

**MEETING MINUTES of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council
Hybrid Meeting
May 15, 2024
1:02 – 2:33 p.m.**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Oberschmidt, Chair – Evans
Nicole Hahn, Vice Chair – Loveland
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Jason Elkins – Johnstown
Dana Hornkohl – Fort Collins
Kim Koivuniemi – Timnath
Wesley LeVanchy – Eaton
Tom Moore – RAQC
Evan Pinkham – Weld County
Josie Thomas – CDOT Region 4

NFRMPO STAFF:

Anna Rose Cunningham
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette
Mark Northrop
Cory Schmitt

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Tawn Hillenbrand – Berthoud
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Shani Porter – Severance
Eric Tracy – Larimer County
Julia Wcislo – FTA
Town of Garden City
Town of LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cassie Archuleta – Fort Collins
Nathan Beauheim – Loveland
Ian Chase – HDR
Alex Donaldson – Loveland
Candice Folkers – COLT
Phil von Hake – CDOT
Myron Hora – Ultieg
Michelle Johnson - GET
Will Jones – Greeley
Joshua Ma – Fort Collins
Deanna McIntosh – CDOT Region 4
Scott Pearson – Windsor
Justin Stone – Timnath

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Oberschmidt called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 17, 2024 TAC MINUTES

Hornkohl moved to approve the April 17, 2024 TAC Minutes. Hahn seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

AIR QUALITY AGENDA

Regional Air Quality Updates – Moore provided a brief update on the next SIP and stated the RAQC are conducting outreach through their Control Strategies Committee. There will be a discussion on the data needed at the May Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) meeting. Moore then asked for feedback on the best way to provide updates to the TAC on RAQC air quality work.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AGENDA

Consent Agenda

No items this month.

ACTION ITEM

May 2024 TIP Amendment – Cunningham discussed the May 2024 TIP Amendment, which includes one new project addition, Greeley's *10th St Multimodal Enhancements* with \$1,050K in Community Project Funding (CPF), \$218K in Local Funding, and \$7,201K in Local Overmatch funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

Hornkohl moved to recommend the Planning Council approve the May 2024 TIP Amendment. Jones seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

US34 Transit Study – Ian Chase, HDR, presented on the US 34 Transit Study, formerly known as LinkNoCo Phase 2. He provided an update on the history of the project and Phase 1 of the project, which was completed in 2022. Chase then gave a project overview including the project schedule and where the project team is in the process. He then discussed the outreach strategies being utilized to obtain feedback and the word to the public about the study. Chase discussed the peer agency transit research the project team conducted. He then discussed the existing conditions on the corridor and the alternatives development. He walked through each of the three alignment alternatives and the evaluation criteria used in the screening process. Alignment Option 1 had the highest ridership potential, level of transit connectivity, level of agency support, and is identified in regional plans and was advanced for further analysis and is the recommended alignment for the Study. Chase then discussed potential stop locations along the preferred alignment as well as alignment refinement with the iterative detailed screening process. He reiterated the need for feedback from stakeholders.

Jones offered to share the online public meeting with UNC students. Regarding the alignment, from Greeley's perspective since they already are running service along 10th Avenue, their preference would be to stop the service at UNC (Stop 11). Greeley applied for and received CMAQ funding for transit along US34 and will send out a meeting invitation to partner agencies soon. Additionally, they are applying for FTA \$5339 funding for buses for the service.

Mallette asked about travel time for the 12 stops that are part of the preferred alignment and if that analysis had been conducted yet. Chase said the project team has run scenarios with the stops but are working on updating the stop locations. Oberschmidt asked if there was a target travel time of one hour. Chase responded there was not a target travel time currently. Oberschmidt responded that the connections at either end of the service in addition to the total number of stops and first and last mile

travel should be considered. Chase concurred and discussed which of the stops could be temporary and those that could be added in once the service is established, but that the target number of total stops for the service is eight or nine.

Myron Hora, Ultieg, discussed the peer agency interviews and research regarding roadway improvements needed to make transit routes successful, specifically in a rural context. He also discussed the use of transit queue jumps, especially by rural transit providers, and how those could be implemented on the US34 corridor. Hahn mentioned Loveland is implementing queue jumps for COLT west of I-25 and will expand it to Larimer County Road 3. Beauheim mentioned Loveland is also considering applying for funds for transit signal priority and connected vehicles and including some of the elements discussed by the TAC.

Chase reminded TAC members the self-guided online public meeting is open from May 15 through May 31. He also reiterated the final recommendation for stops will be an opening day recommendation, and if it works well or new developments are added the service is flexible enough to shift stops or add additional buses.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2024 MMOF Discussion #1 – Cunningham provided an update on MMOF funding and introduction to what is coming later this year with the program. She reviewed the goals of the MMOF program, as well as a proposed timeline for the MMOF Call in 2024. The funding years and amounts for the NFRMPO region are not known but MMOF will be discussed at the May Transportation Commission. She walked through the draft Call schedule, tentatively opening in September 2024, with Planning Council approval in January 2025. Cunningham discussed the changes to the Match Reduction Formula, which will now allow Evans and Loveland to qualify for 25% local match instead of 50%. The potential to request Local Match alleviation is still possible and will be reviewed by the Transportation Commission on a project-by-project basis. She discussed the two project category types, Category A: Quantifiable GHG Reducing Projects and Category B: Non-Quantifiable or Non-GHG Reducing Projects as well as the scoring criteria from the 2022 call and that it would be under discussion. A new requirement from CDOT for the MMOF program is CDOT Region staff must review all draft applications prior to submission to the NFRMPO.

Thomas provided clarification on the CDOT involvement in the process, that it is a review only to help project sponsors and clarified CDOT will not be scoring or recommending projects for approval. She stated there will be webinars to come on the updates to the MMOF call. Hahn requested office hours to discuss project applications and questions. Cunningham stated the NFRMPO is considering holding office hours as well and added the NFRMPO will hold a Project Sponsor Workshop after the call opens, which will be recorded and can serve as a resource. She added CDOT staff will provide a presentation on the changes to the MMOF program once the Transportation Commission has approved the new formulas for distribution and local match rates at a future TAC meeting.

Jones asked for clarification on the partner percentage and what the driving factor was behind having the two project categories. Cunningham responded that there are several eligible project types under MMOF and every project does not need to meet every goal and some project types do not reduce GHG but are still good eligible projects. This resulted in the need for two categories so the different project types could be scored against each other.

Oberschmidt expressed concern regarding the comparison of projects against each other when the project types are not comparable. Cunningham stated this is something that could be considered in the updating of the scoring criteria. She invited TAC members to meet with NFRMPO staff to discuss projects they are considering applying for but are not sure are eligible.

Thomas requested the CDOT review and CDOT concurrence letter for projects impacting CDOT facilities are separate processes. Cunningham clarified transit projects would need to be reviewed by DTR.

Donaldson asked for clarification on eligibility of existing partially funded projects already in the TIP and in process.

Cunningham requested TAC members consider whether to start over with the scoring criteria for MMOF or if the NFRMPO should incorporate the federal call processes and criteria into the MMOF call and criteria. Thomas asked for clarification on who scores during the calls for projects. Cunningham stated TAC members are eligible, one vote for each member entity, communities submitting a project application are required to be on the scoring committee, with other entities including CDOT being nonvoting members.

OUTSIDE PARTNER REPORTS

NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative – Written report provided.

Regional Transit Agencies – No reports were provided.

Mobility Updates – Written report provided.

REPORTS

May Planning Council Meeting Summary Draft – Written report provided.

Mobility Committee Updates – Written report provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Thomas discussed the upcoming Local Agency training on May 22nd at the Southwest Weld Center and encouraged TAC members to attend.

Karasko introduced Mark Northrop, Transportation Planner II and mentioned a new Planner will be starting on June 3. She requested TAC members who have been awarded SS4A grants to provide a project status roundtable at the August TAC. She also reminded TAC about the self-guided online public meeting for the US34 Transit Study.

Cunningham mentioned the NFRMPO is hiring a GIS Intern. She also stated next month is Colorado Bike Month and requested TAC members provide any Bike Month related activities to her and she can include them in the special Bike Month newsletter going out on June 1.

Karasko requested TAC members input on the location of the in-person portion of the TAC meetings moving from the Windsor Recreation Center to the Larimer County Loveland Campus due to issues with noise interference from the Center for online meeting participants as well as the meeting recording. Hahn also offered the City of Loveland's Public Works Meeting room as well. Karasko stated she would send a follow up email requesting TAC members input following the meeting.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions: There were no agenda topic discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Becky Karasko, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p. m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, as a hybrid meeting.