North Front Range
Metropolitan
Planning
Organization

Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC)—AGENDA
January 20, 2022
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Call-in information:
(970) 822-7967
Code: 991 050 263#
Meeting Link: Click here to join the meeting

1. **Call Meeting to Order, Welcome, Introductions**
2. **Review of Agenda**
3. **Public Comment** *(2 minutes each)*
4. **Approval of the November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

RIDENOCO UPDATE

Recap of 2021 and updates on progress on Trip Discovery and Trip Scheduling implementation

ACTION ITEM

1) **Co-Chair Elections**   All
   Nominate and elect LCMC Co-Chairs for 2022

WORK SESSION

2) **2022 Work Plan**   All
   Translate the new Coordinated Plan into a work plan for 2022 through breakout groups.

TRANSFORT & COLT NEWS AND UPDATES

LCMC MEMBER REPORTS

5. **Final Public Comment** *(2 minutes each)*
6. **Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions**
7. **Upcoming Meetings:**

   March 17th, 2022: Hybrid Joint Mobility Meeting– 1-4 pm; Windsor-Severance Library
   May 19th, 2022: Hybrid LCMC Meeting– 1:30-3 pm; NFRMPO Offices/Teams

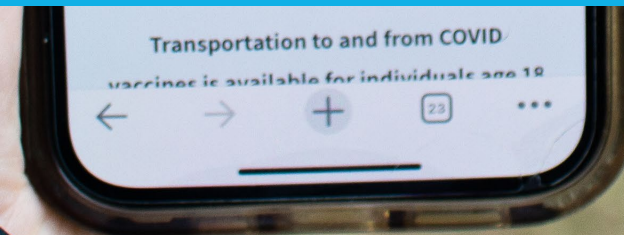**RideNoCo Updates: Looking Ahead into 2022**

Larimer County Mobility Committee

North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization

January 20, 2022

North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization

Connecting You & Northern Colorado embodies the two overarching goals of the program:

1. Improving **individual mobility**, particularly for groups such as older adults, individuals with disabilities, lower income individuals, and people who do not speak English as a first language.

2. Improving **regional mobility** through enhanced coordination and collaboration among regional public and private transportation providers, especially in rural areas of Larimer & Weld counties.

RIDE
NOCO
CONNECTING YOU & NORTHERN COLORADO

Connecting You & Northern Colorado

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The vision of RideNoCo is to **develop a coordinated system that schedules rides across multiple providers with seamless and accessible options for users.**

RideNoCo is a system that:

1 **2** **3** Is **simple** for anyone to easily find information about available transportation options

$ Has **robust financial capabilities** related to trip costs, trip payment, invoicing, and eligibility

Provides and shares accurate information to allow for **data-driven decisions**

Empowers and enables providers to share trips to make the best use of vehicles and provide more rides

A Phased Approach

North Front Range
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Phase 1

2021

Phase 2

2022

Phase 3

2023

Website + Call Center
- Introduction of RideNoCo
- Central hub to identify transportation options across region and beyond

Trip Discovery
- Ability to find and plan trips on public transit and human service providers in region
- Utilizing GTFS-Flex technology

Trip Dispatching
- Find, plan, and book ride in one place across multiple providers
- Flexibility for transportation providers to schedule riders across different agencies

Ongoing-Data Collection: Where are mobility needs being met and where do gaps remain?

Phase 1
2021

Status: Complete

**Phase 2
2022**

Status: In Progress

- **Find and plan trips on RideNoCo website**
  - With public and human service transportation providers + walking/biking

- **Utilizing GTFS-Flex Technology**
  - Allows demand-response and volunteer driver services to be incorporated
  - Complements CDOT's Connected Colorado project

- **Vendor selected**
  - IBI Group with support from Trillium

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Phase 3

2023

Status: In Progress

- **Empower providers and riders**
  - Find, book, and pay for ride in one place

- **Trip Scheduling Steering Committee**
  - Arrive at a system that meets the wants and needs of providers
  - Consultant being brought on board to facilitate process
  - Meetings to begin February 2022

