

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

Virtual Meeting

January 20, 2021

1:00 – 3:12 p.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mitch Nelson, Chair – Severance
Eric Tracy, Vice Chair – Larimer County
Dawn Anderson – Weld County
Allison Baxter – Greeley
Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Josie Hadley – CDOT
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans

NFRMPO STAFF:

Medora Bornhoft
AnnaRose Cunningham
Ryan Dusil
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cassie Archuleta – Fort Collins
Scott Ballstadt – Windsor
Abdul Barzak – Severance
Darren Davis – GET
James Eussen – CDOT
Candice Folkers – COLT
Katie Guthrie – Loveland
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort
Katrina Kloberdanz – CDOT
Lauren Light – Weld County
Evan Pinkham – Weld County
Randy Ready – Evans
Taylor Robinson – Weld County
Danielle Serna – Weld County

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 DECEMBER 16, 2020 TAC MINUTES

Oberschmidt moved to approve the December 16, 2020 TAC minutes. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

Transfort Program of Projects (POP) – Katlyn Kelly, Transfort, described the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Program of Projects (POP) for the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area (TMA). As the designated recipient for the TMA, each year Transfort prepares a POP that meets all Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements. The City of Loveland Transit (COLT) is a direct recipient of FTA \$5307 and \$5339 funding and therefore COLT’s projects under those funding programs are not included in the Transfort POP. Transfort’s funding exchange with Berthoud, NFRMPO, and COLT \$5310 funds remains in effect.

The POP includes seven projects funded with FTA \$5307, \$5310, and \$5339 funding. Kelly noted the funding amounts in the TAC packet were estimates and will be updated to reflect the official amounts announced on January 19, 2021 by FTA; however, the projects included in the TAC packet will remain the same. Transfort conducted the required public comment processes, and no negative comments were received. Klockeman moved to approve the Transfort POP. Baxter seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

January 2021 TIP Amendment – Cunningham identified the two project revisions and one project addition included in the January 2021 TIP Amendment. The revisions include increasing funding for the *North I-25 Design Build* project and the *North I-25: WCR38 to SH402* project and adding Greeley’s *83rd Avenue Roadway Improvements* project. Oberschmidt moved to approve the TIP Amendment. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Projects Recommended for Stimulus Funding – Cunningham explained federal stimulus funding for highway infrastructure was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The NFRMPO anticipates receiving \$4M, with another \$28M available for projects selected by CDOT Region 4. The Executive Committee, NFRMPO staff, and CDOT staff worked collaboratively to identify projects to receive funding. The deadline for obligating the funds is September 30, 2024; however, CDOT is requiring a more expedited timeline and expects projects to go to ad in summer 2021.

NFRMPO staff contacted project sponsors to identify projects that could use the funding quickly. Three projects previously selected in NFRMPO Calls for Projects were recommended for stimulus funding, which will free up to \$4M in funding for allocation in the upcoming Call for Projects later this year. In addition, CDOT Region 4 selected another project within the NFR region: the Berthoud Mobility Hub at SH 56 and I-25 with \$6.5M in stimulus funding.

TAC members discussed using the freed-up funds for partially funded projects from the 2018 Call for Projects instead of rolling the funds into the upcoming Call. Mallette noted it is unclear how much funding will return to the NFRMPO, because the original estimate of \$4M to the NFRMPO was revised downward to \$1.8M. The statewide total, meanwhile, was not lowered. Despite the reduced allocation, CDOT is following through on its commitment to provide the original estimates of stimulus funding to each TMA. Once it is known how much funding is freed-up, the TAC can decide how to allocate the funds.

TAC members requested more information on how the projects were selected and the approval status of the list. Cunningham explained the three recommended projects were the only ones with Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding able to go to ad by June 2021. Mallette explained although the Colorado Transportation Commission (TC) approved the NFRMPO’s projects at their special meeting on January 4, 2021, it is still possible to make changes. Per the NFRMPO’s TIP policy, the funding swap for the three projects will be processed with a TIP Modification, while the funding for the Berthoud Mobility Hub is included in the January TIP Amendment.

Oberschmidt moved to approve the three projects recommended for the NFRMPO's stimulus funding, noting the decision of how to award the freed-up funding would be made later. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

No items this month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City of Evans 37th Street Widening Project Scope Changes – Bornhoft recapped the Discussion at the November TAC meeting and January Planning Council meeting and asked TAC to consider how the proposed roundabout project would score compared to other STBG projects submitted in the 2018 Call for Projects. Mark Oberschmidt, City of Evans, presented the request to move the awarded federal funding to the western end of the project location to fund a roundabout and widening, noting a roundabout would be constructed in either scenario. The widening from two lanes to four lanes also would occur in either scenario. The City of Evans is providing a substantial local overmatch to the project, and local funds have already been budgeted.

