

## Northern Colorado Mobility Committee —MINUTES

August 27, 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
- Paul Sizemore, NFRMPO
- Robyn Upton, WAND
- Jacque Penfold, Citizen
- Steve Conaway, RAFT
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Ari Edgely, Foothills Gateway
- Bridie Smith, COLT
- Ian Chase, HDR
- Ann Rajewski, CASTA

#### Virtual:

- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility
- Celeste Ewert, Envision
- Steve Teets, WAND
- Jill Matlock, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- Brian Dubois, BATS
- Leiton Powell, City of Greeley
- Heather Sterling, Transfort
- Katlyn Kelly, Transfort
- Melanie Royalty, Transfort
- Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, United Way
- Geoff England, Steer Group

**Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:** May 28, 2024 minutes approved by Penfold, seconded by Conaway.

### Activity

#### Group Introductions 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 each other and learn more about each other's respective organizations and services.



## Presentations

### **Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA)** [CASTA Presentation slides \(PDF\)](#).

Rajewski gave an overview of CASTA. CASTA is an advocacy organization that offers training, resources, technical assistance, and scholarships for Colorado transit agencies. She discussed public transit agency funding opportunities from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and local, state, and other sources.

Rajewski discussed Senate Bill 230, Oil and Gas Production Fees, and the transit funding streams resulting from the bill. In the bill, The Clean Transit Enterprise (CTE) will be developing a new funding formula based on population, population density, local zoning, ridership, vehicle revenue miles, and other factors to distribute funds to transit agencies in Colorado.

Rajewski also gave an update about changes coming to the state's Medicaid Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) system and discussed challenges such as the duplicative credentialing requirements for agencies that provide both NEMT and public transit. On top of the recredentialing of existing providers, there are discussions about implementing a statewide brokerage and concerns that it won't provide better service than the last time this was attempted. CASTA is putting together a letter to discuss the possible waiver for CDOT grantees for the re-credentialing to reduce duplication. Rajewski welcomes feedback to be sent to her email to help her compose those letters: [executivedirector@coloradotransit.com](mailto:executivedirector@coloradotransit.com).

### **US34 Transit Development Plan US34** [US34 Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#)

Chase gave an update on the US34 Transit Plan. He discussed the project's overview and status of implementing premium transit along the US34 corridor between Loveland and Greeley. The first phase of the LinkNoCo study examined corridors throughout the North Front Range region and Loveland to Greeley via US34 was identified as the top priority corridor to conduct further planning.

Phase 2 expectations are focused on premium transit options with limited stops. An example of premium transit is Bustang, FLEX, and Poudre Express. These are routes that are fast, reliable, and efficient. Chase shared the project schedule through the end of the year including an online Public Engagement meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Chase talked about the transit research, interviews, service, and cost takeaways for the development plan. He explained the project team's research of the existing conditions and alternate development focusing on transit propensity, existing characteristics, and performance. From the compilation of information that was collected, he demonstrated how the existing GET and COLT routes and stops would tie into the alignment development, and he showed the alignment alternatives, refinements, and recommended alternatives. It was asked if GET would be operating the service, and they will and have secured funding to add 5 new buses. Conaway asked about the operating hours and Chase said that there are 2 options that they are working on right now. One option for an average weekday would provide service every 30 minutes, and the second option every 30 minutes during peak commute hours only. Unsure about weekend services at this point since there is no current Sunday service with GET and COLT. Chase added that they are focusing on the initial setup of the service and there are currently only 7 stops. As



the service gets up and running and becomes successful, they want to have the option to add more stops, especially in Johnstown.

Teets commented that there were not a lot of responses to the survey and that an in-person public meeting should be held in the Greeley/Evans area before deciding on routes, stops, and times. Chase said that they were hoping to do a joint in-person meeting and presentation that would coincide with the I-25 mobility hub that is opening in September, but CDOT decided against it. He said that they get a fair amount of feedback online more than in person and that online meetings eliminate the issue of deciding where to hold the meeting, costs associated with in-person meetings, and time. Kaliczak suggested posting QR codes on GET and COLT buses to direct riders to the US34 Transit Plan to provide feedback.

### **US34 TMO Overview and Updates-GoNoCo34 [GoNoCo Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#)**

Schmitt explained what a Transportation Management Organization (TMO) is and how the goals are to develop and implement strategies to promote sustainable transportation options and reduce congestion. The TMO was developed based on emissions reduction goals from the NFRMPO's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan as well as identified as a promising strategy in its TDM Action Plan.

The US34 corridor between Kersey and Estes Park was selected as the location for the first TMO in the North Front Range region. England presented the timeline of the GoNoCo34 TMO Development and Implementation. He shared the breakdown of the board of directors, regular members, and Ex-Officio Members. He discussed the Go34NoCo brand logo and what the colors and shapes represent. He presented an outline of potential services and activities including Outreach and Education, Transportation Services, Data Analysis and Reporting, Regulatory Compliance Assistance, Regional Collaboration, and potential funding sources.

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

Schmitt announced the final Mobility Committee recruitment one-pager is ready to distribute to recruit new partners and stakeholders to participate in meetings, and that the NFRMPO has printed copies of the latest version of the RideNoCo Provider's Guide for transportation providers. Teets requested a copy of the Provider's Guide.

Deaton shared the UCHHealth Aspen Club/RideNoCo Transportation Sign-Up Fairs scheduled for September 13th in Loveland and September 20<sup>th</sup> in Fort Collins. Cienfuegos-Baca requested information be emailed to him.

Schmitt reminded the group that the next NCMC meeting will be on a different date and location. The meeting will be a joint meeting with the Boulder County Mobility and Access Coalition at the Berthoud Town Hall, 807 Mountain Ave., Berthoud on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00-3:30 pm.

Bitzer shared that Via has acquired and added a 3rd vehicle to the Weld County pilot program



area that will go through the end of December this year and that they have added Milken to their service and have had many people register. She shared positive rider comments about Via's services.

Sizemore talked about how he is visiting communities and meeting with representatives that are on the planning council. He said that he has not been to a meeting where mobility has not come up in conversations. He said this is great news that the representatives for these communities are thinking and talking about mobility issues.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC): September 24, 2024
- b. Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC): October 22, 2024
- c. Northern Colorado Mobility Committee (NCMC): December 3, 2024