

Northern Colorado Regional Mobility Meeting —MINUTES

August 22, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

In Person:

- Cory Schmitt, NFRMPO
- Lisa Deaton, NFRMPO
- Ruth Fletcher-Carter, RAFT
- Janet Bedingfield, 60+ Ride
- Amy Threewitt, 60+ Ride
- Nichole Seward, Weld County AAA
- Steve Teets, WAND
- Kimberly Aguilar-Pauli, Arc of Larimer County
- Aaron Oberndorf, CO Division of Vocational Rehab
- Marge Martinez, United Way of Weld County
- Brian Dubois, Town of Berthoud
- Steve Conaway, RAFT
- Ari Edgley, Foothills Gateway
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Cynthia “Lou” Louis, Transfort
- Katlyn Kelly, Transfort
- Jacque Penfold, Community member

Virtual:

- Brooke Bettolo, NFRMPO
- Alex Gordon, NFRMPO
- Connie Nelson-Cleverly, SAINT
- Kimberly Baker, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- Robin Upton, WAND
- Melanie Royalty, Transfort
- Nicole Limoges, Larimer County Office on Aging
- Olga Gonzalez, Weld County Department of Public Health & Environment
- Desiree Sandoval, RE-4 School to Work

2. Group Introductions, Review of Agenda, Minutes Approval

Both virtual and in person attendees introduced themselves and their organizations. The in-person group did a speed networking exercise to get to know one another and learn more about each other’s respective organizations and services. The online group did a modified version of the speed networking via the chat.



Presentations & Activity

1) Via Mobility Services - Weld County Service – Bitzer

Bitzer gave a presentation on Via Mobility Services Weld County Expansion. Slides can be found [here](#) and an online service area map can be found [here](#).

Bitzer mentioned that applications and ridership have increased, and that Via is on pace for 60-70 trips in the first month of the service. The program has two vehicles, both of which are wheelchair accessible. Pick-ups are 8am-4:30pm M-F. Pick up window is typically around 30-45 minutes, varying depending on travel distance. Clients can book trips 7 days in advance and sometimes on the same day.

Members discussed how to qualify for services, costs, and the service areas. Some Weld County cities have not opted into service, including the Town of Milliken. LaSalle just recently decided to join the service.

2) NFRMPO Updates – Gordon

Gordon gave a presentation on MPO updates, including the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, LinkNoCo Phase II, currently open call for projects, and upcoming walk/bike audits in the region. Slides can be found [here](#).

Gordon discussed the purpose of the Long Range Transportation Plan and then if all goes well, the Planning Council will approve the plan at the next meeting on September 6, 2023. Another project soon to be underway is the next phase of the LinkNoCo Premium Transit Study. Phase One recommended three major corridors for transit investment to connect Loveland to Greeley, Loveland to Windsor, and upgrading Poudre Express from Greeley to Fort Collins, possibly bus rapid transit or rail. LinkNoCo Phase II is looking at operating scenarios and developing a capital improvement list for the Loveland-Greeley corridor along US34. There is a demand for this service and there has been talk with involving Johnstown as they have shown interest. Gordon also discussed the Eaton Walk audit scheduled for September 14th and Berthoud bike/walk audits scheduled for either October or spring 2024. The Active Transportation Plan kicks off in October and Mobility Committee members can join the Steering Team by contacting Jerome Rouser (jrouser@nfrmpo.org).

3) RideNoCo Updates and Future of Mobility Committees Discussion– Schmitt

Schmitt shared a brief update on RideNoCo (slides [here](#)) that included progress on the Phase 3 of the TDS integration project. A lot of progress has been made and now it has been turned over to the developers to make changes to their platforms to allow communication between providers to happen. This will help RideNoCo to gather intake information from callers and send it to the provider. We are opening access to the MPO's Language Link Interpretation Services to volunteer transportation providers participating in the TDS Coordination Project (60+ Ride, RAFT, SAINT) on a pilot basis beginning Friday.



Mobility Case Study: 87-year-old man who lives on the Larimer side of Windsor that needs transportation for daily infusions at Medical Center of the Rockies/Poudre Valley Hospital (PVH) for 4-6 weeks. Recommended calling insurance, Windsor Senior Rides (via email) zTrip, and Seniors 4 Seniors quoting \$40-80 per hour.

Members discussed how some insurance providers have transportation coverage, but the application processing and approvals take a long time. Another suggestion was to contact the office or hospital where treatment is being given and speak with the transportation planner; some hospitals may provide or pay for transportation. A transit option is GET's Poudre Express that can connect him to Fort Collins then transfer to Transfort that has a route that can drop him off at PVH. It was discussed that counties should evaluate service areas and see if they can "bleed" outside their boundaries. Members also asked if the MPO could work to provide vouchers for urgent access to transportation?

Wrap Up + Next Steps

A special acknowledgement was given to Ruth Fletcher-Carter for her many years of service to mobility in the Berthoud area and across Northern Colorado.

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC) Meeting: September 26, 2023
- b. Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) Meeting: October 24, 2023
- c. Northern Colorado Mobility Committee: November 28, 2023