

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

Hybrid Meeting

February 16, 2022

1:01 – 2:37 p.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eric Tracy, Chair – Larimer County
Allison Baxter, Vice Chair – Greeley
Abdul Barzak – Severance
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Jessica Ferko – RAQC
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Josie Hadley – CDOT
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Dave Klockeman – Loveland
Mark Oberschmidt – Evans
Adam Olinger – Berthoud

NFRMPO STAFF:

Medora Bornhoft
AnnaRose Cunningham
Alex Gordon
Hanna Johnson
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette
Jerome Rouser

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Wesley LeVanchy – Eaton
Town of LaSalle
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Ranae Tunison – FTA
Troy White – Johnstown

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alex Donaldson – Loveland
Candice Folkers – COLT
Katie Guthrie – Loveland
Myron Hora – WSP
Michelle Johnson – GET
Katlyn Kelly – Transfort
Katrina Kloberdanz – CDOT
Evan Pinkham – Weld County
Jan Rowe – CDOT
Lea Schneider – Larimer County
Natalie Shishido – CDOT
Michael Snow – CDOT
Carrie Tremblatt – CDOT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tracy called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2022 TAC MINUTES

Oberschmidt moved to approve the January 19, 2022 TAC minutes. Relford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month.

AIR QUALITY AGENDA

Regional Air Quality Updates – Ferko reminded TAC of the RAQC’s Control Strategy Committees and stated elements of the new SIP are continuing to be presented at the RAQC Board Meetings.

Bornhoft stated NFRMPO Staff are participating on the two technical working groups convened by CDOT, one on mitigation measures and the other on modeling, which are identifying how the GHG Planning Standards rule will be implemented. Additionally, Karasko is serving on the State Interagency Consultation Team. NFRMPO staff are concerned the number of GHG mitigation measures may be limited for the first demonstration and is working with CDOT to expand the number of measures available.. Bornhoft reminded TAC of the GHG Data request, which is due on Friday, February 18. The Nonattainment Area Enterprise board on which Commissioner Stephens is serving convened their first meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

2021 Call for Projects– Cunningham noted the City of Greeley withdrew their application for the *9th and 10th Street Mobility Enhancements* project. The \$2.3M STBG funds originally recommended to fund the project will go to the next highest ranked projects which had been recommended for partial funding or waitlisted. With this change the City of Loveland *US34 EB Widening Construction* and City of Evans *37th St Widening Phase 3* projects will be fully funded. The recommendations for the CMAQ and TA programs remain the same. Relford asked if TAC will be able to give feedback on the Call for Projects process. Cunningham stated a survey will be sent out to TAC prior to the March meeting. Klockeman moved to approve the 2021 Call for Projects. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

No items this month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY2022 CMAQ and TA Funding Allocations – Cunningham stated the January 2022 Reconciliation from CDOT identified approximately \$361,360 in unprogrammed FY22 CMAQ funds. The City of Fort Collins *College and Trilby Road Intersection Improvements* project had an unfunded request of \$612,629 and has stated they can accept the additional funds and consider the project fully funded. Relford asked if this additional allocation would impact the STBG funding request from the 2021 Call for Projects. Cunningham stated this would be in addition to the STBG award and Buckman noted the City of Fort Collins requested the maximum STBG they were allowed which still left the project partially unfunded.

The January 2022 Reconciliation also identified a deficit of \$13,643 TA funding in FY23 following the FY20-21 Revenue Reconciliation from CDOT HQ. The NFRMPO’s STBG pool has unprogrammed funds totaling \$156,211 in FY23 and Staff is recommending utilizing the unprogrammed STBG funds to cover the deficit in the TA pool to ensure all projects awarded in FY23 receive funding. The group discussed the process for the remaining unprogrammed FY23 STBG funds, Cunningham stated it would be revisited after the start of FY23.

MMOF Call for Projects Criteria – Cunningham presented the changes to the Multimodal Transportation and Mitigations Options Fund (MMOF) program including the updated name, goals, and project types. The NFRMPO has approximately \$15.5M in MMOF to award in FY2023 including \$7.8M Federal and \$7.7M State funds. Relford asked for clarification how the NFRMPO will award the Federal (ARPA Stimulus) and State funds as they have different expenditure timelines, with the Federal funds needing to be obligated by December 31, 2024. Cunningham stated it will be included in the application whether a project sponsor is applying for State or Federal funds and the shovel ready projects would likely be the projects awarded the Federal funding.