- **Goal:** Scheduling platform debuting late 2022/early 2023

Steering Committee Members

60+ Ride of Weld County	SAINT Volunteer Transportation
Berthoud RAFT	Via Mobility Services
Greeley Evans Transit	Berthoud Area Transportation System (BATS)
Foothills Gateway	Arc of Weld County
Red Feather Lakes	CO Division of Vocational Rehab
Larimer County Office on Aging	Weld County AAA

Cory Schmitt
Mobility Manager
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RideNoCo
8am-5pm, M-F
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(970) 514-3636

2021 Coordinated Plan Executive Summary

Check out the entire 2021 Coordinated Plan on the NFRMPO website.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the **2017 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan)** is to identify transportation issues, service overlaps, and gaps for vulnerable populations including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low income individuals within the urbanized portions of Larimer and Weld counties as well as goals and strategies to address these identified issues.

As a recipient of FTA §5310 funds, the NFRMPO updates the **Coordinated Plan** every four years with guidance from the Larimer and Weld County Mobility Committees, local stakeholders, transportation providers, and other members of the public. The need for improved transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities has been known and continues to be an issue in both large and small communities within the NFRMPO region. Current programs and strategies are not enough to meet this growing demand and require additional support.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

Throughout the **Coordinated Plan** development process, stakeholders identified issues with transportation availability, specifically for trips that cross municipal or county boundaries; transportation affordability for rural areas, if transportation options exist; a lack of awareness about what services exist; and finding enough transit drivers to maintain levels of service. The following recommended strategies were drafted to address these concerns.

Strategy 1: Coordination

Local transportation providers, human service agencies, stakeholders, and other community groups will work together to reduce barriers for access to transportation. An example of this strategy is *RideNoCo*, the NFRMPO's One Call/One Click Center program.

Strategy 2: Education

Disparate programs exist for vulnerable populations to meet their basic needs, so there should be an investment in travel training, cross-promotion, and proactive educational campaigns like the Rider's Guides to help educate the community on potential transportation options.

Strategy 3: Collaboration

Similar to coordination, transportation providers, human service agencies, stakeholders, and other community groups work best when they work together. These face-to-face or digital networks can make it easier to share strategies and address regional needs. Examples include the Larimer County and Weld County Mobility Committees, which each meet bi-monthly.

Strategy 4: Infrastructure and Funding

Additional funding and service is important to addressing goals. Programs like Dial-a-Taxi, new and replacement vehicles, and local assistance to apply for new grants can be useful tools to improve service for vulnerable populations.

Strategy 5: Non-Mobility improvements

Bureaucracy can stand in the way of best addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Strategies like addressing transportation access during zoning, identifying options for active transportation to address public health concerns, and other non-transportation focused strategies can help reduce demand for specialized services.

Joint Mobility Meeting Breakout Groups Summary:

