

**MEETING MINUTES of the  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council  
Hybrid Meeting  
December 20, 2023  
1:00 – 2:59 p.m.**

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brad Buckman – Fort Collins  
Aaron Bustow – FHWA  
Jason Elkins – Johnstown  
Nicole Hahn – Loveland  
Omar Herrera – Windsor  
Bhooshan Karnik – Greeley  
Tom Moore – RAQC  
Elizabeth Relford – Weld County  
Josie Thomas – CDOT

**NFRMPO STAFF:**

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

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Eric Tracy, Chair – Larimer County  
Mark Oberschmidt, Vice Chair – Evans  
Emma Belmont – FTA  
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD  
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath  
Tawn Hillenbrand – Berthoud  
Wesley LeVanchy – Eaton  
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken  
Shani Porter – Severance  
Town of Garden City  
Town of LaSalle

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bethany Clark – Loveland  
Alex Donaldson – Loveland  
Candice Folkers – COLT  
Phil von Hake – CDOT  
Marilyn Hilgenberg – Loveland  
Tom Jones – Great Western Trail Authority  
Tamara Keefe – FHU  
Will Keenan – FHWA  
Joshua Ma – Fort Collins  
Deanna McIntosh – CDOT Region 4  
Jerry Neville – Wilson & Company  
Evan Pinkham – Weld County  
Bryce Reeves – CDOT Region 4  
Karen Scopel – Greeley  
Justin Stone – Timnath  
Julia Wcislo – FTA

**CALL TO ORDER**

Karasko called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023 TAC MINUTES**

Hahn moved to approve the November 15, 2023 TAC Minutes. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **AIR QUALITY AGENDA**

**Regional Air Quality Updates** – Moore stated the AQCC approved the SIP as presented. Moore described the attainment demonstration contained in Chapter Five of the SIP, which modeled attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard of 75ppb within the nonattainment area by 2027. Moore noted an increase of 2-3ppb in the 2026 projected design value concentrations, citing a more conservative and realistic approach to AQCC modeling. Moore explained the hybrid approach for reducing gas powered lawn and garden equipment emissions that AQCC approved. The hybrid approach stipulates that all state entities and their private contractors must transition to electric equipment, whereas local entities and their private contractors will only be required to transition to electric equipment if they are within the nonattainment area. Moore noted that these requirements will likely come into effect by 2025.

Moore explained that ozone levels will continue to be monitored from 2024 to 2026 to demonstrate attainment.

## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AGENDA**

### **Consent Agenda**

No items this month.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**TAC Chair and Vice Chair Election** – Relford nominated Oberschmidt for 2024 TAC Chair. Oberschmidt was elected via acclimation.

Buckman nominated Hahn as the 2024 TAC Vice Chair. Hahn was elected via unanimous consent.

**2023 Call for Projects** – Cunningham stated CDOT's federal reconciliation resulted in approximately \$630K reduction across all four federal funding programs for FY2023. Due to the reduction in federal funding available, the Greeley *9th & 10th St Mobility Improvements* project within the CMAQ program and the Loveland *Wilson Ave Multiuse Path and Crossing* project within the CRP program will become partially funded with the remaining funding waitlisted.

Buckman moved to recommend the Planning Council approve the recommended funding for the four federal funding programs in the 2023 Call for Projects. Hahn seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

**2020 – 2024 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures** – Cunningham stated targets for the safety performance measures are set annually by DOTs and MPOs. Cunningham noted that MPOs can either support the State's target or set regionally specific targets. Though the NFRMPO has previously set targets by supporting the CDOT targets, Cunningham explained it may make sense for the MPO to set regional targets now due to statewide targets trending upwards in recent years. Cunningham presented the CDOT statewide targets for 2020-2024, of which increased in each measured category with significant

increases in statewide targets for fatalities and serious injuries. Fatalities within the NFRMPO region have decreased and serious injuries and non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities have increased since 2020. TAC indicated support for setting regional targets. The Planning Council will discuss the targets at the January Planning Council meeting. The safety targets will be approved at the February Planning Council meeting. Targets are due to CDOT at the end of February.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Great Western Trail** – Tom Jones, Chair of the Great Western Trail Authority, stated the Great Western Trail was completed in the summer of 2023 after 17 years and now spans 10.5 miles in length, connecting Windsor and Eaton via Severance. Jones presented a video to the committee, which explained the history of the trail from its beginnings as a railroad track owned and operated by the Great Western Railway before eventually being donated to the Great Western Trail Authority to be transformed into a recreational trail in 2006. Jones outlined the trail’s funding, including Federal and State grants, local funding and individual donations Jones concluded the presentation by discussing plans for expansion of the trail and integration with other regional trails. Jones stated an opening celebration of the completed trail will be held in April 2024.

**Centerra Trail** – Bethany Clark, Parks and Recreation Planner with the City of Loveland, informed the committee the Centerra Trail had recently finished construction and is now a 1.3 mile long, ten-foot-wide concrete trail. Clark discussed the trails budget, which was funded by TA and MMOF grants and local funds. Clark stated construction of the trail exceeded the original 75 working day timeline due to weather delays and vandalism, with construction beginning on October 17, 2022, and concluding May 2, 2023.

**Greeley #3 Canal Trail** – Karen Scopel, Environmental Planner with the City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails, provided updates on the construction timeline of the Greeley #3 Canal Trail, beginning with Phase 1 in 2012 which completed a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile segment of the trail using \$450K in federal funds. Phases 2 and 3 were designed at that time but were delayed due to lack of funding until an MMOF grant award from the NFRMPO in 2020 allowed for further construction. Scopel stated trail construction concluded in November 2023, and explained details regarding construction challenges, trail design, and future connections.

**CDOT Local Agency Handbook Updates** – Bryce Reeves, CDOT Region 4 Local Agency Engineer discussed major changes to the CDOT Local Agency Handbook, including updating references, requirements to match other documents, adding funding programs, and changing language to add clarity. Reeves welcomed members of the committee to contact him if they find errors in the document or sections in need of additional updates. Reeves went on to discuss upcoming training opportunities, including a local agency training on environmental and right of way requirements to take place in spring of 2024.

Relford asked how local agency staff can become right-of-way certified, Reeves stated he was unsure but would find out and follow up with TAC.

## **OUTSIDE PARTNER REPORTS**

**NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative** – Written report provided.

**Regional Transit Agencies** – There were no Regional Transit Agency updates.

**Mobility Updates** – Bettolo stated materials were being translated into Spanish to improve language access within the program. Bettolo added RideNoCo has entered its third phase of facilitating trip scheduling crossover, which will eventually allow eligible participants to be referred to other local programs through RideNoCo.

## **REPORTS**

**December Planning Council Meeting Summary Draft** – Written report provided.

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Summary** – Written report provided.

**Mobility Committee Updates** – Written report provided.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Karasko stated information regarding the 2024 local match increases and decreases would be included in an email following the meeting. Karasko also stated TAC meetings in 2024 would be held in the Pine Room at the Windsor Recreation Center.

Pinkham stated the WCR74 and WCR33 roundabout project would likely be completed in two months. Pinkham stated Weld County had received a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) planning grant, which will kick off in 2024.

Rouser stated the Safe Routes to School Conference would take place in Fort Collins in October of 2024 and NFRMPO staff would be involved. Rouser added the Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and requested committee members inform him of organizations and groups that may be interested in the development of the Active Transportation Plan. Rouser concluded by reporting the Safe Routes to School Subcommittee would be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month beginning in January.

Hahn stated the new Loveland Transit Center would be opening in January.

Buckman stated Fort Collins had collaborated with CDOT on an urban design project on Prospect Road.

Cunningham requested that TAC members send photos of projects to the Google Drive link that was sent to committee members. Rouser noted Bike and Pedestrian pictures would be helpful for the Active Transportation Plan.

## **MEETING WRAP-UP**

**Final Public Comment** – There was no final public comment.

**Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:** There were no agenda topic suggestions.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.**

**Meeting minutes submitted by:** Michael Saunders, NFRMPO Staff

**The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, as a hybrid meeting.**