The NFRMPO will be asking for funding off the top to use for MPO projects. Relford asked for more information on each of the projects and Cunningham stated it will be included in future versions of the guidelines when more information is available.

Cunningham outlined the project types eligible under the MMOF program how the NFRMPO is proposing categorizing the projects to help facilitate awards and scoring with Category A being Quantifiable GHG Reducing Projects and Category B Projects being Non-Quantifiable or Non-GHG Reducing Projects. Staff has proposed having at least three-quarters of the available funding to go towards Category A projects and no more than one quarter of the available funding to go towards Category B projects. Klockeman asked for clarification on why the ratio was chosen. Cunningham noted one goal of this Call will be to help the NFRMPO meet the budgets outlined in the GHG Planning Standards rule.

Mallette asked Michael Snow, CDOT, about the expenditure timelines of the federal funds and CDOT contracting. Snow stated although the federal funds expire in December 2026 there is still 90 days for final billings and reimbursements to be completed. Snow noted the contracting teams within CDOT have been building up staffing capacity to help facilitate contracting. Buckman asked Snow if there were restrictions with the Federal funds on bike and pedestrian projects. Snow stated the Federal funds can be used for any MMOF project type. Klockeman asked if CDOT would be holding a workshop for applicants. Snow noted materials would be provided to MPOs and local agencies providing further guidance on the program and CDOT will hold Q&A sessions in the coming weeks.

Cunningham noted certain project types will be required to provide a record of CDOT consultation prior to submitting an application and project sponsors will be required to submit a project description to the NFRMPO as noted in the timeline. Klockeman asked if sponsors can submit a project description to receive feedback whether it will be a good fit for MMOF funding. Cunningham stated that would be acceptable.

The group discussed the requirements on the Federal funding, match rates, project minimums and maximums, and the proposed scoring criteria. Snow noted SB-260 still allows for the Transportation Commission to consider reduced match rates on an as needed basis. Klockeman asked for more clarification in the guidelines on what funds can be used to match MMOF and what funds MMOF can serve as match.

Cunningham presented the proposed scoring criteria which was adapted from the 2019 MMOF Call with the addition of GHG Emissions reductions being added for Category A projects. Relford asked if Staff would be performing the GHG emissions analysis. Cunningham confirmed Staff would and stated the process would be similar to that of CMAQ emissions analysis. The group discussed reducing the points available for GHG emissions reductions and increasing the points available under Strategic Connections.

Two optional timelines were presented for the opening of the Call and TAC determined an extended timeline would be better, choosing the option of the Call opening in May with final Council approval in August. MMOF will be a discussion item at the Council and TAC meetings in March.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

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

Regional Transit Agencies – No updates were provided.

Mobility Updates – Johnson stated Ride NoCo has entered Phase 2 with the trip discovery tool. The MPO will be convening Trip Scheduling Steering Committee beginning in March. The Via Mobility pilot will be concluding at the end of the month and Via is pursuing more funding options to continue the Program. RideNoCo has received 110 calls for transportation information and assistance since launching in February 2021.

REPORTS

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

Mobility Committee Updates – A written report was provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Cunningham stated the notes from the Safety Data Working Group are included in the Handouts and noted that TAC members interested in participating in the work group should contact her. The group will hold another meeting in the Spring to work on the Near Miss/ Hazard Reporting tool.

Klockeman asked for interested TAC members to contact him to discuss recruiting and hiring practices.

Relford stated Weld County is working on ROW plans for the WCR74 and WCR33 roundabout project.

Bornhoft reminded the group of the GHG data request and the Model Steering Team kickoff meeting Friday, February 18.

Herrera stated the Town of Windsor has hired Eric Bracke as Transportation Planner/Engineer.

Karasko noted work is beginning on the FY2023 UPWP budget and tasks. An email will be sent to TAC in the next few days for any updates on UPWP planning projects.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – Call for Projects feedback discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 as a hybrid meeting.