1. Collaboration

- Additional opportunities between committees
- Networking
- Resouce Library within Committees
- Building Relationships between communities
- How to get the services "grow together" as the distance between these areas become populated.
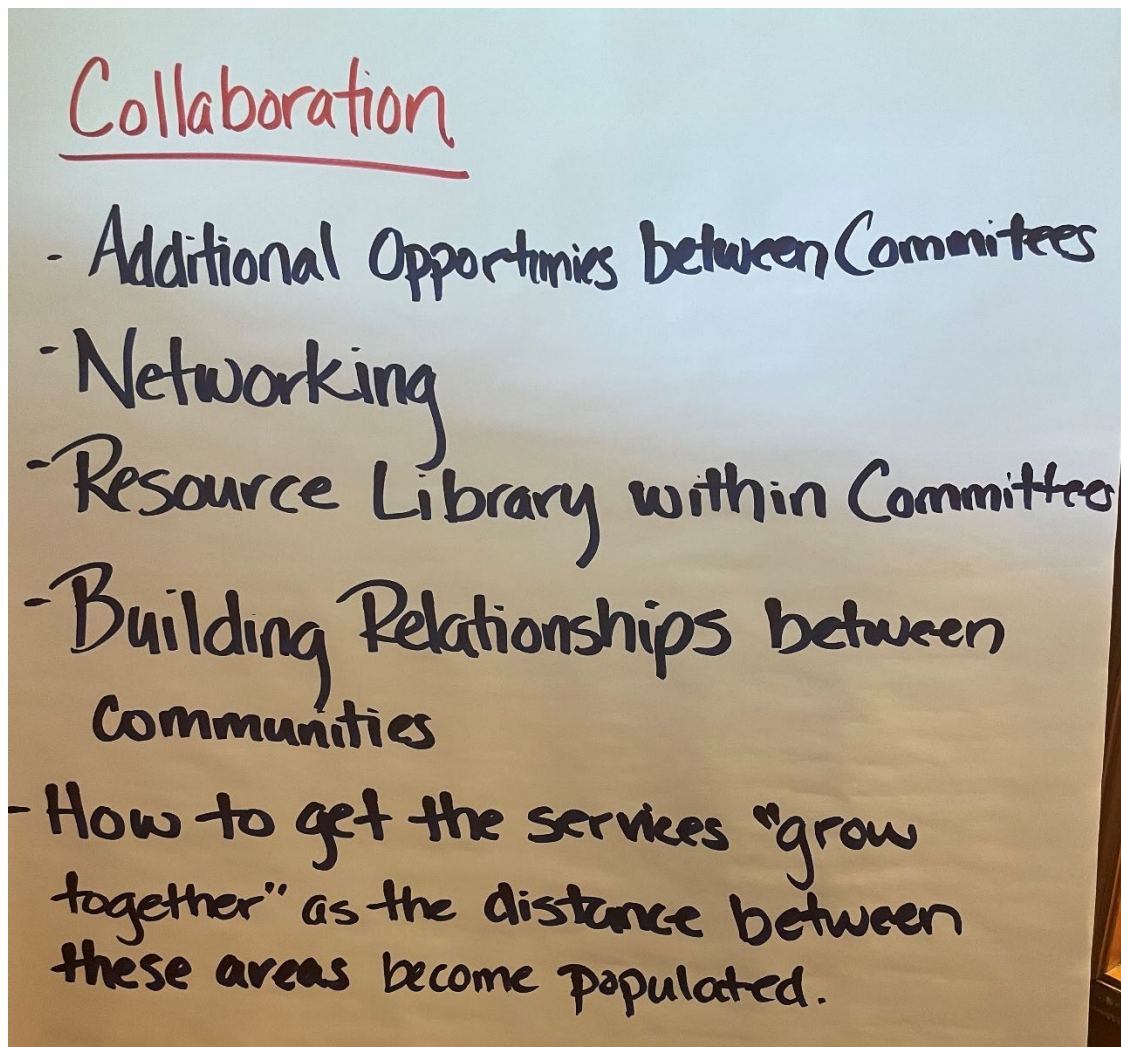
2. Coordination:

- Amend definition to include "organizations and groups"
- Add reduce barriers and improve rider experiences

How:

- Develop reciprocity agreements among providers for common eligibility criteria to with passengers
- Coordinate with healthcare providers
- Shared database to track customers across providers
- Pooling funding for trips taken on multiple providers (i.e. don't let cost of trip be a barrier to coordination)
- Shared service standards so that providers are accountable to customer experience (no dropped riders without contacting providers)
- Identify faps in available services and seek funding to address gaps
- Coordinate applications to funding/grant opportunities
- Establish means for cross-jurisdictional service and transfer points for providers

Performance Measures:

- Number of shared trips and transfers between providers
- Increase of customer satisfaction survey response
- Increase in healthcare stakeholder participation in mobility committees
- 1 databased used by x number of providers
- The amount awarded through grants
- The decreased number of denials for long distance trips
- The amount of money for pooled flexible funds
- The number of trips paid for with funding pool

