

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

**October 5, 2023
Hybrid Meeting in LaSalle, 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
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Heather Paddock	-Transportation Commission, alternate
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristen Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Mark Clark	-Evans
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown

MPO Staff:

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

In Attendance: Brad Buckman, Rich Christy, Jim Eussen, Nicole Hahn, Myron Hora, Will Jones, Katrina Klobberdanz, Dee McIntosh, Mark Oberschmidt, Elizabeth Relford, Evan Pinkham, Paul Trombino, Kim Redd, Herman Stockinger, Eric Tracy, Dena Wojtach

Vice-Chair Mallo called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

No comments were submitted.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Heid **moved** to *APPROVE THE OCTOBER 5, 2023, MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Vice-Chair Mallo opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

Ferko reported APCD is hosting a Greenhouse Gas Intensity Protocol public meeting on October 16, and Greenhouse Gas Inventory meetings on October 17 and 24. APCD will begin a toxic air contaminants monitoring program by January 1, 2024, and is seeking input and feedback to inform the location of monitoring sites at a meeting on November 14. AQCC granted the request for an ozone-related hearing in December for revisions addressing Ozone Nonattainment requirements. Those interested will need to sign up for party status by October 12.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Mallette introduced Dena Wojtach, who is the new NFRMPO Air Quality consultant. Wojtach stated AQCC is establishing a GHG Trading Program and control requirements for 18 industrial facilities and set a SIP revision rulemaking hearing for December 2023. RAQC shared updated modeling data, showing all monitors will meet the 75-ppb requirement by 2026. APCD has proposed updates to the SIP, including the State Emissions Inventory. Wojtach explained proposed revision, including a new Regulation 29 for Lawn and Garden Equipment. RAQC proposed an early alternative that would include commercial entities. Wojtach explained potential revisions to Regulation 3, establishing fees for GHG emissions statewide that apply to 2024 emissions.

Council was asked to consider if they wanted to file for party status for the December rulemaking hearing. Mallette clarified Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB) are the key aspects of the hearing process in December of importance to the NFRMPO. People can propose changes to MVEBs, so applying for party status can be beneficial. Stephens stated there have not been enough discussions at Planning Council to commit to applying for party status. Questions from Councilmembers should be funneled through Mallette, who will work with Wojtach. Wojtach clarified the Council could apply for party status and then cancel it later or could potentially apply late and explain further internal discussions were needed.

Wojtach reviewed upcoming meetings that may relate to Council, including AQCC and RAQC meetings. Mallette highlighted the Air Quality and Health Symposium, which is an opportunity to meet Air Quality Control Commission Commissioners.

ACTION ITEMS:

NFRMPO Letter to EPA – Mallette reviewed the letter to EPA, focused on requesting a meeting with EPA about background ozone and non-locally controllable emissions in the Mountain West. Mallette noted a few edits to the letter have been made since the September meeting but none are substantial. Stephens and Canonico highlighted concerns about signing onto the letter, focusing on health and equity impacts. Mallette clarified the letter is focused on the difficulty of achieving the standards. The letter will include communities that want to sign, including the name of the person and their title.

Olson **moved** to *SEND THE LETTER REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE EPA, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITIES WHO SUPPORT THE LETTER*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Vice-Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

No reports this month.

Executive Director Report

Mallette stated VanGo™ started a new route from Loveland to Gunbarrel, and Fort Collins is investigating funds to incentivize new VanGo™ routes in the City. Stephens asked if the incentives will be for city employees or people who work within the city. Schmitt clarified this is being reviewed with the city, but leaning toward those who work in Fort Collins. Olson asked if ridership was rebounding, and Mallette stated ridership has been flat. Gordon will be presenting at the TDM Conference in October 2023 about TDM efforts in Northern Colorado.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

ACTION ITEMS:

September 2023 TIP Amendment – Cunningham stated there were four revision requests for the September 2023 TIP Amendment. Cunningham noted the *FY2024-2027 TIP* that was previously adopted is still waiting for final approval, but amendments will be incorporated once it is approved. The 30-day public comment began on September 13, 2023 and concludes on October 12, 2023. TAC discussed the revisions and recommended Planning Council approval. Stephens stated there will be further discussion about the TMO Incubator funds based on conversations at the US34 Coalition meeting.

Olson **moved** to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023-18 *APPROVING THE SEPTEMBER 2023 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CDOT Boundary Discussion – Herman Stockinger, CDOT Deputy Director, stated CDOT has been reviewing the planning process based on HB1101 and are drafting recommendations. The recommendations will be taken to the November Transportation Commission meeting. Stockinger stated there are no recommendations for changes to the NFRMPO and Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region (UFR TPR) boundaries in this process. A recommendation will be to ensure no community can have double representation on STAC. Stockinger stated there will be recommendations for term limits for the Transportation Commission Chair and to rotate the Chair position between urban and rural TPRs. Mallo asked when STAC representatives are determined. Mallette responded STAC representatives are determined when elections happen, and there will be updates to the NFRMPO's Articles of Association after TC takes action to add that UFR TPR and the NFRMPO will work together to make sure one jurisdiction is not the STAC representative of both TPRs. Stephens highlighted some administrative changes that will help with transparency and make the process more accessible.

FY2023 TIP Delay Review – Cunningham stated the NFRMPO does an annual review of projects that have been awarded funding by the NFRMPO to ensure funding is used in a timely manner. The review focuses on milestones when the project goes to and issues a Notice to Proceed. Cunningham stated there were 25 projects that were reviewed. Three projects are requesting a second delay, 14 projects are being delayed for the first time, and seven projects have met their milestones and are not considered delayed. Olson clarified the projects have 10 years to expend their funds, and Cunningham added the delay review is to make sure funds are being expended in a reasonable time. Baszler asked how long projects can request delays. Cunningham stated deeper conversations are needed beyond a second delay.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Paddock stated five commissioners were onboarded, and they will be reviewing funding recommendations and HB1101.

CDOT R4 Update – Paddock stated asphalt paving is done, and concrete paving is almost done on I-25. Starting the week of October 9, northbound I-25 from SH14 to Owl Canyon Road will have grinding and slab replacement work bringing the roadway down to one lane. Landscaping work is continuing at Prospect Road. CDOT is working on the first Segment 5 construction package to begin in Spring 2024. Olson stated there was a recommendation at STAC that members talk to their Transportation Commissioners to discuss

support for HB1101. Paddock stated there were more than 13,000 lane violations on I-25 in the Express Lane in Denver within the last week, and fees will rise to \$75.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Committee- Mallette stated CDOT will go for the first construction package for Segment 5, which is expected to take three paving seasons to complete. CDOT will continue setting up tolling equipment on segments 6, 7 & 8 through the fall, test the equipment in the winter, and start tolling in the spring.

US34 Coalition – Stephens stated the US34 Coalition hopes to have a contractor early next year, and voted to make the US34 Coalition members the new members of the board at least initially. The Coalition also identified participants for the Scoring Committee to evaluate responses to the RFP: Loveland, Estes Park, Greeley, Weld County, and CDOT. The US34 Coalition will continue discussion on how to expend the \$100,000 in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds. The US34 Coalition will hold election of new officers at their next meeting.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens stated NAAPME met on September 28, with presentations about bus rapid transit in the Denver region. Stephens noted the Enterprise would like to balance geographic equity, DI communities, air quality benefits, and shovel-ready projects. Gordon will be presenting to the NAAPME in October or November. Mallette stated she and Gordon met with Pakbaz and asked about local match, transit operations, and other process questions for NAAPME funds.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Olson stated he will forward the minutes from the FRPR District to include in the Council packet. There was a meeting on September 11, where elected officials got to test out a hydrogen-powered train. Olson stated the District is discussing staffing and contractors to complete the necessary work. The District will hold an in-person meeting on October 27 to set vision, goals, and strategies. The District is working on legislation being reviewed by Transportation Legislative Review Committee (TLRC), including removing Senate approval for Commissioners.

Host Council Member Report – Cochran stated new businesses are opening in LaSalle. The Town is working through their bridge grant for the Main Street bridge, with plans to start the project in Spring. Cochran reported the Town paved its last dirt street in town. The Town is working on its budget.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

CDOT Bustang issues

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff