

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

**June 3, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**Voting Members Present:**

Will Karspeck- Chair -Berthoud  
Jeni Arndt -Fort Collins  
Frank Bazler -Severance  
Kathleen Bracke -Transportation Commission  
Dave Clark -Loveland  
Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
Lanie Isbell -Eaton  
Scott James -Weld County  
Gary Lebsack -Johnstown alternate  
Brett Payton -Greeley  
Paul Rennemeyer -Windsor  
Kristin Stephens -Larimer County

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta -Garden City  
Elizabeth Austin -Milliken  
Mark Clark -Evans  
Lisa Laake -Timnath  
Dena Wojtach -CDPHE-APCD

**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 and Air Quality Planner III; **Ryan Dusil**, Transportation Planner II; **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner I; **Hanna Johnson**, Mobility Coordinator

**In Attendance:**

Dawn Anderson; Jeff Bailey; Abdul Barzak; Dan Betts; Chris Boespflug; Rich Christy; Rick Coffin; James Eussen; Nick Farber; Abra Geisler; Stephanie Gramberg; Kyle Gruver; Josie Hadley; Joel Hemsath; Wayne Herr; Omar Herrera; Myron Hora; Will Jones; Dean Klingner; Katrina Kloberdanz; Dylan Lindsey; Steve McCannon; Shaun McGrath; Mitch Nelson; Heather Paddock; Jan Rowe; Sandra Solin; Robin Stoneman

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

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda:**

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2021, MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED* and *APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

**Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

Chair Karspeck opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

Shaun McGrath, APCD, introduced himself as the new Environmental Programs Director at CDPHE. McGrath reviewed the written report that was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoft highlighted the NFRMPO will apply for party status for the ETRP AQCC rulemaking as was approved at the May 2021 Planning Council meeting. NFRMPO staff will bring a draft version of the pre-hearing statement to the July 1, 2021, Planning Council meeting. Council members can testify by acting as witnesses at the AQCC hearing in August and should contact Mallette if interested. Mallette asked for a Planning Council volunteer to help coordinate the pre-hearing statement and potentially present the information during the AQCC process. Stephens volunteered to help coordinate what is included in the pre-hearing statement with staff, and James volunteered to be on the witness list. Karspeck volunteered to help as needed. James, Stephens, and Mallette will meet offline prior to the July meeting.

Bornhoft reviewed the EPA announcement regarding the 2015 ozone standard expanding to include all of Weld County. James stated Weld County will be providing public comments and will be requesting that Weld County data also be considered regarding EPA modification of the boundary. Bornhoft will send data to the Planning Council prior to the next meeting.

Bornhoft stated CDOT staff will present at a future meeting regarding SB21-260.

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

Chair Karspeck opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Report of the Chair

Karspeck stated Planning Council will be hosting hybrid meetings, starting with the July 1, 2021, meeting in Berthoud. Arndt stated Fort Collins may be able to host in October, James stated Weld County may be able to host in August, and D. Clark stated Loveland may be able to host in November.

##### Executive Director Report

Mallette introduced Hanna Johnson, the NFRMPO's new Mobility Coordinator. Mallette stated there was a discussion at the June 2, 2021, I-25 Committee meeting to write a letter to CDOT in support of completing the unsolicited proposals process on North I-25. James and D. Clark noted their support for the letter of support.

##### Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

##### TAC

A written report was provided.

##### Mobility

A written report was provided.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

##### N I-25 Project Updates (Segment 6/Segments 7 & 8)

Abra Geissler, CDOT Region 4, reviewed Segment 6 progress and scope, including the construction phases, timeline, and processes. D. Clark asked about the possibility of the southbound on-ramp at LCR 16. Geissler stated it is still being studied and depends on the available funding. The CM/GC process may allow for savings that can be repurposed for this project.

Chris Boespflug, CDOT Region 4, reviewed Segment 7 & 8 progress and scope, including completion of design, right-of-way acquisitions and utility relocations nearing completion. Construction is expected to be completed in Q4 2023. CDOT is using the Integrated Construction Contract (ICC) concept, and the Kechter Road Bridge ICC Package is currently out for advertisement.

##### HPTE Update

Nick Farber, High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) Director, reviewed HPTE's purpose and structure. Farber explained the Unsolicited Proposal (USP) phases and fees, including threshold review, the conceptual proposal, and the detailed proposal steps. The Roadis proposal has completed the threshold review and is currently in the conceptual proposal phase.

The review team is meeting to discuss the proposal and will decide whether to move to the detailed proposal phase.

Farber reviewed the North I-25 TIFIA loan. The loan was for \$191M and provided capital expansion and tolling equipment and software for Segments 2, 3, and 6 through 8. The TIFIA is currently undergoing the TIFIA Credit Worthiness Review process and drafting the loan document.

