

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

Virtual Meeting

August 18, 2021

1:01 p.m. – 3:04 p.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mitch Nelson, Chair – Severance
Allison Baxter – Greeley
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Jessica Ferko – RAQC
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Josie Hadley – CDOT
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Rusty McDaniel – Larimer County
Elizabeth Relford – Weld County

NFRMPO STAFF:

Medora Bornhoft
AnnaRose Cunningham
Alex Gordon
Hanna Johnson
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marco Carani – Johnstown
Richard Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans
Adam Olinger – Town of Berthoud
Town of Eaton
Town of LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cassie Archuleta – Fort Collins
Abdul Barzak – Severance
Candice Folkers – COLT
Katie Guthrie – Loveland
Myron Hora – WSP
Dan Joseph – Weld County
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort
Lauren Light – Weld County
Evan Pinkham – Weld County
Skyler Potocek – Northern Colorado Clean Cities
Caree Rinebarger – Milliken
Taylor Robinson – Weld County
Jan Rowe – CDOT
Carrie Tremblatt – CDOT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2021 TAC MINUTES

Baxter moved to approve the July 21, 2021 TAC minutes. Klockeman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

AIR QUALITY AGENDA

Regional Air Quality Updates – Bornhoft reported the Employee Traffic Reduction Program (ETRP) proposal has been withdrawn by the Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) and the Air Quality Control Commission

(AQCC) will consider the outright dismissal on August 19. The interest from the Planning Council on voluntary ETRP has led to further discussions on transportation demand management (TDM), which Alex Gordon will present to TAC later in the agenda.

The Greenhouse Gas budget proposal was noticed and sent out earlier in the week. It includes the rule with the GHG budgets and includes the amount of reductions for the NFRMPO. An in-depth presentation about the rule will be given to Planning Council at their September meeting and CDOT staff will be invited to present to TAC at their September meeting. CDOT will be holding eight rulemaking hearings around the State, with one being held in the NFRMPO region in Fort Collins on September 30. The hearings have a virtual option and registration is required.

Regarding the EPA's intention to expand the 2015 Ozone Boundary to include Weld County, both the NFRMPO and APCD submitted letters to the EPA recommending incorporating additional data into the analysis prior to the decision being made. EPA will not announce their decision until late September at the soonest. In the meantime, Staff is looking into any potential conformity redetermination requirements.

Ferko reported the 2021 Ozone season has been hot and dry leading to many ozone high monitoring values around the region. A presentation will be given to TAC in September on the upcoming SIP planning process.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month.

ACTION ITEM

No items this month.

PRESENTATIONS

No items this month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2021 Call for Projects Guidebook– Cunningham outlined the contents of the Draft *2021 Call for Projects Guidebook* which include funding estimates, proposed schedule, project requirements and scoring criteria for the CMAQ, STBG, and TA funding programs. Cunningham highlighted the changes which are being proposed for all funding programs including requiring agencies submitting a project must have a representative on the scoring committee, the inclusion of an environmental justice and performance measure impact analysis for each project, and requesting selected projects submit GHG emissions analysis inputs to the NFRMPO. Klockeman asked for clarification on the makeup of the Scoring Committee; Karasko clarified each NFRMPO member agency is allowed to have one voting member on the scoring committee, whether or not they submitted an application. Relford asked if NFRMPO staff scores the projects and Karasko stated staff reviews the applications but are non-voting members of the Scoring Committee. Relford asked if there were examples of what data inputs would be needed for GHG emissions analysis. Bornhoft stated the NFRMPO currently does not have specifics but there would likely not be any further information needed for CMAQ projects, but it is unknown what else NFRMPO staff may need for STBG and TA projects.

Cunningham outlined the changes to the scoring criteria and subcriteria for the CMAQ program and the changes to the Project Life Effectiveness table which will be used to inform the Cost Effectiveness of CMAQ projects. Relford asked if the CMAQ emissions calculators identified in the CDOT Guidebook will be used and if local agencies will be required to conduct the emissions analysis. Cunningham clarified the local agencies will provide inputs on each project and Staff will conduct the calculations using the recommended tools from the CDOT Guidebook. Baxter asked how emissions will be calculated for projects with multiple components.

Cunningham clarified the emissions benefits will be calculated using the recommended tool and project life effectiveness for each component and totaled for the cost effectiveness calculations.

TAC discussed further revisions to the scoring weights under the STBG program including decreasing the number of points available for environmental justice and increasing the points available for safety. TAC discussed revising the application for TA to include the same information as is required in STBG and adding in the requirement for right of way documentation for all programs.

Klockeman requested Staff call attention to the CMAQ request limits in the presentation to Planning Council as the request limit allows for one project to receive half the available funding during this Call. Buckman asked if the request limit for CMAQ was for one or multiple projects. Cunningham stated each agency can apply for up to the total amount of the request limit over multiple projects.

Cunningham presented the changes to the Project Life Effectiveness table and TAC requested the removal of 'Other Alternative Fuel Vehicles' from the list as agencies will not be pursuing that project type due to the suspension of Buy America Waivers. Buckman asked for clarification on how the Project Life Effectiveness is used in the scoring process. Cunningham and Bornhoft clarified the life effectiveness of each project is used to calculate the overall cost effectiveness of each project, as opposed to using standard short term and long-term benefits for all projects.

Further comments on the Draft *2021 Call for Projects* guidebook can be submitted to Staff by August 31.

NFRMPO TDM Planning – Gordon stated members of the NFRMPO Planning Council are interested in exploring transportation demand management (TDM) strategies with the employee traffic reduction program rulemaking being withdrawn from the AQCC rulemaking. Gordon defined TDM, presented examples, explained the benefits of TDM strategies, and outlined TDM work which is already implemented in the region.

TAC discussed what the NFRMPO's role in TDM planning should and TAC expressed support for the NFRMPO providing TDM resources to local agencies. Relford recommended including the Upper Front Range TPR and the Northeast Colorado Association of Local Governments (NECALG) in further conversations. Baxter recommended including local agency economic development departments in the initiative. Gordon stated one option NFRMPO Staff has discussed is incorporating actionable TDM strategies into the Congestion Management Process. The TDM Planning presentation is scheduled to be included on the September Planning Council agenda.

PARTNER REPORTS

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

Regional Transit Agencies – No updates this month.

Senior Transportation Updates –Johnson reported the RideNoCo website is entering the final phase of development and is scheduled to be complete within the next week. The Call Center to assist in finding transportation options across the region is live. There will be a joint meeting for the Weld and Larimer County Mobility Committees on August 24. It will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. The VIA mobility pilot began at the beginning of August.

REPORTS

August Planning Council Meeting Summary – A written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko stated the September TAC meeting will be virtual and the October meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

Cunningham stated information on the NFRMPO's project delay review will be sent out within the next week with the discussion planned for the September TAC meeting.

Gordon stated the Poudre Express expanded service.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions: Ozone season presentation by Jessica Ferko, TIP project delay review, Greenhouse Gas presentation from CDOT, and the Call for Projects Guidebook.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 as a virtual meeting.