

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

**March 7, 2024  
Hybrid Meeting in Larimer County, 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
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Matt Fries	-Severance
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

**Voting Members Absent:**

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor

**MPO Staff:**

**Suzette Mallette**, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **Rachel Stillwell**, Accountant; **Brooke Bettolo**, Mobility Planner; **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner III; and **Michael Saunders**, Transportation Planner I.

**In Attendance:** Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Ray Cundiff; Geoff England; Jamie Grim; Jim Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Myron Hora; Wayne Howard; Mark Jackson; Will Jones; Bhooshan Karnik; Dee McIntosh; Heather Paddock; Mark Peterson; Elizabeth Relford; Parama Ghosh Roy; Laura Speer; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Dena Wojtach

Chair Mallo called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Jody Shaddock-McNally welcomed the Planning Council to Larimer County and thanked NFRMPO for its ongoing work.

**Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Fries **moved** to *APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2024 MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

Fries **moved** to *APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens 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)

Ferko reviewed the memo provided to Planning Council in the packet, including the various stakeholder engagement opportunities hosted by the APCD related to greenhouse gases, air toxins, and ozone. Ferko reviewed the outcomes of the February Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) meetings and hearings which

will be held in the upcoming months which will include updating the definition of Disproportionately Impacted (DI) Communities. Karspeck asked what the updated DI community definition is. Ferko stated the definition is being aligned to the definition adopted in 2023.

Ferko noted the commission will not meet in March and in April will hear briefings on the GHG roadmap, the Division's efforts to enhance outreach, and a discussion on the Commission's procedural rules. Mallette asked if there would be stakeholder outreach related to the discussion of the procedural rules. Ferko stated there will be stakeholder engagement opportunities and there would be opportunities for public comment before the Commission.

#### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

#### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach outlined the items detailed in the memo, noting the information about legislation impacting air quality and transportation in the memo. Wojtach reiterated the AQCC will be taking public comment on their procedural rules and noted the Planning Council may want to consider providing public comment. Wojtach reported the Air Quality enterprise (AQE) has released an RFP for ozone related research projects within the nonattainment area.

Wojtach provided EPA updates including a workshop on exceptional events and motor vehicle emission and fuel standards. Mallette noted the EPA has been working on streamlining the exceptional events process. Stephens asked who pursues exceptional events. Mallette stated it is through the AQCC and the Governor, but the process is very time and resource intensive.

Wojtach provided next steps for the Council including the NFRMPO's participation in the RAQC's indirect source rule efforts and next steps for addressing background ozone and other non-controllable emissions contributions in planning efforts.

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda**

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Report of the Chair

None this month.

##### Executive Director Report

Mallette showed the Council the Executive Director recruitment brochure and provided an outline of the recruitment timeline. The job opening will open on March 11 with a target start date of July 1.

Mallette reviewed the Legislative Report provided in the Planning Council handouts. Council discussed the State's authority over railroad operations in relation to HB24-1030: Railroad Safety Requirements. Karspeck asked if the Ozone Season Transit Grant program would apply to paratransit and other non-profit transportation providers. Mallette stated it is unclear if those organizations would be eligible for the grants. James asked what the funding source for the statewide transit pass included in HB1034. Mallette stated the bill was creating an exploratory committee and is unsure about a funding source for implementation.

Stephens and Canonico noted there may have been changes made to the bill related to the creation of a vulnerable road user protection enterprise regarding the funding mechanisms and creation of a new enterprise as opposed to directing additional funds to existing safety funding programs.

Mallette noted rulemaking hearings have begun in relation to HB1101 from the past legislative session.

Mallette introduced the members of Steer, the consultant hired to set up the US 34 TMO.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Finance

A written report was provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

VanGo™ Dashboard

A written report was provided.

