

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

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

Voting Members Present:

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Mark Clark	-Evans
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **Rachel Stillwell**, Accountant; **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: Ian Chase, Rich Christy, Michelle Edgerley, Jim Eussen, Jamie Grim, Katie Guthrie, Nicole Hahn, Omar Herrera, Myron Hora, Dana Hornkohl, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Andy Karsian, Katrina Klobberdanz, Pepper McClenahan, Deanna McIntosh, Tom Moore, Mark Peterson, Elizabeth Relford, Kevin Ross, Jan Rowe, John Seyer, Robin Stoneman, Josie Thomas, Eric Tracy, and Paul Trombino,

Chair James called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Olson moved to *APPROVE THE MARCH 2, 2023, MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was seconded by Baszler and passed unanimously.

Olson moved to *APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2023 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was seconded by Karspeck and passed unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

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)

A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Introduced Trustee Dan Dean, the new Councilmember for Milliken.

Executive Director Report

Mallette reviewed Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study being conducted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) which the NFRMPO was invited to participate in and stated the Council can submit comments about the Study online until March 17.

Mallette outlined the Legislative Updates highlighting legislation which has changed since the February Council meeting. Mallette reviewed the amendment to HB23-1101: Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility, SB23-016: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Measures, and SB23-059: Retail Delivery Fees. Council discussed the SB23-059 which will reduce retail delivery fees which fund the State enterprises and the Multimodal Transportation & Mitigations Options Fund (MMOF). Stephens noted the NAAPME had adopted a budget which will have to be amended due to the decreased revenue.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Finance

A written report was provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATIONS:

CO-WY Transit Feasibility Study – Ian Chase, Transportation Planner, HDR reviewed the Colorado-Wyoming Transit Feasibility Study which was conducted in 2022 on behalf of the Cheyenne MPO, WYDOT, and CDOT. Chase outlined the transit market analysis including an analysis of transit propensity within the region which led to the development of focus areas within the region: Fort Collins, Loveland/Centerra, Greeley, and Wellington.

Chase reviewed the alignment options considered during the Study and the alternatives screening process which included connectivity, feasibility, stakeholder/community support, equity, and environmental health. Chase reviewed the community and stakeholder engagement which included online open houses and surveys which were promoted through partnerships including the NFRMPO. Of the six alignment options, the Cheyenne to Fort Collins option rose to the top.

Olson requested more details on the equity and environmental health criteria and why the hospitals in Greeley did not result in the alignments serving those destinations rising to the top. Chase stated the Equity score took into consideration the high propensity users and Disproportionately Impacted (DI) Communities and the hospital locations in Greeley may not have risen to the top due to final destinations not being within a walkable distance of the identified station locations. James asked if the demographic subset of DI communities overlaps with high transit propensity noting if they do not overlap, the service may or may not be beneficial to serving DI communities.

Mellon asked if the VA hospital and the Air Force Base were included in the public input process, Chase stated they were part of the stakeholder engagement. Council expressed concern about methodology noting a high amount of commuter trips between the Greeley/Evans area and Cheyenne. Mellon asked what stop locations were identified in Cheyenne. Chase noted at this time the recommendation is Downtown Cheyenne with additional future possible stops within other areas of Cheyenne.

Olson asked if the study included projected ridership, Chase stated ridership was outside the scope of the current study, but the hope would be for at least a couple hundred riders per day. Chase stated next steps include identifying a project champion and potential funding sources.

Front Range Passenger Rail:

Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) District – Andy Karsian, General Manager, FRPR District, outlined the Goals and Vision of the District and the Service Development Plan (SDP) process. Karsian reviewed the Corridor Identification Program which opens up opportunities for the District to pursue Federal funding. Karsian stated the district is partnering with Amtrak, Wyoming, and New Mexico to create an integrated system as the project moves forward. Mellon asked if Amtrak is allowed to use short line rail within the NFRMPO, Karsian stated he assumes the answer is yes but a lot of public outreach would need to be conducted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4th Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financials – Stephens **moved** to approve *the consent agenda* The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NFRMPO 10-Year List 2050 RTP Update – Karasko reviewed the process the NFRMPO Planning Council went through in 2020 to select priority corridors and projects for the NFRMPO 10-Year list, which was then incorporated into the CDOT 10-Year Pipeline of Projects. The NFRMPO list was updated in 2021 and 2022 with projects funded through other means and removed from the list. Karasko requested Council input on the corridors and projects on the 10-Year list and asked if they were still the Council priorities. Council agreed the corridors are still the top priorities. Karasko asked if the projects on the Tier 1 list were still the priorities. Stephens expressed concern for not having input from Council members absent from the meeting, James requested the lists be sent to the full Council to be reviewed prior to the next Council meeting. The Council requested further discussion with the TAC to solidify the list of projects.

2050 RTP Goals, Objectives, Performance measures, and Targets (GOPMT) – Rouser presented the updated vision statement and goals for the 2050 RTP and explained how the GOPMT framework is integrated into the NFRMPO planning process. Rouser explained how the federally required and regionally selected performance measures are the way in which the NFRMPO can track progress towards meeting the selected goals. Rouser outlined the eight regionally selected performance measures, six of which were carried over from the 2045 RTP and two new measures.

Olson asked if the four goals were prioritized, Rouser stated they were not. Stephens asked if there should be a Regional GHG performance measure. Cunningham stated there will be a Federal performance measure which is currently going through the rulemaking process. Upon finalization of the Federal performance measure the NFRMPO will incorporate it into the GOPMT.

Olson asked why safety wasn't included in the regional performance measures. Rouser stated the regional performance measures supplement the Federal performance measures which include safety. The Council asked what the increase in non-motorized facility miles was based on. Stephens asked if there was a national best practice for increasing facility miles. Mallette clarified the Council would like to see a justification for the increase in non-motorized facility miles.

Olson asked what the goal of the TIP Delay Extension measure is. Cunningham clarified the measure is intended to help track obligation of NFRMPO awarded funds to ensure funds are being utilized in a timely manner.

Rouser noted the GOPMT will be incorporated into the System Performance Report within the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Bracke stated she will check in with Council's concerns about the amendments to SB23-1101.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock stated CDOT contributed to the NFRMPO's Tier 1 list including prioritizations and recommendations to add SH392. CDOT's priority projects have been incorporated in the CDOT 10-Year Plan and CDOT will be conducting 4P meetings to understand needs and concerns across the State. Paddock outlined construction updates for I-25 and stated the mobility hub at Kendall Parkway is scheduled to go live in March 2024. Karspeck asked when buses will start at the mobility hubs, Paddock stated Bustang service should start for all three mobility hubs (Kendall Parkway, Berthoud, and CO119) once the construction is complete. CDOT has been conducting interviews and will choose a consultant within the next week for I-25 Segment 5.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – James stated three representatives from the Senate and the House were in attendance at the meeting. CDOT provided an update that executive leadership had given approval to pursue a MEGA grant for I-25.

US34 Coalition – Stephens stated an update was given at the US34 Coalition that the NFRMPO was awarded the CDOT Seed Grant money for the establishment of a TMO in the amount of \$100K. The NFRMPO presented on the 2050 RTP and Olson provided an update on the Merge project.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens provided an update on the fee levels which are being increased under statute of the consumer price index (CPI) for both ride share and retail delivery fees. Stephens noted the adopted budget will need to be updated based on the changes to legislation.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck noted the Front Range Passenger Rail District hired a new program coordinator.

Host Council Member Report – Stephens stated the MPOF funded sidewalk project along US287 and 57th St is in final stage of right of way and easement acquisition. The HSIP signalization project at US 34 and Glade road is starting design, the Shields St widening project construction will begin next spring, Taft Hill from Horsetooth to Harmony in partnership with the City of Fort Collins is under design but further funding opportunities are being pursued, Poudre River Trail construction will begin later in the summer, and the County was awarded SS4A funding for safety action plan which will allow the county to apply for future implementation funding.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

Mallette noted State Representative Andrew Boesnecker will be in attendance to provide a legislative update.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff

Note: There were technical difficulties during the meeting.