

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

**September 2, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**Voting Members Present:**

Will Karspeck- Chair	-Berthoud
Jeni Arndt	-Fort Collins
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Dave Clark	-Loveland
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Lanie Isbell	-Eaton
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Brett Payton	-Greeley
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

**Voting Members Absent:**

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

**MPO Staff:**

**Suzette Mallette**, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Manager; **Alex Gordon**, Transportation Planner III; **Medora Bornhoft**, Transportation and Air Quality Planner III; **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner I

**In Attendance:**

Allison Baxter, Tricia Canonico, Rich Christy, Rick Coffin, Steve Cook, Ray Cundiff, Josie Hadley, Butch Hause, Myron Hora, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Dean Klingner, Katrina Klobberdanz, Johnny Olson, Mark Peterson, Rebecca Rathburn, Elizabeth Relford, Jan Rowe, Sandra Solin, Eric Tracy, Paul Trombino III, James Usher, Tari

Vice-Chair James called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Payton **moved** to *APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2021, MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED* and *THE AUGUST 5, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

**Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda**

Vice-Chair James opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

**REPORTS:**

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

Coffin reviewed the memo from the APCD included in the council handouts. Payton asked for clarification on how changes to the California rules regarding Low Emission Vehicles affects the Regulations in Colorado. Coffin stated the Clean Air Act specifies if a State adopts the California standards, they must keep up to date with any changes made under those standards. Payton asked how haze and smoke from wildfires outside Colorado effect the recorded exceedances. Coffin stated the Division is aware that Colorado has no control over pollution from other states which is the premise behind the exceptional event rule. The Division will likely pursue exceptional events for 2020 and 2021 though there is a 6-12 month lead time on gathering the necessary documentation and the final decision has not been made yet. Clark asked who makes the final decision on pursuing exceptional events, Coffin responded State leadership including the

Governor's office will make a final decision. Stephens requested the APCD forward the survey from DRCOG regarding the voluntary employee traffic reduction program (ETRP) to the Council.

#### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

#### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoft reported the AQCC has dismissed the proposal for ETRP and stated Gordon will present later in the agenda on how the NFRMPO can support voluntary ETRP efforts. CDOT released the draft Transit Zero Emission Vehicle Roadmap for the State of Colorado, the review period for the Roadmap goes through September 3. Bornhoft will review the GHG transportation budgets later in the agenda.

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

Vice-Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Report of the Chair

The Planning Council was surveyed on future meetings format, the result of which was to continue with Hybrid Planning Council meetings where Council members are in person and any other attendees have the option to attend virtually or in person. The October meeting will be hybrid and hosted by the City of Fort Collins.

##### Executive Director Report

The NFRMPO has posted a job opportunity for a Transportation Planner I to be filled within the next month. The NFRMPO hosted a Joint Mobility Committee including both Larimer and Weld Counties on August 24 in Windsor. There were 35 total attendees.

##### TAC

A written report was provided.

##### Mobility

A written report was provided.

##### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### NFRMPO TDM Program

Gordon reviewed how discussions regarding voluntary ETRP programs have led to the NFRMPO looking into how to incorporate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) in the region. Gordon outlined the purpose and components of TDM and existing programs within the region which contribute to TDM goals. Gordon requested Council input on what the NFRMPO's role should be regarding TDM and how success would be measured. Council members expressed support in the NFRMPO pursuing TDM strategies and working with local agencies, businesses, and chambers of commerce in the region to develop strategies and provide resources. Stephens recommended following the employer thresholds defined in the ETRP proposal and stated success would be based on the how much emissions and vehicle miles traveled are lowered. James added Weld County is interested in convening stakeholders to discuss ETRP and TDM.

##### 2021 Call for Projects Guidebook Discussion

Cunningham presented the funding estimates and proposed schedule for the upcoming Call for Projects which will award CMAQ, STBG, and TA funding in FY2024 and FY2025 and reviewed the funding set-asides including \$5M in CMAQ for North I-25 and \$50,000 in STBG for the RAQC to perform ozone modeling. Clark stated the \$5M set-aside for North I-25 will only be if utilized if other funding is not identified. Cunningham clarified the need for the set-aside will be reevaluated nearer to the time the funds are available. Cunningham reviewed the changes to all funding programs including updates to the scoring criteria for CMAQ and STBG.

Vice-Chair James handed over meeting facilitation to Chair Karspeck.

Payton asked Staff to review discussions during the development of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan to verify what changes to the Call for Projects had been discussed. Council discussed whether the new Environmental Justice (EJ) scoring criteria was appropriate for this Call. Stephens expressed support for including EJ criteria due to the adoption of the EJ Plan as well as the specifications for disproportionately impacted communities outlined in Senate Bill 2021-260. James asked how the NFRMPO EJ areas align with the areas within SB260. Melon asked for Staff to verify the data being used for defining EJ areas is the most up to date. Staff stated they would verify the data and how the EJ areas align with SB260 and present alternatives to TAC and Council.

#### CDOT Greenhouse Gas Transportation Plan Budgets

Bornhoft presented the background on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) rulemaking, TC schedule, and the GHG Rule Description. Stephens asked for clarification on how the GHG Mitigation Measures may be implemented if the MPO does not have authority to implement certain measures. Bornhoft stated one of the recommendations Staff has for Council to submit to CDOT is allowing locally implemented measures to count towards a demonstration of compliance. Council may also recommend additional strategies to be submitted in comments on the Rule. Karspeck asked if the level of impact of mitigation strategies are being taken into account based on factors such as population. Bornhoft stated there will be more discussion on how the mitigation strategies are quantified but it may be similar to how the NFRMPO quantifies CMAQ emissions benefits.

Karspeck asked what the consequences are if the NFRMPO is not able to demonstrate compliance with the reduction levels. Bornhoft stated restrictions would be put into place on CMAQ and STBG funds, but details are unclear on the timing of those restrictions.

Bornhoft detailed how the rule will impact NFRMPO plans and processes and outlined the areas of support and concern the NFRMPO has identified regarding the Rule. Council discussed supporting a request for more time to review the Draft rule. James expressed concerns regarding the proposed rule being outside the jurisdiction CDOT. Stephens supported having a Council Member provide policy comments while Staff provides technical comments during the rulemaking hearings. Chair Karspeck volunteered.

Bornhoft recommended Council convene for two work sessions prior to the deadline to submit public comment, to allow Council to collaborate on the comments the NFRMPO will submit to CDOT on the rule. A Doodle Poll will be sent to Council Members to determine the best timing for the work sessions.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

#### Transportation Commission

Bracke stated CDOT will be holding Public Hearings on the GHG Rulemaking in Fort Collins on September 30. Each meeting has a virtual option, participants are encouraged to attend any meeting across the state. The Transportation Commission approved Revitalizing Main Streets Grants approved \$22M for an additional round of allocations.

#### CDOT R4 Update

Hadley detailed the four Revitalizing Main Streets projects in the North Front Range sponsored by Berthoud, Greeley, Fort Collins, and CSU.

#### STAC report

A written report was provided.

#### I-25 Coalition

James stated the Coalition discussed the GHG Rulemaking.

#### Host Council Member Report

Stephens reported on projects in Larimer County including the signalization of Douglas Road and State Highway 1, Masonville Post Office bridge replacement, Owl Canyon widening project, and flood damage on due to wildfire runoff.

**MEETING WRAP-UP:**

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions  
None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff