

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

**December 7, 2023
Hybrid Meeting in Eaton, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Scott James – Chair	-Weld County
Jon Mallo – Vice Chair	-Loveland
Will Karspeck – Past Chair	-Berthoud
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Mark Clark	-Evans
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Johnny Olson	-Greeley
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Frank Baszler	-Severance
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Lisa Laake	-Timnath

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **Brooke Bettolo**, Mobility Planner; **Rachel Stillwell**, Accountant; **Shane Armstrong**, Operations and Fleet Manager; **Alex Gordon**, Transportation Planner III; **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner III; **Jerome Rouser**, Transportation Planner I; **Michael Saunders**, Transportation Planner I.

In Attendance: Brad Buckman, Rich Christy, Alex Donaldson, Michelle Edgerley, Jim Eussen, Nicole Hahn, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Wayne Howard, Omar Herrera, Hanna Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Will Jones, Katrina Kloberdanz, Wesley LeVanchy, Joshua Ma, Evan Pinkham, Elizabeth Relford, Justin Stone, Josie Thomas, Paul Trombino, Dena Wojtach

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

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE DECEMBER 7, 2023, MEETING AGENDA AS SUBMITTED*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and passed unanimously.

Stephens noted her name was misspelled in the November 2, 2023 meeting minutes.

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2, 2023 MEETING MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS*. 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)

Ferko stated APCD will begin a toxic air contaminant monitoring program and is seeking input and feedback to help inform the location of the final three of six monitoring sites. APCD is seeking comments on the draft 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory through December 17, 2023, and the Division is hosting a Greenhouse Gas Verification Intensity Protocol public meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Ferko noted AQCC discussed updates to the Colorado GHG Emission Reduction Roadmap at the November 16, 2023 AQCC meeting. AQCC will consider establishing new regulations on the use of lawn and garden equipment within the Denver Metro North Front Range ozone nonattainment area at the December 12-15, 2023 Commission meeting.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

None this month.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach noted NFRMPO staff had a productive meeting with EPA Region 8 Administrator Becker in response to the EPA letter. Region 8 recognized the Intermountain West does experience higher background ozone levels and emissions have been exacerbated by wildfires. Region 8 did not have any new recommendations on potential solutions to address the concerns outlined in the EPA letter. Wojtach stated there are two lawn and garden equipment regulation proposals from AQCC and RAQC. Both organizations have revised their proposals to address concerns that were raised. Planning Council asked for clarification on the differences between the two proposals and how the state will be enforcing lawn and garden equipment regulations. Ferko stated AQCC plans on enforcing the regulation through their record keeping reporting requirements.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair James opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

James noted the I-25 ribbon cutting went well. He noted Governor Polis and Executive Director Lew attended as well as Commissioners James and Stephens spoke.

Executive Director Report

Mallette provided an update on the 60+ ride contract. The contract should be completed by the end of the year. The NFRMPO has received three proposals for the US34 TMO. The next Planning Council meeting will be on January 11th which is the second Thursday of the month.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Finance

A written report was provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATION:

VanGo Update: Armstrong gave an overview of the VanGo™ program. The NFRMPO is home to VanGo™ program which helps with many of the NFRMPO's goals, including reduced SOV and Ozone and GHG emissions. Armstrong noted VanGo ridership was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, there were 45 active routes and 216 participants and a 4.6 Occupancy Rate. In 2023, there were 20 active routes and 76 participants and a 3.7 Occupancy Rate. There are 29 active vans with 20 on-routes and 9 on reserve. Fourteen out of the 20 routes run on hybrid vehicles with the goal to have all routes run on hybrid vehicles. The VanGo program has been heavily impacted by supply chain issues in the purchase of vehicles. VanGo continues to have a strong relationship with the City of Fort Collins and City of Greeley maintenance which does great work for the program. Armstrong outlined the Participant Annual Survey, noting the high scores on customer satisfaction. Mallette noted the VanGo program has been successful for a very long time and many participants really enjoy this program. It also brings federal transit dollars into the region which Council has used for their priorities.

CONSENT AGENDA:

2023 Q1, Q2, and Q3 Unaudited Financials- Stephens **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo and **passed** unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

2024 Officers Election – Chair James opened nominations for 2024 Council Chair. James noted the Chair and Vice-Chair must represent Larimer and Weld Counties.

Mellon **nominated** Mallo for Chair. Mallo was elected to 2024 Council Chair by acclamation.

Chair James opened nominations for 2024 Council Vice Chair

Heid **nominated** Olson for Vice Chair. Olson was elected 2024 Council Vice Chair by acclamation.

November 2023 TIP Amendment – Cunningham stated the FY2024-FY2027 TIP went into effect on November 7th. Cunningham noted the November 2025 TIP Amendment includes one revision to remove the Weld County *Roundabout at WCR74 and WCR33* project from the TIP. The Public Comment period began on November 8, 2023, and concludes on December 7, 2023. Approval is contingent on not receiving any negative comments. Mellon asked what happens to the funds when they return to the pool. Cunningham stated the funds will first be allocated to any waitlisted projects, and if there are none, it will return to the pool to be allocated in future Calls for Project.

Olson **moved** to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023-22 THE NOVEMBER 2023 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP). The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2023 Call for Projects – Cunningham provided an overview of the 2023 Call for Projects. All 13 recommended projects are within ¼ of a mile of at least one equity area with 53% of recommended projects being within ¼ of a mile of an equity index area with a score of three. Cunningham noted the projects that are on a congested corridor and how the projects contribute to the strategies outlined in the 2023 Congestion Management Process. A performance measure analysis was also provided. Project sponsors of projects recommended for funding gave a short presentation on their projects. Councilmembers asked clarifying questions about the projects. The Planning Council discussed the disadvantage smaller communities have regarding crash data and the capacity to provide their own crash data to supplement NFRMPO crash data. Cunningham noted TAC will make their recommendation to Planning Council at the December 20th meeting and Planning Council will vote to approve the 2023 Call for Project recommendations at the January 11th meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Kelly noted the Transportation Commission has been discussing budget items and Front Range Passenger Rail. The Transportation Commission began discussion on pricing related to the broadband fiber program. Kelly provided an overview of various projects throughout the state.

CDOT R4 Update – Thomas stated the I-25 Express Lanes are open between Berthoud and Johnstown. The Express Lanes on Segments 7 & 8 are expected to open on December 15th. All toll fees on the express lanes will be waived during the initial test period. Tolling fees are anticipated to begin in 2024.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – James noted the I-25 coalition will shift their focus to construction on I-25 Section 5.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens noted Alex Gordon gave a presentation about transit in Northern Colorado at the November 30th meeting. NAAPME is working on creating a public accountability dashboard. NAAPME is working on the project requirements for the future Call for Projects which will likely be focused on transit and bike and ped projects. James asked when the call for projects will open. Stephens noted NAAPME will likely open the call in 2024. Mallette asked if NAAPME has discussed local match requirements. Stephens noted NAAPME has considered options that allow for smaller communities to be able to have access to these funds.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck stated the Board of Directors held a retreat in Denver on November 30th and December 1st. The Board discussed the accomplishments the Board and the Front Range Passenger Rail District had in 2023 and what needs to be done to have a successful ballot initiative next November. Olson noted there is a board meeting on December 11th. The board voted on a route alignment which is US287. Mallette asked if the Rail District Boundary will be updated prior to the ballot initiative. There are no plans to change the boundaries currently. Stephens asked if it is up to the cities to determine station locations. Front Range Passenger Rail will work with communities to determine station location. The Federal Rail Administration announced Front Range Passenger Rail was awarded funding through the Corridor ID program.

Host Council Member Report – Heid noted Eaton voters passed a 1% sales tax initiative for fixing roads. Eaton received a \$1.5 million grant from DOLA to match a CDOT grant to improve Downtown Eaton. Eaton is starting a Downtown Development Authority.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff