

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

October 3, 2024
Hybrid Meeting in Eaton, CO

Voting Members Present:

Jon Mallo – Chair
Johnny Olson – Vice Chair
Scott James – Past Chair
Tricia Canonico
Mark Clark
Julie Cline
Paula Cochran
Jessica Ferko
Matthew Fries
Liz Heid
Bill Jenkins
Jim Kelly
Andrew Paranto

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

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta
Dan Dean
Will Karspeck
Kristen Stephens

-Garden City
-Milliken
-Berthoud
-Larimer County

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

In Attendance: Brad Buckman; Richard Christy; Jim Eussen; Omar Herrera; Will Jones; Jacob Kershner; Katrina Klobberdanz; Wesley LaVanchy; Deanna McIntosh; Victoria McKennan; Dan Meyers; Mark Oberschmidt; Evan Pinkham; Elizabeth Relford; Mike Silverstein; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Keith Wakefield; Dena Wojtach

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

Move to Approve Agenda and Minutes

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid 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)

Ferko noted APCD has many opportunities for engagement. There will be an ozone reduction planning meeting to discuss state actions to lower ozone pollution on October 22nd. Ferko stated the October commission meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Health. The commission will be making revisions to regulation numbers 11 and 12 and will be having a briefing on air toxic contaminants. This meeting will also discuss the 2024 Ozone Season.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach gave an overview of the Ozone Monitoring in Northern Colorado. Wojtach noted this has not been a good ozone year, and there will need to be much lower ozone volumes over the next two years to bring down the three-year ozone averages. Wojtach stated the RAQC will be holding an Ozone Attainment Forum on October 22nd to October 24th. Wojtach noted the Transportation Legislative Review Committee (TLRC) has been meeting to prepare for the 2025 Legislative Session. Wojtach gave an overview of the proposed bills discussed by the committee.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair Mallo ceded his time to Paul Sizemore. Sizemore noted Council discussed Policy Directive (PD) 14 at the September Council meeting. Sizemore noted PD 14 is a policy that guides the Statewide Transportation Plan and 10-year plan. In September, STAC voted to recommend that TC should not adopt a new draft of PD14 as presented. The NFRMPO Council Executive Committee wrote a joint letter with Upper Front Range Executive Committee requesting the policy be amended to consider fast growing areas and to emphasize the importance of capacity projects. TC voted to adopt PD 14 as drafted with Commissioner Kelly dissenting. In the preexisting PD14, there was a mobility goal that captured multiple things like GHG reductions and acknowledgement of capacity on roadways. The new action struck out that language to replace the mobility goal with a new goal called “Sustainably Increase Transportation Choice” which includes multiple things included in old mobility goal. It does not include language around operational LOS and acknowledgement of roadway capacity. The Executive Committee wanted to bring this topic up and have a discussion to seek guidance from the rest of the Council to see if there is any additional action on this.

Council discussed possible strategies to encourage TC to reconsider the language of PD14. Planning Council will continue to discuss this and reach out to different Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) to garner additional support. Council asked the Executive Director to prepare a letter with specific language recommendations to the TC for their upcoming October meeting.

Executive Director Report

Sizemore noted the NFRMPO received CRP funds which enables the MPO to begin developing a guidebook for the MPO to be an incubator for future TMOs. Sizemore stated the CDOT Safe Routes to

School Call for Projects is open and will close on November 4th. NAAPME is opening their call for projects soon. Sizemore introduced Mykalya Marek. The accountant position has finalists and will be doing final interviews in a few weeks. The UPWP was approved by FHWA.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

A written report was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA:

PRESENTATION: NFRMPO-CDOT Traffic Congestion Performance Measures Update – Jared Kershner, CDOT, provided an overview of the National Performance Measures. Kershner stated there are three performance measure categories: PM1, Highway Safety, PM2, Infrastructure Condition, and PM3, System Performance. State DOTs and MPOs set two- and four-year targets for PM2 and PM3, and state DOTs can adjust these targets at the midway point of a performance period. Kershner stated the NFRMPO is required to establish joint targets with CDOT for the Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) and Percent of non-Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) travel performance measures. CDOT is recommending adjusting the four-year targets for both performance measures contingent on approval from the NFRMPO Planning Council.

Council members discussed their concerns with lowering the PHED target and expressed interest in not changing the target. Karasko noted these targets are only for the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area (TMA), and the NFRMPO has regional performance measures that can be more aspirational. Council expressed support for adjusting the targets and will formally adopt the new targets at the November Planning Council meeting.

ACTION ITEM:

September 2024 TIP Amendment – Stockburger discussed the September 2024 TIP Amendment, which includes two new project additions, Loveland’s Transit Center Building Reconstruction with \$3,967,007 Federal 5339B funding, \$251,752 State LOMA funding, and \$770,000 in Local In-Kind funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, and Transfort’s Transfort Accessibility Enhancements with \$2,411,550 Federal 5339B funding and \$415,450 local funding in FY25.

Olson **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2024-015 APPROVING THE SEPTEMBER 2024 AMENDMENT TO THE FU2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

MMOF Call for Projects – Northrop gave an overview of the MMOF Call for Projects Guidelines. Northrop noted the available funding for FY2025 and FY2027 has changed with \$155,759 now available for FY25 and \$1,388,297 available for FY27. Northrop outlined key dates and stated the Call will open on October 4th and close on November 15th. Northrop described the application requirements, including minimum and maximum project requests and local match requirements. TAC recommend Council approve guideline documents.

Olson **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2024-016 ADOPTING THE 2024 MMOF CALL FOR PROJECTS PROCESS AND GUDEBOOK*. The motion was **seconded** by Cline and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NFRMPO 10-Year Priority List Update – Karasko noted the 10-year list is concentrated on 6 priority corridors. These corridors are I-25, US34, US85, US287, SH392, and SH14. Karasko sent out a list to TAC of 49 projects from the list and included in the 2050 RTP to check if the projects are correct before the list is provided to Planning Council. Karasko outlined two options for the workshop: score all 49 projects to look at multimodal elements of the project or do a dot exercise to score them into tiers, then only score the top scoring projects. Karasko noted Planning Council did the dot exercise at their last workshop. Council recommended redoing the dot exercise.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Commissioner Kelly stated TC had a field trip to Floyd Hill and toured the project area, including the Eisenhower Tunnel. Kelly noted PD 14 was the main discussion at the September TC meeting. Kelly spoke with commissioners afterwards who expressed interest in changing the language of PD14 if there were specific language recommendations.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – James noted the I-25 Coalition is still getting good attendance, and I-25 is coming together nicely.

US34 Coalition – James stated the US34 Coalition heard an update on TMO and an update on the 2025 ATP, specifically the RATC 11: US 34 Non-Motorized Trail. The US34 TMO is in process of hiring Executive Director.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – No updates.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Canonico noted RTD’s Northwest Rail Peak Service Study was completed in September. The study found rail from Denver to Boulder and Longmont will be expensive, and working with FRPR can lower costs on this corridor and can finish the project quicker. The Service Development Plan will be complete by December. There will be a retreat next month to see what the campaign will look like to get FRPR on the ballot in 2026.

Host Council Member Report – Heid noted the roundabouts are open. Heid stated Town of Eaton voters approved a 1% tax initiative. The town repaved four streets inside town and parts of CR39. The Town of Eaton’s Downtown project will go to bid this month.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff