



**Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC)—MINUTES**  
**March 26, 2024**  
**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introduction**

- Adriana Torres, Via Mobility Services
- Dee McIntosh, CDOT
- Evan Pinkham, Weld County
- Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, United Way of Weld County
- Hanna Johnson, City of Greeley
- Josh Fulenwider, Connections for Independent Living
- Leiton Powell, Greeley Evans Transit
- Leticia Arguello, ARC of Weld County
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Margie Martinez, United Way of Weld County
- Nichole Seward, Weld County AAA
- Olga Gonzalez, WCDPHE
- Robin Blakley, 60+ Ride
- Shawn Croissant, Envision
- Stephanie Watson Lewis, Arc of Weld County
- Steve Teets, WAND

NFRMPO staff: Cory Schmitt, Brooke Bettolo, Lisa Deaton

**2. Review of Agenda**

**3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)**

None.

**4. Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Powell motioned to approve the September minutes. Teets seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

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**ACTION ITEM**

**1) Co-Chair Elections**

Bettolo

Bettolo discussed co-chair elections and expectations. Nicole Seward volunteered, and Lisa Bitzer will continue as current chair for another year. Schmitt made a motion to elect Seward and Bitzer and it was approved unanimously.



## RIDENOCO UPDATES

Schmitt

Schmitt introduced the expanded mobility team, and shared respective roles with WCMC members. Slides can be found in [the packet](#) and other updates include:

### **1. Update on the TDS Project**

Schmitt discussed that RideNoCo is in the final phase of the TDS project and getting ready for the launch of the pilot in April. Schmitt mentioned that the providers are currently receiving training and further explained the process of how the trip scheduling will work.

## PRESENTATION

### **1) Weld County Wheelchair Accessible Transportation Progress & Gaps**

Bitzer & Blakely

Lisa Bitzer of Via Mobility discussed Via's Weld County pilot that began August 1, 2023, and how it has been very successful. Via has been operating for 45 years in Boulder County, the Denver Metropolitan area, and now in Weld County. They have contracts with Firestone, Frederick, and Dacono for a separate service. Bitzer shared maps and rider statistics. Slides can be found in the [the packet](#). Since August 1, 2023, 1,012 trips have been provided. The VA in Cheyenne is interested in bringing people from Cheyenne and possibly Laramie to Northern Colorado for services. Via is currently in negotiations with the VA.

Blakely of 60+ Ride discussed the wheelchair-accessible van program that began in February following the delivery of the van and that 60+ Ride is working to get the word out to the rural areas of Weld County. 60+'s wheelchair accessible van serves all of Weld County minus Greeley, Firestone, Longmont, and Brighton. This includes some areas that Via's service does not: Milliken, Windsor and Severance.

#### **Discussion:**

Teets said that the DAV and VA transportation is not reliable due to driver shortages and limited-service hours. Bettolo asked Bitzer which towns Via does not serve: Milliken, Windsor, and Severance. Teets asked when 60+ Ride is in the office. Blakey said they are almost a completely remote team but have an office in Greeley and can be there for scheduled appointments. It was identified that Greeley residents needing wheelchair accessible transportation have the biggest need, especially since residents of the city can only receive paratransit service within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of fixed routes, 60+ Ride's new van does not operate in Greeley due to funding restrictions, and Via will only drop off clients to Greeley, not pick up.

Johnson discussed the mobility development plans and micro transit for the City of Greeley. Seward asked how long it takes for paratransit applications to be processed. Powell said that GET has up to 21 days, and if the application is not addressed in that time rides will be given on a provisional basis, but their team usually completes in 10-14 days. Blakely said 60+ Ride takes 10-12 days to get registered. Bitzer said clients can get registered in 10 minutes over the phone and can then ride immediately. Schmitt suggested that providers partner to market the 60+ Ride van to communities that need accessible transportation options, such as Milliken, Windsor and Severance. Schmitt shared that Milliken will be getting a new bus for their senior center sometime this year following supply issues and delays.



## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bettolo

### **2) 2024 Presentation Topics & Sign Ups**

Bettolo shared the [form](#) that will be sent at the end of the meeting for members to sign up to present or request presentations. Cory volunteered Johnson and Powell from GET to discuss their Mobility Development Plan and Micro Transit. Teets discussed Bustang and would like someone from Bustang to present. Dee McIntosh said that she would ask DTR to speak.

### **3) Mobility Case Study**

Deaton

70-year-old non-veteran woman in a powerchair is looking for accessible transportation from Greeley to Lakewood to visit her ailing sister for what may be her final birthday. She is already in the GET paratransit system. Was referred by the Weld Area Agency on Aging.

#### **Discussion:**

Powell said if the caller was able to get into the RTD service area that she might be able to apply as a guest to ride paratransit since she is already registered with GET's paratransit service. Teets brought up how she can take the Transfort FLEX route to Boulder County and transfer to RTD's bus service. Schmitt asked if providers such as GET and Via could coordinate a meet up location to get the individual from Greeley to Via's Weld service area and then Via's Metro Denver service area. Bitzer said if the client can get to Adams County, Via could take her to Lakewood and back. Powell and Schmitt clarified the process of already being a paratransit client and becoming a guest of another paratransit service area. Schmitt mentioned that is the exact kind of need that the TDS Project is designed to serve in the future.

## GREELEY EVANS TRANSIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Powell discussed the new bus stop on the Poudre Express in Windsor at CO392 & I-25 that allows for a connection with the COLT system on its new Route 7 next to Loveland has been there since January and is not too popular yet. He is hoping once the new Amazon warehouse opens, it will get more riders. Powell announced that GET now has security on buses and at the transit center as well. Johnson is working on getting information about the Mobility Development Plan out to the public on their [Speak Up Greeley platform](#). Johnson is also working on grants and funding for program expansion. GET has Received funding for US34 service and is working on ordering buses to operate that service. The Greeley City Council is reviewing a shared micromobility pilot in April and staff hope to begin the pilot in July.

## WCMC MEMBER UPDATES

Schmitt shared MPO updates kicking off Phase Two of LinkNoCo: the service development plan for the US34 corridor between Greeley and Loveland. Schmitt discussed the launch of the first Transportation Management Organization (TMO) for Northern Colorado, an organization for multimodal transportation investments and resources along the US34 corridor Estes Park all the way to Kersey.

#### **Discussion:**



Teets asked what is the US34 proposed routing Johnson said UNC to US34 to the Centerra Mobility Hub. Powell said that it is in the very early stages of development. Schmitt mentioned a planned 2026 launch. 18 months will be needed to receive buses and work is underway on procuring vehicles for the service.

Powell mentioned that he was selected as a member of the Colorado Department of Education School Transportation Task Force for all schools across the state. Powell will share updates as they are available.

Teets announced that WAND is putting together a housing/homeless conference in Greeley to educate and find solutions to the issues in Greeley and surrounding areas at the end of August or early September.

**Final Public Comment (2 minutes each)**

Teets requested Via's phone number, Bettolo to provide.

**Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions**

None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Powell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Teets seconded the motion.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

1. **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - a. **Northern Colorado Mobility Committee – May 28, 2024**
  - b. **Weld County Mobility Committee – June 25, 2024**