

Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC)—MINUTES

July 23, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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
- Bridie Smith, COLT
- Heather Sterling, Transfort
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Lorye McLeod, PAFC
- Jacque Penfold, Community Member
- Mitch Wagner, SEH
- Kate Poppenhagen, Ombudsman, Larmer County Office on Aging
- Brian Dubois, BATS
- Heidi Pruess, Larimer County Office of Sustainability and Climate

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

Review of Agenda

Public Comment (*2 minutes each*)

Approval of April Meeting Minutes:

Conaway motioned to approve the April minutes. Kaliczak seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Presentations

Rural Alternative for Transportation (RAFT) - Conaway

Conaway gave a brief history of the Rural Alternative for Transportation (RAFT). Ruth Fletcher-Carter started RAFT about 10 years ago to provide transportation for people who were no longer being served by the Berthoud Area Transportation Service (BATS) due to the reduction of the service area and the frequency of trips. Conaway joined RAFT at the end of 2022 as an assistant, before that he was a transportation operations manager for the Thompson School District and the Clark County School District in Las Vegas. He has seen at least a 150% increase in the number of trips and expanding services through a partnership with the Town of Berthoud. He discussed the many challenges and successes of growth including funding and the current state of Medicaid.



Climate Smart Future Ready – Pruess

Pruess discussed the first subcommittee meeting and identified the priority tactics and action items that were selected by the group. Action items for the next subcommittee meeting are to ask the City of Fort Collins grants staff to explain their grant formula and distribution for projects, and request that a representative from Transfort attend the next meeting to discuss the FLEX to Boulder implementation and coordination between the municipalities. Kelly mentioned that she shared the Transit Master Plan at the previous subcommittee meeting, and it is the best resource for more information on the FLEX route. Kelly also said that she would ask if there is anyone at Transfort who can speak about the FLEX.

If anyone would like the subcommittee meeting notes, they can send Pruess an email at pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us

RideNoCo Update - Schmitt

Schmitt gave an update on the RideNoCo Coordination Project (TDS) with SAINT, RAFT, and 60+ Ride. The third phase of the rollout is complete and, as of the beginning of July, the RideNoCo staff began taking initial intake on behalf of SAINT, RAFT, and 60+ Ride. Schmitt shared [the](#) data visualization and tracking features that are included with the new software and gave specific examples of the types of calls RideNoCo gets. He also pointed out that RideNoCo set records in the call center this year, receiving more calls in the first 6 months of 2024 than all of 2022, and that last month was the busiest month in program history with about 40 calls received. Schmitt pointed out that the data we are collecting allows us to get that information to elected officials, planning council, and municipalities to show where the gaps exist.

Joint November NCMC and Boulder County Mobility & Access Coalition Meeting - Schmitt

The joint meeting will take place at the Berthoud Town Hall on November 19th. Schmitt asked the group if there are any topics that the LCMC would like to discuss with Boulder County. Conaway suggested discussing how we can better communicate around shared needs and collaboration opportunities between Boulder County and the NFRMPO.

Shared Resources Drive - Bettolo

Bettolo gave an update on the shared resources drive and gave examples of types of documents that can be shared. She recommended reading the How to Use Shared Resource Library document. For members of the group that are interested in joining the shared drive, please reach out to Cory Schmitt cschmitt@nfrmpo.org.

Mobility Case Studies - Deaton

Deaton discussed a case study of a woman in Larimer County calling on behalf of her 42-year-old son who has autism and needs rides to his job at Poudre Valley Hospital on Sundays and Holidays, his shift begins at 7:00 am. Kelly suggested Dial-A-Taxi, but they do not start service on Sundays and Holidays until 8 am. Conaway asked if there is a ride share program for UCHHealth because there may be a chance that there are others in his neighborhood that work at Poudre Valley Hospital, and they could ride together. Kelly and Kaliczac determined that his neighborhood is not in the service area. Klein did an online search for



UCHealth and discovered an article for patients called Care Pool and questioned if employees could use it as well. Kaliczak said for the non-medical Medicaid trips, it would have to be documented that he is going to Poudre Valley Hospital for employment, not medical reasons, or his request may be denied. Conaway asked if this person has a case worker who may be able to facilitate finding transportation through organizations such as Foothills Gateway. It was also suggested that his work schedule could be adjusted for a later start time.

NEMT Updates - Conaway

Conaway discussed how the State of Colorado is making changes with the credentialing of transportation agencies and wants to create a single brokerage for Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT). He said that RAFT was considering using Medicaid as a funding source, but as a volunteer organization, it has become too complicated with their credentialing. For example, drivers will be required to have background checks, be fingerprinted, subject to annual drug testing, and volunteer vehicles will have to be inspected by a state agency. There are two tax initiatives that will be presented to the state, and if they pass it will cause a large deficit and closures of Medicaid facilities. Ann Rajewski from CASTA will be sharing more information at the August meeting.

Transportation Surveys - Schmitt

Schmitt discussed and shared the Larimer County Transportation Safety Survey <https://fhu.mysocialpinpoint.com/larimer-on-the-move> and the CDOT Active Transportation Plan https://cdotcx.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aVS4sCfhTaodwQS.

COLT Updates - Smith

Smith announced that COLT received funding for the new building at the station at 37th and Grant.

Transfort Updates - Kelly

Kelly stated that Transfort received \$2.4 million for ADA upgrades for the Downtown Transit Center and bus stops. With this funding, Transfort will be between 95-100% of ADA compliance.

Larimer County Ombudsman Updates - Poppenhagen

Poppenhagen shared that she presented at the United Nations Political Forum and discussed the need for accessible transportation to eliminate social isolation and loneliness. She was also able to talk about the connection and partnership with the mobility committees on this international call.

Poppenhagen brought up concerns about zTrip regarding a resident who was stranded last month after waiting for a zTrip ride and they are now afraid to use the service. This raised questions about confidentiality and how the Ombudsman cannot share identifying information about a resident without their consent. Kelly and Kaliczak asked more questions about the stranded passenger so that they could research the incident further. Kaliczak talked about issues with booking rides and how mistakes can



happen with the automated booking system, and she recommended that people call in to book rides to avoid confusion using the automated system. Poppenhagen talked about outreach for voting and trying to identify how to get folks to register to vote, get assistance at the polls, and transportation to get there.

LCMC Member Updates

Bitzer announced that Via received extra funds to add another bus to Weld County and they have the van and a driver ready to go. Schmitt added statistics of ridership in Weld County and how the addition of another van will make an impact even if it is temporary. Bitzer also announced a free concert series every Thursday night that Rock and Rails in Niwot hosts. They highlight a non-profit every Thursday night and collect tips for their organization. Via is a tip jar recipient at the event on 8/1/2024. 5-9 pm

Klein shared that the Red Route with the electric trolleys served 11,859 guests in June, a 13.7% increase over last year. On July 4th, they served 525 guests on the routes between the end of the fireworks show around 9:30 until midnight.

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. Klein seconded the motion.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Northern Colorado Mobility Committee: Tuesday, August 27, 2024
- LCMC Meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 2024
- Combined NCMC Boulder County Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2024