

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Minutes – Wednesday, June 10, 2020

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting



1. Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Buckley**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Abdul Barzak**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Betsy Jacobsen**, CDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Section
- ❖ **Casey McManus**, Trusts for Public Land / CU Boulder
- ❖ **Dave Dixon**, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ **Evan Pinkham**, Weld County
- ❖ **Hannah Larkin**, Trusts for Public Land / CU Boulder
- ❖ **Justin Scharton**, City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails Division
- ❖ **Katie Guthrie**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Kelly Zuniga**, City of Loveland Open Lands
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans
- ❖ **Lauren Nagle**, FC Moves
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Liz Young Winne**, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- ❖ **Mark Heidt**, City of Brighton
- ❖ **Medora Bornhoft**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Melina Dempsey**, FC Moves
- ❖ **Mitch Nelson**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Nancy Nichols**, City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Sophie Mangassarian**, Trusts for Public Land / CU Boulder
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Park Planning
- ❖ **Tessa Gregor**, FC Moves
- ❖ **Tracey Lipfert**, FC Moves
- ❖ **Will Karspeck**, Town of Berthoud

Favorite Local Restaurants

Road 34 (2), Lucille's (2), Vern's Place, The Farmhouse at Jessup Farm, Sala Thai, El Pueblito, St. Vrain Market, Huckleberry's, Taqueria Los Camales, The Regional, The Still, Choice City Butcher and Deli, Café de Bangkok (3), Rincon Argentino, Lupita's, Cheba Hut, Bean Cycle, Little Bird Bakeshop, El Cielo, La Piadina, Menu's Food Truck, Bangkok 89, homecooked meals, produce from the garden

Roundtable

Most agencies continue to report increased trail usage following the COVID-19 outbreak, including overcrowded trailheads.

Buckley reported CSU campus has remained open and accessible to community members and trail counters show people are still traveling or recreating on campus regularly.

Jacobsen stated the Colorado Transportation Commission (TC) recently created a grant program for communities to temporarily convert street space for restaurants and/or active transportation opportunities.

Projects up to \$200,000 will be awarded. More information will come out this week about how communities can apply. CDOT will also be starting a mini-grant program to support other transportation demand management (TDM) efforts. These grants would be up to \$5,000 and more information is yet to come.

Dixon stated Bike Fort Collins is working with the City of Loveland and Thompson School District to pursue the expansion of their Safe Routes to School (SRTS) educational program to Loveland.

Scharton stated the City of Greeley is wrapping up the second of two repairs to Poudre Trail sections due to bank erosion. This summer and fall the City will break ground on a new Poudre Trail trailhead at Island Grove Regional Park and the #3 Ditch Trail that received Multimodal Options (MMOF) funding.

Guthrie stated Loveland is celebrating Walk and Bike Month in June with various events. The Keep Moving NoCo Challenge is underway to keep families active.

Zuniga stated Loveland is picking a design team for the South Boyd Lake section of the Centerra Trail. The City is also anticipating construction on the Copper Ridge section of the Recreation Trail this fall as well as other projects southeast Loveland and near west Eisenhower Boulevard.

Nichols stated the Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is working to adjust its programming to be online and combined with adult education programming in some respects. If students return for in-person instruction, they expect school bus capacity to drop significantly and are working on ways to ensure many of those bus trips can become biking or walking trips.

Bassingier stated a new connection between the Poudre Trail and Lincoln Middle School was recently completed. The connection will be continued across Vine Drive to Taft Hill Road.

Lipfert stated the City of Fort Collins has many free online courses available now to support biking for people of all ages and abilities.

Greegor stated counts at the Poudre Trail Counter at Lee Martinez Park have jumped 54 percent from March to June compared with previous years. Bicyclists have increased 59 percent and pedestrians have increased 54 percent. Zagster Bike Share has officially shut down in Fort Collins. The City has put out a request for information (RFI) to understand what options and trends are available for shared micromobility solutions into the future. The City plans to submit a request for proposals (RFP) in late summer or early fall that will incorporate things learned from the RFI.

