

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

September 5, 2024 Hybrid Meeting in Fort Collins, CO

Voting Members Present:

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

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

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta
Jessica Ferko

-Garden City
-APCD

MPO Staff: **Paul Sizemore**, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Cory Schmitt**, Mobility Director; **Mark Northrop**, Transportation Planner II; **Jonathan Stockburger**, Transportation Planner I; **Mykayla Marek**, Transportation Planner I.

In Attendance: Dan Betts; Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Michelle Edgerley; Jim Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Dana Hornkohl; Will Jones; Joshua Ma; Victoria McKennan; Mark Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Elizabeth Relford; Mike Silverstein; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; and Dena Wojtach.

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

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Stephens **moved** to *APPROVE THE AUGUST 1, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico 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 discussed the ozone levels throughout the month of August within the nonattainment area all above 70ppb and the state's request for a voluntary reclassification from Moderate to Serious for 2015 standard. This reclassification was done to help with staff resources in developing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 standard and the 2008 standard. Additionally, two new ozone monitors were installed within the region over the summer (Timnath and Fossil Creek Reservoir); however, it will be three years until the data from them can be used. An additional monitor will be placed in Loveland within the next 12 months.

She mentioned the AQCC adopted revisions to the SIP removing the CO areas from the SIP, while retaining the control strategies, due to attainment of the CO standard at their August meeting. The AQCC also set a hearing for November for the updates to their Procedural Rules and received a briefing on the Rocky Mountain National Park nitrogen deposition study during the same meeting.

Wojtach then discussed the recent RAQC meeting where they announced a September 24 meeting to discuss regulating indirect sources. The RAQC Board was also briefed on current Inspection and Maintenance program requirements and looking to revise those requirements. The APCD will be holding stakeholder meetings in September. The RAQC's Control Strategies Committee continues to discuss the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) for the new SIP. Separately, the RAQC presented to the TLRC in August on MVEBs and suggested a 20 percent reduction to MVEBs and proposed legislation to tighten MVEBs and requested legislation to allow the AQCC to regulate indirect sources and additional legislation related to vehicle I/M.

She then provided an update on the EPA conditionally approving SIPs and portions of SIPs, which means if Colorado meets specific requirements partially approving SIPs it will prevent sanctions from being put into place on federal transportation funding.

Lastly, she discussed the Intermountain West MPO letter to the EPA has been gathering signatures and will be sent to the EPA once all the signatures have been added, Sizemore added all signatures had been received and the letter will be sent soon.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair Mallo discussed Councilmember Canonico's request for a letter of support from the Planning Council to support her bid to serve on the National League of Cities Board of Directors. Canonico described her experience and requested the Council's support. The Council members provided unanimous consent of a letter of support.

Executive Director Report

Sizemore discussed the NFRMPO's recruitment process for the current open positions and introduced Mykayla Marek as the new Transportation Planner I. He also discussed the open Mobility Planner position and provided an update on the Accountant position and the interviews scheduled next week.

He then discussed the Ride NoCo Call Center had a record month for calls in August and launched the TDS to allow for the service providers within the region to communicate and share rides and information across agencies.

Lastly, Sizemore updated the Council on CDOT's Policy Directive (PD) PD14 discussion and the action item and robust discussion at the STAC meeting this morning. The STAC voted to reject the PD14 updates as presented. He suggested Council could discuss the PD14 implications to the NFRMPO during the 10-Year Priority List Update discussion item. Olson elaborated on the purpose of PD14 and how it impacts projects and plans, including the 10-Year Plan and how it impacts the NFRMPO.

Finance

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Stephens **moved** to approve the *CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

ACTION ITEM:

FY2022 Program of Projects (POP) Update – Joshua Ma, Transfort, discussed the FY2022 POP Update requested by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to Sections 5307, 5310, and 5339 formula grants for the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area (TMA). These updates were requested due to funding amount increases following IJJA/BIL being signed into law and the cumulative project funds change exceeding 20 percent. The identified projects remain fundamentally unchanged. This POP update also includes changes related to specific 5310 requirements for POPs, which include specifying counties served, distinguishing between capital and operating expenses, and clearly identifying which projects meet the 55 percent minimum for traditional 5310 projects. These adjustments ensure Transfort meets federal compliance standards and improves the effectiveness and transparency of the POP.

Karspeck **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2024-014 APPROVING REVISING THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REGARDING FTA \$5307, \$5310, \$5339 FORT COLLINS/LOVELAND/BERTHOUD TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR FFY22*. The motion was **seconded** by Olson and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NFRMPO 10-Year Priority List Update – Karasko discussed the NFRMPO’s 10-Year Priority List, including an overview of the history of the list, selection of the priority corridors, and the original January 2020 Workshop. She discussed updating the list for the region and discussed NFRMPO Staff and TAC members recommendation to hold a second workshop with TAC and Planning Council members to reprioritize projects on the lists. Planning Council members concurred with holding a workshop later this year to update the list.

