

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

Virtual Meeting

September 15, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 3:43 p.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mitch Nelson, Chair – Severance
Allison Baxter – Greeley
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Richard Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Jessica Ferko – RAQC
Josie Hadley – CDOT
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Adam Olinger – Town of Berthoud
Elizabeth Relford – Weld County
Eric Tracy – Larimer County

NFRMPO STAFF:

Medora Bornhoft
AnnaRose Cunningham
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marco Carani – Johnstown
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans
Town of Eaton
Town of LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cassie Archuleta – Fort Collins
Scott Ballstadt – Windsor
Abdul Barzak – Severance
Candice Folkers – COLT
Katie Guthrie – Loveland
Myron Hora – WSP
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort
Lauren Light – Weld County
Evan Pinkham – Weld County
Jan Rowe – CDOT
Carrie Tremblatt – CDOT

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 AUGUST 18, 2021 TAC MINUTES

Klockeman moved to approve the August 18, 2021 TAC minutes. Relford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

AIR QUALITY AGENDA

2021 Ozone Season Update – Ferko presented an update on the 2021 Ozone Season and 2019-2021 ozone Design Values. Five monitors exceeded the 2008 ozone standard of 75 ppb and another eight monitors exceeded the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb. There have been 73 Ozone Action Alerts so far this summer, which is the highest number of alerts since at least 2011. The RAQC’s *Simple Steps. Better Air.* program has seen increased messaging engagement through a variety of strategic partnerships, earned media, and paid media.

Ferko identified opportunities for engaging in ozone planning efforts, including the development of the next State Implementation Plan (SIP). Relford asked if exceptional events would be pursued due to wildfire impact. Ferko explained that the impact of wildfire smoke is being analyzed, and it takes significant effort to submit an exceptional event demonstration. Relford noted there can be reduced visibility due to wildfire smoke without having a high ozone day. Ferko agreed the impacts of wildfire smoke on ozone are nuanced.

GHG Budgets for Transportation Plans – Bornhoft presented the background and overview of the Transportation Commission’s proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) rule for regional and statewide transportation plans along with information on the role of modeling, role of population growth, feasibility of reductions, impact to the planning process. NFRMPO staff developed an initial analysis identifying areas of support and areas of concern, and a comment letter will be drafted for Planning Council to discuss and possibly approve at their October meeting. A joint Work Session with Planning Council and TAC will be held on Thursday, September 16 to further discuss the GHG rule and the NFRMPO’s comments on it.

Baxter raised concerns about the lack of accounting of impacts to freight in CDOT’s Cost Benefit Analysis, the limited amount of transit available in the NFRMPO region, and whether electricity sources and electrification of the fleet would be a more effective way to achieve GHG reductions. Klockeman noted many of the strategies used to set the GHG Reduction Levels are outside the control of CDOT and local governments and instead depend on the actions of many individual travelers.

Malette suggested communities interested in engaging should submit comments in writing to CDOT.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM

2021 Call for Projects Guidebook – Cunningham identified questions on the Environmental Justice (EJ) scoring criterion raised by Planning Council at their meeting on September 2, 2021, including how the recommendations in the *EJ Plan* relate to the Call for Projects and how Disproportionately Impacted (DI) communities relate to EJ areas. The NFRMPO’s *EJ Plan*, which was approved by Planning Council on April 1, 2021, included a recommendation to integrate EJ and equity into the Call for Projects.

Gordon presented a draft analysis of DI communities as defined in HB21-1266, including additional analysis based on housing cost burden for renters, owners, and all households. Relford recommended making the criteria for EJ and DI clear to Planning Council. Cunningham explained the definitions are distinct, but their intention is similar and there are overlaps in the identified areas.

Cunningham presented another option for incorporating EJ into the Call, which includes removing the subcriteria, reducing the points possible for EJ to 10 instead of 15, and increasing the points for Partnerships to 15 for large communities. Points for the EJ criterion would be awarded based on each scoring committee member’s review of the EJ worksheet submitted by the applicant. Baxter recommended piloting EJ in the upcoming Call by requiring the EJ worksheet but not including EJ in the scoring criteria. Klockeman moved to approve the Call for Projects Guidebook with the change to the EJ criterion as proposed by NFRMPO staff. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. In addition, TAC requested MPO staff score projects with both versions of the EJ scoring criteria to provide more information on scoring for future Calls for Projects.

PRESENTATIONS

2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Kick-off – Gordon presented the proposed schedule, plan structure, and outreach phases for the NFRMPO’s upcoming *2050 RTP*, with anticipated Planning Council adoption in September 2023. TAC members discussed how the Funding and Financing section should be structured. Relford asked if the NFRMPO will use the *2045 RTP* to determine compliance with the GHG rule by October 2022. Bornhoft explained the NFRMPO would re-adopt the *2045 RTP* to meet that deadline. The *2050 RTP* will also be developed to comply with the GHG rule.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY2021 TIP Project Delay Review – Mallette explained there is a funding shortfall of \$1.25M for N I-25 Segment 6, and there is interest in funding southbound access to N I-25 from Johnson’s Corner. Two Planning Council members have expressed interest in moving any available funding to N I-25.

Cunningham presented the findings of the *FY2021 TIP Project Delay Review*, which shows nine projects are not delayed, and three projects have a second delay. Of the three delayed projects, two are anticipated to meet their milestone in the first half of calendar year 2022. The other delayed project, the *Weld County CNG Vehicles* project, has \$2.2M in CMAQ funds and is held up due to the suspension of the Buy America Waiver process with no anticipated ad date. At the October TAC meeting, TAC will be asked to provide a recommendation on whether the Planning Council should remove the funds from the project or if a second extension should be granted.

Mallette noted there are two partially funded CMAQ projects that can accept additional funds, which are Loveland and Fort Collins transit projects. Planning Council could decide to move all returned funding to N I-25 and not award additional funds to those projects. Folkers noted COLT could only use \$120K, not \$264K. Cunningham will send an email to TAC members with additional info on the partially funded projects eligible for funding.

PARTNER REPORTS

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

Regional Transit Agencies – No updates this month.

Senior Transportation Updates – Gordon stated the RideNoCo website has soft launched. It is available at <https://rideno.co/> and feedback is requested.

REPORTS

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

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Summary – A written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko stated CDOT is initiating an update to CDOT’s *10-Year Plan* and is requesting TPRs and MPOs to review their projects on the list. The priorities identified by the Planning Council in 2020 within the NFRMPO region remain unfunded and no changes are anticipated.

Gordon stated the draft *Human Services / Public Transportation Coordinated Plan* will be sent out for public comment soon.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions: None

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Medora Bornhoft, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 as a hybrid meeting.