

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

**November 2, 2023
Hybrid Meeting in Loveland, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Johnny Olson	-Greeley

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

MPO Staff:

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

In Attendance: Eric Bracke, Kathleen Bracke, Brad Buckman, Rick Casey, Rich Christy, Paul DesRocher, Jim Eussen, Nicole Hahn, Mark Jackson, Katrina Klobberdanz, Dee McIntosh, Mark Oberschmidt, Heather Paddock, Mark Peterson, Evan Pinkham, Elizabeth Relford, Jan Rowe, Mike Silverstein, Sandra Solin, Herman Stockinger, Robin Stoneman, Josie Thomas, Eric Tracy, Paul Trombino, Dena Wojtach

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

Public Comment:

Rick Casey expressed concern that the NFRMPO and local agencies are not doing enough with the ozone pollution program given the downgrade of the non-attainment area from serious to severe. Casey noted he would follow up with NFRMPO staff on how the organization plans for ozone mitigation.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2, 2023, MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Baszler and **passed** unanimously.

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE OCTOBER 5, 2023, MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid 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)

Mike Silverstein, Executive Director of the RAQC, reviewed lawn and garden equipment electrification incentives programs. Silverstein reviewed the similarities and differences between the lawn and garden equipment regulatory proposals from the RAQC and from the APCD. James asked what the enforcement mechanisms would be and who would be the enforcing authority. Silverstien stated the state would be the implementing agency and it would be up to them to determine enforcement mechanisms.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach reviewed the memo in the packet including the AQCC adoption of rules related to low and zero emission vehicles, clarification on EPA's process for approving and disapproving SIP elements, and the final determination from EPA on rules related to the regulation of reformulated gasoline during the summer months in non-attainment areas. Wojtach reviewed the components of the draft letter to the AQCC related to the Ozone SIP rulemaking and the related Lawn and Garden Equipment rulemaking hearing and noted the comments on the Rulemaking are due November 28. Chair James noted support for signing the letter and the Planning Council concurred.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Outgoing Transportation Commissioner Recognition

Paddock and Stockinger recognized Kathleen Bracke for her service on the Transportation Commission for the previous four years and recognized her advocacy for Northern Colorado and specifically for the work along on I-25. James noted appreciation for Bracke's service both on the TC and on the NFRMPO Planning Council.

Report of the Chair

No report this month.

Executive Director Report

Mallette noted the LinkNoCo Phase II RFP was awarded to HDR, the US34 TMO and TDM RFP has been released and will close on December 2, and the NFRMPO is looking for a community to host the June 2024 Planning Council meeting.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

Schmitt provided an update on RideNoCo, the mobility program at the NFRMPO which serves Larimer and Weld County. Schmitt reviewed the vision, goals, funding, and phases of the program. Schmitt reviewed the work being completed in Phase 3: Trip Scheduling, which includes the integration of Transactional Data Specifications (TDS) across providers which is anticipated to be complete in early 2024. Schmitt provided statistics for the call center to date. Mellon asked if the Via service is integrated in the Trip Discovery tool and described an issue constituents have had using the tool. Schmitt stated there are some glitches being worked through in adding the Via service to the tool. Mallo asked about advertising and Schmitt noted the tool is promoted through RideNoCo, NFRMPO, and partner outreach efforts as opposed to traditional paid

advertising. Canonico noted there is a gap in service for residents requiring wheelchair transportation and Schmitt concurred.

Community Advisory Committee

A written report was provided.

VanGo™ Dashboard

A written report was provided.

Q3 2023 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

CDOT Inactives Report

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATION:

Paul DesRoshier, Director of the Division of Transit and Rail at CDOT, presented the status of the Bustang program, goals for the upcoming year, program accomplishment, and proposed service expansion. DesRoshier addressed concerns about the cancellation of trips on the North Line, attributing the issue to the driver shortage. Mellon asked why the North Line was being affected disproportionately than the other routes. DesRoshier noted there are different garages which serve each line and there is no specific reason why the North Line has seen greater issues with operators.

DesRoshier stated CDOT will be issuing an RFP for a new service provider to begin in October 2024. Council asked if there would be consideration for including a guaranteed ride home service in the new contract. DesRoshier stated that was not currently under consideration and that similar services are provided through outside organizations such as CDOT. Mallo asked how cancelled trips were communicated to the public. DesRoshier outlined the communication channels including the option for signing up for text alerts and social media monitoring.

ACTION ITEMS:

CDOT Boundary letter of Support – Mallette reviewed the components and outcomes of the Boundary Study from HB 23-1101 and the proposed resolution of support from the NFRMPO. Mallette reviewed the proposed boundary changes and noted the resolution states the NFRMPO does not offer an opinion on the proposed boundary changes. James, the NFRMPO STAC representative, noted the STAC voted on the recommendations at their meeting earlier in the day, but he abstained from voting as the Planning Council had not formally taken a position on the recommendations. Baszler asked why the specific boundary change recommendations were made and Mallette stated the law required consideration of specific variables regarding the boundary changes. James recommended revising the statement regarding the NFRMPO not taking a position on the TPR boundary changes to supporting the STAC recommendation and the Planning Council concurred.

Olson **moved** to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023-19 *SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HB23-1101* with the noted amendments. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

October 2023 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment – Cunningham stated the one revision request for the October 2023 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment was the addition of one new project: *Weld County 60+ Ride Vehicle Purchase*. The 30-day public comment began on October 3, 2023 and concluded on November 2, 2023. TAC discussed the revision and recommended Planning Council approval. Mellon asked about how this project would affect the Via service in Weld County. Relford noted the project was purchasing an ADA accessible vehicle and expanding 60+ Ride's service in addition to the Via service.

Olson **moved** to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023-20 *APPROVING THE OCTOBER 2023 OFF-CYCLE AMENDMENT TO THE FY2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo and **passed** unanimously.

FY2023 TIP Delay Review – Cunningham reviewed the FY2023 TIP delay review and stated the TAC approved the 14 first extensions and recommended Planning Council approve the three second extensions.

Olson **moved** to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023-21 *APPROVING THE FY2023 TIP DELAY REVIEW*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Jim Kelly introduced himself as the new Transportation Commissioner for the NFRMPO. Kelly reviewed discussions from the Transportation Commission meeting including the PD-1601 requirements for a new interchange in Castle Rock, approved \$5M for a rail study between Union Station and Craig, and reviewed budget adjustments.

CDOT R4 Update – Josie Thomas provided an overview of planning initiatives in Region 4 including the US 34 rail road grade separation study and the HWY 14 safety study between LCR 5 and WCR 43. Thomas noted the resurfacing project on HWY 257 has been completed and a ribbon cutting will be held on Dec 5 at the Centerra Mobility Hub for I-25. Thomas reviewed the discussion at the Four Chair TPR meeting including the Regional Priority Program (RPP) funding allocation process that will continue to rotate between the four TPRs in Region 4. Mellon asked which intersections are being looked at for the US34 railroad grade separation study. Paddock stated it would be LCR3 and WCR13.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Committee– James stated the coalition is regularly attended by many stakeholders along the corridor which continues to provide energy to the expansion project with the focus currently moving south.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – No report this month.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Olson stated the FRPR met in October and discussed the potential 2024 ballot initiative, the Service Development Plan (SDP), and the budget which will allow the District to hire two new staff. The minutes from the meeting will be sent out to the Planning Council upon receipt. Mellon asked if there has been a final route determined and Olson stated that will be part of the SDP.

Host Council Member Report – Mallo provided updates on the Northern Colorado Regional Airport new terminal construction and the potential economic impact if the airport can attract a commercial carrier. Mallo noted part of the Heart Improvement Program (HIP Streets) included an infrastructure assessment in 2019 which revealed the need for utility reconstruction around 4th Street. Construction for utilities and the reconfiguration of the full street will start in 2024. Widening of US34 will continue between Denver Ave and Boyd Lake Ave will be completed in September, and the intersection of Taft and US34 is underway with construction beginning in the Spring. Connect Loveland was approved by the City Council. The COLT Transit Center construction is underway which will include a parking area for buses with potential for building construction in the future.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None this Month

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff