



Weld County Mobility Committee —MINUTES

September 24, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

- Ashley McClain, 60+Ride
- Celeste Ewert, Envision
- Dee McIntosh, CDOT
- Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, United Way Weld County
- Irene Davila, Adeo
- Josh Fulenwider, Connections for Independent Living
- Leiton Powell, Greeley Evans Transit
- Lisa Bitzer, Via Mobility Services
- Margie Martinez, United Way Weld County
- Melvin Turner, Cheyenne VA
- Nichole Seward, Weld County Area Agency on Aging
- Nicki Burris, Carepool
- Rocio Ramierz, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
- Steve Teets, WAND

NFRMPO staff: Cory Schmitt, Lisa Deaton

Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes: June 25, 2024 minutes approved by Seward, seconded by Powell.

Activity

Group Introductions

Both virtual and in-person attendees introduced themselves and their organizations.

Presentations

Greeley Mobility Development Plan [Presentation slides \(PDF\)](#).

Ramirez provided an overview of the Greeley Mobility Development Plan and explained that the



plan is a more detailed look at Greeley Evans Transit, a continuation of the Greeley on the Go Plan that was adopted last year. She discussed the Mobility Development Plan Vision & Goals along with the Vision that was carried over from the Greeley on the Go Plan. The plan looks at transit, micro-transit, micro-mobility, economic development, and how mobility can be integrated into existing services currently provided. Ramirez discussed the plan's objectives to advance the mobility umbrella concept, the 10-year implementation-focused mobility development plan, and working with city staff and stakeholders to continue developing an integrated mobility network. So far, they have inventoried the existing mobility system, developed a strategic vision and a set of goals, and identified future technologies and trends. She previewed the Near-Term Scenario (0-2 years) which focuses on updating bus routes to improve efficiency and enhanced frequency. The Long-Term Scenario (3-10 years) looks to transition key routes to BRT, expanding further to the west and with higher frequency. They are currently in phase 2 of the community and stakeholder engagement, prioritizing frequency and reliability, service coverage, and service hours. They have participated in pop-up events at Friday Fest, the Greeley Evans Transit Center, and UNC and planning on future pop-up events and focus groups in October. She discussed the next steps leading up to finalizing the Mobility Development Plan. The phase 2 engagement information can be accessed at <https://speakupgreeley.com/mobility-development-plan>.

Carepool

Burris introduced Carpool and provided background about how it started. They are currently in 8 states and provide transportation services for aging adults, people with disabilities, and some school transportation. Carepool is a rideshare program that works with different healthcare systems and school districts in those 8 states, including recently launching with UCHHealth facilities in Greeley, Fort Collins, and Longmont. Carepool hires trained drivers to assist people with healthcare needs and prefers to recruit drivers with healthcare backgrounds. All drivers are required to pass DOJ background checks. Carepool drivers provide a door-through-door service and can transport patients who are being discharged from hospitals. Rides can be scheduled up to 6 months in advance as recurring or on-demand. Once riders create an account, they can log in and schedule their own rides and track their driver's arrival times. Riders can also call to schedule rides and representatives are available 24/7. Carpool also provides school transportation, locally, the Thompson School District was recently added. Burris said their drivers are trained to transport children who may have special needs or behavioral issues that may require safety vests and car seats. Cienfuegos-Baca asked if service animals are allowed. Burris said they are allowed, but the rider is asked to mention that they have a service animal when scheduling the ride. The driver can decide if they want to accept the ride, and if they decline, another driver will be found. Deaton asked if the drivers use their own vehicles. Burris said if the rider is ambulatory, yes, they use their own vehicles. If they use a wheelchair, Carepool provides a vehicle. Teets asked about billing Medicare and Medicaid. Carpool will bill Medicare and Medicaid, and they accept private pay. Teets requested the costs of the rides and Burris will mail him that information.



RideNoCo Update

RideNoCo Implementation Update

Schmitt gave an update on the implementation of RideNoCo. Phase 3 is nearly complete allowing trip coordination in one place across multiple providers. He shared the call center and website stats, and so far, the 1st & 2nd quarters of 2024 have exceeded the previous year's totals. Calls from Weld County have declined in part because of the enhancement of services, 60+ Ride's wheelchair-accessible van, and Via Mobility's expansions to its service area.

Schmitt further discussed phase 3 of the RideNoCo Coordination Project. At the beginning of Q3 2024, the call center can conduct the initial intake on behalf of SAINT, RAFT, and 60+Ride. In Q4, SAINT, RAFT, and 60+ Ride will be able to refer clients and coordinate trips to each other utilizing the TDS specification. Moving forward, RideNoCo will begin looking at more enhancements and agencies to add to the coordination project to keep building this network.

Discussions Items

Accessible Transportation Follow-Up

[60+Ride Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#), [Via Mobility Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#)

McClain discussed the new van 60+ Ride received on January 2, 2024, and began to give rides in February. McClain provided ride statistics from 2023 and the new van statistics from February to August 2024. To use 60+ Ride services, you must be 60 years old and reside in Weld County. Rides are free and they rely on donors and funders. The van is owned by 60+ Ride and they provide the money to facilitate the van rides. They need more volunteers to serve the rural communities, not only by driving but being an advocate, attending council meetings, and assisting with networking. McClain shared their new website and a new magazine that will provide a resource for seniors. Schmitt asked if there is a breakdown of the most served areas in Weld County. McClain said the most served areas are Fort Lupton, LaSalle, Milliken, Johnstown, Windsor, and Severance. Turner asked about transportation provided to Veterans and currently 60+ Ride serves 3 Veterans using their wheelchair-accessible van for trips to the Cheyenne, Aurora, and Loveland VA, and has a total of 85 veterans registered with 60+ Ride.

Bitzer provided a brief history of Via's Paratransit services. They are a private non-profit organization that provides free rides to older adults 60+ and people with disabilities in the Weld County Service area. They are a door-through-door service. They have completed over 2,000 trips in the first year, August 2023-August 2024 with only 2 vehicles. Funding was provided for a third vehicle that was added for August-December 2024. They can take riders anywhere as long as long as they are in an area that Via is allowed to serve and for any purpose. They go as far as Cheyenne, Boulder, Broomfield, and parts of Adams County. Bitzer shared the paratransit service area map and announced that Milliken was added in August 2024, and there are talks of adding Windsor. Teets asked how many vans they have and how many are wheelchair accessible. All Via's vehicles are wheelchair accessible.



Schmitt asked that since there are more wheelchair-accessible vehicles in Weld County, what gaps remain? Bitzer said that they have been getting calls from Wellington. Bitzer mentioned that they have been receiving calls from Cheyenne who would like to come to Colorado, especially from the VA hospital, and that she is interested in bringing them into Colorado for specialized services in Greeley, Loveland, and Fort Collins.

December WCMC meeting

Schmitt asked if people wanted to cancel the December WCMC meeting since it is 2 weeks after the NCMC meeting. Teets would like to meet, Cienfuegos-Baca asked what would be different within 2 weeks. Members voted to cancel the meeting.

Turner asked for the committee's contact information. Schmitt said that such a contact information sheet can be shared, and that the information spreadsheet can also be added to the shared resource drive.

Wrap-Up + Member Updates

Greeley Evans News & Updates

None

WCMC Member Updates

Ewert announced the Week Without Driving kick-off meeting, Thursday night at the Greeley Recreation Center between 6-7 pm.

Turner motioned to adjourn, and Ewert seconded

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC): Canceled
- b. Northern Colorado Mobility Committee (NCMC): December 3, 2024