

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

### August 1, 2024 Hybrid Meeting in Johnstown, CO

#### Voting Members Present:

Jon Mallo – Chair  
Johnny Olson – Vice Chair  
Scott James – Past Chair  
Tricia Canonico  
Mark Clark  
Julie Cline  
Dan Dean  
Matthew Fries  
Liz Heid  
Bill Jenkins  
Will Karspeck  
Andrew Paranto  
Kristin Stephens

-Loveland  
-Greeley  
-Weld County  
-Fort Collins  
-Evans  
-Windsor  
-Milliken  
-Severance  
-Eaton  
-Timnath  
-Berthoud  
-Johnstown  
-Larimer County

#### Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta  
Jessica Ferko  
Jim Kelly

-Garden City  
-APCD  
-Transportation Commission

**MPO Staff:** **Paul Sizemore**, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **Brooke Bettolo**, Mobility Planner; **AnnaRose Cunningham**, Transportation Planner III; **Jerome Rouser**, Transportation Planner II; **Mark Northrop**, Transportation Planner II

**In Attendance:** Dawn Anderson; Dan Betts; Brad Buckman; Jason Elkins; Lesli Ellis; Jim Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Dee McIntosh; Mark Oberschmidt; Mark Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Melanie Potyondy; Elizabeth Relford; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Brian Varrella; Keith Wakefield; and Dena Wojtach.

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

#### Public Comment

Suzette Mallette, former NFRMPO Executive Director, thanked everyone for everything they have done to help her in her role as Executive Director.

#### Move to Approve Minutes

Olson moved to APPROVE.THEJULY.77?8680.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)

A written report was provided.

### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach talked about the recent air quality health alerts issued because of fires in Canada and other States, in addition to local fires, and the impact on the 70 ppb Ozone standard. Wojtach also talked about the Intermountain West MPOs draft letter to EPA that requests the agency study ozone levels in the intermountain west to inform future ozone reduction efforts. Sizemore provided additional background about the letter including the collaborative efforts by Intermountain West MPOs. The Council voiced concerns about the ozone administration, analysis, and policy but supported the joint effort and draft letter.

### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

### Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

## REPORTS:

### *Report of the Chair*

Chair Mallo did not have anything to report.

### *Executive Director Report*

Sizemore talked about CDOT's update of the 10-year plan in coordination with a new statewide plan. He said the NFRMPO will need to determine the process to populate the list of prioritized projects. He also talked about the vacancies at the NFRMPO. Cunningham talked about a CAC mobility audit conducted in June. She said staff created an ArcGIS StoryMap to illustrate the different recommendations and issues that were seen in the area. Rouser said a walk audit will be conducted August 14th near the Family FunPlex in Greeley by the NoCo Bike and Ped Collaborative. Olson said the City of Greeley is conducting a mobility study.

### *TAC*

A written report was provided.

### *Mobility*

A written report was provided.

### *Second Quarter 2024 TIP Modifications*

A written report was provided.

### *CDOT Inactives Report*

A written report was provided.

## PRESENTATION:

*FEMA Base Level Engineering*- Brian Varrella, CDOT Region 4 Resident Engineer talked about FEMA Base Level Engineering (BLE), a new process developed by FEMA to address flood hazards. He said there is a potential link between BLE and land use code and between BLE and federal disaster assistance. He talked about floodplains in Lincoln County, the statewide plan for current and future BLEs, other BLE facts and opportunities, a BLE case study in Phillips, Colorado, the benefits and other considerations of BLEs, and what to do with a BLE. James and Olson expressed concerns about the process and the broad impacts on local government and communities.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

No items this month.

## ACTION ITEMS:

*July 2024 TIP Amendment* - Cunningham discussed the July 2024 TIP Amendment, which includes three revisions, one by Colorado State University (CSU) and two by the City of Greeley. The 30-day public comment period for the TIP amendment began on July 10 and concludes on August 8. She said an equity analysis was conducted by the projects sponsor for the CSU project.

Karspeck **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2024-012 APPROVING THE JULY 2024 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*VanGo Fare Increases for 2025* - Sizemore shared staff's proposal for a VanGo fare increase of 5% in January of 2025. He said fares were last adjusted in 2019, when Council approved a 2% fare increase to account for rising operating costs due to inflation. Sizemore also said VanGo notified customers of the proposal and has invited them to submit comments and/or provide public comment at the Council meeting. He said the proposal would come back in September for action depending on feedback from Council. Sizemore said staff will be coming back to Council each year to discuss a fare increase or decrease. He addressed questions and comments by Council regarding efforts used by VanGo to attract users, VanGo being an enterprise fund, and the slow return to transit use after the pandemic.

*MMOF Discussion #2* - Cunningham talked about MMOF Goals, anticipated funding amounts for FY24 to FY28, the proposed timeline, the updated match rate, project types and the two project categories, scoring criteria, award minimums and maximums, and eligible applicants. She then discussed next steps including the MMOF Guidebook, TAC Discussion in August, and Planning Council discussion in September. There were brief discussions about the multimodal mobility projects enabled by new technology project type and GHG reducing projects. Olson and Stephens expressed concerns about the reduction in MMOF funding.

## COUNCIL REPORTS:

*Transportation Commission* – No updates.

*CDOT R4 Update* – No updates.

*STAC Report* – A written report was provided.

*Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)* – Stephens said NAAPME is getting closer to getting the application process out for a small grant program for nonattainment area communities. NAAPME is working on the match requirement.

*Front Range Passenger Rail District* – Canonico and Karspeck said the district is holding off on putting the district on the ballot until 2026.

*Host Council Member Report* – Paranto talked about the Centennial Celebration held for the meteorite that landed in Johnstown in July 2024.

## MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Mark Northrop, NFRMPO Staff