

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

**May 5, 2022  
Hybrid Meeting**

**Voting Members Present:**

Scott James – Vice Chair -Weld County  
Elizabeth Austin -Milliken  
Kathleen Bracke -Transportation Commission  
Frank Baszler -Severance  
Tricia Canonico -Fort Collins  
Mark Clark -Evans  
Paula Cochran -LaSalle  
Liz Heid -Eaton  
Jon Mallo -Loveland  
Troy Mellon -Johnstown  
Paul Rennemeyer -Windsor

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta -Garden City  
Will Karspeck – Chair -Berthoud  
Lisa Laake -Timnath  
Johnny Olson -Greeley  
Kristin Stephens -Larimer County  
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; Jerome Rouser, Transportation Planner I

**In Attendance:** Corey Stewart; Dan Betts; Dave Klockeman; Dean Klingner; Eric Tracy; Evan Pinkham; Heather Paddock; James Usher; Jan Rowe; Jim Becklenberg; Jim Eussen; Katrina Klobberdanz; Mark Oberschmidt; Michelle Edgerley; Mike Silverstein; Omar Herrera; Paul Trombino; Pepper McClenahan; Rich Christy; Steve Teets; Will Jones

Vice Chair James called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Steve Teets, Greeley, thanked the MPO for the development and distribution of the rider's guides. Teets asked if the I-25 and US34 Coalitions still meet. James stated they meet quarterly with the next US34 meeting to be held prior to the July NFRMPO Planning Council meeting. Teets asked if the COLT North Transfer Point is being moved. Mallo noted a new transfer center will be constructed at US287 and 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Clark **moved** to *APPROVE THE May 5, 2022 MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Clark and **passed** unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

Air Quality Conformity for the FY2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Medora Bornhoft, Transportation and Air Quality Planner III, stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to notify the public and receive input on Air Quality Conformity Determinations for the NFRMPO Region and a portion of the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region within the Northern Subarea of the Denver Metro-North Front Range 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area and the Fort Collins Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Area. The NFRMPO is required to determine conformity of the TIP with federal and state air quality laws and regulations before federal-aid transportation projects may proceed. The FY2023-2026 TIP meets all conformity criteria and all planning requirements. No comments were received from

the public on the Conformity documents during the public comment period, which opened on April 1, 2022 and closed on April 30, 2022.

Vice Chair James opened the Public Hearing.

Steve Teets asked how new ozone rules affect the NFRMPO and the conformity determination. James noted all of Weld County will be included in non-attainment area but does not affect the current determination. Bornhoft noted the NFRMPO will complete modeling and prepare a new conformity determination for the 2045 RTP Update September to include the new non-attainment area boundaries and classifications.

Vice Chair James closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.

### **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 outlined the responsibilities of the RAQC, the programs currently being implemented, and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) process. Silverstein outlined the funding structure of the RAQC noting there is no membership dues to the RAQC. Instead, the RAQC solicits funding support from local governments which is in the form of letters to local governments.

Silverstein explained the two standards the Denver-North Front Range Non-Attainment area is subject to and stated the new target year for compliance is 2026 which will also include the updated non-attainment area boundary incorporating all of Weld County.

James asked how the RAQC, Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), and Air Quality Control Council (AQCC) work. Silverstein explained the APCD is staff within the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the AQCC is the Governor appointed board who is tasked to ensure the State is in compliance with EPA rules. The RAQC was created by the Governor to be the lead planning agency for air quality and brings together all communities to develop plans to bring the non-attainment areas into compliance with the Clean Air Act. The RAQC has no regulatory authority, but complete staff work and present technical, administrative, and policy recommendations to the AQCC.

James asked about the increase in the budget for the APCD. Silverstein noted it is due to new laws and regulations which will require a significant increase in staff to complete the work. Some of the additional funds will be distributed to the RAQC for programs including working with local government on fleet electrification.

Mellon asked if there will be repercussions for local governments who do not electrify. Silverstein stated not at this time, the RAQC works with incentives as opposed to repercussions. Mallo asked how wildfires contribute to Ozone and how that is factored in to the RAQC's planning. Silverstein explained if the state can demonstrate that wildfire smoke was a major contributor to Ozone exceedances then the days can be disqualified but noted the fires in 2021 did not make a difference because the Ozone levels were high regardless of wildfire smoke.

Clark asked for clarification on what the ultimate goal of the RAQC is and how those goals will be funded. Silverstein stated the goal is to show the State is doing the maximum amount practicable to achieve ozone reductions to ensure compliance with the EPA both in the short and long term.

Baszler noted support for education about electrification options for lawn and garden. Silverstein noted the Simple Steps, Better Air program focuses on that type of education.

##### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoft noted EPA is proposing reclassifying the Denver-North Front Range Non-Attainment area to moderate and severe. This will have no immediate impact to the NFRMPO but there will be new motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) which will be incorporated into future planning, modeling, and

conformity determinations. The Transportation Commission is scheduled to adopt the GHG policy directive on the mitigation measures at their meeting in May. NFRMPO staff will be submitting written comment including broadening the measures, identifying ways to prioritize measures in disproportionately impacted communities, inclusion of an amendment and modification process similar to TIP processes, and including the option for local inputs to the mitigation measure formulas. Bracke noted comments made by the MPO have been taken to the transportation commission and encouraged Council members to submit additional comments to her.

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Vice Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

#### Report of the Chair

James introduced new councilmember Liz Heid from the Town of Eaton and Amanda Castle who will be the new alternate for the City of Evans. James requested a motion to approve appointing William Karspeck and Johnny Olson as directors on the Front Range Passenger Rail District representing the NFRMPO.

Mellon **moved** to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-10 APPROVING NFRMPO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The motion was **seconded** by Clark and passed unanimously.

#### Executive Director Report

Mallette noted revisions of the NFRMPO regionally significant corridors (RSCs), Regional Active Transportation Corridors (RATCs), and Regional Transit Corridors (RTCs) are underway and will be a discussion item with Council in June. Mallette gave an overview of the legislative update provided in the Handouts and noted the NFRMPO audit report has been delayed by one month.

#### TAC

A written report was provided.

#### Mobility

A written report was provided.

#### Finance

A written report was provided.

#### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

#### Q1 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mellon moved to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. The motion was seconded by Clark and passed unanimously. The consent agenda included four items:

- Air Quality Conformity, Resolution No. 2022-11
- FY2022 Title VI Plan, Resolution No. 2022-12

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter 2021 Unaudited Financials

Mallette noted the NFRMPO has hired the consulting firm Go Figure Accounting. Edgerley reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter financial statements outlining total revenue is down due to a lag in invoicing of grants to the NFRMPO and expenses are down because a delay in the start of projects. Mellon asked for clarification on the projects which have been delayed. Mallette noted the delay was specifically with internal planning funds for the household travel survey which was delayed due to COVID. Edgerley outlined revenue and expenses for the VanGo program including a decrease in revenue and expenses due to COVID.

Rennemeyer **moved** to approve the *THE 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER UNAUDITED FINANCIALS*. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo and **passed** unanimously.

FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Karasko outlined the FY2023 UPWP seven updated tasks which were approved by TAC and stated the Finance Committee reviewed the budget at their April meeting and recommended Planning Council approval. Approval by Council will allow for CDOT and FHWA approval prior to the beginning of Federal Fiscal Year 2023.

Rennemeyer **moved** to approve the RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13 *APPROVING THE FY2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)* The motion was **seconded** by Clark and **passed** unanimously.

FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget Amendment #2

Karasko outlined the FY2022 budget amendment which includes the addition of \$250K State Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Funds (MMOF) from CDOT for enhanced travel model capabilities. There is no local match requirement for these funds.

Rennemeyer **moved** to approve the RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14 *APPROVING THE FY2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) BUDGET AMENDMENT #2*. The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Cunningham noted the public comment period for the Draft TIP ended on April 30 and outlined the changes included in the TIP narrative following the last council meeting.

Rennemeyer **moved** to approve the RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15 *APPROVING THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Clark and **passed** unanimously.

MMOF Call for Projects Criteria

Cunningham stated the 2022 MMOF Call for Projects Guidelines include the additional requirement for new transit service projects to include a sustainable funding plan as recommended by Planning Council. The Guidelines also include updated funding fact sheets provided by CDOT for state and federal funds.

Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE 2022 MMOF CALL FOR PROJECTS GUIDELINES AND OPEN THE 2022 MMOF CALL FOR PROJECTS ON MAY 6, 2022*. The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Task Amendment – Karasko outlined the amendment for the FY2022 UPWP. The amendment adds a new Travel Demand Management (TDM) Task which will support the development and implementation of a new TDM program in the MPO region and outlined the task is budget neutral as it will utilize MMOF funding allocated to the RideNoCo program.

FHWA PM3 System Performance Updates – Cunningham outlined the requirements for the NFRMPO and CDOT to set joint targets for the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area (TMA) for two new system performance measures: Non-Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) Travel and Peak Hours of Excessive Delay (PHED). NFRMPO staff prepared two scenarios for setting target for Non-SOV travel. The first scenario sets the targets by applying current commuting trends out to the target years and the second scenario increases the percentage of non-SOV commuters from 3.5 to 4 percent. TAC discussed the targets at their meeting in April and support setting targets based on current trends. Cunningham reviewed PHED targets proposed by CDOT following a review of modeling completed by their consultant. Council expressed support for setting Non-SOV using current trend data and CDOT's proposed PHED targets.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Transportation Commission – Bracke noted ridership on Poudre Express has continued to increase. The TC continues work on the GHG Policy Directive, any further comments on the directive should be directed to her to pass along to the Commission. The Four Chair TPR Meeting was held in April where the 10-year priority list of projects was reviewed for the Upper Front Range and NFRMPO. Increased investment will be made into North I-25 as it has been identified as a top priority.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock discussed how increased construction costs are impacting projects across Region 4. Paddock reviewed 10-year plan projects within the NFRMPO including I-25 Segment 5 which is being matched with UFR, NFRMPO, and DRCOG, \$14M to premium transit along US34 between Greeley and Loveland, three main projects form the NFR list in the next 4 years. The National Highway Freight Program call for projects is open to solicit ideas for improvements to safety and mobility of freight in areas. Paddock provided updates on construction along I-25 noting the east frontage road is scheduled to be open by June 3, a ribbon cutting for the port of entries will happen in June, and Ketchter is scheduled to be reopen mid-May. The US34 eastbound bridge is scheduled to be demolished on June 4 which will allow for paving of the northbound lanes of I-25.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

US34 Coalition – None this month.

I-25 Coalition – None this month.

Host Council Member Report – Clark reported progress along the HWY 85 corridor including landscaping and median improvements and as well as preparation for potential development at the south end of the corridor. A food tax has allowed the City to build a new police station. The 47<sup>th</sup> Ave widening project is scheduled to be completed soon including a roundabout at 47<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup>. Construction will begin this summer to widen 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Trail construction is planned to occur in the next year or two around Tuscany St.

**MEETING WRAP-UP:**

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff