

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

**October 6, 2022
Hybrid Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Will Karspeck -Chair	-Berthoud
Scott James – Vice Chair	-Weld County
Jeni Arndt	-Fort Collins
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Jon Mallo	-Loveland
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor

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; **Sheereen Ibtesam**, Outreach Specialist

In Attendance: Dan Betts; Rich Christy; James Eussen; Omar Herrera; Myron Hora; Mark Jackson; Bhooshan Karnik; Dean Klingner; Katrina Kloberdanz; Matt LeCerf; Deanna McIntosh; Heather Paddock; Carla Perez; Evan Pinkham; Chris Proud; Elizabeth Relford; Jan Rowe; Robin Stoneman; Steve Teets; Paul Trombino; Edwin Wayne-Grant; Troy White

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

Public Comment:

Steve Teets, resident of the City of Greeley, requested an option for the Colorado Wyoming Transit Feasibility survey option for individuals that do not use computers. Teets expressed support for the upcoming Bustang service from Sterling to Greeley and Denver and stated it should also connect to Loveland and the VA Clinic. Teets noted the region needs to do more to address air quality issues.

Edwin Wayne-Grant, resident of the City of Greeley, expressed concerns about vehicle registration processes and transportation service options and funding for veterans.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

Public Hearing

Chair Karspeck opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Air Quality Conformity for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2022 Update

Karasko 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 2045 RTP 2022 Update and the FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with federal and state air quality laws and regulations before federal-aid transportation projects may proceed. The 2045 RTP 2022 Update and FY2023-2026 TIP meet all conformity criteria and all planning requirements. This conformity determination also meets the requirements of a new conformity determination being completed following the expansion of the Northern Subarea of the Ozone Nonattainment area to include all of Weld County. No comments were received from the public on the Conformity documents during the public comment period, which opened on August 26, 2022 and closed on September 25, 2022.

Steve Teets, resident of the City of Greeley, requested more information on the 2045 RTP 2022 Update. Teets asked if the region was still able to receive Federal transportation funding for older adults and individuals with disabilities as well as for air quality projects.

Chair Karspeck closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Karspeck opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Karasko stated there will be a Public Hearing on the new State Implementation Plan (SIP) at the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) meeting on December 14.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Karspeck opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

No reports this month

HR Committee Report– Clark stated Director Mallette’s annual evaluation will be distributed on October 17. Once the survey closes the HR Committee will meet with Employers Council and will be presented to Planning Council at the December 1 meeting.

Executive Director Report

Mallette noted the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) will be open for public comment through November 5 with the Planning Council scheduled to discuss the Draft PIP at their meeting in November. Mallette directed Council to the Public Comment page on the NFRMPO website for information about all public comment

opportunities and noted the Colorado Wyoming Transit Feasibility Study online open house will be open through October 17.

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.

VanGo™ Dashboard

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATION

Cory Schmitt, NFRMPO Mobility Manger, outlined the vision and phases of the RideNoCo program, the One Call/One Click Center that was approved by Planning Council in January 2020. Phase 1 of the program was the call center and website which were rolled out in 2021. Phase 2 is the development of a trip discovery tool, and phase 3 is a trip scheduling tool. Schmitt outlined the components of the trip discovery tool which includes volunteer transportation along with transit providers and is the first tool of its kind to integrate these two options.

James asked what the requirements for software are for providers. Schmitt noted a GTFS database, which is a way to standardize data across providers, is the only requirements. Stephens noted support for the project and verified there is a phone number as well as the website. Schmitt stated the call center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously. The consent agenda included one item:

- VanGo™ Policy Changes
- Air Quality Conformity

ACTION ITEMS:

NFRMPO Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Transportation Report

Karasko stated the NFRMPO was required by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to complete a GHG Transportation Report to demonstrate the 2045 RTP 2022 Update was in compliance with the GHG Transportation Planning standard. The Report was open for public comment from August 19 through September 17 with three comments being received during that time and were incorporated into the report as applicable. The CDOT Transportation Commission approved the NFRMPO GHG Transportation Report at their meeting on September 15.

Stephens **moved** to approve the *NFRMPO GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) TRANSPORTATION REPORT, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-28* as presented. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2022 Update

Karasko stated the update to the 2045 RTP was completed to comply with the GHG Planning Standard in tandem with the GHG Transportation Report. The 30-day public comment period was open from August 19 through September 17 with no comments being received during that time.