**PRESENTATION:**

Travel Demand Management (TDM)/ Transportation Management Organization (TMO) Update – Schmitt provided an update on TDM activities in the region following the adoption of the NFRMPO TDM Action Plan in 2022. A vanpool subsidy program in partnership with the City of Fort Collins and CSU is in place through the end of the year. RideNoCo has partnered with DRCOG’s Way to Go program on a customer relations management (CRM) platform with allows for greater collaboration across the regions for ride matching like carpooling and vanpooling. Schmitt noted the NFRMPO hired Steer to launch the US34 TMO between Kersey and Estes Park. Parama and Geoff, representatives from Steer, spoke to the Council about their experience implementing TMOs which will result in managing congestion along the corridor. They also discussed the stakeholder meetings and workshops which were conducted over the past week. Karspeck asked if the TMO will create an additional tax, Mallette stated the funding mechanisms are under discussion and Schmitt noted TMOs are usually funded through membership fees as opposed to taxes.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

2023 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Unaudited Financial

Karspeck **moved** to approve the *CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Employee Handbook Update – Mallette reviewed the five major updates included in the to the Employee Handbook Update, noting most of the updates were directed by state or federal guidance. Mallette noted the NFRMPO worked with the Employers Council (EC) on the update. Fries asked if the updates had been vetted by the NFRMPO legal counsel. Mallette noted the EC template is reviewed by their legal counsel.

Stephens **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07 APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE NFRMPO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

CDOT DTR Contracts – Mallette reviewed contracting issues with CDOT Department of Transit and Rail the NFRMPO has been experiencing in recent months. Mallette outlined the two projects impacting the NFRMPO which are the Rural FTA 5310 contract which partially funds the mobility program and is delayed due to FTA apportionments not being released, and a vehicle purchase project for the Town of Milliken. The Council discussed actions which may be taken to help the issue. Commissioner Kelly stated he would look into the issue prior to the next Transportation Commission meeting.

Freight Northern Colorado (FNC) Plan Update Kick-Off – Saunders stated NFRMPO staff will be updating the 2019 Freight Northern Colorado (FNC) plan which acts as the freight element of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan. Saunders noted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) updated requirements for state’s freight plan but there are no federal requirements for MPOs to develop freight plans. Saunders outlined the purpose, scope, and timeline of the Plan. The Planning Council discussed modes in which freight moves around and through the region including rail and air. Karspeck asked for clarification on the role of the two airports. Mallo noted the Fort Collins Loveland Airport (FNL) does not serve commercial

passengers and likely will not for several years but does serve cargo. Olson noted the Greeley airport mainly serves private users.

The Planning Council requested the freight plan include updated data on how freight moves through the region, including origin and destination data. Stephens noted there is a coalition against bigger trucks, noting updated regulations on truck weight may have an impact on the transportation system and safety. The Council discussed intended audiences for the Plan and how to ensure the plan is useful to the region. Fries suggested creating more accessible, less technical versions of the Plan for the general public.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Transportation Commission – Kelly noted the Transportation Commission has been focusing on mostly budgeting and planning topics and noted the BNSF multimodal facility from the central DRCOG region to Weld County which has required a PD1601 plan.

CDOT R4 Update – Thomas stated CDOT held a stakeholder kickoff stakeholder meeting on March 7 for the SH14 Safety Study. Topics discussed in the meeting were driver behavior issues, diverse types of traffic, freight, congestion, speed limits, and the similarities between the SH14 corridor and the SH 392 corridor. The Study will include two additional stakeholder meetings before the study concludes in the late fall.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – James noted the coalition formed a subcommittee for the High Plains Blvd corridor.

US34 Coalition – No reports this month.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens outlined the topics discussed at the February 22 meeting including funding available for an upcoming call. Canonico asked what project types the funding may be awarded to; Stephens stated the program will be similar to the CMAQ program. Stephens noted the legislation which may add the high emitter vehicle program to the NAAPME. James asked if a high emitter vehicle program would qualify as an eligible project type for the NAAPME's call, Stephens confirmed it would, particularly if it was benefiting disproportionately impacted communities.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck stated there were new officer appointments including a new chair.

Host Council Member Report – Stephens stated Larimer County submitted a RAISE planning grant for Country Club Road between HWY 1 and Turnberry Road. Larimer County also submitted an implementation grant for the Bridge Improvement Program to for the Monroe Bridge Replacement Project. The joint project between Larimer County and Fort Collins for the reconstruction of Taft Hill Road is seeking additional funding, and the North Shields Street widening project is under construction.

### **MEETING WRAP-UP:**

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff