

Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC)—MINUTES
October 24, 2023
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

- Connie Nelson-Cleverley, SAINT
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Nicole Limoges, Larimer County Office on Aging
- Ari Edgely, Foothills Gateway
- Jacque Penfold, Member of the Public
- Steve Conaway, RAFT
- Bridie Smith, COLT
- Katlyn Kelly, Transfort
- Vanessa Solesbee, Town of Estes Park
- Kimberly Baker, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- Anais Campbell, ARC of Larimer County
- Aaron Oberndorf, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Cynthia Louis, Transfort
- Sarah Thorne, Colorado Energy Office
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services

NFRMPO staff: Cory Schmitt & Brooke Bettolo

2. Review of Agenda

3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)

4. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Kaliczak motioned to approve the July minutes. Oberndorf seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION + ICEBREAKER

The group introduced themselves and shared who taught them to ride a bike.

PRESENTATION

1) Colorado Ebike Rebate Program – Thorne

Thorne shared a presentation about the [Colorado Ebike Rebate Program](#). Campbell asked if the staff are able to support applicants with disabilities, and they can upon request over the phone. English and Spanish flyers were shared with the group following the meeting. Oberndorf asked about resources for learning how to ride a bike. The City of Fort Collins has a [Bike Buddy program](#) and [upcoming classes](#) to support new riders. In the chat, Louis pointed out that ebikes can only ride outside the bus, but many do not fit due to the size of the tires, and that there is an issue of theft.



DISCUSSION ITEMS

2) Ebike follow up discussion- All

Conaway pointed out that poor infrastructure can still be a barrier for cycling. Kaliczak mentioned that while ebikes might not be ideal for older adults, people in rural areas, or people with disabilities, they might be a good solution for younger folks to improve mobility as they age. Kelly mentioned that the City of Fort Collins works to ensure bus stops are clear of snow, and Louis mentioned that community members can report blocked bus stops and bike lanes to her staff, and/or fill out an Access Fort Collins request. Smith stated that Loveland residents can call the main COLT number for snow removal in bike lanes and bus stops.

Thorne mentioned a grant opportunity where they are looking for projects to give ebikes to a target population. More information can be found [here](#). Campbell shared an interest in a toolkit of resources for agencies and organizations who want to support clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, perhaps based off the travel training curriculum already created with Transfort. Schmitt suggested that Campbell attend NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative for support.

3) Mobility Case Studies- Bettolo

Case study #1-Bettolo went over a mobility case study involving a 70-year-old man who needs ongoing rides from his home in Loveland to PVH in Fort Collins He is not comfortable using public transportation because he walks with a cane and feels unstable.

Kelly stated that he could take Loveland paratransit then utilize a Dial-a-Taxi voucher or get him to the take FLEX in between Loveland and Fort Collins, then finish the trip with Fort Collins Dial-a- Ride. Smith recommended the same idea, that he may be able to start his ride using the Loveland paratransit, then use a Dial a Taxi voucher or take the FLEX in between. If he has Dial-a-Ride eligibility in both Loveland and Fort Collins, he may be able to bridge the gap with a Dial-a-Taxi voucher. According to Kelly, paratransit does not matter where you live, but if you can get within the service area, you can use the service as a “visitor.” Campbell shared that Disabled Resources helps people get connected with public benefits and the Arc of Larimer County can assist with Medicaid and SSI.

Case Study #2- Bettolo discussed a 60+ year old man in a wheelchair that would like to get rides to a friend’s house to north Fort Collins from the Lemay Avenue Health and Rehab Facility after 6pm.

Oberndorf said he has talked with the director of the Lemay Avenue Health and Rehab center, and he said that Columbine and the Lemay facility have reduced most leisure trip services due to budgetary restrictions. Kelly stated that if the caller qualifies for Dial-a-Ride, he can use that service depending on how far north he is going, otherwise he can use Dial-a-Taxi. Kaliczak clarified that if he has Medicaid coverage for non-medical trips, he will not be able to use Dial-aTaxi because they have a non-medical transportation service at the facility, even though the service is no longer being provided for leisure trips. Limoges mentioned that an ombudsman is already involved with this situation and will update the group as more information becomes available.

RIDENOCO UPDATES



Schmitt gave an update Trip Scheduling project & 2024 Calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Schmitt announced that there will be a Safety Roundtable at the November NCMC to talk about safety in the form of compliance, keeping drivers, passengers, and vehicles safe. The discussion will focus on what providers are doing to ensure safety and how safety can be improved as a whole.

COLT AND TRANSFORT NEWS & UPDATES

Kelly said that Transfort is still on reduced service, except for the MAX which has been extended by two hours on Friday and Saturday nights until 10pm. Transfort has been operating with an interim director and several management positions for some time, the director position has been posted and they hope to have a new director by the end of the year. The FLEX survey open house is Thursday 10/26/23 at the South Transit Center as well as an [online survey](#) that closes 10/31/2023. The on-board passenger survey has been completed; results will be made available soon.

Smith discussed the new route 7 that will be added in January 2024. There will be changes to route 3 and a new north transfer point like the Food Bank located at 37th and Garfield. A new bus is expected in December.

LCMC MEMBER UPDATES

Conway announced that Ruth Fletcher-Carter is retiring in January and the board asked him to take her place as the executive director. They are looking for a replacement for his position as Operation Assistant, which will be posted on [their website](#).

Bitzer said that VIA is doing great in Weld County and surpassed 100 trips this month. People are still registering for rides. Via is also looking to hire a new volunteer coordinator for the volunteer driver program.

Limoges contacted the Ombudsman during this meeting to inquire about the gentleman from the case study at the Lemay Facility, they are aware of his situation and are working on this issue.

Final Public Comment: (2 minutes each)

None

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

None

Motion to Adjourn the meeting:

Kaliczak motioned to adjourn the meeting. Oberndorf seconded the motion.

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. **Northern Colorado Mobility Committee: Nov 28, 2023**
- b. **LCMC Meeting: Jan 23, 2024**