

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

**January 7, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Don McLeod- CHAIR	-Severance
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Dave Clark	-Loveland
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Lanie Isbell	-Eaton
Scott James	-Weld County
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Wade Troxell	-Fort Collins

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Brett Payton	-Greeley
Dena Wojtach	-CDPHE

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Merideth Kimsey, Interim Accounting Manager; Cory Schmitt, Mobility Manager; Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner III; Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II; and AnnaRose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Abdul Barzaak, Allison Baxter, Frank Bazzler, Bill Becker, Perry Buck, Rich Christy, James Eussen, John Gates, Josie Hadley, Butch Hause, Myron Hora, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Dean Klinger, Mitch Nelson, Mark Oberschmidt, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Randy Ready, Kristin Stephens, Robin Stoneman

Chair McLeod called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Move to Approve Agenda:

Rennemeyer moved to approve the *January 7, 2021 Meeting Agenda as Submitted*. The motion was **seconded** by M. Clark and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

Troxell moved to approve the *December 3, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** by Isbell and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair McLeod 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.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Due to the increasing amount of Air Quality topics impacting the North Front Range, the NFRMPO is dedicating staff resources to track Air Quality items. To accomplish this, staff responsibilities have been shifted; Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II will take over the Air Quality items and AnnaRose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I will take over the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Call for Projects. With this expansion Bornhoft will be providing updates to Planning Council on a monthly or as needed basis. Bornhoft reported that Director Mallette provided Witness testimony during the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) hearings for the Serious State Implementation Plan (SIP) in December. Bornhoft reported there are three upcoming air quality tasks, the first is participating as a stakeholder in the AQCC's greenhouse gas emission budget development for regional transportation plans as was proposed in the Greenhouse Gas Roadmap developed by the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) in 2020.

The second is participation in the Regional Air Quality Council's Employer Based Trip Reduction (ETRP) Control Strategy Workgroup. Bornhoft explained the RAQC workgroup is developing a proposal aimed at reducing drive alone work trips for employers of 250 or more in the nonattainment region, of which there are 74 in the North Front Range. D. Clark asked for clarification on how the ETRP would affect employers that are located in areas with less transportation options. Bornhoft explained the group is looking at a tiered approach to accommodate different employer needs. Bornhoft stated the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) will be conducting interviews with large employers to gather input on the program and that the NFRMPO is working with them to include employers in the North Front Range. D. Clark requested a presentation by RAQC to further understand how this will work.

The third Air Quality task is the potential exceptional event demonstration by the Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) due to the wildfires in 2020. Bornhoft stated Governor Polis released a statement in December 2020 indicating it is likely the state will pursue the exceptional event demonstration, but it is still likely the Environmental Protection Agency will reclassify the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment area to Severe. James asked when the deadline for the demonstration will be, Bornhoft stated it is estimated to happen in the Spring of 2021. Director Mallette noted local agencies can send letters to the Governor expressing support for the exceptional event demonstration.

Bornhoft reported the NFRMPO would like to identify local agency staff who can provide technical input on environmental and air quality matters to be included on the Technical Advisory Committee as non-voting members.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair McLeod opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair McLeod introduced the new council member Scott James, Weld County Commissioner and new Chair of the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region, and Wade Troxell, Mayor of Fort Collins.

Chair McLeod called for volunteers for NFRMPO standing committees. The representative for the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee will remain D. Clark with Chair McLeod as alternate. The NFRMPO Finance Committee Chair is Karspeck and members are Rennemeyer, Stephens, James, Isbell, and M. Clark. The HR Committee Chair is D. Clark and members are Payton, M. Clark, Mellon, McLeod, and Isbell.

Executive Director Report

Director Mallette reported on the following:

- The MPO Boundary Discussion group convened for the last time in December to discuss and evaluate the scenarios. The committee decided to postpone any further discussion of the MPO and TPR boundaries until results from the 2020 Census and subsequent changes to Urbanized Areas are determined.
- The NFRMPO hired Cory Schmitt as the new Mobility Manager who will be leading further efforts for developing the One Call/One Click Center and the NFRMPO Mobility Program.
- Included in the handouts are the VanGo Dashboards and the NFRMPO Annual Report.

- In late December, the NFRMPO was notified by CODT Headquarters that the Region 4 would be receiving approximately \$32M and the NFRMPO would be receiving \$4M, out of the \$32M, of federal stimulus funding. The funds are available, through the federal government, until September 30, 2024. However, CDOT would like to see the funds be under contract within six to nine months with expenditure completed by September 30, 2024. The funds are flexible similar to the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding but do not require any local match. The NFRMPO worked with local agency sponsors to identify projects which have been previously awarded STBG funding to swap with Stimulus funding. The STBG money would then be available to be added to the STBG pool to be awarded during the Call for Projects later in 2021. The three projects which have been identified for swap are the Timberline Road Corridor Improvements, Intersection Improvements at SH 257 and Eastman Park Drive, and North LCR 17 Expansion. Heather Paddock, CDOT Region 4, reported that of the additional funds allocated to R4, the Berthoud Mobility Hub, part of the North I-25: WCR 38 to SH 402 project, would be awarded \$6.5M.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

M. Clark **moved** to *APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Troxell and **passed** unanimously. Items on the consent agenda included:

- 2017-2021 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures
- 3rd Quarter 2020 Unaudited Financials

ACTION ITEMS:

Executive Director Goals

Mallette explained the Executive Director Goals for 2020 would be carried into 2021. The goals include development of MPO training videos, the One Call/One Click Center, and Professional Development including membership in the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC).

Donnelly **moved** to *APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GOALS*. The motion was **seconded** by M. Clark and **passed** unanimously.

Resolution of Continued NFRMPO Planning Council Support for N I-25

Mallette described the resolution which is intended to solidify support by incoming planning council members to encourage funding for the North I-25 project to its completion.

Donnelly **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-02 FOR PLANNING COUNCIL'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE EXPANSION OF NORTH I-25*. The motion was **seconded** by Troxell and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

City of Evans 37th Street Widening Project Scope Changes

Bornhoft stated the City of Evans is proposing a scope change for the 37th Street Widening Project which was awarded \$1.1M Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding in the 2018 Call for Projects. Mark Oberschmidt, City of Evans Engineer, presented the proposed scope change, including removing federal funding for a portion of the project which will then be completed using local funds and applying the \$1,185,565 of STBG funds to complete a double-lane roundabout project at 37th Street and 47th Avenue which is the opposite end of the project.

Oberschmidt explained the reason for the request was due to a change in phasing. Changing the phasing would allow the roundabout construction to tie in with the widening of 47th Avenue which is currently under construction. D. Clark asked how the new scope would have been scored in comparison to the other projects in the original Call for Projects. Bornhoft noted the project has not been scored based on the new scope, but in the past TAC and Planning Council

have been asked to determine whether a scope change is reasonable and fair. TAC discussed the scope change at their November meeting and were supportive of the change.

Council expressed concerns about the project scope change and allowing the funding to be used for a portion of the project which was not scored during the Call for Projects process in 2018, noting there is a project remaining unfunded from the same Call. James asked for an explanation of how the new scope would affect the scoring of the project based on the established criteria. Council requested the City of Evans present more information on the eligibility and reasonableness of the scope change prior to taking action.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Bracke invited any new members of the planning council to reach out to her to discuss Transportation Commission or CDOT topics.

CDOT R4 Update

Heather Paddock, CDOT Region 4 Transportation Director, reported the construction was halted during the winter holidays, but will continue into 2021 on the I-25 corridor.

I-25 Coalition

D. Clark reported Commissioner James is the new chair for the coalition and will be providing updates moving forward. Troxell asked for clarification on the purpose of the coalition. James stated it helps facilitate collaboration and advocates for funding.

Host Council Member Report

James reported the projects in the Weld County Transportation Plan are fully funded.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff