

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

Virtual Meeting

December 16, 2020

1:02 – 1:58 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
Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans
Karen Schneiders – CDOT

NFRMPO STAFF:

Medora Bornhoft
Ryan Dusil
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette
Cory Schmitt

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marco Carani – Johnstown
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Jeff Schreier – Eaton
Town of LaSalle
Ranae Tunison – FTA

IN ATTENDANCE:

Abdul Barzak – Severance
Darren Davis – GET
Josie Hadley – CDOT
Myron Hora – WSP
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 TAC MINUTES

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

CONSENT AGENDA

2017-2021 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures – Klockeman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Election of 2021 TAC Officers – Tracy nominated Nelson to continue as Chair. Buckman moved to approve Nelson as Chair. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved by acclamation. Nelson nominated Tracy to continue as Vice Chair. Schneiders moved to close the nomination process and approve the nominations, affirming Tracy as Vice Chair by acclamation.

PRESENTATIONS

US34 Expansion Project and Kendall Parkway Mobility Hub – Klockeman described the *US34 Expansion Project*, which is being completed by Loveland and CDOT. Loveland Public Works identified the initial project limits as Denver Avenue to Rocky Mountain Ave in 2016, with the project including an additional travel lane in each direction, turn lane additions and extensions, improved bike lanes, and additional sidewalks. The project was divided into four segments, with Segments 3 and 4 currently under construction. Segments 3 and 4 include the section between Denver Avenue and Boyd Lake Avenue. Klockeman stated Loveland received CDOT safety funding for the intersection at Boyd Lake Avenue.

Expanding US34 between Rocky Mountain Avenue and Centerra Parkway was added as a local companion project in the *North I-25 Express Lanes* project. Klockeman stated Loveland contributed to the overall I-25 project, contributing \$6M and a land donation for the SH402 Park-n-Ride. The project includes an additional travel lane in each direction, new bridges over I-25, and replaced aesthetic improvements. Klockeman noted the horse statue is being held until a new permanent location is determined.

Klockeman reviewed the project schedule, which is based on available funding. Loveland Public Works is working with CDOT to align construction schedules. Klockeman noted CDOT is aiming to complete its construction in late 2021 or early 2022. The section of US34 between Boyd Lake Avenue and Denver Avenue is under construction, with construction of US34 between Fall River Drive and Boyd Lake Avenue expected in 2021, and Boyd Lake Avenue to Rocky Mountain Avenue in a future phase.

Klockeman played a video showing a walkthrough of the Kendall Parkway Mobility Hub. The Mobility Hub will connect a new Park-n-Ride facility on the west side of I-25 at Kendall Parkway with center-loading bus station and slip lanes.

Mallette asked if there is a gap for three lanes in each direction between Denver Ave and Boyd Lake Ave. Klockeman stated Denver Ave to Boyd Lake Ave is currently under construction. Mallette clarified that US34 would be six lanes from I-25 to US287. Klockeman stated US34 will be six lanes between Centerra Parkway and Monroe Avenue when these projects are completed.

Schneiders asked when Kendall Parkway will open underneath I-25. Klockeman stated in the Master Finance Agreement, Kendall Parkway is the responsibility of Centerra and will be completed when CDOT completes its portion of the project.

North I-25 Project Update – Hadley reviewed the progress made on the *North I-25 Express Lanes* project in the NFRMPO region in 2020. Design for Segment 6 is 98 percent complete. Construction has finished on the southbound Little Thompson River bridge and the pedestrian box for the SH56 Mobility Hub. Construction is underway on the SH56 realignment. Hadley explained negotiations for construction packages have found savings, which will allow more work to be done at SH60. Only the construction package for aesthetic improvements at SH56 remains to be negotiated.

Within segments 7 and 8, completed work includes demolition and reconstruction of the Prospect Road Bridge, realigning the east Frontage Road between SH402 and Ronald Reagan Parkway, and constructing the Big Thompson East Frontage Road bridge. The LCR20E bridge has been demolished and reconstructed. In mid-November, the Great Western Railroad bridge slide-in took place, and the railroad was operational within four days. CDOT also upgraded the at-grade crossing at the east Frontage Road. Northbound and southbound concrete pavement on I-25 is complete from Crossroads Boulevard to SH392. The westbound US34 bridge deck was completed in November. Hadley reported 80 percent of the right-of-way has been acquired for the next phase. The east Frontage Road has been permanently closed between Prospect Road and SH14. Additional funds for MIRA elements were incorporated into the Design Build project using Integrated Construction Contracts (ICC) packages. There are 10 ICC packages, four of which have been awarded and procured. The remaining ICC packages will be advertised at the end of this year into early 2021.

Hadley reviewed the next steps for Segment 6. Negotiations are complete, and CDOT is in the process of finalizing the construction schedule for the majority of scope. Construction for the interchange and bridge at SH56 are continuing, while structure work and utility relocation will start soon. Hadley stated CDOT can provide more information when the schedule is complete.

Hadley stated Phase 1 of the Poudre River bridge construction has started. Traffic will switch onto the new northbound concrete in Segment 2A in late January 2021, allowing for the completion of the Big Thompson River bridge. The Prospect Road Bridge completion is anticipated for the end of the year and will be operational in the spring. Traffic shifts onto Phase 1 of US34 will take place in the spring. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) northbound deck pour was completed in November, with the traffic shift to occur in January 2021. Section 4 Release for Construction Documents (RFC) is scheduled for May 2021, and pre-RFC for the Port of Entry is anticipated for January 2021. CDOT anticipates construction of Kechter Road will begin in mid-2021.

Hadley reported on upcoming closures: the Phase 2 US34 switch is expected in March, allowing traffic onto the new Phase 1 bridge serving westbound traffic; US34 demolition will cause extended nighttime closures in March or April 2021 for both northbound and southbound traffic on I-25; and a traffic switch on I-25 onto northbound pavement between SH402 and US34 in January. The second phase of the Great Western Railroad slide-in is scheduled for May and will cause a four-day closure. In Segment 2B, northbound traffic is going to be switched to the new southbound bridge to accommodate demolition of the existing I-25 bridge over the UPRR tracks anticipated in January. The final Prospect Road bridge final alignment switch will occur in March or April.

DISCUSSION

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Update – Karasko stated NFRMPO staff is redistributing work tasks due to the increase in air quality items. Bornhoft will take on Air Quality Planning, Travel Demand modeling, and the Congestion Mitigation Process (CMP), while Cunningham will be taking over the TIP and the Land Use Model will move to Gordon.

Bornhoft asked TAC members if other staff from NFRMPO communities would be interested in receiving TAC emails and attending TAC meetings. Buckman recommended Cassie Archuleta, and Herrera recommended Scott Ballstadt. Bornhoft reviewed four upcoming air quality tasks. AQCC's *Serious SIP Rulemaking Hearing* starts December 16 with a public comment session. Mallette will provide witness testimony. The NFRMPO will participate as a stakeholder in development of greenhouse gas (GHG) budgets for regional transportation plans, as proposed in the *Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap*. NFRMPO staff is participating in RAQC's Employer-Based Trip Reduction Control Strategy Work Group, which is developing a

proposal to reduce ozone by decreasing commute trips in single-occupancy vehicles (SOV). The program could be recommended to AQCC as a state program. The NFRMPO is potentially requesting exceptional event demonstration due to the wildfires in summer 2020.

CDOT/Local Agency IGA Process – Karasko stated there was concern about IGA contracts between local agencies and CDOT brought up at the November Statewide MPO meeting. These concerns were related to delays and issues with the contracts moving projects forward. Karasko stated a survey was sent out to the MPOs.

NFRMPO staff is requesting TAC members provide information on any projects experiencing issues with the CDOT/local agency IGA process. This information includes project name, IGA status, when the next project phase is starting, and any known issues prohibiting the project from moving forward. Bornhoft requested this information by December 23.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative – A written report was provided.

Regional Transit Agencies – Davis reported GET has received new CNG buses, which will be part of the fleet for the regional Poudre Express service.

Senior Transportation – Gordon introduced Cory Schmitt, the new Mobility Manager. Schmitt will be taking over the Mobility Program and implementing the One Call/One Click Center program for Larimer and Weld counties. Gordon stated Schmitt will be meeting community partners in December and January. TAC members interested in meeting with Schmitt should reach out to Gordon.

Regional Air Quality Council – Brimmer stated RAQC is preparing for AQCC's SIP hearing. Brimmer reported Governor Polis sent out a statement addressing the region's nonattainment status, stating it is likely the region did not attain in 2020 and will be downgraded to Severe Nonattainment. The State will not try to avoid this new designation, but the State is looking at exceptional events.

REPORTS

December Planning Council Meeting Summary – A written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Schneiders announced the December TAC meeting is her last meeting as she is retiring. TAC members and NFRMPO staff expressed their gratitude for the work Schneiders has done in her tenure at CDOT.

Klockeman stated work on Connect Loveland continues. Connect Loveland will be taken to the Planning Commission and Loveland City Council for adoption in the spring.

Baxter stated the 59th Avenue/O Street roundabout is at 30 percent design and is moving forward. Construction is about to start on an underpass for the Sheep Draw Trail at 83rd Avenue. The Transportation Plan kickoff is January 13th.

Bornhoft stated the survey questions from the Call for Projects Improvement Survey were included in the TAC packet.

Herrera reported the *7th Street Multimodal Project* is moving forward. Windsor staff is adjusting outreach due to the pandemic. Herrera stated more roundabouts are coming to Windsor. Herrera stated there will be two major road closures in Windsor. LCR5 north of SH392 will be closed so developers and utility companies can

do work, and Windsor is hoping the road will reopen by December 18. LCR13 will be closed due to work related to the Thornton pipeline, hoping to reopen by December 21.

Karasko stated the 2021 TAC meeting dates were included in the packet. Meetings will be virtual for the foreseeable future.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – Karasko stated next month's agenda will include discussion of the NFRMPO's 10-Year Development List and further discussion of the Evans project scope change request.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 as a virtual meeting.