

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

**October 7, 2021
Hybrid Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Will Karspeck- Chair | -Berthoud |
| Jeni Arndt | -Fort Collins |
| Elizabeth Austin | -Milliken |
| Frank Baszler | -Severance |
| Kathleen Bracke | -Transportation Commission |
| Mark Clark | -Evans |
| Lanie Isbell | -Eaton |
| Scott James | -Weld County |
| Brett Payton | -Greeley |
| Paul Rennemeyer | -Windsor |
| Kristin Stephens | -Larimer County |

Voting Members Absent:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Fil Archuleta | -Garden City |
| Paula Cochran | -LaSalle |
| Lisa Laake | -Timnath |
| Dave Clark | -Loveland |
| Troy Mellon | -Johnstown |
| Dena Wojtach | -CDPHE-APCD |
| Elizabeth Austin | -Milliken |

MPO Staff:

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

In Attendance:

Allison Baxter, Brad Buckman, Tricia Canonico, Rich Christy, Spencer Dodge, Caleb Feaver, Jamie Grim, Josie Hadley, Butch Hause, Omar Herrera, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Katrina Klobberdanz, Joe Neguse, Heather Paddock, Evan Pinkham, Randy Ready, Kim Redd, Elizabeth Relford, Jan Rowe, Robin Stoneman, Eric Tracy, Paul Trombino III

Chair Karspeck called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment:

Congressman Joe Neguse reported there is progress being made on raising the debt ceiling, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, and the Build Back Better Deal. Neguse has been in contact with CDOT Executive Director Lew on transportation priorities for Colorado and requested Planning Council communicate with his office about priorities in Northern Colorado. Neguse noted Kim Redd in his Fort Collins office can act as a resource.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE OCTOBER 7, 2021 MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer and **passed** unanimously.

Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 and the September 16, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Payton and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Karspeck opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoft stated there has been no update from the EPA on the final decision to expand the 2015 ozone nonattainment area to include Weld County. SIP development continues as RAQC is developing transportation control measures. NFRMPO staff has been participating in these efforts, including helping to develop Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB).

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Karspeck opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair Karspeck stated there was an HR Committee update. Payton stated the HR Committee has been working on Executive Director Mallette's annual review, including putting together an electronic questionnaire. The HR Committee is recommending moving forward with the questionnaire in November, evaluate the results in December, and discuss the results with Mallette in January.

Executive Director Report

Mallette thanked CDOT Region 4 staff for the tour of North I-25 Segments 7 and 8 prior to the Council meeting. Mallette stated the Council needs to identify two directors for the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board of Directors by March 2022. Council agreed to making the recommendation at the December meeting. Karspeck suggested having interested Planning Council members reach out to Mallette or himself. Mallette noted CDOT will be reviewing the 10 Year List of Projects and having conversations with STAC and the Transportation Commission. Mallette updated the Council on the LinkNoCo project status, which is moving onto corridor evaluation. Next steps will be public outreach in late October, and the Policy Advisory Group will be contacted by the Project Team about their first meeting in January 2022.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Finance

A written report was provided.

Mobility

Schmitt highlighted the history, timeline, milestones, and goals of the LinkNoCo project. Phase 1 is underway, and Phase 2 and 3 will occur throughout 2022 and 2023. Schmitt provided a walkthrough of the new *rideno.co* website, which will allow people to identify what transportation options exist for older adults and people with disabilities. The RFP is out for an embedded trip planning tool to be added to the website, allowing people to get more personalized results. Phase 3 will focus on trip dispatching, and will be guided by a Technology Steering Committee. The Committee will start meeting in fall 2021, with the project underway by summer 2022, and phase 3 completed in winter 2022.

James asked if this project was related to the Premium Transit Analysis. Mallette noted the two projects were approved by the Council to receive MMOF funds but are two separate projects.

Karspeck asked how GTFS works for agencies like RAFT. Schmitt stated GTFS-Flex allows for the data to be adapted for human service agencies that do not have fixed route services by creating a geofence around the service area.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

FY2022-2023 UPWP FY2022 Budget Amendment #1 –

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Payton and **passed** unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

2021 Call for Projects Guidebook – Cunningham reviewed the updates to the Call for Projects, including the I-25 CMAQ set-aside, updated scoring criteria, and additional funding amounts. Cunningham described the

EJ Plan recommendations and how the recommendations relate to *HB1266 Colorado Environmental Justice Act*. Cunningham summarized the discussion at TAC, including a new proposal for STBG scoring. The new proposal lowered the number of points to EJ to 10 and better tied the scoring to the EJ Analysis Worksheet that sponsors will complete. TAC recommended NFRMPO staff review how environmental justice scores impact overall scoring processes once projects have been awarded.

James asked what agency defines DI communities. Cunningham responded CDPHE is leading the effort based on HB1266. Bracke requested more information about the difference between DIC and EJ areas. Cunningham noted the EJ areas are based on regional averages for low income and minority populations, while DI communities are based on a 40 percent threshold set in HB1266. Bracke asked how the Call for Projects relates to the GHG rulemaking. Mallette responded the projects funded through the NFRMPO Call for Projects do not typically meet the regionally significant project definition and are not modeled. Bracke requested there be synergy between funded projects and GHG budgets.

James recommended switching the number of points for Economic Development and EJ. Stephens and Arndt noted their support for keeping higher points for EJ or better tying together Economic Development and EJ. Planning Council discussed the number of points to be awarded and decided to award 8 points to Economic Development and 7 points to EJ.

Arndt **moved** to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20 *ADOPTING THE PROCESS FOR THE 2021 CALL FOR PROJECTS*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

NFRMPO Comments on CDOT Greenhouse Gas Transportation Plan Budgets Rule – Bornhoft reviewed the setting and timeline for Greenhouse Gas budgets, including the rule under review right now. Bornhoft noted the NFRMPO has received some of the data requested but is still waiting for some additional data. Bornhoft reviewed draft comment letter based on previous Council input. Bornhoft highlighted the letter's focus on the importance of developing a clear, procedurally sound GHG rule; the amount of emission reductions from the GHG rule needed to achieve State GHG goals; and the role of VMT. Bornhoft explained thirteen recommended improvements that could be made to improve the rule. Public comment on the rule is due by October 15, 2021. Councilmembers noted NFRMPO staff's work on this effort and supported the recommendations included in the letter.

James **moved** to approve *THE NFRMPO COMMENT LETTER ON CDOT'S GREENHOUSE GAS TRANSPORTATION PLAN BUDGETS RULE*. The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer and **passed** unanimously. Bracke abstained from voting.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

FY2021 TIP Project Delay Review – James noted the Weld County CNG Vehicle Replacement project is facing a second delay because of the suspension of the Buy America waiver for vehicles. James recommended funding the two partially funded CMAQ projects from the same Call for Projects, which include COLT and Transfort bus purchases, and assigning the rest to I-25 Segment 6. Cunningham presented on the TIP delay policy, which allows TAC to recommend a one-year first extension of TIP projects that miss their milestones, and Council to approve a second-year extension. Rennemeyer noted his support for funding the Windsor project. Councilmembers supported returning funding from the Weld County vehicle project to fully fund the partially funded projects and I-25, and granting second extensions to the other projects.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Bracke highlighted CDOT's tour of the work being done on I-25 Segments 7 and 8. There will be discussions about the 10 Year List of Projects at STAC and Transportation Commission, focusing on programming funding. Bracke remains hopeful on federal infrastructure funding.

CDOT R4 Update – CDOT will be starting the next prioritized list of the 10 Year List of Projects in late October or early November. I-25 Segment 5 will be an upcoming focus. Paddock noted the new COTrip Planner app that CDOT recently updated.

STAC report – A written report was provided.

I-25 Coalition – Congressman Neguse attended the meeting and highlighted many of the same discussion items. James noted the Greeley Public Works Director has new ideas to begin implementing the corridor recommendations. The US34 Coalition will meet in November.

Host Council Member Report – Arndt noted the progress on the Vine and Lemay Overpass project which will open by the end of 2021. Transfort continues to invest in electric buses, anticipating 11 battery electric buses and six depot chargers by 2024. Fort Collins continues to invest in the City’s Low Stress Bike Network, including crossing improvements at Shields St. and Magnolia St. and at Columbia Road and Lemay Avenue. The West Elizabeth Corridor Project expects 30% Design Completion in early 2022 and entering FTA Small Starts processes in the next three to five years.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff