

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

**March 4, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**Voting Members Present:**

Don McLeod- -Severance  
CHAIR  
Kathleen Bracke -Transportation Commission  
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  
Brett Payton -Greeley  
Paul Rennemeyer -Windsor  
Wade Troxell -Fort Collins  
Dena Wojtach -CDPHE

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta -Garden City  
Troy Mellon -Johnstown

**MPO Staff:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson, Nick Armstrong, Elizabeth Austin, Frank Baszler, Allison Baxter, Erika Benti, Rachel Bolin, Perry Buck, Rich Christy, Rick Coffin, James Eussen, Susan Gutowsky, Josie Hadley, Butch Hause, Joel Hemesath, Myron Hora, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Dean Klingner, Mitch Nelson, Mark Oberschmidt, Heather Paddock, Randy Ready, Elizabeth Relford, Jan Rowe, Jodie Shaddock-McNally, Robin Stoneman, Eric Tracy, James Usher

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

**Public Comment:**

A written public comment was provided in the packet.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE MARCH 4, 2021 MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

**Move to Approve Minutes:**

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 4, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer 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)

Wojtach highlighted opportunities to provide public comment on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Report and the draft Climate Equity Framework. Virtual hearings on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Transportation rulemakings will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Meetings with large employers regarding the Employer Trip Reduction Program (ETRP) will be held March 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

#### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoff stated NFRMPO staff have been working on the Employer-Based Trip Reduction (ETRP), GHG Pollution Budgets for transportation plans, and the GHG Inventory and Climate Equity Framework

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair McLeod opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Report of the Chair

Alex Gordon played the NFRMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) training video. Chair McLeod stated the graphics highlighting eligible projects types for the various federal funding programs is helpful.

##### Executive Director Report

Malette stated the NFRMPO Executive Committee would like to continue with virtual meetings through June and then reevaluate.

The One Call-One Click Center will henceforth be referred to as Ride NoCo. A Ride NoCo logo and branding have been developed and the program has connected two people to vaccination appointments to date. Larimer and Weld counties developed similar reimbursement models for vaccination appointment rides. The Ride NoCo website is under development now.

NFRMPO staff have requested permission to form a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to assist with public engagement on NFRMPO plans and programs. The CAC will include community members from across the region who are not already part of an NFRMPO committee. The application is open through April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Executive Committee has approved a one-year pilot period to evaluate the effectiveness of the CAC. Stephens asked what kind of outreach NFRMPO staff has conducted to distribute the CAC application. Gordon stated the NFRMPO has sent information through its various mailing lists, a newsletter, and social media accounts.

Malette provided a legislative update, highlighting potential a bill under consideration in the Colorado State Legislature this session. This session is likely to include consideration of additional transportation funding sources, including a fee on gasoline; Revising the Electric Vehicle (EV) registration fees to be in closer alignment to gasoline powered vehicles; general fund transfers; and a road usage fee for delivery and service vehicles. The additional revenue generated would be distributed across Colorado mostly based on Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF) formulas, meaning direct allocation to local agencies and the State. The Denver Metro Mayors Caucus would like some funding to be allocated to MPOs. D. Clark stated the Metro Mayors Caucus would also like to see a higher share of the funding allocated to the Denver metropolitan area.

##### Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

##### TAC

A written report was provided.

##### Mobility

A written report was provided.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

No items on the consent agenda.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### City of Evans 37<sup>th</sup> Street Widening Project Scope Changes

Bornhoff stated the TAC and Planning Council have indicated support for the scope changes at previous meetings.

James **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05 APPROVING THE CITY OF EVANS 37TH STREET WIDENING PROJECT SCOPE CHANGES*. The motion was **seconded** by D. Clark and **passed** unanimously.

### NFRMPO Comments on the RAQC's Employer-Based Trip Reduction Program (ETRP)

Bornhoff highlighted NFRMPO staff comments on the ETRP, including support for changes included in the latest proposal. The comments will be presented to the RAQC Board in a letter at their March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The APCD will have a request for rulemaking hearing before the AQCC May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and a rulemaking hearing August 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

Planning Council member expressed concerns that employer outreach in the NFRMPO region has not yet begun, the ETRP does not currently include a quantifiable program target, the name of the program is not aligned with its intent, potential compliance issues with Federal Labor Standards Act if employers do not have purview over employee commute habits, and the lack of regulatory accountability if no penalties will be issued.

Bornhoff stated a letter was recently sent from APCD to large employers across the state explaining the ETRP proposal and highlighting upcoming listening session opportunities. More employer outreach will be done in Northern Colorado in the coming weeks.

Chair McLeod asked if any of the deadlines can be delayed to allow for more robust employer outreach. Wojtch stated delaying deadlines is unlikely due to the constraints of the AQCC meeting calendar. It is anticipated that outreach on the proposal will be possible up until the August rulemaking hearing.

Wojtch stated strategies such as reporting employer progress to targets have been effective in programs without enforcement, and the majority of programs across the nation are based on good faith effort.

Chair McLeod stated frustration that NFRMPO staff were recently given permission by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to use employer contact information for ETRP outreach purposes though it was requested and denied several months ago. This permission, after the first request, would have allowed earlier outreach efforts to take place in the region.

Planning Council members suggested adding comments to the NFRMPO staff letter regarding Federal Labor Standards Act compliance, a request to delay the process to allow for more employer engagement and adding military personnel to the law enforcement exemption.

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE NFRMPO COMMENTS ON THE RAQC'S EMPLOYER-BASED TRIP REDUCTION PROGRAM (ETRP)* with the proposed additions. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

## **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. 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.

#### Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan

Dusil highlighted the NFRMPO's requirements for addressing Environmental Justice (EJ), background and timeline of the *EJ Plan* development process, stakeholder engagement, major feedback themes, and the nine recommendations within the Draft EJ Plan. James asked if the *EJ Plan* is a policy document. Dusil stated the EJ Plan would impact day-to-day NFRMPO staff operations and have some impacts on processes TAC is directly involved with. Planning Council members indicated support for the draft EJ Plan.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

#### Transportation Commission

Bracke thanked Planning Council members for expressing their concerns and suggestions at various meetings regarding State and Federal funding. Bracke stated Planning Council members should reach out to her if they would ever like to projects in their communities.

#### CDOT R4 Update

In 2018, Colorado Senate Bill (SB) 267 committed \$500M annually for four years for transportation projects across the State. CDOT Region 4 received \$730M of this funding. Of that, \$730M, the NFRMPO Region received a \$150M based on a modified Regional Priority Program (RPP) target allocation formula. CDOT Region Offices were directed to develop priority lists for the four years of funding as well as lists for years five through ten, under the assumption the SB267 funding would be continued. For the NFRMPO, the projects came from a tiered 10-year pipeline of projects developed by local agency staff and elected officials. Tier 1 of the pipeline totaled roughly \$1B. Priority in the pipeline was placed on North I-25. Because of the focus on North I-25, Region 4 received more funding than anticipated in years one and two. Year three SB267 funds are now becoming available and the highway funding allocated to Region 4 will be reduced from the first two years to achieve geographic equity across the State. For Region 4, CDOT is requesting \$9.2M in year three highway funding from the Transportation Commission. Paddock stated it is also time for Region 4 to start considering projects for funding years four and five. Mallette stated the TAC has discussed updating the 10-year pipeline and will likely bring it to Planning Council for discussion around May 2021. Paddock stated I-25 Segment 5 is still the highest priority project for Region 4.

Bolin gave a quick overview of CDOT's Revitalizing Main Streets Program stating that a funding increase for this program is likely in the near future.

#### STAC report

A written report was provided.

#### I-25 Coalition

No update

#### Host Council Member Report

Laake stated the Town of Timnath has hired a new Town Manager and Town Attorney. The Town is in the early phases of building a new police station. I-25 construction north of Harmony Road is ongoing and a combined high school and middle school is under construction along East Prospect Road and will be opening in 2022.

### **MEETING WRAP-UP:**

#### Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO Staff