

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

**May 4, 2023
Hybrid Meeting in Evans, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins

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; and **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner II.

In Attendance: Brad Buckman, Nicole Hahn, Omar Herrera, Bhooshan Karnik, Will Jones, Katrina Kloberdanz, Deanna McIntosh, Tom Moore, Mark Oberschmidt, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Evan Pinkham, Randy Ready, Elizabeth Relford, Mike Silverstein, Cody Sims, Steve Teets, Eric Tracy, and Paul Trombino III.

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

Public Comment:

Steve Teets, member of the Weld County Mobility Committee, requested more extensive information be included in the Rider's Guides and stated the new Rider's Guides are missing information contained in previous versions. Additionally, he requested more mobility options and stated with the increase in available state and federal funds for transportation that those funds should be used to increase transportation options, improved transit, bike, and ped, and reduce pollution.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Mallette stated the presentation on the Poudre River Trail would not occur at the meeting. Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE MAY 4, 2023, MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

Stephens noted the minutes misspelled her name. Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE APRIL 6, 2023, MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED*. The motion was **seconded** by Clark 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

Bornhoft discussed the EPA's Climate Planning Grant and stated the NFRMPO is not eligible to apply for funding in Phase 1 but would be eligible to apply for funds from the State in Phase 2. She also mentioned a public comment opportunity on the Buy America Waivers in the Federal Register, which is open through May 22, 2023.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

No report.

Executive Director Report

Mallette noted the bills which have passed the Colorado Legislature and those remaining prior to the end of the session May 9, 2023.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Finance

A written report was provided.

Q1 2023 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

ACTION ITEMS:

April 2023 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment – Cunningham discussed the Amendment to add a new project on I-25 for surface treatment north of SH14.

Mellon **moved** to approve the *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08 FOR THE APRIL 2023 OFF-CYCLE AMENDMENT TO THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Clark and **passed** unanimously.

FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Karasko explained the FY2024-2025 UPWP Tasks, including those in response to new federal requirements as well as the FY2024 budget. She stated TAC recommended approval of the UPWP Tasks and Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget.

Olson **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09 FOR THE FY2024-2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TASKS AND FY2024 BUDGET THE MARCH 2023 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NFRMPO 2050 RTP Priorities List – Karasko provided background on CDOT’s 10-Year List and the NFRMPO 10-Year list, which is being renamed the “NFRMPO Priority Corridor with Candidate Projects List” to distinguish the two lists more clearly. TAC has reviewed and provided updates to the projects.

With the new Priority Corridors List name, the timeframe element is removed as timing is unknown. Transit and non-motorized are not organized by corridor, but rather by Tier. The NFRMPO’s list is provided to CDOT for their consideration for inclusion in the Region 4 10-Year Plan list and is exclusively for CDOT for this purpose only. For federal funds, the project must be in the RTP, not the Priority List. The Priorities list contains candidate projects on each corridor. Karasko stated staff had heard some confusion about the purpose of the list. TAC weighed in on the projects and corridors, but not on the new format.

Stephens and Bracke asked about TAC input. Mallette explained the community review occurred during the RTP development, and priorities came from TAC and Council. Mallette explained the list serves to identify Planning Council’s priorities. With the current 10-Year Plan funded through FY2030, FY2031 may be the next time any funds are available for projects on this list. Mallette noted Planning Council has given discretion to CDOT on which projects are ready to advance. Olson noted CDOT uses these priorities.

Chair James asked if the Tier 2 Roadway list is only state highways. Karasko explained some North I-25 projects are included on the Tier 2 list. Bracke noted the red boxes indicate changes to the Guiding Principles, they do not indicate priority of the Guiding Principles; safety is the priority. She stated it is unclear which projects will most advance safety and reduce severe crashes. Mallette stated a next step could be to develop a matrix for the projects. Bracke suggested the multimodal elements of the roadway projects be clarified and the need for transit on US34 should be emphasized. Mallette explained the 10-year plan process split the modes. Karasko noted the non-motorized list is shorter because many projects have been funded by local communities since 2020.

Bracke asked if projects from LinkNoCo should be on the list. Gordon explained the other two corridors from LinkNoCo are not on one of the six priority corridors identified by Planning Council in 2020. Bracke suggested the other two projects could be added. Mallo requested to see the list again in the matrix prior to approval.

2023 Congestion Management Process (CMP) – Gordon and Bornhoft presented the draft 2023 CMP, which meets federal requirements and provides a systematic approach to managing congestion in the region. The CMP identifies congestion, provides a toolbox of strategies, and will be implemented through upcoming Calls for Projects. Planning Council members discussed how the congestion analysis is missing congestion along US34 and I-25. Bornhoft explained the reliability measures are specifically defined per federal regulation and cannot be altered. Staff will add a caveat to the reliability measures in the CMP document. The Travel Time Index (TTI) is a regionally specific performance measure and was calculated for the most congested time periods in the region.

2023 Call for Projects Updates – Cunningham provided an update on the next Call for Projects to award \$22.7M in federal funds, which opens in August 2023. Most of the funding will be for FY2026 and FY2027, with some funding in FY2024 and 2025. There are two proposed set asides: RAQC ozone modeling and TMO Incubation.

Planning Council members first discussed the RAQC set-aside request. Olson asked why funds for the RAQC are from STBG instead of CMAQ. Cunningham explained air quality modeling is not eligible under CMAQ or CRP. Cunningham noted DRCOG is providing a proportional amount of funding for modeling based on population. Stephens noted this work is required within the nonattainment area. Tom Moore, RAQC, stated a more current year is needed to model emissions to build a new modeling platform. James asked about Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Enterprise (NAAPME) funds. Stephens stated it may not be an eligible expense. Olson asked what the modeling budget for North Front Range is. Moore explained that the entire modeling area plus the rest of the state is \$1M at a minimum.

Following in-depth discussion, Planning Council members expressed support for increasing the RAQC's existing set aside for ozone modeling from \$25,000 per year previously approved for FY2024 and FY2025 to \$50,000 per year for those two years. Cunningham will roll it into the May 2023 TIP Amendment.

Planning Council also expressed support for the TMO Incubator set aside of \$100,000 per year of CRP funds starting in FY2024.

Cunningham presented the eligible entities for the Call for Projects process and Planning Council members concurred.

Cunningham then led the Planning Council in a polling exercise to identify their priorities among the four goals in the 2050 RTP and their priorities among the proposed project scoring criteria associated with each goal. Poll results included the following ranked priorities:

1. Mobility
 1. Safety
 2. Infrastructure Condition
 3. System Performance (Congestion Management)
 4. Network Connectivity
2. Operations
 1. Integration with Regional Plans
 2. Leveraging Funding Sources
 3. Partnerships
 4. ITS/Operational Improvements
3. Multimodal
 1. Complete streets
 2. Transit
 3. Active Transportation
 4. VMT Reduction
4. Regional health
 1. Economic development
 2. Air Quality Emissions Reductions (GHG & Ozone)
 3. Equity

Planning Council members requested revising the "Mobility" goal to incorporate "Safety" in the title. Staff will bring the revised 2050 RTP goals to the June Planning Council meeting for approval.

Cunningham discussed next steps for the Call for Projects include a scoring criteria workshop with TAC, Planning Council discussions in June and July, and Planning Council approval of the Call process on August 4.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Bracke reported the TC approved the agreement with CTIO for the TIFIA loan for North I-25. She stated the CDOT Region 4 update at the TC meeting provided a very good overview of projects. CDOT Region 4's 4P meetings will be held in May and June.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock noted TC authorized funding for pothole repair and \$8M for North I-25 from Mulberry/CO14 to Owl Canyon, including resurfacing funds and TC funds for the \$20M project. There will be a ramp closure at US34 for the SB on-ramp. Progress continues on Segments 6, 7, and 8. The remaining 50 percent of paving will occur this year. Tolling and testing late this year or early next year. Tolling will begin in spring 2024. A designer has been secured for Segment 5. CDOT staff are currently working on a grant for Segment 5. Laporte to Wyoming border US287 Safety Study is underway. CO257 through Windsor – Eastman Park intersection project, with a full closure of CO257 in September and October.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – James reported Congressional representatives explained the Congressionally directed spending for several projects in the region.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens noted NAAPME will meet May 25, 2023.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck reported on procurement and purchasing policy, IT updates and new website, and emails. Olson stated both he and Karspeck are on the Planning Committee.

Host Council Member Report – Clark introduced new Evans City Manager Cody Sims. He then provided several project updates, including the 37th Street and 47th Ave roundabout project, funded by the NFRMPO and CDOT, which will open in June.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Medora Bornhoft and Becky Karasko, NFRMPO Staff