3. Education

- May want to add "communication" or "marketing" to strategy title

- Rider's Guide
  - o Great
  - o Include other organization's pamphlets/guides (for example GET, TransFort, etc.)
- Billboards/ yard signs/ posters/ social media/ websites/ QR codes
- No just bus but all transportation options
  - o Carpooling, volunteer programs
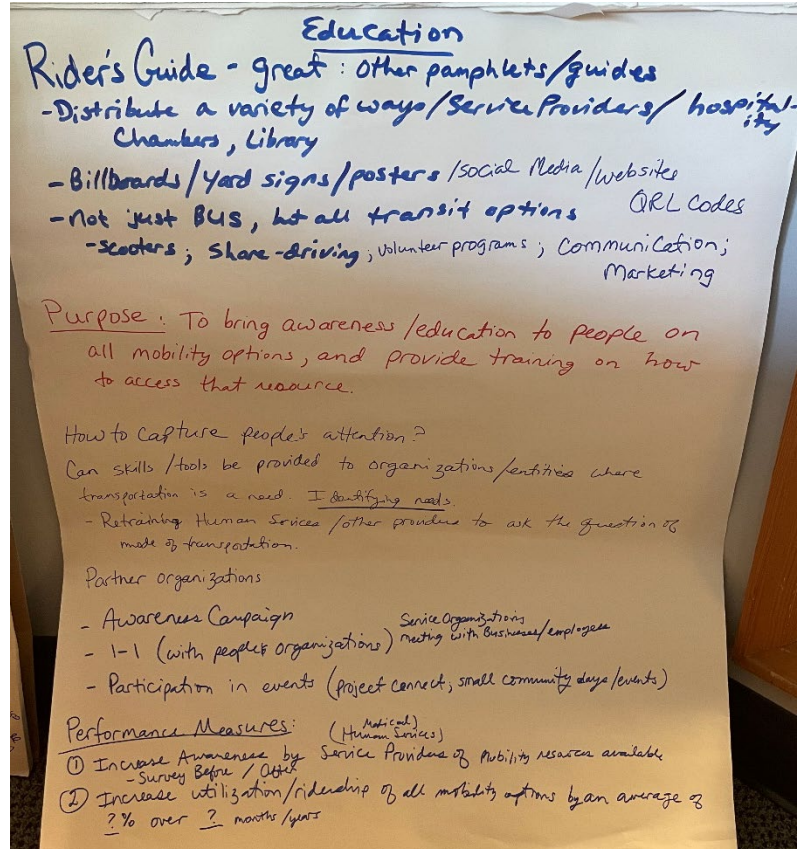
Purpose:

- To bring awareness/education to people on all mobility options and provide training on how to access that resource.

How to capture people's attention?

- Can skills/tools be provided to organizations/entities where transportation is a need. Identify needs.
- Retraining human services/other providers to ask the question of mode of transportation

Partner organizations

- Awareness Campaign
- 1-1 (with partners)
- Participation in events (project connect, small community days/events)
- Service Organizations
- Meeting with Businesses/employers

4. Infrastructure and Funding

Activities:

- Inventory of current infrastructure to identify needs
    - Look at hard infrascture like vehicles
    - And soft infrastructure like volunteer drivers and recruitment

Purpose:

- Improve mobility options for everyone

Method:

- Outreach to stakeholders to complete inventory, explore funding options for need identified by invenvory

Performance measurement:

- Where did we use the funding we found?
    - Number of new vehicles
    - Number of new volunteers
- How did this achieve our purpose?
    - Number of rural clients receiving service
    - Number of rides

Comments from others:

