

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

**February 4, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Don McLeod- CHAIR	-Severance
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Dave Clark	-Loveland
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Kristen Stephens	-Larimer County
Lanie Isbell	-Eaton
Scott James	-Weld County
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Brett Payton	-Greeley
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Wade Troxell	-Fort Collins

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Kathleen	-Transportation
Bracke	Commission
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 Barzak, Darin Barrett, Frank Baszler, Allison Baxter, Bill Becker, Drew Brooks, Rich Christy, James Eussen, Jamie Grim, Josie Hadley, Butch Hause, Omar Herrera, Myron Hora, Wayne Howard, Will Jones, Katlyn Kelly, Katrina Klobberdanz, Dean Klingner, Mitch Nelson, Mark Oberschmidt, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Randy Ready, Mike Silverstein, Sandra Solin, Robin Stoneman, Eric Tracy, James Usher, Kaley Zeisel

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:

Stephens moved to approve the *February 4, 2021 Meeting Agenda as Submitted*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

Karspeck moved to approve the *January 7, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted*. The motion was **seconded** by Troxell 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)

Mike Silverstein, RAQC Executive Director, discussed the RAQC's Employer-Based Trip Reduction Program (ETRP) Work Group efforts to address approaches for commuting. ETRP programs have been deployed across the country. In 2020, transportation was a significant contributor to ozone, accounting for 17 percent of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions and 33 percent of nitrous oxides (NOx) emissions. The goal of the program is to decrease employees single-occupant vehicle (SOV) commuting trips and reduce ozone. Silverstein noted many Front Range organizations and local governments have resources to take voluntary action, including the VanGo™ program. The State is proceeding with a similar approach for reducing vehicle trips as part of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution (GHG) Reduction Roadmap. RAQC and the State will combine efforts into one collaborative initiative. Silverstein stated he expects the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) will review the rulemaking in May.

The ETRP Work Group started by looking at employers with more than 250 employees at one site, which would reach 500,000 employees at 800 employers. The ETRP's target is to reduce SOV trips to no more than 75 percent commute trips per site by 2023 and 60 percent by 2025. Silverstein noted employers need to develop employee trip reduction plan, appoint employee transportation coordinators, and complete periodic surveys of employees to ensure compliance with the rule. The State and the ETRP are working on outreach support to help employers implement ETRP efforts. Silverstein highlighted RAQC can only make recommendations, it cannot enforce rules; as a result, the State would be responsible for compliance. It is expected the trips in SOV commute trips would lead to large decreases in VOCs, NOx, CO, and GHGs. The ETRP Work Group has been working on a proposal for six months and is looking to implement the rule in late 2022 to early 2023.

James asked what stakeholders were engaged. Silverstein said he can send the list to NFRMPO staff. James asked if there is an incentive-based program/strategy. Silverstein said there are tax incentives in place, but RAQC and the State are discussing this as part of the outreach effort. James asked what it costs the business to comply with the rule. Silverstein responded he does not know but this question has been discussed in the Work Group. James asked if there is reimbursement for complying with the regulations. Silverstein said businesses will bear the burden of compliance. James asked how the rule will this be enforced. Silverstein noted initial conversations are happening now. Silverstein does not expect that the State intends to have a heavy hand in enforcement if businesses show a concerted effort to comply.

D. Clark asked how businesses like hospitals with multiple shifts can comply. Silverstein noted the program needs to start slow and consider different employer types. He expects more enforcement over time as the State implements the rule. Clark asked why the previous requirement ended. Silverstein stated compliance was low with no enforcement.

Mallette asked how CDPHE, CDOT, and RAQC's efforts will work together. Silverstein noted there is one effort on this rule. CDOT deferred to CDPHE/APCD to develop this program.

McLeod asked if RAQC could host a work session with the Planning Council to discuss this topic. Silverstein said RAQC would be willing to host a discussion with the Planning Council.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoff reviewed NFRMPO involvement in the ETRP and GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap, including which of the NFRMPO's comments were incorporated into the document. Bornhoff noted DRCOG undertook surveys of large employers in the Denver region, and NFRMPO staff asked to have DRCOG do interviews in the NFRMPO region. Bornhoff reached out to Chambers of Commerce to try to find employers, but the quick turnaround time meant there were no interviews in the NFRMPO region. Bornhoff noted the NFRMPO is advocating to find other ways to have focused input sessions.

Chair McLeod opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair McLeod stated he is interested in incorporating more training for Council members into the Council meetings. Cunningham played the "What is an MPO?" training.

Executive Director Report

Mallette noted the Request for Proposals (RFP) is available for the North Front Range Premium Transit Analysis, which is funded using \$125,000 in Multimodal Options Funds matched by VanGo™ sales tax exchange funds. Mallette stated the RFP closes March 1st. Mallette highlighted the Cory Schmitt, Mobility Manager, is fast-tracking the One Call/One Click Center to help coordinate transportation to vaccinations in Larimer County in partnership with the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management, transportation providers, health providers, and other stakeholders.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Q4 2020 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

No items on the consent agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

Transfort Program of Projects (POP)

Katlyn Kelly, Transfort Compliance Specialist, presented the FY2021 Program of Projects for the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area (TMA). Fort Collins is the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds in the TMA, which also includes BATS, COLT, and the NFRMPO. Kelly briefly reviewed the three updated FTA Sections 5307, 5310, and 5339 apportionments for the region. No negative comments were received during any of the opportunities for public comment.

Troxell **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-02 ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REGARDING FTA \$5307, \$5310, \$5339 FORT COLLINS/LOVELAND/BERTHOUD TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR FFY21*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

January 2021 TIP Amendment

AnnaRose Cunningham, Transportation Planner I, stated the amendment includes three requests to modify the FY2020-2023 TIP. The 30-day public comment period opened January 13, 2021 and closes February 11, 2021. No comments have been received to date, and Council action is contingent on no comment being submitted.

Karspeck **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-04 APPROVING THE JANUARY 2021 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

City of Evans 37th Street Widening Project Scope Changes

Bornhoff reviewed the Planning Council discussion at the January 7, 2021 meeting. Planning Council members discussed setting a precedent for project changes, how the project would score using STBG scoring, and how developers contributed funds to the project. Bornhoff stated Table 1 in the packet showed projects funded in the 2018 Call for

Projects. TAC members discussed the project details and reached consensus that the roundabout would provide similar benefits and score similarly to the original project.

Oberschmidt noted traffic is expected to increase in the approaches to the roundabout. Evans has budgeted local funds to expand the road, constructing 47th Avenue to Sienna Avenue with federal funds and Sienna Avenue to 35th Avenue with local funds. This phased approach allows Evans to complete the design, and begin and complete construction sooner. Oberschmidt highlighted the developer of an apartment complex at the intersection will contribute \$200,000 to the project and \$600,000 in Traffic Impact Fees. Development of other parcels near the intersection could further contribute to Traffic Impact Fees.

Stephens asked how funding could be used if Evans returned funds. Bornhoft noted Evans could return funds, and other projects on the list could be eligible. Bornhoft also noted additional stimulus funds could fund the unfunded projects on the list. Stephens, James, and D. Clark noted their support for the project because the funding remains on the same corridor and supports the same project.

The *City of Evans 37th Street Widening Project Scope Changes* will return as an Action item in March.

10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects Revisited

Karasko stated the NFRMPO is working with TAC and CDOT to update the 10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects. Projects were initially identified for CDOT to incorporate into the STIP and Statewide Transportation Plan. The initial 10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects included 57 projects along Regionally Significant Corridors (RSCs) compiled from the Regional Transportation Plan, the US34 and US85 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) studies, the CDOT Region 4 ballot project list, and TAC and Council members. Projects were divided into three tiers, and the Tier 1 list of projects was sent to CDOT. Tier 2 and 3 lists were created from the remaining list of projects but were not prioritized. NFRMPO staff reviewed the list of projects with TAC at their January 20 meeting. Karasko noted there is no deadline for completing this exercise but had asked for feedback by February 5. Troxell stated there is a need to keep revisiting list, especially as communities consider additional criteria and move toward more data-driven analyses. Karasko noted the metrics can be discussed at TAC.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

No report.

CDOT R4 Update

Paddock provided updates on I-25 construction, including big travel lane shifts. CDOT is working to straighten the Big Thompson bridge, where two major crashes shut down the interstate. CDOT is working to mitigate risks, including adding signage to the corridor. Paddock stated US34 will switch onto the new bridge in March, and the Prospect Road Bridge will be complete this spring. Bridge work will occur outside of the right-of-way at SH60. CDOT has refined the construction packages for Segment 6, and is waiting for the full Mobility Hub package. Paddock noted CDOT will be part of the 10-Year Pipeline of Projects discussion. Troxell asked for the NoCo Regional Airport be part of conversation about the mobility hub.

STAC report

A written report was provided.

I-25 Coalition

James stated Senator Faith Winter and Representative Matt Gray attended the meeting to discuss transportation initiatives being discussed in the General Assembly. James noted rail, mobility, and equity have been big parts of the conversation, and there is hesitancy to change the Highway Users Tax Fund. Funding priorities will rely on the 10-Year Pipeline of Projects. Mallette noted the General Assembly is not planning to fund construction of the Front Range Passenger Rail but wants to ensure the project is ready to compete for federal and/or local funds.

Host Council Member Report

M. Clark noted there was a ribbon cutting for 23rd Avenue between 37th Street and Quay Street to expand the road from two lanes to four lanes. M. Clark also noted 37th Street from 17th Avenue to US85 was widened and includes sidewalks and gutters.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff