

Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC)—MINUTES
April 23, 2024
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

- Jenna Robinson, SAINT
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Nicole Limoges, Larimer County Office on Aging
- Ari Edgely, Foothills Gateway
- Steve Conaway, RAFT
- Katlyn Kelly, Transfort
- Dana Klein, Town of Estes Park
- Heidi Pruess, Larimer County
- Kristi Swasko, RAFT
- Kimberly Aguilar-Pauli, Arc of Larimer County
- Aaron Oberndorf, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services

NFRMPO staff: Cory Schmitt, Brooke Bettolo, and Lisa Deaton

2. Review of Agenda

3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)

4. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Aguilar-Pauli motioned to approve the January minutes. Conaway seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

New SAINT Executive Director Jenna Robinson introduced herself & shared her LanguageLink Experience. She described her role, SAINT's mission, and the requirements to be able to use SAINT's services. She also discussed her positive experience with a Spanish-speaking caller and using LanguageLink interpretation services, a service currently available to members of the Transactional Data Specifications project.

PRESENTATION

Pruess presented the Larimer County Climate Smart Future Ready Plan and discussed actions and tactics to enhance and expand regional transportation. The goals of the Plan are to improve air quality and human health, increase community resiliency, and improve equity and quality of life for residents and ecosystems. Strategies of the Plan include mobility of people, goods & services, and enhancing and expanding regional transportation. Pruess shared the Climate Smart and Future Ready Dashboard, and the link can be found [here](#). If members need to follow up with questions about the Plan, or would like to get involved, her email is pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us



RIDENOCO UPDATE

Schmitt gave a written update on RideNoCo Coordination Project (TDS), which is very close to launching the pilot program with SAINT, RAFT, and 60+ Ride.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The group discussed wheelchair-accessible transportation gaps in Larimer County.

Bitzer spoke about Via's service in Larimer County, Estes Park, and Weld County. She said there are a lot of requests from residents of Estes Park to get to Loveland, Fort Collins, and Longmont, especially those in wheelchairs for medical appointments. The Weld & Larimer County pilot that started in August and has been taking people to destinations within Weld & Larimer counties, Boulder County, Adams County, and into Broomfield; bridging a gap to get people where they need to go. Bitzer mentioned that she and Leiton Powell from Greeley Evans Transit (GET) have been working together to fill wheelchair-accessible transportation gaps in Weld County, figure out how to get people where they need to go, and how important it is to work together to find solutions.

Kaliczak spoke about zTrip and that they serve all of Larimer County and about 30% of their vehicles are wheelchair-accessible vehicles. Wheelchair vehicles are usually prescheduled trips, and it is sometimes hard to get a wheelchair accessible vehicle with trips scheduled at the last minute, or ASAP trips, because they are already booked. Kaliczak reminded us that zTrip is a taxi service and all rates are set by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Rates are the same no matter what type of vehicle. zTrip offers 24/7 service. Nights and weekends, especially Sundays, have lower response times. Kaliczak mentioned that newer wheelchair accessible vehicles are getting smaller, even though they are ADA regulated and approved, which can sometimes pose difficulties for clients with large chairs, or if they need to transport more than one person in a wheelchair at a time. Some passengers with wheelchairs that are larger and have add-ons must request a specific vehicle to suit their needs.

Conaway discussed RAFT's service area in the Berthoud fire district. They have one wheelchair van that goes to Loveland south of US34 upon occasion. RAFT offers weekday service, but they have made some exceptions for those who need weekend rides to and from medical appointments. Conaway mentioned that expanding is costly and discussed the lack of availability and rising cost of vans. RAFT does not charge for their trips and finding funding is a major issue. Conaway said they get calls all the time from Boulder, Weld County, and places outside of their service area and they do what they can. Conaway also discussed the future possibilities of more wheelchair-accessible vans and the training involved for the drivers.

Kelly from Transfort Dial-A-Ride discussed Fort Collins paratransit services and the area boundaries. She said that all Transfort buses are ADA accessible. Dial-A-Ride has eligibility requirements and an application process that can take several weeks because it must go through the customer's care provider. Transfort is currently fare free.



Klein discussed The Peak's trolley system, shuttles, and seasonal service. He stated that they rely a lot on Via when they are not in service, and Via also goes to areas that are not on their fixed route service. The Peak has two Electric trolleys that have lifts which can accommodate two wheelchair passengers each and are ADA compatible. The shuttles are also ADA compatible. Trolleys operate beginning Memorial Day weekend, and the rest of the system starts July first.

The group discussed issues from the client's perspective regarding wheelchair accessible transportation. Themes discussed were last-minute rides, requests that are after business hours, not enough vehicles, and drivers.

Mobility Case Studies- Deaton

Case study #1- Deaton discussed a man with a disability who lives in Loveland and needs to get from his home to his workplace at Medical Center of The Rockies by 6:30am. This is before the COLT and Foothills Gateway hours of operation. Edgley from Foothills Gateway said that they can accommodate those early morning trips and put this person in contact with her.

Case Study #2- Deaton discussed a caller trying to help her friend who is over 60 and uses a wheelchair. She lives in Fort Collins and her appointments are in Fort Collins. She had knee surgery and is not able to drive. She is currently in the process of having her Medicaid re-instated and needs affordable transportation options. She has called SAINT and Transfort Dial-A-Ride. SAINT does not have wheelchair accessible vehicles, and Dial-A-Ride application times are over a month she said. Kelly said application wait times for Dial-A-Ride vary and that it depends mainly on how quickly a doctor can verify a disability. Conaway suggested an advocacy group to reach out to doctors' offices to help with the facilitation of getting patients rides.

COLT AND TRANSFORT UPDATES

Kelly invited the group to review the new Transfort website that went live today. It's still the same web address, www.ridetansfort.com just a new interface. Kelly welcomes any comments members may have.

LCMC MEMBER REPORTS

Limoges announced the Larimer County Office on Aging Community fair coming up Wednesday, May 1st.

Final Public Comment: (2 minutes each)

None

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

None



Motion to Adjourn the meeting:

Kaliczak motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robinson seconded the motion.

Upcoming Meetings:

-Northern Colorado Mobility Committee: May 28, 2024

-LCMC Meeting: July 23, 2024