

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

**November 4, 2021
Hybrid Meeting at Loveland Public Works Administration Building**

Voting Members Present:

Jeni Arndt	-Fort Collins
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Dave Clark	-Loveland
Mark Clark	-Evans
Lanie Isbell	-Eaton
Scott James – Vice Chair	-Weld County
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Brett Payton	-Greeley
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Will Karspeck – Chair	-Berthoud
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Dena Wojtach	-CDPHE-APCD

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 II

In Attendance:

Abdul Barzak, Allison Baxter, Rich Christy, Michael Command, Jim Eussen, Jamie Grim, Josie Hadley, Butch Hause, Myron Hora, Will Jones, Dean Klingner, Katrina Kloberdanz, Dave Klockeman, Jodi Lessman, Mitch Nelson, Johnny Olson, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Evan Pinkham, Elizabeth Relford, Jan Rowe, Mike Silverstein, Sandra Hagen Solin, Robin Stoneman, Eric Tracy, Paul Trombino, and James Usher.

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

Public Comment:

None.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Arndt moved to *APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2021 MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED* and *APPROVE THE OCTOBER 7, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was seconded by D. Clark 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)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Silverstein stated the RAQC is working on developing the next ozone plan and three work groups are meeting to explore strategies for reducing ozone precursors. All stakeholders are invited to engage in the work groups. Silverstein addressed questions on ozone transport, monitor placement, how population growth is considered, and background ozone levels.

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.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Vice Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Vice Chair James thanked D. Clark for his service on the NFRMPO Planning Council. Mallette explained two representatives from the NFRMPO will be selected by the Governor for the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board of Directors and recommended Planning Council formalize their preferred representatives through a resolution. Planning Council members discussed possible representatives and recommended Chair Karspeck and Payton apply for the Board.

D. Clark moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2021-23 *APPROVING NFRMPO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS*. The motion was seconded by Stephens and passed unanimously.

Vice Chair James noted elections for Planning Council executive positions will occur at Planning Council's December meeting.

Executive Director Report

Mallette stated her evaluation survey was emailed yesterday and asked recipients to complete the survey within two weeks. The NFRMPO's Premium Transit Analysis has a survey available through November 9, 2021, to identify the corridors to be advanced to the next stage of analysis.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

Q3 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

TIP Project Delay (Resolution 2021-21)

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

ACTION ITEMS:

FY2021 Additional CMAQ Allocations – Cunningham noted \$2.2M in CMAQ funding is available for allocation. Two partially funded projects from the 2016 Call for Projects, including Loveland's *COLT Diesel Bus Replacement* project and Fort Collins' *Transfort CNG Buses* project, can accept additional federal funds. TAC recommended awarding \$166k to those two projects and providing the remaining \$2.034M to North I-25.

D. Clark moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22 *APPROVING ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS OF FY2021 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) FUNDS TO PROJECTS SELECTED IN THE 2016 CALL FOR PROJECTS AND THE REMAINING FUNDS TO NORTH I-25*. The motion was seconded by Payton and passed unanimously.

Additional NFRMPO Comments on CDOT Greenhouse Gas Transportation Plan Budgets Rule – Bornhoft provided an overview of the greenhouse gas (GHG) rule being proposed by the Transportation Commission (TC) and noted the rulemaking schedule was extended. Bornhoft explained how the GHG

rule impacts the upcoming NFRMPO Call for Projects, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) adoptions. Council members discussed implications for projects such as transit bus replacement and operations improvements, along with the role of local governments in identifying mitigations for projects, the impact of induced demand, and the feasibility of the GHG Reduction Levels.

Bornhoft reviewed major updates to the proposed rule released by CDOT in mid-October, proposed three new comments on the rule, identified the status of the NFRMPO's 13 submitted recommendations, and recommended three priority comments to highlight the most critical concerns for the TC. Council members supported adding one additional comment as a priority: removing the requirement for TC to consider revising the rule based on changes in VMT per capita. Council members discussed how the purpose of the rule is to reduce GHG emissions and that reductions in VMT may not result in reductions in GHG emissions.

Bornhoft noted some requested data has not been provided by CDOT and asked Planning Council if the comment letter should be submitted as is or if staff should send the letter closer to the close of the public comment period on November 18th to enable modifications if CDOT provides the requested data. Planning Council recommended submitting the letter as is and submitting addenda if needed.

D. Clark moved to approve *THE NFRMPO ADDITIONAL COMMENT LETTER ON CDOT'S GREENHOUSE GAS TRANSPORTATION PLAN BUDGETS RULE WITH THE ADDITION OF A FOURTH PRIORITY*. The motion was seconded by Payton and passed unanimously. Bracke abstained from voting.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

2021 Coordinated Plan – Gordon stated the Coordinated Plan is federally required; is updated every four years; and addresses the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income adults. Gordon explained the Plan's proposed strategies and the public input process for developing the Plan. The Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC) recommended Planning Council adoption of the Plan and the Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) will make a recommendation at their meeting on November 18, 2021. Planning Council will consider adoption of the Plan at their meeting on December 2, 2021.

NFRMPO 10-Year Pipeline of Projects Update – Karasko stated CDOT is asking MPOs and TPRs to review projects on CDOT's 10-Year Pipeline to determine if they are still priorities. The NFRMPO developed and adopted its own 10-Year List in early 2020 with 57 projects organized into three tiers. Subsequently, the NFRMPO's Tier 1 list was submitted to CDOT and incorporated into CDOT's 10-Year Pipeline. Karasko asked Planning Council if North I-25 and US34 are still the priority corridors and Council members agreed they are.

Council members discussed the status of specific projects, the need for input from local agency staff, and how to comprehensively assess the impacts of projects and their return on investment (ROI). D. Clark asked which years of the 10-Year Pipeline are being updated. Bracke stated Paddock had a helpful presentation at the 4 TPR Chair meeting last week that identified the process for updating CDOT's 10-Year Plan.

TAC will consider the timing of project needs on those corridors at their meeting in November. Feedback from TAC will be brought to the December Planning Council meeting and the deadline for updating the pipeline is January 2022. CDOT will decide how to incorporate the NFRMPO's updated list into the CDOT 10-Year Pipeline.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Bracke extended an invitation to meet to discuss projects.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock stated she could share slides from the 4 TPR Chair meeting on the 10-Year Pipeline update at the December Planning Council meeting. CDOT developed fact sheets for the 10-Year Pipeline to explain each project's scope and benefits. Project fact sheets can be accessed by clicking on the Planning Project ID links at https://www.codot.gov/programs/your-transportation-priorities/your-transportation-plan/090321_cdots_ytp_10yearvision_project-tables-1.pdf. The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for North I-25 Segments 7 and 8

is moving forward. Paddock will be compiling an info graphic to convey the full range of benefits of the North I-25 project. Kechter Road closed on October 1 and there is more queuing on Harmony and North I-25 as a result. The northbound off-ramp at Harmony will be fixed to reduce some of the queues on the interstate and interim traffic signal timing will be deployed on Harmony to minimize impacts. Kechter Road is expected to reopen in May.

STAC report – A written report was provided.

I-25 Coalition/ US 34 Coalition – Vice Chair James noted the I-25 Coalition met yesterday and the US 34 Coalition met today after a hiatus and heard updates from Paul Trombino, the new Public Works Director at the City of Greeley, on a design for the two intersections of US 34 at 47th and 35th that the City has funding to improve. The US 34 Coalition will resume meeting quarterly.

Host Council Member Report – D. Clark noted US 34 is being widened from two lanes to three lanes both ways. Almost all the project is funded, except for eastbound from Boyd Lake Avenue to North I-25. Another major project is the intersection at US 34 and Taft Ave which will be improved in 2023.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Medora Bornhoft, NFRMPO Staff