

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

**December 5, 2024**  
**Hybrid Meeting in Greeley, CO**

## Voting Members Present:

Jon Mallo – Chair	-Loveland
Johnny Olson – Vice Chair	-Greeley
Scott James – Past Chair	-Weld County
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Julie Cline	-Windsor
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Kristin Stephens	-Larimer County

## Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Mark Clark	-Evans
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Jim Kelly	-Transportation Commission
Andrew Paranto	-Johnstown

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

**In Attendance:** Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Michelle Edgerley; Jim Eussen; Omar Herrera; Victoria Leonhardt; Dee McIntosh; Evan Pinkham; Elizabeth Relford; Mike Silverstein, Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; James Usher; Keith Wakefield; and Dena Wojtech.

Chair Mallo called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

## Public Comment

No comments were submitted.

## Move to Approve Minutes

Olson **moved** to *APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 7, 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by James 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 2024 GHG Resolution, adopted by the RAQC Board, which aims to implement Clean Miles Policies for transportation and set new GHG reduction goals. She then discussed Colorado's 2023 GHG Inventory. Transportation is predicted to be the largest source of emissions by 2030. She then discussed updates to the AQCC Procedural Rules to improve public access and engagement, with action expected in January. She then discussed Colorado Transportation Vision 2035, released by the Governor's Office, which outlines strategies to cut transportation-related pollution. Finally, she discussed the Air Quality Enterprise and upcoming funding for air quality programs.

### Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens discussed the RAQC Board retreat held on November 1st. She said the next RAQC Board meeting will be held December 6th.

### Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens discussed the new Community Clean Transportation Assistance Grant Funding Program (CCTAP), which is now accepting applications. The program has about \$17 million available, with a minimum request of \$500,000. Applications will be open until the end of February. Communities that can't meet the 20% matching requirement can request a waiver. Anyone in the nonattainment area, including southern Larimer County and all of Weld County, is eligible. The program is currently aimed at smaller projects, but NAAPME plans to offer a larger grant process next year for bigger projects.

### Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Mallo opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

## REPORTS:

### *Report of the Chair*

Chair Mallo said his report would be included as part of the 2025 Officers Election action item.

### *Executive Director Report*

Sizemore discussed the Greeley MERGE project and the 1601 process, noting that it was reviewed at the Transportation Commission workshop in November and will be presented for action in December. He then discussed the budget amendment and the change to CDOT's Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) formula for FY2025 and 2026, which will reduce member government dues to about 20% of the typical amount for those years. He then discussed Policy Directive (PD) 14 and the positive feedback received from the Transportation Commission. He then recognized Corey Schmitt's last day at the NFRMPO and introduced new mobility planner Aaron Hull. He then gave updates on the controller position and the new Mobility Director position. Finally, he discussed the addition of VanGo service to Estes Park.

Canonico asked if VanGo has looked at adding a route between Front Range Community College and Longmont. Sizemore said VanGo does communicate with educational facilities. He said an educational route can be challenging given staff and student schedules. He noted that a new VanGo route connects to Colorado State University.

#### *Finance Committee*

A written report was provided.

#### *TAC*

A written report was provided.

#### *Mobility*

A written report was provided.

#### PRESENTATION:

*Mobility Program Overview* – Schmitt provided an update on the mobility program. He first discussed RideNoCo, mobility committees, planning, and the subrecipient program. He then discussed efforts to improve individual and regional mobility, and the three-year timeline for implementing the website and call center, trip discovery tool, and trip scheduling. He then highlighted the RideNoCo Coordination Project, which won Transit Project of the Year at the Fall CASTA conference. He then talked about data reporting tools like heatmaps and dashboards. Schmitt noted growth in the call center and website since 2021. He then discussed what is to come in 2025 and beyond including mobility management and TDM, expansion of Transactional Data Specifications (TDS), and identifying and addressing regional transportation gaps.

James thanked Schmitt for his work on the RideNoCo Program.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

##### *FY2024-2025 UPWP FY2025 Budget Amendment*

Olson **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

##### *2025 Officers Election*

Olson's nomination for Chair was **passed** unanimously.

Canonico moved to nominate Stephens to Vice-chair. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck. James **moved** to cease nominations and elevate Stephens to Vice-chair by acclamation.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*FY2024 TIP Delay Review* – Stockburger discussed TIP projects subject to the TIP Delay Procedure for FY2024. Projects awarded by the NFRMPO Planning Council are subject to the annual Delay Procedure.

He went over a list of 3rd delay, 2nd delay, and 1st delay projects. Some projects, subject to the Delay Review, met the milestone deadline and are not delayed.

Olson asked about the delay process and what happens after a project receives a 3<sup>rd</sup> delay. Karasko said the NFRMPO has not had a project that is subject to a 4<sup>th</sup> delay. She said if a project went beyond a 3<sup>rd</sup> delay, NFRMPO Staff would recommend Planning Council take action to pull the funds for the project. Stephens asked if the Planning Council would vote to approve all the delays. Karasko said Planning Council will take action on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Delay projects in January.

Olson noted that issues related to the railroad, right-of-way, and endangered species can cause project delays.

*NFRMPO 10-Year Priority List* – Karasko provided an update on the NFRMPO’s 10-Year Priority List process. The NFRMPO 10-Year Priority List Workshop will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Weld County. She said potential project additions and changes to project tiers were discussed at the November TAC meeting. Proposed project additions and tier changes came from Weld County, Greeley, Fort Collins, and Berthoud. The list of proposed projects will be provided in the January Council packet, with a workshop voting discussion at the January Council meeting.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS:

*Transportation Commission* – No report was provided.

Stephens asked if there has been any update on the Commission seat. Sizemore said there has not been any news about the seat. He said the seat was discussed at the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region (TPR).

Canonico provided an election update including the status of House District (HD) 16 and the potential impact on the house majority.

*CDOT R4 Update* – A written report was provided. Thomas discussed the Colorado Hands-Free Law that takes effect in January 2025. She also noted that CDOT provided project updates in the report.

Canonico asked about the Lane Filtering Law and public education. Thomas said she will investigate and be in touch with the Colorado State Patrol (CSP).

*STAC Report* – A written report was provided.

*I-25 Coalition* – James said Elizabeth Relford was recognized at the I-25 Coalition meeting. He noted that she is just changing positions and not leaving Weld County.

Jenkins recognized the handouts provided by CDOT at the I-25 coalition meeting. He found the handouts very informative and shared them with Timnath Council.

*Front Range Passenger Rail District* – Canonico discussed the Government Affairs and Communication Committee meeting, and conversations held on Senate Bill 24-184. Senate Bill 24-184 is a bill that

would add a three-dollar charge to short term vehicle rentals to fund transit and Front Range Passenger Rail. Colorail presented on Front Range Passenger Rail at Colorado State University (CSU). She noted there will be community outreach associated with the project and there is a desire for coalition building for a 2026 ballot initiative.

Olson asked about the status of the Service Development Plan (SDP). Canonico said the SDP is due at the end of December.

*Host Council Member Report*– Olson discussed the West Greeley Development and the need for improvements at US 34 and WCR 17. He then discussed the improvements at US 34 and 35<sup>th</sup> Ave, with construction anticipated in 2026. He then mentioned the passage of the food tax in Greeley to help pay for the TIFIA loan. He concluded by talking about improvements to the airport and the development of the city center.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mallo entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Cline **moved** the Council enter into an Executive Session pursuant to section C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter regarding the Executive Director’s Performance Evaluation Process for the current year and potential salary and benefits contract and not involving any specific employee who has requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies. The motion was **seconded** by Olson and **passed** unanimously.

Chair Mallo initiated a 3-minute recess at 7:12 p.m.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. The session ended at 8:02 p.m.

## MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The MPO Council meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Mark Northrop, NFRMPO Staff