- Seek seed funding from Weld and Larimer County Commissioners for new and expanded rural volunteer driver programs
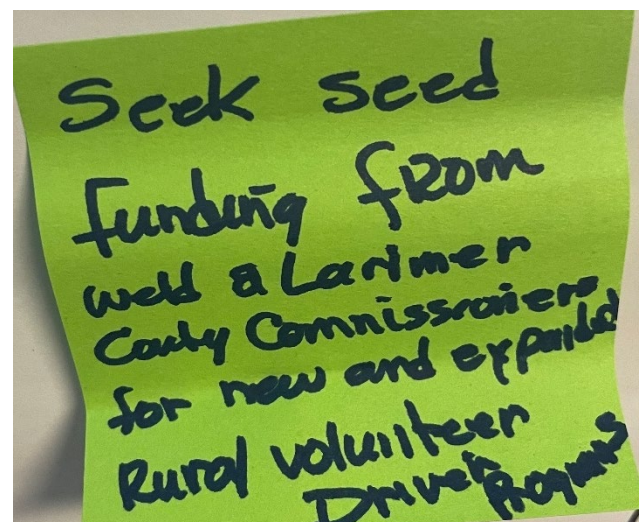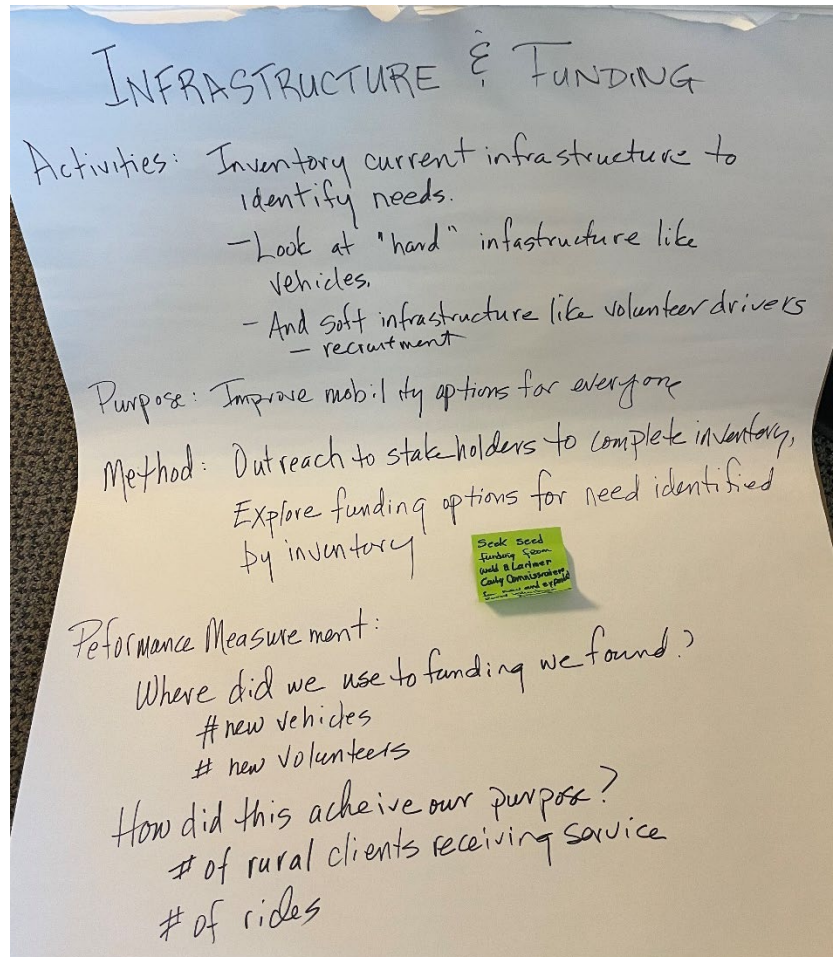
5. Non-Transportation Improvements

- Better land use/transportation integration
- Expected population growth in region
- Equity training for transit and volunteer staff
    - Customer service training for providers
- Environmental resiliency and sustainability
- Guides for individiuals with vision impariments and low literacy
- Connection with local trails/active transportation infrastructure and programs
- Collaborate with major development projects – make sure there are mobility options

Education:

- Coordinated travel training, education, outreach, i.e. senior living communities
- Clear, concise, and effective communication

Infrastructure/Funding:

- Private foundation grand funding
- Funding from health organizations like Heart Association
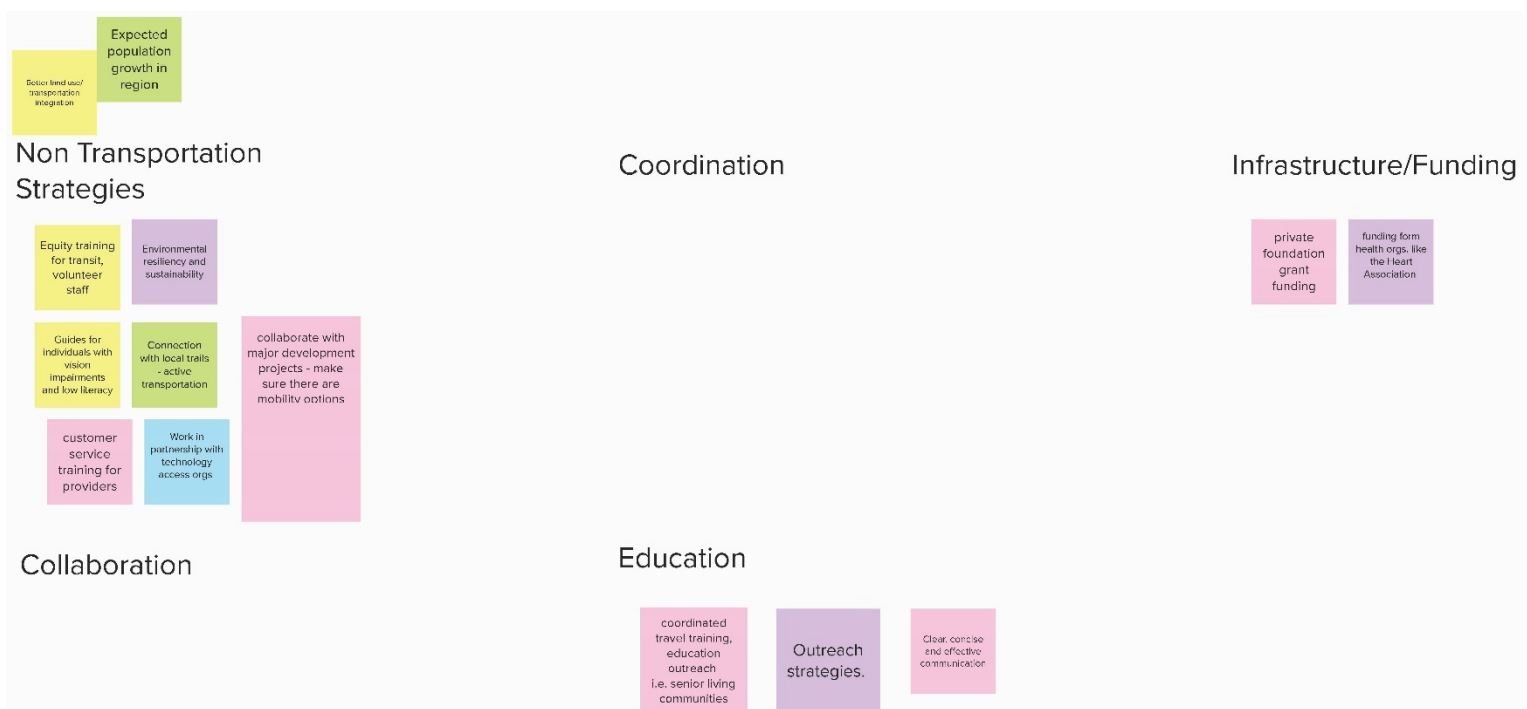
Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC)—MINUTES
November 18, 2021
1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

