

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

**April 4, 2024
Hybrid Meeting in Windsor, CO**

Voting Members Present:

Jon Mallo – Chair	-Loveland
Johnny Olson – Vice Chair	-Greeley
Scott James – Past Chair	-Weld County
Melody Potyondy	-Fort Collins- Alternate
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Lisa Laake	-Timnath
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown

MPO Staff:

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

In Attendance: Rich Christy; Jim Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Will Jones; Bhooshan Karnik; Dee McIntosh; Mark Oberschmidt; Evan Pinkham; Elizabeth Relford; Dave Ruppel; Mike Silverstein; Cody Sims; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Steve Teets; and Barry Wilson

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

Public Comment:

Steve Teets, member of the Weld County Mobility Committee, informed Planning Council of rural transit options that covers Western Nebraska, Southeastern Wyoming, and Northeast Colorado. Teets asked if there are any updates on transit between Cheyenne, WY and the North Front Range.

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE APRIL 4, 2024 MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Rennemeyer 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

Karasko stated the AQCC is gathering input on updating their procedural rules. There will be several stakeholder meetings in April and May. AQCC GHG Subcommittee met to discuss their upcoming GHG related rulemakings. The RAQC is discussing additional control strategies to be included with Colorado's SIP revisions addressing the Serious designation under the 2015 Ozone NAAQS due to EPA in 2026. RAQC will be holding a modeling forum for this SIP on April 23rd. SB24-165 has been amended to require reductions in motor vehicle emissions budgets. EPA has finalized their PM2.5 NAAQS reconsideration and EPA has agreed to take several actions to reduce emissions being transported into Colorado.

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

Malette noted the Executive Director position has been posted and will be closing on April 12th. Malette reviewed the Legislative Report provided in the Planning Council handouts.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATION:

Northern Colorado Airports Presentation –

David Ruppel provided a brief history of the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) and noted FNL primarily supports general aviation, military, and commercial air service with 120,000 annual takeoffs and landings. Ruppel outlined some of the governance challenges FNL has had due to the current systems inefficiency and noted FNL completed a governance study to consider other governance models. Ruppel described the airport's direct economic impacts with a total of \$160,874,000 in business revenues in 2023. Ruppel outlined some of the projects being done at FNL, including the digital and traditional towers projects and the construction of a new terminal. Ruppel noted FNL was accepted into the Federal Contract Tower Program which requires FNL to proceed with the traditional tower process. FNL will determine which tower will be used in early 2025. Stephens asked for some clarification on the Federal Contract Tower Program and Ruppel noted the program provides funding for staffing and that funding will be available as long as FNL is a part of the program.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None this month.

ACTION ITEMS:

None this month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY2025 Tasks – Karasko stated NFRMPO staff has drafted the Tasks and Products for FY 2025 for the FY2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). There are four updated tasks for FY2025. These four tasks are Task 5.3: Transportation Demand Management (TDM), Transfort Passenger Intercept and Mail Surveys, Transfort/FC Moves Innovation Zones & Mobility Hubs Study Optimization Study, and Greeley Mobility Development Plan. The Finance Committee will review the FY2025 Budget at their April meeting with anticipated Planning Council approval at the May Planning Council meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Kelly noted the Transportation Commission voted to move the BNSF intermodal facility in Denver out to an interchange on I-76 in Weld County. The Transportation Commission discussed the bridge and tunnel enterprise potentially issuing bonds.

CDOT R4 Update – Thomas noted CDOT is planning on lengthening some ingress and egress lanes on the I-25 express lanes. Tolling will commence around fall. Region 4 will be handing off the I-25 mobility hubs projects to CDOT Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) in early summer 2024 with bus service beginning in late summer 2024. CDOT is working with Windsor to remove a redundant pedestrian crossing at Main Street and 8th Street. Thomas noted CDOT completed a study that found that 75% of Colorado drivers admit to using their phones while driving. Kelly asked if there have been any discussions on increasing enforcement on I-25 express lane. Thomas said she is not aware of any increased enforcement but will pass the message along to the Colorado State Patrol.

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 took an amend position on SB24-184 to keep money on the I-25 corridor until the completion of sections 3 and 4. James stated the coalition adopted goals and objectives for the High Plains Boulevard subcommittee.

US34 Coalition – Wilson stated the US34 TMO will be using the NFRMPO office as a temporary office. The name of the TMO will be GoNoCo. It will be a 5013c non-profit organization with seven municipalities, Larimer and Weld Counties, CDOT, and four private sector representatives to serve on the TMO board. The GoNoCo bylaws are anticipated to be complete by the end of April.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens noted she was reelected as the chair of NAAPME. NAAPME is anticipating the first Call for Projects to open in September. There is \$17.3 million available for this call. There will be ~\$28 million remaining for future calls. The initial Call for Projects will be primarily for smaller scale projects such as sidewalk connections, bike lanes, and other multimodal projects.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Olson stated the FRPR Board held a workshop on March 21st to go over polling results and the district's financial plan. The polling found 62% of respondents were either very likely or likely to support intercity rail. The district will be conducting additional polling in the coming months. James asked if there was a question asking if respondents would use Front Range Passenger Rail. Olson confirmed there is a question addressing passenger rail usage.

Host Council Member Report – Rennemeyer noted WCR15 will be widened. WCR70 will be expanded and will function as an alternative route for Main Street in Windsor. CO392 and Hollister Lake Road will be getting a new intersection at a cost of \$2.3 million. The 11th street multimodal improvements project will include widening 11th Street, adding buffered bike lanes and an additional pedestrian crossing for \$1.8 million. The Town of Windsor was awarded a \$120,000 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant which will be used to enhance the town's existing roadway safety action plan. SH392 will be widened to four lanes, including the bridge over the Poudre River. The bridge over the Poudre River needs to be elevated by six feet, and the total project cost is \$34 million.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff