

Northern Colorado Mobility Committee —MINUTES

May 28, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

In Person:

- Cory Schmitt, NFRMPO
- Lisa Deaton, NFRMPO
- Jenna Robinson, SAINT
- Hanna Johnson, City of Greeley
- Celeste Ewert, Envision
- Nichole Seward, Weld County AAA
- Steve Teets, WAND
- Robin Upton, Citizen
- Robin Blakey, 60+ Ride
- Jacque Penfold, Citizen
- Steve Conaway, RAFT
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Adriana Torres, Via Mobility Services
- Ashley Patterson, Via Mobility Services

Virtual:

- Leiton Powell, City of Greeley
- Dana Klein, Estes Park
- Kristi Swasko, RAFT
- Kimberly Aguilar-Pauli, Arc of Larimer County
- Dee McIntosh, CDOT
- Melanie Royalty, Transfort
- Olga Gonzalez, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- Margie Martinez, United Way of Weld County
- Katlyn Kelly, Transfort
- Braylen (Intern), ARC of Larimer County
- Haley (Intern), ARC of Larimer County
- Cynthia Louis, Transfort
- Stephanie Watson-Lewis, Arc of Weld County

**2. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes** February 2024 minutes approved by Conaway, seconded by Kaliczak.

**3. Group Introductions, ice breaker, and speed networking.**

Both virtual and in person attendees introduced themselves and their organizations. The in-person group did a speed networking exercise to get to know one another and learn more about each other's respective organizations and services.



## Presentations & Activity

### **1) Mobility Action Plan Update**

Schmitt discussed the regional Mobility Action Plan and talked about our goals and progress.

### **2) Recruitment: Mobility Committee One-Pager**

Schmitt shared the one pager and asked the committee if there is enough information included. Teets asked about distributing the flyers to other non-profits, rural areas, and other government agencies. Kaliczak suggested adding to the document that the meetings have a remote option or hybrid option for accessibility to those who prefer to join that way. Conaway would like the Mobility Team to add a mission statement and an explanation of what the MPO does. Another suggestion is to add the NFRMPO website to direct people to the Mobility Committee page or use a QR code. Aguilar-Pauli asked to advertise that meetings are not just for transportation providers, but for those who are in other sectors. Martinez expressed her interest in adding RideNoCo/NFRMPO to the 211 databases. Kaliczak suggested adding a catch phrase about how important transportation is next to the “Get Involved” heading.

### **3) Shared Resource Drive Update**

Schmitt discussed using a shared Google Drive rather than creating a resource library for sharing information between agencies. He walked through what the shared drive might look like and the types of documents that could be shared. Members discussed the types of documents they would like to see, some examples that were suggested including an employee procedure manual, driver handbooks, HR policies, and general information.

## Discussion

### **1) Regional Affordable Wheelchair Accessible Transportation Follow Up**

Schmitt discussed the gaps in wheelchair accessible transportation, specifically, the overlapping issues between Larimer and Weld County and possible opportunities and solutions. Robinson mentioned looking to the Transportation Sector Partnership through local chamber of commerce to express needs in the pursuit of additional funding opportunities. She will be attending a meeting soon and reporting back to us. Conaway said the Mobility Committee can be a conduit to spread knowledge to other agencies, for example, identifying where agencies across the region apply for grants. Members expressed frustration with knowing of the gaps but not feeling like they have the power to solve them. Members shared that they all know about the gaps in transportation and but that they often feel like they don't have the power to make it better. Johnson discussed how the



City of Greeley put in an application for Congressionally Directed Spending to assist with the funding of mobility services in Greeley. Johnson explained the Congressional Offices of Colorado's Senators wanted to see community support, understand the gaps, and how multiple communities are coming together to fill those gaps. Schmitt talked about the coordinated plan and discussed forming partnerships between agencies to fill those gaps. The group discussed micro mobility, transit, and electric vehicles. Conaway said how those options would not work in rural areas for many reasons.

### **Presentations**

Schmitt shared an update on the RideNoCo Trip Scheduling Project announcing the pilot will launch on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a soft pilot for the remainder of June. Schmitt explained what the process looks like and how information sharing occurs between agencies. Teets asked how to get Via on board, Cory said that there are costs involved. Schmitt shared the RideNoCo Looker Studio graphics and heat maps illustrating the demographics of calls we take.

### **Mobility Case Study**

Deaton discussed a case study that involved someone who needs medical rides from Severance to Fort Collins on the weekend. Kaliczak suggested that the caller contact the clinic or hospital to ask if they have transportation vouchers. Via offers a friends and family reimbursement, up to \$12.50 per one way trip, although Severance is not in Via's service area so it would not be an option for this individual. Conaway said that transportation providers and medical facilities need to work hand in hand and suggested having an advocate to visit healthcare providers to make those connections. Schmitt announced that United Way 211's Lyft United program is now available statewide to assist with one-time emergency transportation needs Monday through Friday. Kaliczak said that zTrip has accounts with most hospitals in Colorado, and that it is up to the hospital to determine who is eligible for a voucher. Conaway suggested that the MPO get a grant to hire a Mobility Manager to go out to talk with all the medical centers. Kaliczak mentioned that we should have a healthcare person at these meetings. Members discussed mental health care appointments and dialysis appointments in addition to regular doctor appointments.

### **Wrap Up + Member Round Table**

#### **Greeley Mobility Development Plan**

Johnson introduced the Greeley Mobility Plan and passed out flyers. The plan can be found [here](#).

#### **US34 Transit Plan Online Open House**

Schmitt discussed US34 online meeting and encouraged participation. Conaway asked about stops, Schmitt shared the route map including the proposed stops. The survey closes at the end of this month. The link to the meeting can be found [here](#).

#### **Loveland North Transit Center Mobility Audit**

Schmitt shared the Mobility Audit meeting at Loveland North Transit Center meeting, Thursday June 13, 2024. Contact AnnaRose for more information at [arcunningham@nfrmpo.org](mailto:arcunningham@nfrmpo.org)



### **Other Member Updates**

Suzette announced that she is retiring effective August 1st, and Paul Sizemore from the City of Fort Collins will be the new Executive Director, beginning in early July.

Teets announced an upcoming housing the homeless conference, location to be determined.

Ewert is in the process of replacing fleets and will be getting two new wheelchair vans. Envisions is Celebrating 60 years of service on June 8<sup>th</sup> and hosting their 10<sup>th</sup> annual *5K In My Shoes* event at Envision, 1050 37<sup>th</sup> St. in Evans. For more information, click [here](#). Ewert welcomed any vendors who want to participate at the celebration.

Klein announced that the trolley is running and had 528 passengers on Sunday. Bustang began seasonal weekend service to Estes Park from Union Station, cost is \$15 round trip and have 2 trips up and back each day.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC): June 25, 2024
- b. Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC): July 23, 2024
- c. Northern Colorado Mobility Committee (NCCMC): August 27, 2024