1. **Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

- Bridie Smith, COLT
- Vanessa Solesbee, Town of Estes Park
- Megan Garbarino, Foothills Gateway
- Melina Dempsey, City of Fort Collins
- Lorye McLeod, PAFC
- Connie Nelson-Cleverley, SAINT
- Anna Russo, Transfort
- Katlyn Kelly Transfort
- Jim Becker, North 40 Mountain Alliance
- Jan Rowe, CDOT

- Skyler Potocek, Northern Colorado Clean Cities
- Garrett Mumma, State of CO Vocational Rehabilitation
- Angel Bond, Boulder County Mobility For All
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Ruth Fletcher-Carter, RAFT
- Diego Lopez, Northern Colorado Clean Cities

NFRMPO staff: Cory Schmitt, Hanna Johnson, Alex Gordon

2. **Review of Agenda**
3. **Public Comment** *(2 minutes each)*

   No public comment received.
4. **Approval of July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Russo moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Solesbee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1) **West Elizabeth Corridor Update** – Dempsey, Transportation Planner with the City of Fort Collins' FC Moves Team, is the project manager for West Elizabeth Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor project. They are at the 30% design phase to qualify for federal "small starts" funding. The project study spans across West Elizabeth from the CSU Foothills Campus to the east through campus, connecting with the existing MAX BRT line. The design will also include significant bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor. The City is prioritizing this project because this corridor has the highest transit ridership with many cyclists and pedestrian users resulting in safety concerns with an average of one crash every four days along the corridor. A few project outcomes include BRT, enhanced bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure/amenities, bus stop islands, and a focus on safety for all modes and users. The project timeline can be found in detail in the slides attached. If the timeline works well, construction can ideally begin in 2024 or 2025. The anticipated route can be found in the presentation attached to the meeting minutes. Part of the route considerations is ensuring that the BRT does not cross the train tracks on Mason. Dempsey

reviewed the protected bicycle and pedestrian features, bus islands, and the foothills campus bus turn around. Gordon asked if this BRT will connect into the MAX line without transfers or if transfers will be needed. Dempsey stated that at first, a connection will be required, but the City is aiming to get a one-seat ride integrated eventually. She noted that more people are seeking a south transit center one-seat ride. Mumma asked, "where does this line hook up exactly with the University MAX-line?" and Dempsey stated that it will connect to the Laurel station on Mason. The City is planning on utilizing the larger, articulated buses for this route.

ACTION ITEMS

1) **NFRMPO Coordinated Plan** – Gordon presented on the final updates to the Coordinated Plan. This plan is updated every 4 years, focuses on people with mobility challenges – particularly older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income adults – acts as a strategic plan for coordinated mobility in the region, and analyzes existing conditions. The strategies identified by this planning effort are as follows: coordination, education/communication, collaboration, infrastructure/funding, and non-mobility improvements. Next steps: the NFRMPO will take the Plan to the NFRMPO Planning Council on December 2nd. Fletcher-Carter moved to recommend the Coordinated Plan for approval by the NFRMPO Planning Council. Garbarino seconded that motion. No objections to the motion were voiced.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) **Northern Colorado Clean Cities Electrification Project**– Lopez presented about the Northern Colorado Clean Cities Electrification Project. NCCC is a non-profit organization sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program. The goal is to increase access to affordable electric vehicles. There were two grants that just ended: Charge Ahead Colorado and ALT Fuels Colorado; these grant applications will re-open in January 2022. NCCC has partnered with the City of Fort Collins and KIA to reduce the cost of a KIA Niro electric vehicle. There are several federal funding opportunities: Low or No Emission Vehicle Program and "Diesel Emission Reduction Act" (DERA) Funding. There will be more federal funding opportunities should be announced in the next 3 months. A "Concept Paper" for these grants will be due soon. Additionally, the 2021 Federal Infrastructure Bill will likely be able to match or support electrification projects. NCCCEP requested project ideas from the LCMC for EV and charging infrastructure in underserved communities. Lopez' questions to the group included "Who are the underserved communities? Project ideas? Accessibility barriers? Stakeholders to engage?" Schmitt asked who the application agency would be. Lopez responded that a public agency is typically the primary applicant and the NCCC provides technical assistance to write the grant. Schmitt asked if there is any appetite for shared vehicles. Lopez noted that he was hoping that topic would come up; they want a project that includes multimodal transportation for "underserved" communities. Gordon asked if there is a requirement for local matching funds. Lopez noted that there was a 50% cost share for the equity program, and some grants require as low as 20%; this can be matched by state dollars. Fletcher-Carter noted that the group should see if there's a way to connect rural communities to other services with this

funding. Lopez noted that this funding could cover planning or a gaps analysis. Schmitt specified that Larimer County had a Senior Transportation Needs Assessment in 2018. Fletcher-Carter recognized the driver shortage. Lopez noted that the EMPOWER grant provides funds for workforce development that could help with driver shortages. Gordon asked what type of projects have been funded and how much funding is available. Lopez stated that these grants are annual but some requirements may change slightly; NCCC recently added a workplace charging station. Lopez noted that compelling applications typically involve a variety of supporters and stakeholders. NCCC anticipates $2-$5 million in funding per project. Fletcher-Carter asked if these projects are one or multi-year. Lopez stated that project managers make the timeline with a four-year maximum for the project. Lopez can be reached at 970-439-2926 or adlopez.nccc@gmail.com if any LCMC members have questions or project ideas.

2) **Office on Aging Funding Opportunity –** Schmitt noted that Larimer County will receive $1.2m of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds over the next 3 years. Katie Stieber is encouraging one-on-one meetings with their office for partners with ideas for how to use those funds. If interested, email Katie Stieber directly stiebeka@co.larimer.co.us to discuss any ideas. Fletcher-Carter mentioned that RAFT is interested in updating their mobility van to an electric vehicle.

3) **2022 Meeting Calendar** – Schmitt presented about the 2022 calendar. LCMC meetings will be hybrid, hosted at the NFRMPO office. There will be two Joint Mobility meetings in 2022.

MOBILITY MANAGER UPDATE
1) **Website Launch –** The RideNoCo [website](#) is officially launched.
2) **Technology Steering Committee –** Schmitt presented about the RideNoCo Technology Steering Committee (TSC) that will focus on the "trip dispatching" phase of the RideNoCo implementation. The TSC will define the scope and objectives for the Request for Proposals (RFP) creation, help select the vendor, and oversee the project. Stakeholders perfect for the TSC include providers, riders, caregivers, and stakeholders impacted by transportation access. Current members include 60+ Ride, GET, Colorado Dept. of Vocational Rehab, Via Mobility Services, and Arc of Weld County. Fletcher-Carter, Nelson-Cleverley, and Garbarino have volunteered for the TSC.

LCMC MEMBER REPORTS
- Kelly, Transfort – Transfort will receive their electric buses early 2022, likely in January.
- Gordon, NFRMPO – 2050 RTP update will kick off in early 2022.

Final Public Comment *(2 minutes each)*

No public comment received.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

Interest in having a presentation from Gordon on the LinkNoCo updates and an update on mobility grants and other relevant grants from NCCC.

Upcoming Meetings:

    a.   LCMC Meeting: January 20th, 2022

b. Joint Meeting: March 17th, 2022

2022 Mobility Calendar

◯ LCMC
◯ WCMC
◯ MAPG
◯ Joint Mobility

2022
Meeting Dates:
1/20: LCMC
2/3: MAPG
2/22: WCMC
3/17: Joint
4/7: MAPG
4/26: WCMC
5/19:LCMC
6/2: MAPG
6/28: WCMC
7/21: LCMC
8/4: MAPG
8/30: WCMC
9/15: LCMC
10/6: MAPG
10/25: Joint
11/17: LCMC
12/1: MAPG
12/13: WCMC

January

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