

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

March 6, 2025 Hybrid Meeting in Larimer County, CO

Voting Members Present:

Johnny Olson- Chair	-Greeley
Kristen Stephens – Vice Chair	-Larimer County
Jon Mallo – Past Chair	-Loveland
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Mark Clark	-Evans
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Julie Cline	-Windsor
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Cecil Gutierrez	-Transportation Commission
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Scott James	-Weld County
Andrew Paranto	-Johnstown

MPO Staff: **Paul Sizemore**, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Jerome Rouser**, Transportation Planner II; **Mykayla Marek**, Transportation Planner I; **Aaron Hull**, Mobility Planner.

In Attendance: Dan Betts; Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Jim Eussen; Gina Fox; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Will Jones; Katrina Klobberdanz; Kim Koivuniemi; Pamela Massaro; Dee McIntosh; Beks Michaelson; Victoria Leonhardt; Mark Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Keith Wakefield.

Chair Olson called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Heid **moved to APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RESOLUTION 2025-09**. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Olson 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 highlighted several items in the report provided in the packet and focused on two main topics, the CMAQ funding and the potential for it to go away; however, at the February RAQC meeting Darius Pakbaz, CDOT, assured members that the funding was secure. She also discussed the upcoming SIP the RAQC is developing and the slate of emissions reduction strategies options they have developed for consideration for inclusion in the SIP. She then walked through the RAQC's recent Concept Paper on Mobile Source Emissions Budgets, which is scheduled for discussion at the RAQC Board in May.

Commissioner Stephens requested feedback for her to take to the RAQC Board meetings as the NFRMPO RAQC Member and whether MPO staff thinks this is achievable or not.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens discussed the on-going RAQC Board review of the draft SIP chapters and the upcoming release of SIP modeling results for discussion at the March Control Strategy Committee meeting.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens noted NAAPME met on February 27 and approved the enterprise's budget, which included an increase to the delivery fee being tied to inflation. She mentioned 15 funding requests for the Clean Transportation Call currently open, with \$17M available.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Olson opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair Olson discussed the FY2026 CDOT Budget, which was presented at the March STAC meeting. He also mentioned the changes in FHWA Colorado Division staffing.

Executive Director Report

Sizemore discussed the recent Intermountain West MPO letter submitted to the new EPA Administrator, Lee Zeldin, regarding the issue with background ozone in the Western US. He also provided additional information on the current state of federal funding specifically as it relates to MPOs. Sizemore also discussed the new MPO Controller, who will begin on March 24.

Legislative Updates Report

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

ACTION ITEM:

Front Range Passenger Rail District Board NFRMPO Representation – Olson opened the discussion on the representation for the NFRMPO as one of two Directors for the MPO. Karspeck discussed his tenure on the Board of Directors and recommended Jon Mallo to take his place. Mallo accepted the nomination and thanked Karspeck for his service on the Board.

Karspeck **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-10 APPROVING NFRMPO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS removing Councilmember Karspeck representing the Town of Berthoud and replacing with Councilmember Jon Mallo with the City of Loveland*. The motion was **seconded** by Gutierrez and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

NFRMPO 10-Year Priority List – Karasko discussed the outcome of the February TAC Discussion of the 10-Year Priority List compiled following the results of the January 30th Joint TAC-Council Workshop. Following discussion of the projects in the list and the new CDOT Region 4 timeline, the Planning Council requested TAC review the Tier 1 projects and provided a prioritized list for Council review at their next meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission – Commissioner Gutierrez discussed the outcomes of the February Transportation Commission meeting as well as the changes to the budgets across all departments within the State. He then discussed items from CTIO meeting and recent reports submitted on March 1st, including CTIO Multimodal Strategic Capital Plan and the Federal Funding Analysis Report. Both reports are available to review online.

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

I-25 Coalition – Sizemore noted there were updates on I-25 projects and a presentation from the Town of Timnath on the I-25/Harmony Road interchange. The April meeting will be an in-person meeting to discuss the future of the Coalition. Gutierrez mentioned the presentation from Region 1 on Segment 3b and a portion of Segment 2 and the mobility hubs along those sections.

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Canonico discussed the February Front Range Passenger Rail District meeting and the Board's review of the Service Development Plan and discussed the lowest cost starter service from Denver to Fort Collins, adding three more stations to the route, with the Town of Berthoud being the only community on the corridor without a stop/station. This starter service would

include 3-roundtrips a day, with 200 seats on each train trains. This would also involve implementing Positive Train Control (PTC) along the corridor and a total cost of \$885M.

Host Council Member Report – Stephens discussed transportation projects in the County, including the RAISE/BUILD funding for the Country Club Road corridor, currently on hold due to the agreement not being completed prior to January. The County received MMOF funding from the NFRMPO for the Taft Hil project, in conjunction with the City of Fort Collins. ROW plans for Poudre Trail project have been approved by CDOT and negotiations with property owners will begin soon. The County is working on a punch list for the US34 and Glade Road closeout. Additionally, US287 and 57th Street project should be out for bid soon and construction should start at the end of May.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions –

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Becky Karasko, NFRMPO Staff