

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

**September 7, 2023
Hybrid Meeting in Windsor, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Kristen Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **Rachel Stillwell**, Accountant; **Alex Gordon**, Transportation Planner III; **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner II; **Brooke Bettolo**, Mobility Planner; **Jerome Rouser**, Transportation Planner I; and **Michael Saunders**, Transportation Planner I.

In Attendance: Rich Christy; Robert Dahill; Michelle Edgerley; Kyle Gruver; Cecil Gutierrez, Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Myron Hora; Will Jones; Dee McIntosh; Tom Moore; Heather Paddock; Mark Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Mike Silverstein; Eric Tracy.

Chair James called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment:

No comments were submitted.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes:

Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo and **passed** unanimously.

Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE AUGUST 3, 2023, MEETING MINURES*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

[Air Quality Conformity for the FY2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) and the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#)

Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director, stated that the regional emissions analysis for the *FY2024-2027 TIP* and *2050 RTP* demonstrate conformity with the Northern Subarea budgets established for both the 2018 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards or NAAQS as well as the Northern Subarea budgets established for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Karasko continued, informing the council that the *FY2024-2027 TIP* and the *2050 RTP* meet all conformity criteria as identified in title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (or CFR) Section 93.109 (*Criteria and procedures for determining conformity of transportation plans, programs, and projects*) and meets all planning requirements identified in 23 CFR 450 (*Planning Assistance and Standards*). Karasko concluded by stating that at their meeting on August 15, 2023, the Air Quality Control Commission concurred with the positive conformity determination. There were no public comments submitted.

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

Mallette proposed drafting a letter to the EPA to request a meeting to discuss the non-locally controllable emissions. Mallette stated other MPOs in the Intermountain West Region were in discussions regarding the issue. Council discussed the present difficulties towards reaching ozone attainment, and emission factors that are outside of the MPO's ability to control, including pollution from outside the state and country and emissions from wildfires. The Council agreed to draft a letter outlining the issue and requesting EPA's engagement. Council members will individually sign the letter and it will be copied to the U.S. Senators and the region's Congressional Delegation. The Planning Council agreed to take action on this issue at the October council meeting giving members time to vet the letter with their respective Councils, Boards or Commission.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

There was no report from the Chair.

Executive Director Report

Mallette stated the TMO contract had been executed. Mallette also discussed the conclusion of the Shift Your Ride Summer Challenge, citing a VMT reduction of approximately 10,000 and similarly significant emissions reductions. Mallette concluded the report by discussing the 2023 Call for Projects, reiterating that the projects recommended for funding would be presented at the December Council Meeting.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)

Gutierrez discussed the impending end of the grace period for driving infractions on the North I-25 Express Lanes. He explained that the I-70 corridor had seen 5,600 warnings issued during a similar grace period, and over 6,500 citations issued following its conclusion. Gutierrez explained that fines begin at \$75 but can increase to \$250 if late. Gutierrez noted that citations are not issued for speeding violations, but rather for

vehicles entering or exiting the express lane in undesignated areas. Gutierrez concluded by explaining dynamic pricing on the express lane, in which tolls increase or decrease depending on traffic conditions.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Air Quality Conformity Determination (Resolution 2023-15); 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (Resolution 2023-16); FY2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2023-17)

*Mallo moved to **approve** the Consent Agenda. The motion was **seconded** by Olson and passed unanimously.*

ACTION ITEM:

2022 NFRMPO Audit

Edgerly explained the 2022 NFRMPO audit, including the reasons for the long timeline on the audit, citing issues between the transaction balances of the NFRMPO and VanGo™. Edgerly explained that moving forward, transactions would be balanced monthly, allowing the organization to find and fix transaction balance issues earlier. Dahill informed the council that all audits for the organization had been given a clean opinion, explaining there was one corrective action that was recommended.

*Olson motioned to **approve** the 2022 NFRMPO Audit, which was **seconded** by Heid and approved unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

WCR 13 Alignment Improvements Project Scope Change

Cunningham and Herrera explained to the council that the *WCR13 Alignment Improvements project* would need to have a change in scope due to unforeseen budgetary constraints, which requires council approval. Herrera identified three potential options towards reducing the scope. The options included redirecting the funds to the *Intersection Improvements at SH257 & Eastman Park Dr.* project, reducing the scope of the *WCR 13* project to only include the southern portion, or returning the funds to the NFRMPO STBG pool. TAC's recommendation was to reduce the scope of the project. The council concurred with TAC. Cunningham noted this change would be included in an upcoming TIP amendment and approved by council at the October meeting.

US34 Projects Update

Gordon informed the council that the TMO grant contract from CDOT had been executed and is now available. Gordon explained the contract is for 26 months, and an RFP is under development. In addition,

the NFRMPO has released an RFP for the *LinkNoCo Phase II* project, with proposals due by September 15. The council discussed possible sources for funding and potential public-private partnerships for transit service along the corridor. Gordon stated phasing will be a major component of *LinkNoCo Phase II*.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission

Paddock informed the council that Jim Kelly was appointed as the new Transportation Commissioner and acknowledged Commissioner Bracke for her work. Paddock stated CDOT has applied for the federal redistribution of funding for around \$180M. CDOT's priority spending is on the asset management program to address the ongoing budgetary shortfall.

CDOT R4 Update

Paddock informed the council of forward progress on I-25 Segment 5, including Weld Counties August submittal for an MPDG grant for \$100M, and that I-25 Segments 6, 7, and 8 were over 90% complete. Paddock stated LCR16 was newly opened to through traffic along with an imminent early fall completion of the onramp tie-in following a traffic switch. Paddock stated that the I-25 panel replacement project spanning from north of Mulberry Street to Owl Canyon Road was set to begin shortly and that competitive bids had been received. Paddock concluded by mentioning the safety study along the US287 corridor and the ongoing impact of the SH257 closure, stating that the road would be reopened in October.

STAC Report

A written report was provided.

I-25 Coalition

James stated that the report for the I-25 Coalition had been covered by Gutierrez and Paddock. He noted that the coalitions change in focus towards the south was good news and represented progress on I-25's improvement projects.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens updated the council regarding an ongoing lawsuit that took up the majority of the meeting. Stephens went on to discuss potential funding opportunities with an upcoming call for projects in the nonattainment area, with the stipulation that potential projects must seek to reduce ozone.

CDOT TPR Boundary Study

Stephens informed the committee that the Upper Front Range Boundary will likely not change but will rely on administrative changes to achieve rotational representation on the Statewide Transportation Advisory Council (STAC). This will be recommended to the Transportation Commission so that no one entity can have two representatives on STAC. The NFRMPO Articles will also be amended to coordinate with Upper Front Range in the selection of STAC representatives. Stephens concluded the discussion, stating that transparency within the TPR must be a priority going forward, and that recommendations would reflect that.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

Olson stated that he would like to see quarterly updates from the Front Range Passenger Rail District staff going forward. He noted that a large issue within the district was coming from staff capacity. Olson concluded by noting that communities in the south of the district have significant pull and that efforts are being made to change that.

Host Council Member Report

Rennemeyer discussed the Windsor Harvest Festival, emphasizing that for the first time in fifty years the parade route was able to go along Main Street. Rennemeyer concluded by updating the council regarding ongoing projects in Windsor, including SH257 and Eastman Park Drive, which were ahead of schedule despite notable impacts to local businesses, which the town was working to address.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Michael Saunders, NFRMPO Staff