



**Northern Colorado Mobility Committee –MINUTES**

**December 3, 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
- Jacqueline Streeter, GoNoCo34
- Nichole Seward, Weld County Area Agency on Aging
- Megan Kaliczak, zTrip
- Katlyn Kelly, Transfort
- Jenna Robinson, SAINT
- Peggy Garcia, Connections
- Payton Richter, Weld County Area Agency on Aging
- Irene Davila, Adeo
- Jacquie Penfold, Community Member
- Kristy Swasko, RAFT
- Steve Conaway, RAFT

Virtual:

- Melanie Royalty, Transfort
- Hannah Shelley, Transfort
- Stephanie Watson Lewis, Arc of NE Colorado
- Dana Klein, Town of Estes Park
- Nichole Limoges, Larimer County Office on Aging
- Bridie Smith, COLT
- Celeste Ewart, Envision
- Ari Edgely, Foothills Gateway
- Jill Matlock- Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment

**2. Overview of the Agenda, Approval of August Minutes, Introductions and Speed Networking**

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

Seward motioned to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes; Penfold seconded.



## Presentation

### **US34 TMO Update and Introduction- Streeter**

Streeter introduced herself and asked the group to discuss what is important to them for the US34 corridor. Topics discussed by the group included too much traffic, the need for an east-west cross-county connection especially between health care facilities, too many stop lights for a highway, the need for more transit options along the corridor to reduce the number of cars, more accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities, and the need for clearly marked bus stops.

Streeter defined what Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is and explained its strategies and goals. She discussed what the Transportation Management Organization (TMO) does, how they collect and share information, the activities they participate in, and how to become a member of the TMO. Schmitt mentioned that this is the first TMO in Northern Colorado. Streeter discussed how the North Front Range is rapidly growing and the importance of having a TMO to support the region. Sizemore and Streeter discussed financial partnerships.

## Activity + Discussion:

### **1) Case Studies-Deaton**

The in-person and virtual attendees were divided into groups to discuss regional transportation challenges. The Fort Collins Sunflower 55+ Community case study determined that only a small section of that community is in the Transfort Dial-A-Ride service area and that no other affordable options exist. Kelly pointed out that if the passenger's address was not in the service area, she could use a neighbor's address and be picked up there. Kelly mentioned that one challenge with that is a half-hour window for pick-up and in adverse weather, this may not be an option if someone must wait outside. She then announced that Transfort is developing a text/call arrival system for Dial-A-Ride passengers to receive notifications with arrival times. Kaliczak suggested a common area to be picked up from such as a gazebo within the community and how that would work well with zTrip to have a single designated pick-up location.

In the second case study, both passenger addresses are outside of transportation boundaries and one of the passengers uses a power wheelchair. It was suggested that if that person could get into a service area, such as getting to the South Transit Center, they could get to the Sunflower Community, and the same for the return trip. Kaliczak reiterated that when someone calls Dial-A-Ride and their address is not in their service area, they will let them know and tell them that if they can get into the service area, they will pick them up. Kaliczak said that if someone is a current paratransit client anywhere in the country, they would be eligible for visitor status for 21 days until they can establish themselves as a permanent client.

In the Weld County medical trip case studies, a woman with a seizure disorder is no longer able to drive from Windsor to Fort Collins and Loveland for medical appointments. Some ideas shared were to see if she qualifies for Medicaid or does she have a car. If she has a car, perhaps people



drive her. Smith said depending on her address, she could be in the COLT's paratransit "bubble" or be able to take a UBER into the bubble to have a shorter UBER drive and connect to Dial-A-Ride. The 2<sup>nd</sup> case study is about a passenger needing wheelchair-accessible transportation in Greeley, the only option presented was GET Paratransit service if they are in the service area. The virtual group discussed a client who needs a ride from Loveland to Anschutz Medical Center in Aurora. Klein asked if since the appointment is in the UCHHealth system, could they assist with Transportation. Deaton and Schmitt discussed Carepool, a ride service like zTrip, and how UCHHealth can bill insurance and schedule rides for patients.

## **2) Transportation Sign-up Fair Re-cap and Collaboration Opportunities**

Deaton gave a quick summary of the Transportation Sign-up Fair and asked the participants who attended and if they found it valuable. Kaliczak said that she found it valuable and that she loves talking with people about transportation. She expressed disappointment that we did not have a fair in Greeley. She was able to sign up people but was unsure if those had used the services. Robinson also shared that she enjoys talking with people about transportation, especially in person since most of her conversations are over the phone. She was able to register and schedule a ride for someone who attended. Kelly pointed out that even though the number of people who attended seemed low, the interactions were very valuable and impactful. Conaway said that a lot of the people they talked to were not in RAFT's service area, but they did gain two new riders from the event. Kaliczak added that the size of the event was good, if it was larger, conversations would not have been as meaningful. Deaton asked the group if they would be interested in continuing these types of events, and they all agreed that when these types of events come up to share and work together. Kaliczak expressed her disappointment that the Greeley event was canceled, and Schmitt brought up that the possible reason was that there was no capacity in Greeley and why promote a service that cannot be provided. Kaliczak explained how getting more drivers to accommodate passengers works with Greeley Evans Transit paratransit services. Garcia shared an organization in Boulder County that will make free public service announcements. Kaliczak said that some radio stations, such as Town Square Media, will advertise these types of events for free. Connections sends out a quarterly newsletter and they may be able to share information. Seward said that they have meetings with all the senior center directors quarterly, they have access to the Greeley Tribune and their newsletter. Deaton asked about driver recruitment and how that can be facilitated and Kaliczak said that she could ask the person that does the recruiting to present to the group. Conaway discussed his success recruiting drivers at the farmer's markets and through Volunteers of America.

## **3) RideNoCo Update + Roundtable – Schmitt**

Schmitt gave a brief update about RideNoCo and provided a recap of the coordination project to date. He shared the Call Center and website stats. RideNoCo will look ahead at more enhancements and adding agencies to the Coordination Project via TDS. Schmitt announced that the RideNoCo



Coordination Project received the Transit Project of the Year award at the Winter CASTA conference. He talked about the expansion of DRCOG's My Way to Go Platform into the North Front Range, the expansion of TDS spec to additional agencies, and identifying and addressing regional transportation gaps.

#### **4) Agenda items - All**

Ewert wants presentations from other agencies to continue. Schmitt wants to bring back having members do a quick 5-minute presentation at the beginning of the meeting to discuss any updates in their agency. Conaway suggested more political figures come and discuss what they are working on and discuss with the group resources, financing, and projects they are working on. The main goal is to foster better communication. Schmitt asked if anyone would like to present next year, Kelly said she wasn't sure if she would be the one who could do a presentation, but Transfort is going through an Optimization Study and could share updates on that project. Streeter said she would present in the future and Schmitt invited her to attend the NCMC quarterly meetings.

#### **Meeting Wrap-up and Roundtable**

Schmitt announced that RideNoCo has a new Mobility Planner, Aaron Hull starting this week. NOCO34 TMO will be voting for their first board at AIMS College this Thursday at 4:30

Kaliczak motioned to adjourn, and Kelley seconded.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Weld County Mobility Committee (WCMC) March 25, 2025
- b. Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) January 28, 2025
- c. Northern Colorado Mobility Committee (NCMC) February 25, 2025