

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Executive Summary – Wednesday, April 10, 2024

GoToMeeting Hybrid Meeting

2024 Legislative Updates

Piccolo began by discussing Senate Bill 65, the Distracted Driving Bill. The bill seeks to prohibit the use of mobile devices while driving for all drivers. Similar laws exist in 29 States, and data suggests this legislation could decrease accidents.

Piccolo informed the committee that the Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise has been postponed indefinitely due to there being little public appetite for a new enterprise bill. A new bill has been proposed which to set aside a minimum of seven million for bike and ped purposes from CDOT's FASTER funding.

Piccolo concluded the legislative update by discussing House Bill 1021, a driver education bill. The bill would require 30 hours of classroom education and six hours of behind the wheel education for all individuals under the age of 18, with similar requirements for 18- to 21-year-olds.

Active Transportation Funding Discussion

Cunningham began the discussion of active transportation funding by reviewing federal and state funding sources, including a resource produced by FHWA which outlines active transportation project types and eligible funding sources. Cunningham informed the collaborative of a new funding opportunity from the Non-Attainment Area Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) that communities in the Ozone Non-Attainment Area are qualified to apply for. The funds are collected from retail delivery fees, and the Enterprise anticipates holding a Call for the small grant program to award approximately \$17.3 M. for bicycle and pedestrian, transit, and first/last mile projects. Jones asked if there will be a match requirement for the NAAPME funds, Cunningham stated she was unsure, but the enterprise has been modeling the match and match relief criteria of the MMOF program. Cunningham stated any further information on the NAAPME call will be sent to NoCo once it becomes available.

Geary inquired whether the Revitalizing Main Streets program from CDOT would offer another round of large grants. Van Vonno confirmed CDOT currently has no plans for another round of large grants for the program but would instead offer small grants on a rolling basis.

Wilkinson asked if all NFRMPO funds come through federal funding programs, to which Cunningham confirmed.

During discussion of additional funding sources not included in the presentation, Geary informed the collaborative that Fort Collins had applied for a grant from the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program for a North College project that had not been accepted. Geary stated the upcoming call for the same program would not include an access and equity component, and that Fort Collins was looking into whether the North College project could still be a good fit for the program.

Safe Routes to School Conference

Rouser informed the collaborative that the subcommittee was considering exploring fundraising opportunities to fund scholarships for teachers or other interested individuals in the region to attend the Safe Routes to School conference. Rouser explained the fundraising would have to take place from now until the summer to have the funds available when discussing the conference with subcommittee members and interested parties.