

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

**Virtual Meeting**

**June 16, 2021  
1:00 p.m. – 2:51 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  
Richard Coffin – CDPHE-APCD  
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath  
Josie Hadley – CDOT  
Omar Herrera – Windsor  
Dave Klockeman – Loveland  
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans  
Adam Olinger - Town of Berthoud

**NFRMPO STAFF:**

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

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Marco Carani – Johnstown  
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken  
Town of Eaton  
Town of LaSalle

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Scott Ballstadt – Windsor  
Abdul Barzak – Severance  
Aaron Bustow – FHWA  
Wayne Chuang – RAQC  
Jessica Ferko – RAQC  
Candice Folkers – COLT  
Katie Guthrie – Loveland  
Myron Hora – WSP  
Tamara Keefe – FHU  
Lauren Light – 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 MAY 19, 2021 TAC MINUTES**

Buckman moved to approve the May 19, 2021 TAC minutes. Baxter seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **AIR QUALITY AGENDA**

**Regional Air Quality Updates** – Bornhoft stated NFRMPO Staff held the first air quality training for TAC members on Thursday, June 10, 2021. NFRMPO Staff plan to conduct additional air quality trainings and are open to topic suggestions. Planning Council will be discussing their position on the prehearing statement for the Employee Traffic Reduction Program (ETRP) at their July 1, 2021 meeting. Mallette suggested TAC members discuss the tiered ETRP approach with their Planning Council member prior to the July 1, 2021 meeting.

Bornhoft stated in May 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced their intention to add all of Weld County to the northern subarea of the Ozone non-attainment area for the 2015 ozone standard. The 30-day public comment period for this designation is open now and Planning Council will discuss it at their July 1, 2021 meeting. The State has until the end of July to submit data to EPA justifying that the designation is not appropriate.

Ferko stated there are exceedances of the 2008 ozone standard at two monitoring sites and exceedances of the 2015 ozone standard at four sites.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Active Transportation Plan** – Oberschmidt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEM**

**FY2021 STBG and TA Additional Funding Allocations** – Cunningham stated there are two projects from the FY2022-2023 Call for Projects that are eligible to receive additional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding. The Greeley *83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Roadway Improvements* project was partially funded and the Windsor *WCR13 Alignment Improvements* project was unfunded and waitlisted. There were no partially funded or waitlisted Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects. If the Greeley and Windsor projects are awarded additional funding, an additional \$2.2M in STBG would be left over. The \$2.2M could be made available to sponsors of existing projects with additional need beyond their original federal request. To facilitate this option, maximum request amounts by community were developed to reflect the additional funding.

Klockeman suggested it would be more equitable to all member agencies to roll the remaining \$2.2M into the 2021 Call for Projects rather than holding an off-cycle Call. Other TAC members concurred.

Anderson moved to approve the proposed additional allocation for the Greeley and Windsor projects and to roll the remaining \$2.2M STBG and \$85K TA funding into the 2021 Call for Projects. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**No items this month**

## **WORK SESSION**

**2021 Call for Projects Discussion** – Cunningham stated the 2021 Call for Projects was a discussion item at the June 3, 2021 Planning Council meeting. Planning Council members requested recommendations from the TAC regarding the three proposals presented. The first proposal is a \$10M set-aside for I-25 Segment 5 from STBG and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding programs. The set-aside would not be programmed until it is needed. If Segment 5 is funded through other sources, the funding would be made available to local agencies through a future Call for Projects.

Klockeman asked what the Planning Council's stance was on the I-25 set-aside. Cunningham stated there was some support for the set-aside, but members wanted more information from TAC members on what local projects they may be giving up.

Mallette noted using CMAQ funds for I-25 would leave more funding in the STBG pool, which is the more flexible funding program.

Anderson asked if CDOT would be able to cover the required match for the federal funds. Mallette stated CDOT can cover the match and perform the necessary air quality conformity analysis.

Baxter asked if the Roadis toll system proposal could potentially cover CDOT's remaining funding need. Mallette stated it is possible. CDOT is also anticipating receiving a \$150.23M TIFIA loan for Segments 2 through 5.

Klockeman expressed support for a set-aside but suggested a lower amount than \$10M to retain some STBG and CMAQ funding for local agency projects.

Buckman proposed a \$5M set-aside from the CMAQ pool, leaving half the CMAQ pool and the entire STBG pool for local agency projects. Other TAC members expressed support for this proposal.

Anderson suggested TAC members discuss this proposal with their Planning Council member prior to the July 1, 2021 Planning Council meeting.

Cunningham stated the second proposal is a \$1M-\$2M percentage allocation program for bicycle and pedestrian projects, consisting of 100 percent of the available TA funds supplemented by STBG and/or CMAQ funds.

Baxter stated two set-asides in one Call for Projects seemed excessive because they reduce the amount for traditional projects.

Anderson requested more information, such as how bicycle and pedestrian projects have been funded in previous Calls for Projects.

Klockeman expressed support for adjusting the STBG and CMAQ scoring criteria to ensure bicycle and pedestrian projects can be competitive rather than creating a percentage allocation program. Other TAC members concurred.

Cunningham state the third proposal, regarding individual agency STBG request limits, is to: (A) retain the population-based STBG request limits with a floor set at \$1M, or (B) set the STBG request limits to 50 percent of the pool, approximately \$4M.

Klockeman asked where the \$1M floor comes from. Cunningham stated it is based on award amounts from previous Calls for Projects. Bornhoft clarified the floor allows all communities to apply for up to \$1M and is not related to the minimum request for individual projects.

Nelson stated the \$1M floor seems reasonable from the small community perspective.

TAC members expressed support for Option A, population-based STBG request limits with a floor set at \$1M.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**NFRMPO Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM) Update** – Bornhoft explained NFRMPO staff is currently working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Travel Demand Model update. She reviewed the purpose and status of the Land Use Allocation Model and Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM) as well as the potential benefits and drawbacks of switching from a four-step RTDM to an activity-based RTDM. Development of an activity-based RTDM could leverage CDOT's existing statewide activity-based model for

easier implementation. NFRMPO staff proposes including both model types in the RFP to obtain cost estimates.

Other planned improvements with the RTDM include the development of bicycle level of traffic stress (LTS), enabling adjustable work from home percentages for scenario planning, and including consultant support for scenario development in the RFP.

Klockeman asked if a more complex activity-based RTDM will yield better results. Bornhoft stated calibration and validation of an activity-based RTDM requires similar effort compared with a four-step RTDM and will have increased sensitivity to help answer additional questions; however, transitioning to a new type of model will likely result in some challenges.

Baxter asked if locally developed models based on the current RTDM will become obsolete if the NFRMPO switches to an activity-based RTDM. Bornhoft stated changes identified as part of a local planning effort could likely be incorporated in the RTDM update, regardless of model type.

Bornhoft stated the base year will need to be updated for air quality conformity purposes. The updated RTDM will still rely on inputs from the 2009-2010 Front Range Household Travel Survey.

Klockeman suggested convening a meeting of a small group of frequent RTDM users to discuss further. Bornhoft stated she will send out a Doodle Poll for interested local agency staff. NFRMPO staff would also like to have two local agency staff members on the RFP scoring committee.

## **OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS**

**NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative** – Dusil noted the June meeting was an in-person workshop on the Poudre Trail in Windsor. Two groups, one on foot and one on bike, identified needs and brainstormed solutions for better wayfinding signage along the trail corridor. NoCo will continue the discussion at future meetings.

**Regional Transit Agencies** – Gordon stated the Premium Transit Analysis, known as Link NoCo, is underway and NFRMPO staff are looking for local agency staff volunteers for the Guidance Committee. Anyone who is interested should contact Gordon at [agordon@nfrmpo.org](mailto:agordon@nfrmpo.org).

**Senior Transportation** – Schmitt stated the RideNoCo website is under development, with a release scheduled for August. Schmitt is looking for people to help test the accessibility of the website. Schmitt asked anyone interested in beta testing to reach out to [mobility@nfrmpo.org](mailto:mobility@nfrmpo.org). Schmitt stated the soft launch of RideNoCo for vaccine transportation coordination has received 43 calls and has fulfilled 24 ride requests to vaccine appointments. Via Mobility Services is expanding its service area into southwest Weld County.

Johnson introduced herself as the NFRMPO's new Mobility Coordinator, stating she is originally from Greeley, studied at CSU, and most recently worked at Jefferson County on land use issues.

Gordon -stated the NFRMPO is starting work on the Coordinated Plan and would like help sharing a video explaining the project (<https://youtu.be/z6zbXGtpMBQ>) and a survey (<https://forms.gle/jEMLBCL6N1wfPBEx6>).

## **REPORTS**

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

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Mallette stated CDOT headquarters has released SB260 Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF) Revenue estimates. Karasko will send the spreadsheet to TAC members. Mallette stated there will be an hour-long tour of the I-25 construction at 4pm on Thursday, July 1, 2021, prior to the hybrid Planning Council meeting in Berthoud. RSVPs for the tour need to be sent to Mallette soon.

Anderson asked when TAC will resume in-person meetings. Karasko stated September at the earliest due to scheduling conflicts at the Windsor Community Recreation Center.

## **MEETING WRAP-UP**

**Final Public Comment** – There was no final public comment.

**Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions** – Karasko stated the July agenda will include a presentation regarding Transportation Management Association and Organization (TMA/TMO) funding from CDOT and a presentation on the State Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Roadmap Transportation Elements from CDOT.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.**

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

**The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 as a virtual meeting.**