

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

**May 7, 2020  
Remote Meeting**

**Voting Members Present:**

Dave Clark- CHAIR	-Loveland
William Karspeck	-Berthoud
Lanie Isbell	-Eaton
Mark Clark	-Evans
Kristin Stephens	-Fort Collins
Brett Payton	-Greeley
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Don McLeod	-Severance
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Kevin Ross	-Weld County
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Dena Wojtach	-CDPHE

**MPO Staff:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Karen Artell, Jeff Bailey, Allison Baxter, Dan Betts, Rich Christy, Chad Crager, Lexi Elio, Jim Eussen, Jamie Grim, Butch Hause, Joel Hemeseth, Wayne Herr, Myron Hora, Wayne Howard, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Shoshana Lew, Jim McClusky, Mitch Nelson, Heather Paddock, Randy Ready, Karen Schneiders, Robin Stoneman, and James Usher.

Chair Clark called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

Ross **moved** to approve the *May 7, 2020 Meeting Agenda as Submitted*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

**Move to Approve Minutes:**

Ross **moved** to approve the *April 2, 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)

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 announced Tom Donnelly would be the Past Chair for the Executive Committee in place of Kristie Melendez who was no longer on the Planning Council and Paul Rennemeyer, newly elected Mayor of Windsor was the new Council Representative for the Town of Windsor. He noted there were two vacancies on the Finance Committee and asked for volunteers. Don McLeod, Chair of the Finance Committee, announced Weld County **Commissioner** Ross was able to join the committee as the meeting day and time changed back to the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in Windsor, in alignment with the Agenda Review Meeting, which meets later that same morning. Rennemeyer also agreed to join the Finance Committee.

#### Executive Director Report:

Director Mallette reported it was the time of year when Council Members are asked to sign the annual Conflict of Interest form which was included in the meeting handouts and will be emailed as an individual document. Signed forms may be emailed to [SMallette@nfrmpo.org](mailto:SMallette@nfrmpo.org) or [RSteffen@nfrmpo.org](mailto:RSteffen@nfrmpo.org).

#### FINANCE:

A written report was provided. Lisa Gagliardi, Accounting Manager, briefly reviewed the report with the Council.

#### TAC:

A written report was provided.

#### Mobility:

A written report was provided.

#### Q1 TIP Modifications:

A written report was provided.

### Action Items:

#### Resolution Corrections:

Karasko explained there had been an error on Severance's WCR23/Great Western Trail Pedestrian Connection dollar amount on the following items at the April 2, 2020 Council meeting. Both resolutions were revised from "\$600" to "\$600K".

- a) Multimodal Options (MMOF) Fund -Call for Projects-Revised

Ross **moved** to *APPROVE REVISED RESOLUTION NO. 2020-12 ADOPTING THE 2019 MULTIMODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) CALL FOR PROJECTS*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- b) March TIP Amendment-Revised

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE REVISED RESOLUTION 2020-13 APPROVING THE MARCH 2020 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2020-2023 TIP*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### FY2019 & FY2020 STBG Additional Funding Allocations

Bornhoft recapped the additional \$1.4M in funds from the latest CDOT reconciliation. She reviewed information on the two projects from the FY2016-2019 Call for Projects; Fort Collins US 287 Intersection Improvements, and Greeley's 10<sup>th</sup> Street Access Control Implementation Plan, that are eligible to receive the funding. D. Clark asked Bornhoft why these were the only two projects eligible to receive additional federal funding. She explained all other projects from the 2016-19 Call for Projects were fully funded and have been closed out.

Ross **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-12 APPROVING ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS OF FY2019 & FY2020 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) FUNDS TO PROJECTS SELECTED IN THE 2014 CALL FOR PROJECTS*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### FY2019 Audited Financials

Wayne Herr, CPA, CGMA, Partner, MCGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP gave a presentation of the 2019 Audited Financials, which resulted in the best ranking possible "pass with no findings", or an "unmodified opinion". Director Mallette, Lisa Gagliardi, Accounting Manager and Merideth Kimsey, Accounting Clerk III, were highly praised for their efforts and excellence in preparing for and presenting the audit.

Karspeck **moved** to *ACCEPT THE 2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

#### **Presentation:**

##### Transportation Recovery Workgroup & CDOT Budget

Shoshana Lew, CDOT Executive Director, gave a presentation on CDOT funding regarding Senate Bill 267- Regional Equity and Scenario Planning. She explained that approximately \$1.25B in SB 267 transportation funding was at risk over the next three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is interest from members of the Transportation Commission to move outyear funding on North I-25 to Regions 1, 2 and 3. Lew stated they are not changing priorities as established in the long range transportation plan, but do want to sequence, or tier projects while considering potential cost cutting. She specified CDOT plans to stay true to the \$1.6B transportation plan funding and complete North I-25 and other projects, but it will be a matter of how much can be spent and when, with a focus on projects that yield capital and jobs, and help stimulate Colorado's economic recovery. She said CDOT intends to plan for a much smaller base program, which they will then build back up as funds become available.

Bracke commented on the importance of staying focused on the goals and the plan. The \$56M provided by the NFRMPO local communities remain committed and have been used to leverage federal funds in a systematic process. CDOT will continue to look for ways to obtain additional funding, such as low-interest loans and federal funds as well as considering scope reduction options. The TC Meeting will meet May 21st to review the proposed plan.

Donnelly and Ross expressed their concerns that if funds are moved out of the North I-25 project, they may never be returned and implored CDOT to advocate more strongly for Colorado's Transportation Funding.

There is a newly formed Transportation Recovery Workgroup, one of several groups, supplying information into the larger statewide effort titled the Governor's Council on Economic Stabilization and Growth (CESG). CDOT has a draft outline of the report and has asked MPO's for data and feedback. NFRMPO supplied data on the calculated decrease of local funds going to transportation. All pertinent information will be shared with the Council as it becomes available.

### Discussion Items:

#### FY2020-2021 UPWP and FY 2021 Budget

Malette reviewed the Unified Planning Work Plan with the Council, highlighting some of the FY 2020-21 projects, including the first year of the Statewide Household Travel Survey, 2050 Land Use Allocation Model (LUAM), Active Transportation Plan (previously Non-Motorized Plan), North Front Range Premium Transit analysis (MMOF and VanGo™ reserves), and the Implementation of the One Call/One Click Center's first full year, contracted to begin October 1st. Gagliardi gave an overview of the FY 2021 UPWP Draft Budget, noting there will be a 2020 budget adjustment for the Transit Analysis which will be moved to 2021. She will be providing the Finance Committee with a Fare Analysis/Reserve Analysis later this year to determine what changes may need to be made to 2021 VanGo™ fares and whether any reserves will need to be used. It is anticipated CARES Act funding for the VanGo™ program will also be added to the current draft before it is finalized. The Council will be asked to adopt the budget at the June 4th Planning Council meeting.

#### NFRMPO Boundary Focus Group

Jamie Grim, CDOT Government Liaison, stated the guidebook for the MPO Boundary Process is now being done in-house. CDOT is approximately halfway through their portion and still expected to be done in June. The Scope of Work for the consultant portion is not complete but on track for completion this summer. Focus groups will be starting as soon as possible.

### Council Reports:

#### Transportation Commission Report

Bracke said she was available to answer any questions, or share suggestions Council members have for CDOT staff regarding the Transportation funding plan discussed in the meeting, reminding them the TC Meeting would be held May 21<sup>st</sup>. Bracke also reported on the following:

- She is representing the TC on the Transportation Recovery Workgroup; Director Malette is also participating. Bracke will share updates and documents with the council as they become available.
- She is participating on the Scenic Byways Commission and receiving information on projects from around Colorado.

#### CDOT R4 Update

A Project Status Update was provided for May 2020. Paddock noted these months of significantly reduced traffic were a very opportune time for road construction during the day, citing the following examples of expedited progress:

- Demolition of the Prospect Road Bridge over I-25 is complete.
- Work at the US 34 Interchange is progressing well.
- Progress over the Big Thompson River also continues.
- There will be an I-25 traffic shift at the new Southbound Bridge in the next month.

CDOT plans to reduce the volume of daytime road construction and closures to coincide with the increase of traffic as Coloradoans return to work.

I-25 Coalition- D. Clark indicated the bulk of the I-25 discussion from the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting had been covered in Director Lew's presentation. He had nothing additional to add.

US 34 Coalition- Coalition Chair, Troy Mellon reported they met earlier and reviewed the Spaghetti Junction project and funding deficit. They are encouraged by CDOT working to get as much design done as possible with currently available funds. The Coalition hopes to receive updated crash data from CDOT for US 34 between Loveland and Greeley within the next few months so they can begin their internal project prioritization and be ready for any upcoming calls for prioritized project lists. There was also a briefing on the progress of the I-25/US 34 Interchange as well as Greeley projects at US 34 at 34<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

#### STAC Summary

No report was provided.

Host Council Member Report-

Mark Clark, Mayor Pro Tem, said he looked forward to the time Council could meet in Evans, and in person. He then reported on the following transportation projects:

- The City of Evans' Measure 2A passed in April. The 1% sales tax increase which goes into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, will help get their transportation infrastructure rebuilt. Projects will include road pavement, expansion and widening roads, curb and gutter, sidewalk replacement, and other important maintenance needed. Due to COVID-19 there will be much less revenue generated than originally calculated, but there will still be a very positive impact to their community.
- Evans is working with CDOT on the approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for their 37<sup>th</sup> Street overlay project, which they hope to have mostly completed in time for the possibility of school starting again in the fall.

**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