

## Meeting Minutes of the North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council

**June 6, 2024**  
**Hybrid Meeting in Weld County, CO**

### Voting Members Present:

Jon Mallo – Chair	-Loveland
Johnny Olson – Vice Chair	-Greeley
Scott James – Past Chair	-Weld County
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Mark Clark	-Evans
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County
Andrew Paranto	-Johnstown

### Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Vacant	-Windsor

**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:** Brad Buckman; Nancy Burke; Rich Christy; Julie Cline; Rick Coffin; Jim Eussen; Omar Herrera; Katrina Kloberdanz; Dee McIntosh; Dan Meyers; Mark Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Elizabeth Relford; Mike Silverstein; Cody Sims; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Steve Teets; Keith Wakefield; and Dena Wojtach.

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

### Public Comment

Steve Teets, community member of the City of Greeley, expressed concern about the air quality in the region and noted the importance of transit as it is related to air quality. Teets expressed support for the development of a regional transit authority to assist in interagency coordination and bringing funding to the region. Teets expressed concerns about current construction projects within Greeley.

### Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2024 MEETING AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Heid **moved** to *APPROVE THE MAY 2, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck 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)

Ferko reviewed the topics included in the memo, highlighting upcoming opportunities for public comment and upcoming public meetings. Ferko noted the attainment status across the state relating to carbon monoxide. Ferko noted the procedural rules for how the Air Quality Control Commission conducts business and there would be a series of public meetings related to this work. Ferko noted the AQCC met in May and discussed the carbon monoxide attainment status and various regulations including disproportionately impacted communities permitting fees. The AQCC will have their annual planning retreat at the end of June.

#### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach reiterated Ferko's comments on Colorado's attainment status for carbon monoxide. Wojtach outlined current work being undertaken by the AQCC, the RAQC, and EPA. Wojtach reviewed outcomes of the RAQCs modeling forum which was held in April noting RAQC would not be pursuing additional modeling for background Ozone. James asked for clarification on this decision and Silverstein outlined the updates which will be incorporated into new air quality modeling for the region. James reiterated the importance of updating modeling with the most up to date data and expressed concern about legislation regarding modeling. Silverstein noted the constraints of modeling even when using up to date data. Wojtach stated RAQC may be considering an additional control strategy related to motor vehicle emission budgets.

Wojtach noted the EPA has commenced a review of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) which is anticipated to be completed in 2025. Wojtach noted members of the intermountain west transportation planning agencies, including NFRMPO representatives, met in person to discuss challenges in meeting current Ozone NAAQS.

## Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

### REPORTS:

#### *Report of the Chair*

Chair Mallo stated Paul Sizemore, currently employed at the City of Fort Collins, has been hired as the new Executive Director and reviewed the start date of his employment and Mallette's retirement. Chair Mallo requested nominations for the Front Range Passenger Rail District board to replace Councilmember Olson on the district board for the remainder of his term through 2026. James nominated Canonico who was appointed by acclamation. Mallo stated the Transportation Commission public comment item would be discussed at a later meeting.

#### *Executive Director Report*

Mallette introduced the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Resources page on the NFRMPO website, Rouser provided a brief review of the program which is a subcommittee of the NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative and walked through the resources page on the website. Mallette reviewed the transportation and air quality related bills from the 2024 legislative session and Council discussed impacts to local communities through the recently passed legislation and to the work of the NFRMPO.

### *TAC*

A written report was provided.

### *Mobility*

A written report was provided.

### PRESENTATION:

*Front Range Passenger Rail Update* – Nancy Burke, Director of Communications of the Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPR) reviewed the status of the FRPR project including the current proposed timeline, noting there will not be a ballot measure related to FRPR in 2024, and the ongoing outreach related to the service development plan. Burke provided an overview of anticipated service which is expected to commence in 2029 with three daily round trips between Fort Collins and Denver and increase to six round trips between Fort Collins and Pueblo by 2035. Service is expected to take three hours to travel between Fort Collins to Pueblo upon completion. Burke highlighted current public engagement initiatives including a survey about service options.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

None this month.

### ACTION ITEMS:

*May 2024 TIP Amendment* – Cunningham noted the May 2024 TIP Amendment included one revision to the FY2024-2027 TIP from the City of Greeley for the addition of a new project. The 30-day Public Comment period for the May 2024 TIP Amendment began on May 8, 2024 and concluded on June 6, 2024. An Equity Analysis is included for the new location-specific project.

James **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION 2024-09 APPROVING THE MAY 2024 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

*Executive Director Policies Update* – Mallette reviewed the change to the Executive Director Policies which include limiting the signatory amount the Executive Director may sign to \$100,000 as directed by the Planning Council.

Olson **moved** to approve *RESOLUTION 2024-10 ASSIGNING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUTHORITY*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None this month.

### COUNCIL REPORTS:

*Transportation Commission* – Kelly reviewed the topics discussed at the TC meeting including the proposal for combining the South Central and South Eastern TPRs in order to split the Intermountain TPR which ultimately resulted in TC's desire to have another proposal for the distribution of TPRs around the state. Council discussed if this would require a change to the legislation and Kelly noted that may or may not be one of the proposals. Further discussion will be had at future TC meetings with an anticipated delay till November on a decision. TC discussed limiting the STAC Chair term and new Chair and Vice Chair for TC.

*CDOT R4 Update* – Jim Eussen provided updates on projects within the region. Eussen highlighted a project on US34 west of Loveland to fix shoulders and address safety concerns and the design project of the I-25 and SH14/Mulberry Road interchange. Eussen noted the mobility hubs and Centerra and Berthoud are anticipated to open in late summer and the stop at SH-119 to open in late fall. The agreement for the Railroad crossing

elimination study along US-34 has been initiated, and signage and striping improvements will be commencing at the US-34 and US-85 interchange.

*STAC Report*– A written report was provided.

*Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)*– A written report was provided.

*I-25 Coalition*– James stated the Coalition will be focusing efforts on Segment 4, south of the NFRMPO border, and Segment 9 north towards the Wyoming border in the coming months.

*US34 Coalition* – James stated the coalition met prior to the Council meeting and heard from the TMO consultants. The TMO board has been identified as well as working groups. James noted Weld County will chair the coalition for the time being.

*Regional Air Quality Council* – Stephens restated the concerns from the earlier discussion on RAQC modeling regarding background ozone.

*Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)* – Stephens noted the enterprise will be holding a call to allocate approximately \$28M to projects in the nonattainment area for both small- and large-scale projects. Mallette asked if the projects would require an air quality benefit and Stephens confirmed projects would be evaluated on their ground level ozone reductions.

*Front Range Passenger Rail District* –Karspeck stated there was a discussion at the previous meeting on providing directions for secondary stops along the route and local connections to the proposed stops.

*Host Council Member Report* – James reported on the completion of the roundabout at CR74 and CR33 and noted the commencement of construction for the roundabout at CR74 and CR31. James stated construction would begin next summer on the joint project with Larimer County at County Line Road and CR54. Weld County has received an SS4A grant to complete a safety action plan and a rural surface transportation planning grant.

#### MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff