

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

**Virtual Meeting**

**February 17, 2021**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.**

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**NFRMPO STAFF:**

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

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud  
Marco Carani – Johnstown  
Jeff Schreier – Eaton  
Town of LaSalle  
Ranae Tunison – FTA

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cassie Archuleta – Fort Collins  
Scott Ballstadt – Windsor  
Abdul Barzak – Severance  
Darren Davis – GET  
Candice Folkers – COLT  
Katie Guthrie – Loveland  
Dan Joseph – Weld County  
Tamara Keefe – FHU  
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort  
Katrina Kloberdanz – CDOT  
Lauren Light – Weld County  
Randy Ready – Evans  
Taylor Robinson – Weld County  
Danielle Serna – Weld County  
Elizabeth Relford – 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 JANUARY 20, 2021 TAC MINUTES**

Oberschmidt moved to approve the January 20, 2021 TAC minutes. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

No items this month.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**City of Evans 37<sup>th</sup> Street Widening Project Scope Changes** – Bornhoft stated the Planning Council indicated their support for the scope changes at the February 4, 2021 Planning Council meeting. Oberschmidt stated the City of Evans anticipates \$1.5M in impact fees from development at the northeast corner of the project and construction is expected to begin in 2022. Anderson moved to approve the *City of Evans 37<sup>th</sup> Street Widening Project Scope Changes*. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Employer Based Trip Reduction Program (ETRP) Comments** – Bornhoft highlighted the ETRP proposal timeline, major elements, and NFRMPO staff comments. The RAQC Board is scheduled to discuss the ETRP at their meeting on March 5 and to consider endorsement on April 2. If endorsed by the RAQC, the ETRP would be submitted to the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) for their consideration at a rulemaking hearing request in May and a rulemaking hearing in August. NFRMPO staff have been involved in the RAQC's ETRP Work Group and will be soliciting feedback from Planning Council on the ETRP at their meeting on March 4 to submit to the RAQC.

Ferko added the Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) has joined the RAQC's effort to develop an ETRP because the State of Colorado's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap identifies an ETRP as a strategy.

Anderson asked if there has been a response from Mike Silverstein, RAQC Executive Director, on questions raised by Planning Council members. Mallette stated she has not heard back from Silverstein. Ferko stated she would follow up and provide updates where possible.

Bornhoft stated there are 70-80 employers in the North Front Range region with 250 employees or more that could potentially be impacted by the ETRP; however, employee start times, worksite locations, and full-time/part-time status among those employers are still unknown.

Ferko stated the RAQC will be increasingly focused on options for a tiered approach and potential exemptions at its upcoming meetings.

Baxter asked if there is analysis available on the effectiveness of similar programs in California. Ferko stated the RAQC has information on its website about programs in Seattle and Los Angeles.

Baxter asked if there is concern about being able to attract large employers with the proposed regulations. Ferko stated the RAQC is currently looking into this.

Baxter asked when the geographic extent of the regulations will be decided. Ferko stated the decision will be made by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) prior to the May rulemaking request.

Baxter asked if Electric Vehicles (EVs) would count toward meeting the commute rate in the proposed regulation. Ferko stated employee use of EVs would not count as SOV since the focus is reduced emissions.

Anderson asked if there are lessons learned from previous Colorado ETRP efforts and what the proposed enforcement plan is in this proposal. Ferko stated RAQC is looking closely at historic efforts. RAQC is not an enforcement agency and is only looking at the structure of the regulations at this point. Nelson stated he would like to hear more about enforcement plans.

Baxter asked why the business community has not been engaged yet. Ferko stated the RAQC is increasing outreach and engagement efforts now. In the Denver metropolitan area, they are working closely with the Transportation Management Associations (TMAs). Bornhoft stated in July 2020 the NFRMPO used data from

the State to identify potentially impacted employers but was restricted from using the dataset to contact them. Buckman stated feedback from area employers on the proposed exemptions would be helpful.

Mallette stated a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) is usually conducted for these types of proposed programs. TAC members agreed a CBA would be helpful for the region.

Coffin stated he would send additional information on a DRCOG analysis of 70 to 80 local, regional, and state ETRP programs across the nation.

TAC members stated they were not comfortable acting on the NFRMPO staff comments with the limited available information. TAC members will discuss their concerns with their Planning Council representative prior to the March 4, 2021 Planning Council meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

No items this month.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Transit Safety Targets** – Cunningham stated the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires certain operators of public transportation systems receiving federal funds to develop Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP), including targets for transit safety performance measures. The targets for each mode of service include total fatalities, fatality rate, total injuries, injury rate, total safety events, safety event rate, and system reliability/major mechanical failures. In the North Front Range region, these requirements apply to Transfort, Greeley-Evans Transit (GET), and City of Loveland Transit (COLT). Cunningham stated the NFRMPO is recommending maintaining each transit agency's targets separately. Transit providers explained the justification for their agency's Transit Safety Targets and TAC members indicated support for the targets.

**Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan** – Dusil highlighted the NFRMPO's requirements for addressing Environmental Justice (EJ), background describing the EJ Plan development process, stakeholders engaged, major feedback themes, and the nine recommendations within the Draft EJ Plan. Dusil and Gordon expanded on four recommendations specifically impacting the NFRMPO's Call for Projects, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), performance measurement, and the creation of a Community Advisory Community (CAC).

Baxter asked if the examples presented from other regions are the preferred methods among NFRMPO staff. Dusil stated the examples are presented to illustrate options and NFRMPO staff would discuss the examples and other options further with TAC members as part of each individual initiative.

Klockeman asked how local agency planning efforts on a given project would be factored into the Call for Projects recommendation. Gordon stated NFRMPO staff would like information on what the planning process was, who was involved, and/or an explanation of how the community's support for the project is captured.

**10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects Revisited** – Karasko requested TAC members review the three updated tiers of projects on the six identified corridors and provide updated project information.

Anderson asked why the US34/US85 interchange project was moved down the Tier 1 list by CDOT Region 4. Hadley responded the ranking was developed based on existing congestion, safety needs, and areas anticipated for growth and development.

Mallette asked if projects further down the list could be funded before projects higher on the list. Hadley stated they could, depending on future funding and partnership opportunities.

Karasko asked if any projects in the list cannot be realistically completed within the 10-year horizon. Klockeman stated although the City of Loveland does not currently have the funding to complete their projects, they are hopeful to secure it and would like the projects to remain in the list. Other TAC members agreed.

Anderson stated the two US34/WCR17 projects should have Greeley and Windsor listed as the community instead of Weld County.

TAC members expressed interest in reviewing the list and rankings in more detail at a later meeting with more objective information on the needs and impacts associated with various projects.

TAC members will direct further CDOT-related questions to Hadley. As needed, CDOT Region 4 staff may provide additional information on their prioritization and ranking decisions at a future TAC meeting.

## **OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS**

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

**Regional Transit Agencies** – Davis stated a survey about the Poudre Express Survey is now available on the GET home page. Gordon stated the NFRMPO Premium Transit Analysis Request for Proposals (RFP) is open through March 1, 2021.

**Senior Transportation** – Schmitt stated NFRMPO staff are moving forward on branding and phase one website procurement for the One Call-One Click Center / RideNoCo project. RideNoCo service has been fast-tracked to provide rides to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments in Larimer and Weld counties.

**Regional Air Quality Updates** – Bornhoft stated the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) has an EV Fast-Charging Plazas Grant Program open until April 16, 2021. Air quality conformity analysis on the FY2022-2025 TIP will be discussed at a TAC meeting this spring. CDPHE's next greenhouse gas stakeholder listening session is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2021, but may be rescheduled.

## **REPORTS**

**February Planning Council Meeting Summary** – A written report was provided.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Hadley stated the two Can Do Colorado grant programs are accepting applications on a rolling basis. The Telework program developed to support communities in the creation of innovative Transportation Demand Management (TDM) tools. A local match is encouraged but not required and grant requests must be under \$10,000. The Revitalizing Main Streets Program supports activities that improve safety and create new community spaces to encourage healthy activity and mobility. A 10 percent local match is required and grant

requests must be under \$50,000. For both programs, activities must begin within 30 days of an executed contract.

Klockeman stated the City of Loveland has a job posting for Civil Engineer II. Connect Loveland was discussed at Loveland City Council study session last week and the draft document is available for comment on the city's website. Klockeman suggested doing a periodic project spotlight for projects in the TIP at future TAC meetings.

Oberschmidt stated the City of Evans Transportation Master Plan is moving forward, with a stakeholder meeting scheduled in a few weeks. Oberschmidt thanked the City of Greeley for working with Xcel Energy to move utilities underground as part of the 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue project.

Buckman stated construction of an overpass at Vine Drive and Lemay Avenue in Fort Collins will begin this year. The City of Fort Collins will be posting a Civil Engineer II position in March.

Anderson stated Weld County is wrapping up design on the WCR74/WCR33 roundabout and the 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue/O Street roundabout. The County is looking to do an impact fee study update.

### **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 Project Spotlight presentation on the 37<sup>th</sup> Street project in Evans, Transit Safety Targets, the Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan, and a TIP Amendment.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.**

**Meeting minutes submitted by:** Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO Staff

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