

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

**January 5, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting in Fort Collins, CO**

**Voting Members Present:**

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Johnny Olson	-Greeley

**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:** Abdul Barzak, Eric Bracke, Rich Christy, Bill Cornelius, Ray Cundiff, Jim Eussen, Cecil Gutierrez, Nicole Hahn, Dana Hornkohl, Mark Jackson, Will Jones, Bhooshan Karnik, Katrina Kloberdanz, Deanna McIntosh, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Evan Pinkham, Kim Redd, Elizabeth Relford, Jan Rowe, Keith Sheaffer, Jeff Stahla, Corey Stewart, Josie Thomas, Eric Tracy, James Usher, and Nick Wharton.

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

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Move to Approve Minutes**

Karspeck **moved** to *APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo 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)

Chair James noted the presentation from the RAQC is postponed.

### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Bornhoft stated the AQCC adopted the Moderate SIP and portions of the Severe SIP, APCD is holding an ozone public listening session on January 26, and work continues on equity assessment for GHG mitigation measures. Baszler asked if air quality standards would be adjusted based on the shutdown of Suncor. Bornhoft stated she would provide information following the meeting.

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### **REPORTS:**

#### Report of the Chair

Chair James reported membership on the Finance Committee includes Mallo as Chair, Rennemeyer, Stephens, Clark, and Olson. The HR Committee includes Karspeck as Chair, Mellon, Stephens, and Baszler. Chair James stated an additional member is needed on the HR Committee; Canonico volunteered.

#### Executive Director Report

Malette highlighted results from the VanGo survey, which showed high ratings for customer service, fleet maintenance, and COVID policies. The 2022 Annual Report is available in the Handouts. Malette announced Council meetings will be posted to YouTube beginning with the current meeting.

#### TAC

A written report was provided.

#### Mobility

A written report was provided.

#### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

No items.

### **PRESENTATION:**

NISP US287 Realignment – Jeff Stahla, Public Information Officer at Northern Water, presented an overview of the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) to build the Glade and Galeton reservoirs. In December, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the Federal Section 404 permit for NISP, which completes the permitting process.

For the Glade reservoir, several miles of US287 north of Ted's Place/SH-14 need to be removed and relocated. The EIS analyzed 13 alternative alignments of US287. The preferred alternative includes seven miles of new roadway east of the current alignment, the removal of six miles of US287, and reclassifying three miles of US287 as SH14. The preferred alternative is shorter than the current alignment and has limited impacts to the number of property owners. A noise study is currently underway to address noise during construction and during roadway operation. Property acquisition is in process.

Northern Water will build US287 to CDOT's specifications using the Construction Manager / General Contractor (CM/GC) process. Upon completion, the road will be transferred to CDOT. For the US287 realignment, 30% design is complete, contractor selection and 60% design is expected in 2023, final design is expected in 2024, and construction is expected to begin in 2025. The construction timeline for NISP includes construction of Glade Reservoir beginning in 2025 and filling beginning in 2029. Construction of Galeton Reservoir will begin in 2028, with filling beginning 48 months later. Materials for the Glade Reservoir dam will be sourced from within the dam footprint, meaning the project will not create haul truck traffic.

Stahla discussed the public engagement efforts completed since 2004 and changes made to NISP based on public feedback.

A flyover video by Muller Engineering shows the proposed realignment for US287. Stahla explained the ROW is 300-400 feet which will allow four lanes in the future. The road will initially be built with two lanes, wide shoulders, and a northbound climbing lane at the cut on the north end, south of Owl Canyon.

Council members discussed the need for passing lanes on the realigned US287 to address safety, the communications plan, construction impacts, warranty terms, and increased traffic on SH14 for recreation at the reservoir. Bracke recommended building the realigned US287 to the same or better standard than the existing roadway. James Usher, CDOT, stated the safety issues on US287 are primarily north of the reservoir. Accordingly, the US287 safety study included in CDOT's 10-year Plan will focus north of the reservoir. Usher stated the proposed alignment improves safety by reducing exposure (both roadway length and less traffic due to diverting from SH14 earlier), wider shoulders, and the climbing lane.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Executive Director Annual Goals – Mallette explained the three proposed goals for 2023, which relate to Complete Streets and safety planning, consideration of housing patterns, and incubating a TMO for US34. The first two goals relate to new requirements from the IIJA.

Stephens **moved** to approve the *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNUAL GOALS*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

FY2023-2025 Additional Allocations – Cunningham explained a revised funding estimate from CDOT decreased funding by \$300K. The handout details a revised allocation proposal to account for the reduction. All projects originally proposed for funding are still being funded but some projects had a change in funding year or funding source. Funding for the next Call for Projects will be reduced by \$300K.

Mallo **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01 APPROVING THE FY2023-2025 ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

2019-2023 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures – Cunningham presented federal requirements for annual target setting on five safety measures and crash trends in Colorado and the North Front Range. The NFRMPO approved its Safety Vision in 2020, which has an aspirational target of zero deaths. Cunningham noted the NFRMPO could apply for a Vision Zero Action Plan through the newly created Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) grant program.

CDOT set statewide targets, which the NFRMPO could support in lieu of establishing its own targets. Per federal requirements, the targets for the safety measures must be data driven, not aspirational. NFRMPO staff recommend supporting the statewide targets as has been done in previous years. Council members recommended committing to Vision Zero planning efforts in the resolution.

PM2: Pavement and Bridge Condition and PM3: System Performance – Rouser presented federal requirements for target setting on infrastructure and system performance for the National Highway System (NHS). CDOT set targets for the second performance period (2022-2025) and the NFRMPO can support statewide targets or set MPO-specific targets. Rouser presented how the region has performed for each measure compared to the statewide target. NFRMPO staff recommend supporting the statewide targets.

Commissioner Bracke asked if the NFRMPO is pursuing funding from the Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise. Mallette explained the NFRMPO does not apply but member governments could apply, noting information on Enterprise funding could be brought to a future Council meeting. Stephens asked if there were only two ratings for bridge condition: good and poor. Paddock explained there is a third category – fair – and that ratings are based on a lot of data.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Transportation Commission – Bracke stated the Transportation Commission (TC) unanimously approved proceeding with existing contractor for Segment 5. Bracke noted agenda items for the upcoming TC meeting on January 18, 2023.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock thanked the NFRMPO and I-25 Coalition for their support on Segment 5 contracting. The RFP for design was released today and preconstruction is underway. The CDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Call will open in February with selection in April. The Call will award \$11.8M in TAP funding for 2024-2026 in Region 4. Selection committee will include a representative from each TPR in Region 4, along with CDOT staff from Region 4 and headquarters. Paddock thanked Rich Christy for work on US34 and noted substantial growth on the corridor necessitates additional discussion and analysis.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) – Cecil Gutierrez, the NFRMPO representative on the CTIO Board, provided background on CTIO, formerly known as the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HTPE). The CTIO Board includes four representatives appointed by the Governor for four areas of the State, with another three members appointed by TC.

Tolling on I-25 Segments 6, 7, and 8 will begin in Q1 2024. The CTIO is considering four companies to provide tolling services and intends to use the same transponders as for E-470. Baszler suggested it would be more efficient to have one entity collecting tolls instead of two. Gutierrez explained tolling will be seamless to toll users, but data would be housed separately because E-470 and Northwest Parkway are a separate entity to CTIO and they can no longer meet the data and analysis needs of CTIO.

The CTIO is testing enforcement per new authority provided by HB22-1074. Due to proprietary information, Gutierrez explained he could not provide specifics on CTIO's decision in November to not proceed with the unsolicited proposal for I-25. It was determined CDOT and CTIO could fund Segment 5; however, additional work is needed for Segments 4 and 3b, including a ROD for Segment 4. CDOT Region 1 is working on a safety study for Segment 2.

I-25 Coalition – James reiterated the successful outcome of the Segment 5 contracting decision by TC.

US34 Coalition – James stated Stephens is the new chair and work on the TMO is progressing.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens stated the Annual Report was finalized in December. The Enterprise is interested in funding BRT and potentially other strategies. The next meeting is on January 26.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck reported the Board met on December 8 and 9 and discussed amending the service development plan to review all alignment options. Changing the alignment would require going back to the legislature. Karspeck is serving on the Communications Committee and can bring additional detail on public engagement to a future Council meeting, perhaps in March. Stephens recommended investing in BRT or other service options to connect Weld County residents to the rail line.

Host Council Member Report – Canonico stated Fort Collins adopted an Active Modes Plan on December 20, 2022. The Plan recommends 144 miles of new bike facilities and 165 spot safety treatments. The Vision Zero Action Plan draft will open for public comment on January 13, 2023, with a Council work session in February. Construction began on Laporte Avenue, which includes replacing two aging bridges and significant pedestrian improvements. ROW acquisition is underway for Trilby and College, which is the city's number one safety project and is funded by \$3.6M STBG. The Siphon Overpass project received funds in the additional allocation.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chair James requested a motion to enter an Executive Session.

Mallo **moved** the Council enter into an Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f), regarding the Executive Director contract and not involving: any specific employee who has requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. The Session ended at 8:24 p.m.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Executive Director Contract Amendment

Mallo **moved** to approve the *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTRACT AMENDMENT*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

**MEETING WRAP-UP:**

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Medora Bornhoft, NFRMPO Staff