Dusil stated a proposed federal transportation bill called INVEST in America is going to be considered by Congress soon and it would have significant improvement for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The bill is subject to change as it goes through the political process. As currently written, the bill would:

- Boost Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) investments by more than 60 percent over current law
- Establish a \$250 million grant program to support infrastructure investment in connected active transportation networks.
- Expand eligibilities for Safe Routes to School projects.

- Establish a new \$8.3 billion program focused on investments and strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Boost safety funding by approximately 30 percent over current investments
- Establish new performance measures partnership opportunities

Heidt stated the next round of social distancing guidelines for Colorado is expected to come June 22nd from the Governor's task force.

Approval of May Minutes

The May 13, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

Call for Projects Recommendations Memo

Dusil stated the Memo was updated to incorporate feedback provided during and after May 13 NoCo meeting. The Memo was drafted by the NoCo Bike & Ped Leadership Team in response to several discussions over the years about how to increase regional investment in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Memo makes recommendations for the NFRMPO TAC to consider in the next Call for Projects to:

1. Increase the investment in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
2. Adjust project requirements and scoring guidelines to ensure the Call encourages projects with benefits to non-Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) modes

If approved, the Memo would be a topic of discussion at the July 15, 2020 TAC meeting.

Guthrie added the Memo has gained importance given the impacts of COVID-19 on the transportation and recreation networks.

Fodge stated the Memo's timing with the INVEST in America bill is an important because of the bill's recommendations for the broader field of transportation demand management (TDM).

Young Winne encouraged NoCo members to speak with their organizational leadership and/or TAC members about the Memo and consider writing a letter of support. Several NoCo members stated they intend to have conversations internally.

Young Winne asked if the Memo is final. Dusil stated yes, the Memo can be approved as is today or with any pending amendments and that version will go to TAC.

No amendments were suggested. NoCo members agreed approval of the Memo could be done through general consensus by asking only for those opposed, abstaining, or offering amendments to speak or enter into the chat. Dusil requested NoCo members who wish to abstain, oppose, or amend the Memo do so publicly or privately through the chat or over the phone. No such motions were received. Several messages of support or received verbally, through the chat, or over the phone. The Memo was approved by consensus.

Dusil stated the NoCo Leadership Team will work on finalization and discuss how they will present the Memo to TAC in July.

2020 NoCo Bike & Ped Special Event(s)

NoCo has hosted a conference, workshops, trainings, walking audits, and other events in the past. Given the uncertainties and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leadership Team wants to know what events, if any, the Collaborative might be interested in coordinating or supporting in 2020.

Karspeck and Nelson stated they are still interested in a Berthoud Biking Audit and Severance Walking Audit, respectively.

Young Winne stated there may be online learning opportunities and the fall would be a good opportunity to actively encourage biking or walking to school through an event, given the anticipated decreases in bus capacity. Nichols stated this is consistent with the strategy the City of Fort Collins will be taking.

Heidt stated the next round of social distancing guidelines to be released in late June could help indicate what types of events would be possible.

Jacobsen asked if any communities have closed streets to vehicles and have any data to share. Gregor stated Fort Collins has allowed businesses to expand patios, but there have been no closures. Instead, the City is heavily promoting use of the low-stress bike network

Karspeck stated while they have not closed streets, the Town is ordering a couple parklets to encourage safe social distancing downtown while dining or shopping.

Heidt stated Brighton has had a parklet for two years and it has helped the restaurants, although it has been hit by vehicles. Brighton has also tailored its social media messaging towards social distancing tips and reminders

The group agreed a walking audit event that includes a lens for community resiliency in the wake of COVID-19 could be really valuable.

Dusil stated he would work with the Leadership Team to identify next steps and priorities around an event.

Final Words

Zuniga reported the monthly totals at the two permanent count sites in Loveland show significant increases from 2019 to 2020. Heidt asked how the counters are powered. Zuniga responded they are battery-powered and the batteries need to be replaced every 1-2 years but the cost is reasonable.