James **moved** to approve the *2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) 2022 UPDATE, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-29*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

FY2022 TIP Delay Review

Cunningham outlined the purpose and process of the TIP Delay Review, stating there were six projects subject to the FY2022 TIP Delay review. One project met the required milestone and five projects experienced delays. Four of the delayed projects are requesting their first one-year extension, which may be approved by the Technical Advisory Committee, and one project from the Town of Johnstown is requesting a third one-year extension, which must be approved by Planning Council. Troy White, Johnstown Public Works Director, stated the project has been delayed due to the discovery of an endangered species during the environmental review, leading to a realignment of the project being required and a new environmental review needing to be conducted. The Town anticipates the project will go to advertisement in November 2022. The Council expressed support for granting the extension.

LinkNoCo Study Recommendations

Gordon outlined the vision and the background of the LinkNoCo Study, the NFRMPO premium transit analysis, and introduced Chris Proud, HDR, the consultant on the project. Proud detailed the process of the study and reviewed the recommendations included in the final report. The three recommended corridors are Greeley to Loveland via US34; Windsor to Loveland via WCR 17 and US34; and Fort Collins to Greeley via the Great Western Railway. The study outlined possible infrastructure upgrades to these corridors to accommodate new transit service, possible Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) options, and funding opportunities with each potential option.

Baszler asked for details on how stop placements were chosen and what other types of transportation options, including local transit service, would be available around the potential stops. Proud stated the proposed stops have been suggested due to the current and future land use as well as attractions including existing and future park and rides or mobility hubs. The stop locations were chosen based on those factors and noted each stop may attract different types of users.

James asked if the study gave consideration and recommendations to right of way requirements, noting that was one of the original questions going into the study. Proud stated the first step in the process was to prioritize and narrow down the corridors, questions about right of way and specific locational improvements could be addressed in the next phase of the study. James asked what is prohibiting service from being deployed right now. Proud stated the recommendation is to begin transit service as soon as possible noting there is demand for it at the current time, but that funding and specific improvements would need to be made to make the service more reliable and continue to build ridership.

The Council asked for details about infrastructure and operating costs, fare structure and sensitivity. Proud stated initial cost estimates are included in the report, fare structure and sensitivity were not analyzed but could be included in the next phase of the study. Gordon noted the three local transit agencies have begun discussing fare consistency in the region.

Records Retention Policy

Mallette noted the NFRMPO has not previously had a formal Record Retention Policy. The recommended policy which details the length of time different materials and documentation must be retained was drafted by the MPO attorneys based on State guidance.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Bracke provided Mallette an update stating GHG Transportation Reports for the NFRMPO, DRCOG, and CDOT were all adopted and approved by the State.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock outlined the construction updates in the region. The diverging diamond interchange at SH60 and I-25 is partially opened with construction to be completed soon. The northbound section of I-25 between US34 and Crossroads opened which has improved safety. The parking lot at the mobility hub at Kendal Parkway has been paved. The US34 interchange may not be complete before spring. The Transportation Commission will do a tour of I-25 segments two through eight. Through the 10-Year plan the TC has committed to fully funding I-25 Segment 5 and is still evaluating risks on the concessionaire.

STAC Report – A written report was included.

I-25 Coalition – James stated Paddock covered all the updates provided at the I-25 Coalition.

US34 Coalition – James reported the US34 Coalition discussed the premium transit analysis and discussed pursuing a transportation management organization (TMO) designation along US34 from Estes Park through to Kersey.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens stated an overview of the gap analysis was presented to the Enterprise outlining funding sources and where the NAAPME may fill in gaps in funding. A presentation on bus rapid transit (BRT) in the Denver Metro area was given to the Enterprise. Stephens stated the revenue received from the retail delivery fee is currently around \$263K, the rideshare dollars come in on a quarterly bases and should be reported out after the beginning of the year.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck stated the district passed its bylaws at the previous meeting, an interview committee has been created to bring on a General Manager, and there will be a 2-day retreat on December 8-9.

Host Council Member Report – James outlined the financial position of the county and provided updates on the roundabout projects currently being completed in Weld County with various partners.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff