

Weld County Mobility Committee (WCWC)—MINUTES
December 7, 2021
1:33 p.m. – 2:53 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Steve Teets, WAND
- Andrew Jones, The Arc of Weld County
- Michelle Johnson, GET
- Abdul Barzak, Town of Severance
- Blake Van Jacobs, CDOT
- Celeste Ewert, Envision
- Skyler Potocek, Northern Colorado Clean Cities
- Janet Bedingfield, 60+ Ride
- Robyn Upton, Greeley Citizens Bus Improvement Committee
- Dan Betts, Rep. Ken Buck's Office
- Jan Rowe, CDOT R4
- Ana Colon, Boulder County M4A
- Chris Montoya, Adeo
- Diego Lopez, Northern Colorado Clean Cities
- Kathi Sargent, The Arc Weld County

NFRMPO staff: Alex Gordon, Cory Schmitt, Hanna Johnson

2. Review of Agenda

3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)

Teets wanted to comment a breakdown of the Federal Infrastructure Bill.

4. Approval of June 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ewert motioned to approve the October 2021 minutes. Teets seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

ACTIVITY

The group discussed gratitude for the end of the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schmitt announced the CDOT funding awards for 2022, including the new supporting funds for Envision's transportation services. Ewert noted that the NFRMPO applied for \$100,000 on behalf of Envision as part of their annual \$5310 mobility management applications.

PRESENTATIONS

LinkNoCo– Gordon presented about the LinkNoCo Project including an overview of the project and the feedback received during public outreach. The LinkNoCo project was started as a recommendation from the NFRMPO Planning Council to complement Front Range Passenger Rail. This focuses on community connections within the region. The project identifies potential corridors and then evaluates corridors that will increase regional mobility through inclusive, accessible, and equitable stakeholder engagement. This plan should be completed in summer or fall of 2022; the next steps include analysis on corridors and identifying governing structures and funding.



Teets asked if having roundabouts can be a problem for transit on the proposed regional routes analyzed by LinkNoCo; he also asked if the park and ride at HWY 34 and I-25 will return. Gordon replied that the existing park and ride is still open, and the new park-n-ride at Centerra will open in 2022. The alignment of the bus route, including the ability to get through roundabouts, would be planned as a later phase of the LinkNoCo project. Teets noted that there should be transit from Greeley to Johnstown.

Gordon then shared results from the first public engagement survey. The survey was opened for three weeks; the goal was to identify corridors to carry forward for deeper analysis. Teets asked if outreach was conducted in person. Gordon noted there was not much in person outreach for this part of the project. The survey asked participants to identify their top three corridors, if any connections were missing, etc. Three quarters of respondents were from Fort Collins, Loveland, and Greeley; one quarter was from other communities. The top corridors identified in this survey were:

1. FLEX from Fort Collins to Loveland, Berthoud, and Boulder
2. Loveland to Greeley via US 34
3. Greeley to Fort Collins via Great Western Railroad Corridor
4. Poudre Express
5. Berthoud to Fort Collins via BNSF rail corridor

More information can be found at www.nfrmpo.org/transit/linknoco/. Teets requested that Greeley's Citizen Transportation Board get a presentation of this project.

Northern Colorado Clean Cities Electrification Project– Lopez presented about the Northern Colorado Clean Cities (NCCC), a non-profit sponsored by the US DOT's Clean Cities Program and the Colorado Energy Office. A few grants available include:

- Charge Ahead Colorado
 - o Opens January 2022
- ALT Fuels Colorado
 - o Opens January 2022

These grants typically have 3 rounds each year. Another grant opportunity is the Colorado EV Stations; EV stations in the Front Range Urban areas and Rural areas get between 65% and 80% matching funds from the State of Colorado. There are EERE funding opportunities for projects that seek to develop affordable, efficient, and clean transportation options. The project approach must include EVs/charging infrastructure in underserved communities and multifamily housing or curbside charging for PEV. Clean Cities would like WCMC to help identify projects and stakeholders for these EERE funds. A Concept Paper will be due in March of 2022; six weeks later the application will be due. Lopez noted that Clean Cities also partners with local dealerships to provide incentives for Electric Vehicle purchase. Teets asked if Lopez would talk in front of a board or a council. Lopez said that they do that often and give resources. Teets asked if he could go in front of Greeley and Evans' councils and the Greeley Citizen's Transportation Advisory Board.

Lopez can be reached at 970-439-2926 or adlopez.nccc@gmail.com if the group has follow up projects or questions. Rowe asked if carshare programs for low-income communities have come in for any of these grants. Lopez said yes; one example is a bikeshare program for low-income communities. They have only seen one carshare program succeed with receiving funding and this was a program in Denver through Lyft. Lyft wants high density, so they are leaning towards Colorado Carshare. NCCC sees a lot of potential for carshare and micro-mobility options.



DISCUSSION ITEMS

Via Mobility Pilot Update – Bitzer updated the group on the Via Mobility Pilot in southwestern Weld County. Since the launch on August 2nd, there have been 275 trips to date with 63 registered riders. Via and the NFRMPO are working to keep the pilot going after the end of this year. Teets asked if the NFRMPO could give Via a grant for the next year. Schmitt noted that most of the service area is not within the NFRMPO boundary but rather within the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region (UFRTPR); the NFRMPO is working to create partnerships to keep the project going.

2022 Brainstorming Session – Schmitt noted that the NFRMPO Planning Council formally adopted the Coordinated Plan last week. The WCMC and LCMC will formally draft work plans for 2022 at their next meetings and will bring them together to create some overall regional goals at the first Joint Mobility Committee meeting in March. Teets noted increasing awareness of WCMC in rural areas. H. Johnson noted that the mobility program’s outreach efforts will include WCMC recruitment. Ewert noted that marketing and education and awareness was discussed during the last Joint Mobility Committee and that it may be helpful to start the next Joint Meeting off with a recap of the August meeting. Bedingfield noted that it is so important to work together and collaborate and communicate as the group moves forward.

GREELEY EVANS TRANSIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Schmitt read Powell’s email update: GET is working on hiring and training operators; they are seeing staffing get better. They are attempting to bring back routes 5 and 6 at a 20 minute headway. GET is working to replace their shelters. M. Johnson also noted that GET is working on [Greeley On the Go](#) – their transportation plan update.

WCMC MEMBER REPORTS

- Colon (Boulder County Mobility for All): Boulder County is finalizing our draft of the coordinated human services transportation plan (Coordinated Plan), titled Mobility and Access for all ages and abilities plan, and they will be realizing it for public comment this month. Boulder’s LCC, Boulder County Mobility and Access Coalition, is formalizing their charter to focus on implementing the coordinated plan over the next 5 years.

RIDENOCO REPORT

RideNoCo has acquired a vendor to create the trip discovery tool. The Technology Steering Committee now has representatives from both WCMC and LCMC.

Final Public Comment (2 minutes each)

Teets requested the last NFRMPO Planning Council’s meeting minutes.

5. Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions

- a) None.

6. Adjourn

- a) Teets motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 pm. Ewert seconded. The next WCMC meeting will be a hybrid meeting on February 22, 2022 at United Way Weld County.