

**MEETING MINUTES of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council
Hybrid Meeting
November 15, 2023
1:02 – 2:49 p.m.**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eric Tracy, Chair – Larimer County
Mark Oberschmidt, Vice Chair – Evans
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Emma Belmont – FTA
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Jason Elkins – Johnstown
Nicole Hahn – Loveland
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Bhooshan Karnik – Greeley
Elizabeth Relford – Weld County
Shani Porter - Severance
Josie Thomas - CDOT

NFRMPO STAFF:

AnnaRose Cunningham
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette
Jerome Rouser
Michael Saunders
Cory Schmitt

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Wesley LeVanchy – Eaton
Tawn Hillenbrand – Berthoud
Tom Moore – RAQC
Town of Garden City
Town of LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Caleb Feaver – Fox Tuttle
Candice Folkers – COLT
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Joshua Ma – Fort Collins
Julia Wcislo- FTA
Dee McIntosh – CDOT
Justin Stone – Timnath
Phil Von Hake - CDOT
Scott Pearson- Windsor
Steven Younkin- Greeley

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Oberschmidt called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2023 TAC MINUTES

Buckman moved to approve the October 18, 2023 TAC Minutes. Relford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

AIR QUALITY AGENDA

Regional Air Quality Updates – Karasko noted the AQCC will discuss several GHG items at their November meeting. The hearing for the revised SIP will be at the December 12-15, 2023 AQCC meeting.

Consent Items

No items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

November 2023 TIP Amendment – Cunningham noted the FY2024-2027 TIP is now active and all relevant modifications have been included in the new TIP. The November TIP Amendment includes one revision to remove the Weld County *Roundabout at WCR74 and WCR 33* from the TIP and return the Federal funds to the NFRMPO STBG pool. The public comment period opened on November 13 and will close December 12. Hahn motioned to recommended Planning Council approve the November 2023 TIP Amendment to the FY2024-2027 TIP. Oberschmidt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

RideNoCo Implementation Update – Schmitt provided a background on the history of RideNoCo. The goal of RideNoCo is improve individual and regional mobility, particularly for older adults, individuals with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and those who do not speak English as a first language. Schmitt reviewed Phases 1 and 2 of the RideNoCo program, and stated Phase 3 is the trip scheduling tool that will be completed in 2024. Schmitt reviewed the RideNoCo website, which provides resources by community and need. The trip discovery tool includes numerous transportation options, including public transportation agencies and volunteer transportation organizations such as RAFT, SAINT, and 60+ Ride. Phase 3 will utilize transactional data specifications (TDS) to allow RideNoCo to conduct initial intake on behalf of volunteer providers, share client info with and among providers, and allow providers to share client and trip information with each other and make cross-county trips possible. The Call Center has seen significant growth since 2021 in both calls and website visits, representing equal needs from Larimer and Weld counties. Schmitt stated that typical comments and feedback received include the mention of transportation between communities, transportation to medical appointments in Metro Denver, transportation availability and affordability in rural areas, and reliable wheelchair accessible transportation.

Relford asked if Schmitt had updates about the 60+ Ride van contract. Schmitt noted the expected contract delivery is December 31 with vehicle delivery soon thereafter. Mallette noted the problem with the contract is that DTR is improving their processes, which have evolved from previous staff.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2025 Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Kick-Off – Rouser provided an overview of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and its purpose, including anticipated adoption in early 2025. Rouser noted outreach for the 2025 ATP will have four phases: Goals and Problem Statement, Existing Condition/Active Transportation Facilities Update, Regional Active Transportation Corridor (RATC) Visioning, and Closing the Feedback Loop. Rouser discussed the proposed ideas for the 2025 ATP which include developing a regional low stress network, expanding the bikeshare/micromobility section, compiling information on sidewalk gap construction programs, expanding the economic benefits and e-bike sections, and exploring the intersection of active transportation and transit. The TAC discussed stakeholders the NFRMPO should engage with, outreach strategies, barriers to safer and more reliable biking and walking, and how the 2025 ATP can be most useful. Rouser stated the 2025 ATP must advance the 2050 RTP goals which are safety, regional health, mobility, multimodal, and operations. Rouser noted the 2025 ATP Steering Committee will meet at least once per phase and will be either hybrid or

virtual. Rouser requested that TAC members interested in serving on the Steering Committee contact him. Rouser outlined the next steps which include community meetings, creating the 2025 ATP survey, analyzing existing data and compiling existing resources.

2025 Freight Northern Colorado (FNC) Plan Kick-Off – Saunders noted the NFRMPO adopted its first Freight Plan in 2019. The 2025 Freight Northern Colorado (FNC) Plan will update freight statistics and information and will include a greater emphasis on the current issues facing freight and possible solutions at a regional, state, and national level. The plan has five major phases: Purpose Statement and Vision, Data Collection, Outreach, Plan Drafting, and Review and Submittal. The anticipated adoption of the 2025 FNC is mid-2025. Saunders noted the potential stakeholders include CDOT, Colorado State Patrol, local municipalities, local airports, railroads, truck companies and drivers, Oil and Gas Companies, other private sector companies, and residents. TAC discussed communities’ concerns regarding freight and how the plan can be most useful for communities.

2023 Call for Projects Discussion – Cunningham noted there is \$24,044,594 available in the 2023 Call for Projects (CFP), including the STBG funds that were returned to the pool from Weld County. Cunningham stated there were four options for each project: fully funded, partially funded, waitlisted, and unfunded. Cunningham provided an overview of the Scoring Committee and NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative’s recommendations. Cunningham noted the Scoring Committee makes a recommendation to TAC, and TAC makes a recommendation to Planning Council, and Planning Council makes the final decision. Additional considerations include updated CMAQ emissions reduction calculations and removing the lowest scoring CMAQ and CRP projects from the waitlists. The new CMAQ calculations for the 9th and 10th Street project did decrease the average score, but it is still recommended for funding. Cunningham noted unfunded projects may not meet the intent of the funding programs and NFRMPO staff recommends removing the bottom quartile of scores from the waitlist. TAC recommended keeping all projects on the waitlist. Cunningham noted Project Sponsors of fully waitlisted projects will not be required to present to the Planning Council at the December 7 meeting. NFRMPO staff will provide an overview of waitlisted projects. If a waitlisted project is recommended for funding during the additional allocation process, the project sponsor will be required to present to Planning Council at that time. Karnik asked how questions Planning Council may have about waitlisted projects will be handled. Cunningham stated MPO staff will answer any questions to the best of their ability and if there needs to be follow up, that can happen at the January meeting prior to final approval. Cunningham will send the presentation template and preliminary funding phasing to Project Sponsors on November 17. Slides will be due on December 4. Sponsors have a two-minute limit per project. TAC will make their recommendation to Planning Council on December 20, and Planning Council will make their decision at the January 11 Planning Council meeting. TAC will discuss and evaluate the Call for Projects process at the January 17 TAC meeting.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative – Written report provided.

Regional Transit Updates – None this month.

Mobility Updates – None this month.

REPORTS

November Planning Council Meeting Summary Draft – Written report provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Summary - Written report provided.

Mobility Committee Updates – Written report provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Rouser stated the Safe Routes to School survey will close on Friday, November 17, and the Safe Routes to School Subcommittee will meet on November 29.

Hahn noted Loveland hired Keith Wakefield as the Assistant City Engineer.

Buckman noted Fort Collins voters passed a half-cent sales tax ballot measure which included funding for transit. This measure gives Fort Collins the funds to match a potential FTA grant for the West Elizabeth MAX. This measure included park maintenance funding as well.

Karasko noted TAC will be meeting in the Pine Room for 2024 TAC meetings.

Oberschmidt stated Evans installed three new traffic signals that are wrapped in public art that was selected through a contest.

Pinkham noted Weld County is three months into the Via Mobility service program that was funded through the 2022 MMOF Call for Projects. The program is going well, and ridership is steadily increasing.

Herrera noted Weld County Road 17 has reopened and completed the Eastman Park and SH257 intersection project.

Gordon stated the NFRMPO hired HDR as the consultant for LinkNoCo Phase 2, and the US34 TMO RFP will close December 1.

Karnik noted former Greeley Mayor Ed Clark passed away on November 6 and noted the election results for Mayor and City Council in Greeley. Younkin stated Greeley hosted a bike audit on October 20. Younkin noted there were about 15-20 participants and used the NFRMPO's Bike and Ped Safety Reporter Tool. There will be a discussion about implementing the recommendations from the audit at the November 17 Greeley Bikes meeting.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None this month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:49 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, as a hybrid meeting.