

# Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Minutes – Wednesday, July 8, 2020

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting



## Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Buckley**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Abdul Barzak**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Allison Baxter**, City of Greeley
- ❖ **Bob Hinderaker**, Poudre River Trail Corridor
- ❖ **Betsy Jacobsen**, CDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Section
- ❖ **Dave Dixon**, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ **Katie Guthrie**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Kelly Zuniga**, City of Loveland Open Lands
- ❖ **Kim Meyer**, Town of Johnstown
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Liz Young Winne**, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- ❖ **Mitch Nelson**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Nancy Nichols**, City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Sophia Maes**, NFRMPO/AmeriCorps
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Park Planning
- ❖ **Tim Kirby**, CDOT Multimodal Planning Branch
- ❖ **Tom Jones**, Great Western Trail Authority

## Favorite Books/Authors

**Books:** Into Thin Air; Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance; Longitude; Shantaram; And Then There Were None; The Mill on the Floss; How to be Antiracist; Empire of the Summer Moon; The Water Dancer; Hamlet's Blackberry; The Alchemist (2); The Art of Racing in the Rain; The Edifice Complex; Street Fight; Hard to Handle: The Life and Death of the Black Crowes; Let the Great World Spin; On the Road; Catcher in the Rye; Candide; The Second Machine Age; The Power Broker; A Town Like Alice

**Authors:** Michael Connelly; Clive Cussler; Tom Clancy; David Sedaris; Roald Dahl; Chuck Klosterman

## Roundtable

Dusil stated the NFRMPO is working on its Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and will be asking planning partners for input and help promoting these efforts.

Jones stated construction is underway on the 5.5-mile section of the Great Western Trail between Eaton and Severance. Crusher fines will be laid down in Mid-August. Mulching and seeding will occur late summer or fall as well. The project has come in under budget so far.

Bassinger stated the 60 percent design plans for the remaining two miles of the Poudre River Trail in Fort Collins will be completed by fall, with construction bids requested in the spring in anticipation of construction in

2021. Design for the Power Trail grade-separated crossing at Harmony Road will be completed in the next year. The City also anticipates construction of a grade-separated crossing of the railroad to connect neighborhoods to the Power Trail in southeast Fort Collins. The City is also discussing how to construct or acquire trails through development in northeast Fort Collins.

Maes stated she is working on mobility-related tasks at the NFRMPO, specifically a marketing plan for the One-Call One-Click Center.

Hinderaker stated the City of Greeley has noticed significant increase in trail usage since the beginning of COVID-19.

Nichols stated the City of Fort Collins is creating a school transportation task force strategize on how to adjust to school bus capacity limitations and travel mode choice.

Young Winne stated the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) Built Environment Program is only funded through June 2021 and is working to figure out steps moving forward.

Beckstrom stated the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE) is disseminating a COVID-19 Impact Survey to respondents of the recently completed Community Health Survey.

Guthrie stated the Keep Moving NoCo Challenge was a success. Final numbers will be reported next month but entering the final days over 100 participants had logged over 2,000 hours of activity and burned over 500,000 calories. Construction on the City's North Wilson Avenue sidewalk project starts in November. This project received Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant funding in 2018.

Dixon stated the Bike Fort Collins held a virtual Bike Month celebration in June consisting of storytelling, rides, etc. An attempt to break the single-day count record of 1,737 at the Remington Eco-Totem counter fell just short at 1,502. Although Pace Bike Share closed down in Fort Collins, Recycled Cycles bike shop purchased the bikes and will sell them back to the community with a one-year membership to Bike Fort Collins. Bike Fort Collins is also working the Nancy Nichols and the City on adjusting SRTS initiatives related to COVID-19.

Jacobsen stated the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program is now accepting applications. The Colorado SRTS program will be accepting applications from early August to early November. More information to come.

Barzak stated Severance is working on a project that received Transportation Alternatives (TA) and Multimodal Options (MMOF) funding and a small grant project through the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) to improve safety and access to the Great Western Trail near downtown Severance.

Fodge stated CSU is wrapping up construction of a new trail and the campus' first protected bike lane from Shield to the pedestrian mall. The bike lane is ½ mile-long and is protected by parking and cement curb barriers.

Zuniga stated the City of Loveland is hiring a firm to design the Centerra/South Boyd Lake Trail. The City is beginning to look more seriously at the East Big Thompson River Trail on the southeast side of the City. The Parks Department recently had to cut the position of half-time Parks Planner that was filled shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Approval of June Minutes

The June 10, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

## Statewide Transportation Plan: Public Comment Period

Tim Kirby updated the group on components of the Statewide Transportation Plan, including: outreach, the 10-Year Strategic Project Pipeline, proposed mobility hubs, and strategies for safety, congestion, rural access, maintenance, and improved transparency and accessibility of the planning process. Kirby stated comments can be sent to Marissa Gaughan ([marissa.gaughan@state.co.us](mailto:marissa.gaughan@state.co.us)) individually or as a group. The Draft Statewide Transportation Plan and 10-Year Strategic Project Pipeline can be reviewed [here](#). Group members stated they will review the document for consistency with the region's plans for Regional Non-Motorized Corridors (RNMCs), especially crossing infrastructure.

## Can Do Colorado Community Challenge Grant Opportunities: Program Overview and Roundtable

CDOT has started two grant programs in response to COVID-19 to help communities encourage social distancing through active transportation, teleworking, outdoor seating, and other related strategies.

### Revitalizing Main Streets Program

- To protect health and environment, CDOT is utilizing up to \$4.1M of the state portion of the Senate Bill (SB) 1 Multimodal Options Fund.
- Grants up to \$50,000 will allow communities to facilitate safe and healthy active transportation, outdoor dining, and business.
- A non-exhaustive list of example project types includes:
  - Repurpose select streets or parts of streets for biking or walking
  - Expand sidewalks to allow for activities such as dining or walking
  - Converting streets to one-way to create space for community use
  - Weekend-only use of streets for bike/ped only access
  - Reduced speed limits to allow for safer walking and biking
- A minimum 10 percent local match, cash or in-kind, will be required
- Rolling application process to facilitate quick deployment
- Goal to disburse funds before January 2021
- Eligible applicants include local government or other transit/governmental agencies

The City of Loveland and Loveland Downtown Development Authority (DDA) are considering applying for a grant to make active transportation and social distancing improvements along 4<sup>th</sup> Street, including increased outdoor seating.

The City of Fort Collins is considering applying for a grant for increased outdoor seating in the Old Town area.

### Safe & Flexible Communities Program

- To promote innovative tools that encourage practices such as social distancing and teleworking
- Microgrants up to \$5,000 to local communities and nonprofits
- Help promote best practices for teleworking, provide staff capacity or otherwise incentivize continued telework. A non-exhaustive list of example projects types includes:
  - Promotion of community-wide initiatives for teleworking, including coordination with large employers, sharing of best practices, etc.
  - Marketing materials and training to encourage effective telework, work-life balance support, etc.
  - Additional staff capacity to promote teleworking and other active (and socially distant) transportation options (i.e. grocery deliveries or other opportunities to help at-risk populations stay at home).

- Local match is not required, but is encouraged and given additional consideration within the scoring criteria
- Rolling application process to facilitate quick deployment
- All eligible and funded projects must be able to complete all activities and submit all billings by December 1, 2020.
- Eligible applicants include, local government and other governmental agencies, nonprofits, and transportation management associations/organizations (TMA/Os)

CSU is considering applying for a grant to update the University's telework guidelines.

The City of Fort Collins is considering applying for a grant to improve employee telework capabilities.

### **Counter Topics**

The NFRMPO is purchasing one permanent bicycle and pedestrian counter to be installed and managed by a local member agency. The NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative Leadership Team will discuss the following locations: The Great Western Trail near Eaton, the Poudre River Trail between Greeley and Windsor, and the Poudre River Trail behind Walmart in Timnath. When the NFRMPO purchases a counter in the future, the remaining two locations will be considered along with the Boyd Lake Trail/Centerra Trail in Loveland, Kendall Parkway Trail in Loveland, or another Poudre Trail location near the I-25 underpass.

For non-CSU counters, counts are up significantly for March through June 2020, compared with the same period in 2019. On weekdays, hourly trends show more trail activity earlier in the day and later in the afternoon and evening, and less activity during lunchtime hours, compared with 2019.

For CSU counters, counts are down significantly for March through June 2020, compared with the same period in 2019. Although the counts have dropped, biking and walking activity on campus has remained significant. On weekdays, hourly trends show less activity early in the morning and more activity in the afternoon and evening, compared with 2019.