non-Motorized Plan*. Anderson asked if the list is prioritized, and Dusil answered the list is currently not prioritized but could be in the future. Baxter asked if TAC members should work on creating estimates where they do not currently exist. Dusil stated any available estimates are helpful as a starting point but recognizes many projects will have missing information.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative – Dusil stated there was not a NoCo meeting in April, the Severance Walk Audit previously planned for April 3 was postponed indefinitely, and the May meeting will be held virtually.

Regional Transit Agencies – Davis stated GET suspended fixed-route service including the Poudre Express, but has been providing around 100 rides a day with the Call-n- Ride Service.

Phillips stated Transfort has reduced service during the week and suspended service on Sundays. Transfort is developing a Demand Response service for people who still require transportation outside of the reduced service times.

Schneiders stated Bustang will be shut down until at least April 26.

Senior Transportation – Gordon stated they have received award letters for two grants which will go towards funding the software for the One Call/One Click Center and purchasing a new wheelchair-accessible van for 60+ Ride in Greeley. Gordon also noted that many of the service providers are offering other services including grocery delivery and other resources during the COVID-19 crisis.

Regional Air Quality Council - Brimmer reported that the RAQC Control Strategies Committee has developed three workgroups: Clean Air Funding, Vehicle Inspection Maintenance and Fuel Formulations, and Employer Based Trip Reduction Programs. These workgroups will start meeting in May to develop strategies moving forward to identify who the stakeholders are for each initiative and determining the best voluntary and regulatory programs for implementation. 2020 is a critical year for the region to meet air quality standards and although air quality is better due to lower VMT currently it is too soon to know the extent of the impact. Brimmer also noted the first week of May is Air Quality Awareness Week and there will be more messaging available under the Simple Steps, Better Air program during this time.

REPORTS

CDOT Inactives Report - Schneiders reported the CDOT Inactives Report will be replacing the FHWA Federal Inactive Project Report. The new report is streamlined and will include the FHWA end dates, be organized by payment dates, and be brought to TAC on a quarterly basis. Schneiders noted the report in the TAC packet was an earlier draft and NFRMPO staff would email the revised report to TAC members after the meeting.

Planning Council – Written report was provided.

Bike Counter Updates - Dusil stated although the data is preliminary, counters across the region are showing significant increases in bicycle and pedestrian counts since the COVID-19 outbreak began impacting Colorado, between mid-March and Mid-April. The counts were compared to the same time period in previous years. Large year-over-year increases across all counters are atypical. Weekdays during the analysis period

show larger increases than weekends and usage has been more dispersed across the day than in the past. NFRMPO staff will continue to monitor the trends.

Mobility Committee Updates – Written report was provided.

Q1 2020 TIP Modifications – Written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko stated the *CDOT Statewide Plan* will be out for public comment starting April 20. Staff will be reviewing it to ensure accuracy of the *10 Year Pipeline of Projects* and the *RTP*. TAC is encouraged to review the plan as well to ensure the issues and priorities are reflected accurately. The Alt Fuels Call for Projects opened today and will be sent to TAC after the meeting.

Gordon noted preliminary reporting of response rates for the 2020 Census show that Larimer and Weld counties are above the statewide average. Given the current situation he has been evaluating ways to conduct public outreach, one of which has been to create coloring pages that are available on the website. Additionally, informational brochures are currently being translated into Spanish and will be available on the website.

Bornhoft reported there is a new section on the website for fact sheets which will be updated as more fact sheets are created. As requested by Planning Council, NFRMPO staff is providing a Legislative Update for any items that go through the legislature and are relevant to the NFRMPO. An updated report will be sent out once the Legislature is back in session which is anticipated to happen on May 18.

Oberschmidt reported Evans will be bringing the *47th Avenue Widening* project to bid in May or June, are working on the RFP for the Transportation Master Plan and are working with Weld County and CDOT on an IGA for the *37th Street Overlay Project*.

Baxter reported Greeley is partnering with Great Western Railroad on crossing improvements. Crossings at 35th Avenue, 59th Avenue, and O Street are now operating with crossing arms and visibility improvements. Greeley also completed vendor selection for the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project that was awarded CMAQ funding.

Schneiders reported CDOT has formed a working group to determine the best way to proceed with contracting for the MMOF projects. The MMOF funding is now being incorporated into the STIP as the transfers from headquarters happened the previous week. Schneiders noted the process for new IGAs is currently delayed. Mallette noted it was reported during STAC the IGA process would be completed in May.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – There were no additional suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 as a virtual meeting.