

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

**February 2, 2023
Hybrid Meeting in Fort Collins, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Mark Clark	-Evans
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Lisa Laake	-Timnath

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **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: Rich Christy, Jim Eussen, Nicole Hahn, Omar Herrera, Dana Hornkohl, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Katlyn Kelly, Katrina Klobberdanz, Deanna McIntosh, Evan Pinkham, Mark Peterson, Kim Redd, Mike Silverstein, Robin Stoneman, Josie Thomas, Eric Tracy, and Paul Trombino.

Vice-Chair Mallo called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Move to Approve Minutes

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE JANUARY 5, 2023 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Vice-Chair Mallo 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 reviewed RAQC programs, including *Simple Steps, Better Air*, the outreach program for the summer ozone season, which will have an increased budget starting in 2024 for paid media and research;

community-based marketing at the local level; *Clean Air Champions*, which provide employer micro-grants and company recognition program; *Mow Down Pollution*, which provides grants to local governments, residents, and commercial areas to electrify lawn and garden equipment; *Anti-Idling Public Information Campaign*, a public education campaign to reduce idling; *Diesel Best Practices*, to do outreach to businesses to repair and maintain diesel fleets; *Vehicle Repair Program*, which provides public assistance to people who failed an emissions test; *Auto Maintenance to Reduce Emissions*, which provides direct incentives to lower income and older vehicle owners for auto maintenance; and *Emission Source Data Tracking*, which coordinates emission tracking with state agencies. Many of these programs are available due to funding from DRCOG and are only available in the Denver region.

Stephens asked if the Auto Maintenance and Vehicle Repair programs are only for the DRCOG region. Silverstein confirmed the auto maintenance is only for the DRCOG region, but Vehicle Repair Program is available through the larger region. Stephens noted she supports expanding the Auto Maintenance program into the NFRMPO region. Stephens asked if RAQC partners with community colleges with auto maintenance programs. Silverstein noted the State operates the program and will share the idea with partners. Olson asked if the repair programs were part of the GHG reduction strategies. Silverstein noted this program is because of ozone. Olson asked how the NFRMPO region can harness state funding to expand the programs into the NFRMPO region. Silverstein responded the State enterprises are a potential partner to fund these programs. Olson asked if CDOT has prepared a program of projects to address air quality using funds from SB260. Silverstein stated CDOT will be a funding organization, creating calls for projects, and the programs discussed will be eligible for funding. Mallette noted RAQC applies for funding through DRCOG but has not applied for funding through the NFRMPO region. Bracke asked how RAQC could apply for funds in the NFRMPO.

The rest of the presentation on Ozone Control Strategies was not presented due to time constraints. A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

A written report was provided.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

GHG IGA Review – Bornhoft provided the draft GHG IGA for the *GHG Planning Standard* between NFRMPO, CDOT, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). NFRMPO staff asked if the Chair would prefer to sign the IGA due as this topic is high on importance for the Council. The IGA references the State Modeling Consultation Group (SMCG) and State Interagency Consultation Team (IACT), building on the standard. The NFRMPO is required to notify the other agencies when the modeling process begins, has the ability to change the data received from CDPHE with documentation. APCD provides the emissions factors and documentation for how they developed them. CDOT convenes IACT and SMCG and support to Transportation Commission. There is a provision to allow reliance on a previous analysis, similar to the federal conformity process. CDOT requested adding that IACT can provide comment on using previous analyses.

Stephens asked to confirm that the NFRMPO can change data received from CDPHE. Bornhoft noted going through the process for the *2045 RTP 2022 Update* taught staff potential issues, and this provides more

support to address that. Olson asked if there is NFRMPO representation on IACT and SMCG. Bornhoft stated Becky Karasko is the representative on IACT, and Bornhoft is on the SMCG.

Planning Council confirmed Director Mallette can sign the IGA on behalf of the NFRMPO.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

There was no report.

Executive Director Report

Mallette reviewed the Legislative Report included in the handouts that generated robust discussion on the various Bills. Of note, HB23-1101 would provide full funding reimbursement to participating transit agencies instead of the 80 percent and allow advertising and marketing reimbursements. Rennemeyer noted CML is hosting the Legislative Discussion on February 16, 2023.

Mallette reviewed the proposed Census Urbanized Areas including the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area (TMA) and Greeley Urbanized Area.

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.

Q4 2022 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

No items.

ACTION ITEMS:

FY2023 Transfort Program of Projects (POP) – Katlyn Kelly, Transfort, presented the FY2023 Program of Projects. Fort Collins is the Designated Recipient of FTA funds for the Fort Collins TMA, which includes the NFRMPO, COLT, and Berthoud. Funds are awarded based on formula funds and are not competitive. Kelly reviewed the usage of FTA \$5307, \$5310, and \$5339. Fort Collins distributes the funds through a formula that considers population and revenue miles. Loveland became the Designated Recipient for \$5307 and \$5339 funds in the City. Kelly noted the funds have been updated based on appropriations released by FTA. Transfort placed a public notice in the Coloradoan for a public meeting with a virtual attendance option and received no negative comments. TAC discussed the FY2023 Transfort POP at their January 18, 2023 meeting and recommended Planning Council approval.

Mallo **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02 REVISING THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REGARDING FTA \$5307, \$5310, \$5339 FORT COLLINS/LOVELAND/BERTHOUD TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR FFY23*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

January 2023 TIP Amendment – Cunningham reviewed the projects included in the January 2023 TIP Amendment from CDOT and the NFRMPO, including the projects receiving Additional Allocations that Planning Council approved at their January 5, 2023 meeting. The public comment period opened on January 11, 2023 and closes on February 10, 2023. An environmental justice analysis is included in the packet. TAC recommended Planning Council approve the TIP amendment dependent on public comment.

Olson **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03 APPROVING THE JANUARY 2023 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

2019-2023 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures – Cunningham reviewed her presentation from the January 5, 2023 Planning Council meeting and explained the NFRMPO can set targets for the region or support the State’s targets. TAC recommended supporting the State’s targets. The resolution acknowledges the Safety Vision Toward Zero Death Policy, that no deaths are acceptable on roads, and the NFRMPO will continue to identify and prioritize potential funding for safety improvements. Stephens noted Larimer County received Safe Streets for All (SS4A) funds to do a Safety Action Plan, which means the County can apply for more funds in the future, and Cunningham noted Greeley received an SS4A grant as well. Olson asked how the NFRMPO compares to the State. Cunningham reviewed the methodology for how the NFRMPO compares to the State. Olson noted his interest in seeing how the NFRMPO compares to other MPOs.

Stephens **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04 TO SET TARGETS BY SUPPORTING THE 2019-2023 TARGETS ESTABLISHED BY CDOT FOR THE SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES*. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo and **passed** unanimously.

FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program FY2023 Task Amendment #1 – Karasko noted the Task Amendment #1 was discussed at the December 2022 meeting and was delayed in expectation of additional funds, which have not occurred yet. Karasko reviewed updates to the request since it was discussed at the December 2022 Planning Council meeting: use \$25,000 for support of the Land Use Model and use \$5,000 for data for the Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM); and inclusion of \$250,000 in State MMOF funds. The budget amendment was approved in November 2022, and the additional MMOF funds were part of the July 2022 TIP Amendment. Once approved, NFRMPO staff will submit a packet to CDOT for final approval and access to the funds.

Mallo **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05 APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FY2023 TASKS AND BUDGET OF THE FY2022-2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

PM2: Pavement and Bridge Condition and PM3 System Performance – Rouser noted the NFRMPO approves targets every four years, unless needed at a two-year interval. TAC recommended Planning Council support the State targets.

Mallo **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06 TO SET TARGETS BY SUPPORTING THE TARGETS ESTABLISHED BY CDOT FOR THE PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE CONDITION MEASURES (PM2) AND PERFORMANCE OF NHS, FREIGHT, AND CMAQ MEASURES (PM3) TARGETS*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Gordon described the 2050 RTP timeline, chapters, and complementary plans and efforts prior to Planning Council adoption in September 2023. Planning Council asked for clarification on how the model incorporates induced demand, the difference between aggregate and disaggregate models, and how Work from Home has changed and will be incorporated. Bornhoft noted NFRMPO staff is working with its modeling consultant to incorporate better and more recent data, do more validation, and increase analyses the model can complete. Bracke asked if the improvements to the model implement the funds from the Transportation Commission (TC), and Bornhoft responded the TC funds are being used for these improvements. Olson asked if NFRMPO staff will work with elected officials in identifying and prioritizing projects. Gordon responded NFRMPO staff have requested data from TAC

members and are in the early stages of setting up meetings with elected officials more broadly than just NFRMPO Council representatives.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Bracke stated there was a discussion about potential funding to complete I-25 Segment 5. Transportation Commission will meet in person in February. Bracke will find out more information about the Transit Vision exercise that CDOT will lead.

CDOT R4 Update – Thomas stated construction has slowed down on I-25 because of weather, but CDOT expects substantial completion of I-25 Segments 7 and 8 by the end of 2023. The east Frontage Road south of SH402 will be closing for three months for construction of a bridge. Progress is being made at the Centerra Mobility Hub, including sidewalks and plaza areas which have been completed. Demolition of the southbound Poudre River bridge has been completed, and construction has begun on the trail under the bridge. CDOT is moving forward on the final construction package, which will include a five-legged roundabout at LCR16, which will require a 90-day closure from April to June. The Design RFP for Segment 5 was released, with selection expected in March and onboarding in April. \$350M in funding has been identified, with the first construction project starting in Q1 2024. CDOT is developing interim intersection improvements at WCR17. The MERGE project continues to pursue funding in partnership with Greeley. Design is being finalized for Phase 1 improvements at Spaghetti Junction. The FY2024-2026 TAP Call for Projects is officially open with guidance documents and applications posted on the CDOT website.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) – A written report was provided.

I-25 Coalition – James stated the I-25 Funding Subcommittee has reformed to discuss ideas for potential funding. James noted there is discussion of applying for a MEGA grant.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens stated CTIO staff presented on the Central 70 Tolling Equity Program, which builds equity around the project that had major impacts on local communities. The program will provide residents with either transit passes or free tolls. Stephens added Gordon presented on the NFRMPO Regional Transit Corridors. So far, NAAPME has \$2.2M in revenue from its two fees. The next meeting is February 23, where the Board will approve the budget and discuss increases in fee levels in line with the inflation index.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Olson stated the Board is discussing how to get through its Strategic Plan, and the Rail District will start a Program Development Plan to identify projects to make progress.

Host Council Member Report – James stated Weld County received \$1,091k in STBG with the Town of Eaton for the WCR74 and WCR33 roundabout, which will be substantially complete by September 2023. Weld County will start construction on the roundabout at County Line Rd and Freedom Parkway in partnership with Larimer County in 2024. Weld County received a DOLA Energy impact grant to improve the bridge at WCR54 and WCR13A, with construction starting in the fall.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff