

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

**February 1, 2024
Hybrid Meeting in Greeley, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Jon Mallo – Chair	-Loveland
Johnny Olson – Vice Chair	-Greeley
Scott James – Past Chair	-Weld County
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Matt Fries	-Severance
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Lisa Laake	-Timnath

MPO Staff:

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

In Attendance: Dawn Anderson; Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Ray Cundiff; Kurtis Cunningham; Alex Donaldson; Jim Eusson; Omar Herrera; Mark Jackson; Will Jones; Katrina Klobberdanz; Joshua Ma; Dee McIntosh; Heather Paddock; Mark Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Elizabeth Relford; Cody Sims; Laura Speer; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Dena Wojtach

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

Public Comment:

No comments were submitted.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2024 MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

Fries stated he attended the January 11, 2024 Planning Council meeting but was not included in the attendance list of the minutes. Rennemeyer **moved** to *APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS*. The motion was **seconded** by Clark and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

A written report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach stated RAQC released its modeling RFP in January 2024, including the need to support ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions over the next five years. The RFP requests using a better approach to addressing background ozone. Wojtach reviewed legislation introduced for air quality ozone efforts, including creating a High Emitter Vehicle voucher program and small electric motor program.

EPA released guidelines and tools for exceptional events. EPA is streamlining efforts to funding EV charging stations by establishing categorial exemption under NEPA.

RAQC canceled its February meeting, and AQCC will hold a meeting in February to discuss the Lawn and Garden hearing. Mallette stated background ozone modeling could address questions raised by the Planning Council. Stephens asked about the legislation stating NAAPME would be administrator of the High Emitter Vehicle voucher program funds, and Wojtach stated there is no fiscal note yet to define how the program would be funded.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Mallo stated Executive Director Mallette will retire on August 1, 2024, but a new hire will be onboarded by July 1, 2024. The Executive Committee will be leading the effort for recruitment, resume review, and initial interviews, but the final decision will be up to Planning Council. Commissioner James will be leading the HR Committee in updating the job descriptions, manuals, and other documents.

Executive Director Report

Mallette stated the National Safe Routes to School Conference is coming to Fort Collins, and the NFRMPO will be involved in developing the programming. Mallette stated Planning Councilmembers should share ideas for sessions with Jerome Rouser.

Mallette reviewed the Legislative Report provided in the Planning Council handouts. Stephens asked for clarification about eligibility for the Youth Transit Pass program. Gordon stated RTD will handle grants in the Denver region, while CASTA will handle the grants for the rest of the State.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Finance

A written report was provided.

Q4 2023 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

CDOT Inactives Report

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

NFRMPO Articles of Association Amendment –

Clark **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02 AMENDING THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution Correction: 2023 Call for Projects Revised – Cunningham noted there were errors in the funding amounts in the resolution adopted by Planning Council at their January 11, 2024 meeting. Cunningham noted the award amounts are not changing.

James **moved** to approve the *REVISED RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01 ADOPTING THE 2023 CALL FOR PROJECTS*. The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer and **passed** unanimously.

Front Range Passenger Rail District Representative – Mallette explained that Mayor Karspeck would serve from 2024 to 2028 and Councilmember Olson will serve from 2024 to 2026. The Planning Council will review representation after the potential ballot initiative. Mallette noted the resolution will be sent to FRPR.

James **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03 APPROVING NFRMPO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS*. The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer and **passed** unanimously.

FFY2024 Transfort Program of Projects (POP) – Ma reviewed Transfort’s role as the Designated Recipient for FTA \$5307, \$5310, and \$5339 within the Fort Collins TMA. Each year, Transfort estimates the formula funds, which are not competitive funds, based on federal appropriations calculations. Ma reviewed the projects funded through the POP, which will be incorporated into the TIP. A public meeting was held on December 12, 2023, and no negative public comment was received.

Rennemeyer **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION 2024-04 REVISING THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REGARDING FTA \$5307, \$5310, \$5339 FORT COLLINS/LOVELAND/BERTHOUD TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR FFY24*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

2020-2024 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures – Cunningham noted safety targets must be set each year and be data driven. To better reflect the importance of safety, NFRMPO staff recommended setting regional targets instead adopting the State targets. Cunningham will submit the approved targets to CDOT prior to the February deadline.