D. Clark asked to clarify if HPTE would have to go out for a competitive bid even if the Roadis proposal is accepted. Farber responded HPTE and CDOT still complete the full procurement process. D. Clark asked what the next step would be if the proposal is rejected. Farber stated even if the proposal is rejected, the project may still move forward in another form.

Malette asked for clarification about writing a letter of support. Farber stated Mallette can send him the letter, and he will discuss with CDOT staff. Farber suggested submitting the letter before the next HPTE and Transportation Commission meetings on June 16th.

Malette asked if the TIFIA loan would need to be cancelled if HPTE accepted the Roadis proposal because the TIFIA loan will be repaid with toll revenue. Farber stated a similar process happened on US36 and they would not need to return the TIFIA loan.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### May 2021 TIP Amendment

Cunningham presented the proposed revisions to the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from CDOT, Transfort, and the NFRMPO.

*D. Clark moved to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-14 APPROVING THE MAY 2021 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP).* The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

#### 2021 UPWP Budget Amendment #2

Kimsey stated the budget amendment will approve the use of VanGo exchange funds to hire an air quality attorney.

*Stephens moved to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-15 APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY2021 BUDGET OF THE FY2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP).* The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

#### 2020 NFRMPO Audit

Kimsey introduced Kyle Gruber and Wayne Herr from MHP. Gruber reviewed major highlights from the audit, including the increase in VanGo revenue due to the CARES Act. Although there was one single audit adjustment, Gruber noted the success of the Accounting Team. Herr noted there were no findings under any of the three reports and standards.

*D. Clark moved to APPROVE the 2020 NFRMPO Audit.* The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### FY2021 STBG and TA Additional Funding Allocations

Cunningham noted the NFRMPO received stimulus funds at the beginning of 2021. Planning Council approved exchanging these funds with the STBG and TA projects programmed in FY2021. TAC recommended that the additional \$3.9M to be allocated to a partially funded project in Greeley and an unfunded project in Windsor. There are currently no unfunded TA projects in FY2021 or 2022. TAC requested ongoing conversations ensuring the funding is distributed equitably. D. Clark and James supported the projects and rolling the funds into the next funding cycle. Stephens requested more information about the partially and unfunded projects that are receiving funding. Information will be provided at the July Council meeting.

#### 2021 Call for Projects Discussion

Cunningham explained there will be a Call for Projects later in 2021. NFRMPO staff has held discussions with TAC and distributed a survey about ways to improve the next Call. The three discussions points for Council were related to an I-25 set aside, a bike/ped set-aside, and STBG request limits.

D. Clark asked what the timing was to make the decision about set-asides. Cunningham noted the Call for Projects will be opened in October, so NFRMPO staff is requesting guidance sooner

to continue work on the Call for Projects. Clark and James stated they supported creating an I-25 set-aside to leverage additional funds for the corridor. Stephens stated she wanted to talk to Larimer County staff, and other Council members agreed.

Karspeck noted his support for the bike/ped set-aside. D. Clark asked about how this funding compares to what has been typically spent on bike/ped projects. Cunningham responded this would be a new initiative but can do research of how this funding would compare. Stephens and Payton asked for additional information about how bike/ped projects may impact air quality. D. Clark suggested making bike/ped projects more competitive by revising scoring criteria.

Planning Councilmembers discussed the three proposals for STBG request limit proposals. The group eliminated Proposal C for limits based on VMT and population, and requested feedback from TAC on Proposals A and B.

#### Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Dusil presented on the draft Active Transportation Plan and noted the 30-day public comment period is open through June 11, 2021.

#### Premium Transit Analysis

Gordon presented on the Premium Transit Analysis and asked for volunteers to join the Policy Advisory Group. James, Stephens, Arndt, Payton, and Karspeck volunteered to serve on the Policy Advisory Group.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

#### Transportation Commission

Bracke reported SB21-260 has been sent to the Governor for signature and will provide new funding for transportation. Councilmembers with questions about the legislation should reach out to Bracke for more information.

#### CDOT R4 Update

Paddock stated construction continues on I-25. Councilmembers who want to get a tour of construction can reach out to Paddock. CDOT staff will be transitioning to being in the office part-time starting in July. Paddock stated there have been a large number of applications for Revitalizing Main Streets funds. She also offered tours of the I-25 construction project if anyone was interested.

#### STAC report

A written report was provided.

#### I-25 Coalition

James stated he had no additional update.

#### Host Council Member Report

Payton stated Greeley staff is working on the Transportation Master Plan, called *Greeley on the Go*. Greeley staff is working on community engagement in relation to the plan. Payton stated the transportation sales tax called Keep Greeley Moving will be on the ballot in November. Payton noted the Greeley Stampede will occur this summer.

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

#### Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

No items were suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff