

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

Virtual Meeting

May 20, 2020

1:00 – 2:19 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
Marco Carani – Johnstown
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Walt Elish – Berthoud
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans
Karen Schneiders – CDOT

NFRMPO STAFF:

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

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Jeff Schreier – Eaton
Ranae Tunison – FTA
Town of LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Abdul Barzak – Severance
Darren Davis – GET
Candice Folkers – COLT
Jamie Grim – CDOT
Katie Guthrie – Loveland
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort
Katrina Kloberdanz – CDOT
Josie Langhorst – CDOT
Steven Minor – FHWA
Annabelle Phillips – Transfort

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2020 TAC MINUTES

Herrera moved to approve the April 15, 2020 TAC minutes. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY2021 Tasks – Oberschmidt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Baxter seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

May 2020 TIP Amendment – Bornhoft identified the requests included in the May 2020 TIP Amendment for the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The 30-day public comment period is currently open and no comments have been received to date. Klockeman moved to approve the May 2020 TIP Amendment. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Local Transportation Revenues – Bornhoft stated NFRMPO staff developed estimates of reductions in local revenue for non-transit transportation budgets due to the pandemic. The estimates were submitted to the Transportation Recovery Working Group, a statewide group established to accelerate economic recovery through transportation infrastructure. Bornhoft described the methodology and explained the projected impact ranges from a low of \$15M, which is six percent of local non-transit transportation budgets, to \$45M, which is 16 percent. Bornhoft requested comments on the methodology by Wednesday, June 3.

Bornhoft briefly described three tools that could potentially help local communities complete transportation projects included in the TIP with delayed, lower, or no local match. The tools include the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB), toll credits, and tapered match. There are drawbacks to each tool and the latter two tools are relatively new to Colorado and do not yet have a formal application process. Mallette clarified toll credits are considered a soft match and do not provide additional funding to a project; instead, they allow projects to proceed with a lower local match percentage resulting in reduced project funding and reduced project scope. Local agencies concerned about meeting local match requirements should contact Karasko and Bornhoft to discuss next steps.

DISCUSSION

NFRMPO Vision Zero Policy – Karasko and Cunningham presented updates on the proposed Vision Zero Policy, including information on the two questions raised during the April TAC meeting regarding how the policy would address behavioral causes of crashes and the unique challenges of rural crashes. Cunningham described the Vision Zero approach and how it differs from the traditional approach. With Vision Zero, human failure and fragility is an underlying assumption. Behavioral causes of crashes are addressed through the five E's: engineering, enforcement, evaluation, education, and encouragement, with the goal of designing safe systems that prevent fatal and severe crashes given the mistakes made by road users. Rural crashes are best addressed through Local Road Safety Plans (LSRP).

Cunningham presented draft Vision Zero Policy statements for the NFRMPO. The Vision Zero Policy, if approved, would be incorporated into the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and other planning efforts.

Klockeman noted many agencies in the region have been implementing elements of the Vision Zero approach and the presentation does not reflect the work of local agencies. Baxter recommended revising the policy statements to reflect which strategies are already being used, such as the prioritization of safety in the NFRMPO Calls for Projects. Klockeman and Baxter noted the CDOT crash data has a long lag time and it would be useful to analyze local data or to provide other types of crash data assistance to local agencies beyond analysis of CDOT data.

TAC members requested the item return to TAC for discussion in June.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative – Dusil stated NoCo developed a document to highlight potential and observed benefits of investing in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The document provides quantitative and qualitative benefits for Colorado, where available, and at a national scale. The document was created as a reference tool for initial project discussions to help communicate the variety of benefits of active transportation infrastructure. The document does not prescribe specific design elements. A draft was included in the TAC packet and a revised version was emailed on May 19. The document, called the “Benefits of Active Transportation” is available at <https://nfrmpo.org/bike-ped/noco/>.

Regional Transit Agencies – Davis reported GET is working to match resources with service delivery for demand response. Over the last month ridership has increased 50 percent from 100 rides a day to 150 rides a day. GET will implement fixed route service once guidance is provided.

Phillips and Kelly reported Transfort started limited FLEX service on Monday, May 18th. Transfort is beginning to discuss phasing in additional routes safely.

Oberschmidt reported Evans is coordinating with GET on the Transportation Master Plan.

Senior Transportation – Gordon reported the NFRMPO is working with Downtown Colorado Inc. to obtain an AmeriCorps VISTA member for six months. He is also working with the Larimer County Office on Aging and Weld County Office on Aging to use CARES Act funding to help older adults receive grocery delivery and access medical services.

Regional Air Quality Council – No update.

REPORTS

Planning Council – Written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko stated the June TAC meeting will be held remotely, and possibly the July TAC meeting as well. Karasko summarized recent discussions by the Transportation Commission (TC), Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), and the NFRMPO Planning Council regarding funding for North I-25 Segments 7&8. CDOT staff is recommending the TC retain \$50M in Year 2 Senate Bill (SB) 267 funding for the project and finance the remaining \$104M to provide more SB 267 funding to projects in Regions 1, 2, and 3. The TC is expected to take action in June. Mallette stated CDOT is proposing financing a portion of the project to increase regional equity of Year 2 SB 267 distributions due to the uncertainty on the third and fourth years of SB 267.

Bornhoft stated Weld County returned Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding to the NFRMPO pool for their Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicle project that is unable to proceed due to the indefinite suspension of the Buy America waiver process. Once CDOT Region 4 staff have identified the amount of unprogrammed CMAQ funding available to allocate, the CMAQ allocation will be brought to TAC for Action.

Cunningham reported the updated resolution for the Multimodal Options Fund awards is available by request. She notified TAC members they could submit a project to her by email to be spotlighted in the July edition of the NFRMPO newsletter. Lastly, she explained the purpose of the employer-based trip reduction request, which was sent by email, and requested examples of jurisdiction-led or private employer-based programs be sent to her by Friday, May 22.

Dusil reported the Active Transportation Plan, which will provide an update to the 2016 Non-Motorized Plan, is kicking off and invited TAC members to serve on the Steering Committee. The commitment would involve two to four virtual meetings over the next year. Currently the Steering Committee includes staff from the Cities of Fort Collins, Greeley, , and Loveland; Larimer County Department of Health and Environment; Town of Severance; Bike Fort Collins; and CSU. He noted NFRMPO staff will be reaching out for bicycle and pedestrian GIS data as part of this Plan.

Gordon highlighted the email he sent on MPO outreach efforts and requested TAC members submit suggestions for additional outreach strategies.

Baxter reported Greeley is taking advantage of lower traffic volumes to complete overlay projects and accelerate project schedules. The *65th Avenue* project is expected to be completed in July. Greeley is working with CDOT on Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) for the *59th Ave and O St* project and the Transportation Plan. Greeley has had some reduction in staff.

Anderson reported Weld County is updating their Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan. A consultant completed modeling for the Plan using the state's transportation model and the rest will be completed in-house. The intersection at CR 17/CR 54 (Freedom Parkway) is closed through mid-August for the construction of a roundabout.

Oberschmidt reported Evans voters approved a one cent sales tax in April for road maintenance projects. Three projects are going out for bid, including 47th Ave from the Greeley line to 37th St, half of 23rd Ave south of 37th St, and the 37th St overlay project. The Evans City Council provided extra funding for maintenance projects.

Herrera reported Windsor had a well-attended pre-proposal kickoff meeting for the 7th St Multimodal Study which extends from the Poudre River trail to Greeley #2 Ditch Trail by Windsor Lake.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – Karasko identified Vision Zero as a Discussion item. There were no additional suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by: Medora Bornhoft, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 as a virtual meeting.