Clark **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION 2024-05 SETTING REGIONAL TARGETS FOR THE 2020-2024 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES*. The motion was **seconded** by Mellon and **passed** unanimously.

January TIP Amendment – Cunningham noted there were 10 revisions to the FY2024-2027 TIP based on funding awarded through the 2023 Call for Projects. The 30-day Public Comment period for the January 2024 TIP Amendment began on January 16, 2024 and concludes on February 15, 2024. An Equity Analysis is included for the ten new location-specific projects.

Rennemeyer **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION 2024-06 APPROVING THE JANUARY 2024 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Active Transportation Plan – Rouser described the purpose and history of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). Rouser reviewed the 12 Regional Active Transportation Corridors (RATCs) that were initially adopted as part of the 2013 Regional Bike Plan. Rouser explained the four phases of the outreach strategy: Goals and Problem Statement; Existing Condition and Active Transportation Facilities Update; RATC Visioning; and Closing the Feedback Loop. Rouser highlighted the need for improved data, and discussions are underway about how to improve data. The Plan is expected to be adopted in Q1 2025. A Steering Committee is meeting to help guide the process. Rouser reviewed proposed updates to the *2025 ATP*, including developing a Regional Low Stress Network, Sidewalk Gap Construction Program information, and Economic Benefits. Planning Council agreed with prioritizing these areas. The ATP will be in line with the goals established in

the 2050 RTP. Next steps for the plan include scheduling community meetings, creating the survey, analyzing existing data, and compiling existing resources.

Mallo asked for clarification on what a micromobility program is. Rouser explained the Spin program in Fort Collins, which provides e-scooters and e-bikes for rent. Rennemeyer noted the need for more secure bike parking. Stephens noted the importance of a low stress network to make it easier for people to ride their bike. Stephens also noted the possible costs of riding a bike, including purchasing the bike, helmet, and other concerns, recommending highlighting the available rebates and grants.

US34 TMO Update – Gordon reviewed the progress made on the US34 Transportation Management Organization (TMO), including receiving a grant from the Office of Innovative Mobility (OIM) and hiring Steer as the consultant. Consultants from Steer will be hosting an in-person kick-off meeting in February or March, with details to follow. The TMO Development phase will happen through early fall, transitioning into the implementation phase. A local staff person will be hired in the TMO Implementation phase. Planning Council stated they see their role as incubating and implementing TMOs, but believe they should be organizations that stand on their own. Planning Council also agreed with the US34 Coalition recommendation to prioritize the success of the US34 Coalition before establishing new TMOs.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Transportation Commission will review a PD1601 proposal for an interchange at I-76 and WCR8. Paddock also noted a great relationship between CDOT’s Permitting Office and the Town of Johnstown.

CDOT R4 Update – Jim Eussen, CDOT Region 4, reviewed the US287 Safety Study from SH14 to the Wyoming border, including wildlife crossings. Larimer County Commissioners will review the Safety Study, with approval expected in the next month. CDOT kicked off the SH14 Safety Study from LCR5 to east of Ault, which will last for about a year. On I-25, Segments 6, 7, and 8 are 98 percent complete. Tolls are not being collected until the equipment is integrated and tested. CDOT is waiting to hear on the MEGA grant application for Segment 5. CDOT is working on 90 percent design for the first construction package. The Peckham interchange is nearing completion.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – The I-25 Coalition will meet on February 7.

US34 Coalition – No report was provided.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens stated NAAPME met on January 25, finalizing the application requirements. The final general criteria include reported amount of emission reduction, providing documentation of outreach to disadvantaged communities, safety improvements, long-term maintenance, project delivery, the expansion or improvement of transportation choices, and the quality of the application. The next meetings will focus on the next steps of the grant application process. James asked if NAAPME would fund sidewalk projects. Stephens stated sidewalks are eligible.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Olson stated the District reviewed the Executive Director’s goals for the year. The District will hold workshops on the third Thursday of the month to dig deeper into topics prior to the Board meeting. In 2024, the District will continue working on the NEPA process, station areas, communication, Ernst & Young will do the modeling, and discussion of the ballot initiative. Board elections will be held next month.

Host Council Member Report – Cochran noted they have awarded a contract for the Main Street bridge over the Union Ditch, with an expected opening by summer. LaSalle is working on upgrades around town, including the possibility of a skate park in town.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Alex Gordon, NFRMPO Staff