Stephens asked if the intention was to keep the current projects on the list and reevaluate them or to start from scratch. Karasko responded she had requested TAC members review the current list to determine if the projects on the list should be removed due to funding or completion. Stephens followed up with asking where new projects might come from. Karasko responded that if they are in the 2050 RTP and have gone through the Conformity Determination process, they can be included. Karspeck volunteered to hold the workshop in Berthoud.

Olson discussed the 2020 Workshop and NFRMPO process and stated the region’s priorities should take precedence over CDOT’s in the creation of the list and prioritization of the projects. James concurred with Olson’s comments and stated the priority corridors remain the same. Mallo stated the Council concurred with holding another in-person workshop. Karasko requested which days of the week would work best for Council members and would morning or afternoon work better. She stated she would send out a Doodle poll with dates and that she would work with TAC members to ensure the projects on the list are most up to date. She also stated she would present to the Council prior to the Workshop on how the voting will work and the list of projects. Jenkins requested to have a presentation on the projects so the Council can have as much information as possible. Council members concurred the projects currently on the list should remain on the list, along with any new projects from the *2050 RTP*.

MMOF Discussion #3- Northrop provided an update on the upcoming MMOF Call for Projects. He revisited minimum project sizes, the proposed schedule, and provided additional detail on the CDOT draft application review process and discussed the CDOT reviewers based on project type. He then discussed maximum funding amounts and breakdown and funding split between Category A and Category B projects, with Category A projects at 75 percent of available funding as a target and Category B with 25 percent funding as a target. Northrop provided an update on the NFRMPO’s application and submission requirements and the NFRMPO’s Call for Projects Guidance document, which was sent out to TAC members for their review.

Stephens discussed the decrease in MMOF funding at a state level and asked if CDOT has given assurance that it will not happen again. Karasko explained that once funding has been budgeted and obligated and

contracted, the funding cannot be removed from the project. However, funding that has not been obligated is subject to being removed and reallocated, although she did not foresee that happening. Stephens then asked if there was a minimum amount. Northrop replied there is a \$300,000 minimum for infrastructure projects and a \$25,000 minimum for all other types. Stephens asked for an example of a non-quantifiable GHG project. Sizemore replied that studies and continuing operations from transit fall into that category.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Commissioner Kelly mentioned the recent crash in Region 3 that resulted in the death of two CDOT employees and a passenger in the vehicle. He also discussed the upcoming vacancy on the Transportation Commission due to his upcoming departure from the Commission.

CDOT R4 Update – Thomas provided additional information on the crash in Region 3. She also discussed the status of the Segment 5 project and crashes within the construction zone. Fries asked if there was an update on the SH14 Safety Study. Thomas stated the final report should be done by the end of the year.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – James stated the meeting had good discussion on the I-25 project.

US34 Coalition – James stated the projects on the US34 corridor and the joint advocacy continues to move the Coalition forward.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens stated NAAPME met on August 29 and the NOFO will be released on September 30. There is a \$500 minimum project size and no project maximum amount. The suggested match is 20 percent but a provision for a hardship local match reduction like the MMOF model. The amount of time the call will be open is to be determined, but likely through the end of the year.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) – Stephens stated Wojtach's report covered the main points in the RAQC meeting and she had nothing further to add.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Karspeck mentioned Longmont's request for a letter of support for a rail crossing elimination project. He also stated the District's General Manager discussed their hiring plan for 2026 as well the ballot initiative moving from 2024 to 2026.

Host Council Member Report – Canonico discussed the City of Fort Collins Council's priorities including advancing the 15-minute city initiative. She then provided updates on a variety of transportation projects within the City including that Fort Collins is working on a 10-Year Transportation

Capital Improvement Tool which incorporates projects from the City's various plans and will allow them to sort and prioritize projects based on funding opportunities. The West Elizabeth BRT project, which received a 2022 MMOF award from the NFRMPO, is moving forward and is in final design with 60 percent design was completed in July and 80 percent is due by January. The City was also awarded a \$10.7M RAISE grant award in 2023 for the construction of a transit station and roundabout at West Elizabeth and Overland Trail and will connect CSU's main campus with the Foothills Campus. Laporte Avenue multimodal improvements to help complete the City's low stress bike network. And lastly, she discussed the Siphon and UPRR overpass (connection to the Power Trail) which also received funding from the NFRMPO and the Power Trail at Harmony underpass which also received funding from the NFRMPO, where a cyclist was hit and killed in 2023.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Becky Karasko, NFRMPO Staff