TAC discussed whether the proposal constituted a new project or simply a subset of the original project. Bornhoft clarified the original project application was for widening along 37th Street between 35th Avenue and 47th Avenue, not for intersection improvements, and therefore the request constituted a different project. Baxter noted 37th Street is a regionally significant corridor, and the project would benefit the region.

Klockeman asked about the status of current and future developer contributions. Oberschmidt explained there is no development currently happening along 37th Street. The development at 47th Avenue north of 37th Street is not directly adjacent to the roundabout, but is contributing \$200K for sidewalk, streetlighting, and road improvements. Klockeman recommended clarifying with Planning Council why the developer is not contributing to the roundabout and about how future developments would pay impact fees for roadways.

Anderson stated Weld County is a financial partner for the originally submitted project. Weld County supports the proposed roundabout and has agreed their contribution can be applied to the project. Anderson requested additional information on the design, noting it will be important to ensure the design serves regional needs. Oberschmidt stated he was not sure if the roundabout will have free right turns. Anderson asked if ROW acquisition could delay the project. Oberschmidt stated one ROW acquisition is in progress and is not anticipated to cause any delays.

Klockeman stated he supports the proposal because it meets the intent of the original submittal and the City is still committed to completing the entire project. Nelson noted since the project is not asking for additional money or moving to a different corridor, approving the request would not set a precedent.

For the upcoming Council discussion, Nelson recommended identifying how the project was submitted and what is being changed. Mallette also recommended clarifying the role of developer contributions and what about the scope was changing.

10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects Revisited – Karasko described the purpose and development of the NFRMPO's 10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects, which was approved in early 2020. The list includes 57 projects in three tiers for each of three modes: roadway, transit, and non-motorized. The first tier identifies the highest priority projects in rank order for the purpose of advocating for additional funding. Tier 1 projects will be the first considered for any new funding made available to the region. However, projects do not need to be in Tier 1 to receive funding, as funding could come from other sources. Karasko explained the purpose of revisiting the list is to ensure it is up to date and reflects the region's priorities.

Prior to the meeting, Tier 1 project sponsors were asked for updated funding estimates and project status updates so that completed projects could be removed from the list. Submitted updates are included in the handout. For the non-motorized projects, the packet contains the most up to date project information.

CDOT Region 4 provided several suggestions for moving projects from one tier to another, including moving the third general purpose lane projects on I-25 to Tier 2, instead of their current status of Tier 1 and Tier 3. Mallette asked if TAC supported the proposed changes. TAC members requested additional time to consider the project priorities comprehensively and requested including Planning Council in the prioritization process.

On the transit list, Baxter and Folkers confirmed the projects in their communities have not yet been completed and should remain on the list.

Karasko noted the review is planned to conclude in April, although the review process could be extended if needed as there is no imposed deadline for updating the list. Karasko requested sponsors provided updated information by February 5, 2021 and stated the goal is to complete project updates prior to requesting Planning Council's input on priorities.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

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

Regional Transit Agencies – Davis stated the Poudre Express is operating and serving as a connection between UNC-Windsor-CSU.

Senior Transportation – Karasko stated Cory Schmitt, NFRMPO Mobility Manager, is building a website for the One Call/One Click Center for launch in summer 2021. Gordon and Schmitt are working on transportation services for seniors to vaccination sites in Larimer County.

Regional Air Quality Council – Bornhoft reported the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) adopted the Serious SIP in December 2020, including the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB) proposed by the RAQC and supported by the NFRMPO. The NFRMPO reached out to local Chambers of Commerce to recruit large private sector employers, defined as those with 100 or more employees, to participate in interviews being conducted via a DRCOG contract to obtain employer input on the proposed Employer-Based Trip Reduction (ETRP) program. The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) opened the Charge Ahead Colorado Grant Application for electric vehicle charging station funding of up to 80 percent. Grants are available through the CEO for any area of the state outside of Denver Metro. Applications are due February 16, 2021. The final Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Roadmap was released and some of the NFRMPO's comments were addressed. NFRMPO staff will attend CDPHE's listening session on January 28, 2021 to provide input on GHG reductions in the transportation sector.

REPORTS

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

Bike & Ped Counter Updates – A written report was provided.

Mobility Committee Updates – A written report was provided.

Q4 TIP Modifications – A written report was provided.

CDOT Inactives Report – A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Annual Report – A written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko noted the packet includes updates on the two CanDo Colorado grant programs. The Premium Transit Analysis RFP was released on January 18, 2021 and can be found on the NFRMPO website.

Cunningham stated the *FY2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) is in development. The project submission window for funded projects will open on January 29, and she will email TAC members to request project information for federally funded projects and locally funded regionally significant projects.

Dusil stated the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) is spotlighting the NFRMPO's social media accounts during the week of February 1, 2021. NFRMPO staff will be posting about ongoing and upcoming projects in the region, including reposting items from local community's social media pages. TAC members can contact him or Alex Gordon if there is any content they would like included.

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 a Discussion on the 10-Year Pipeline and the Evans' project request, hopefully for Action.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Medora Bornhoft, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 as a virtual meeting.