

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

April 3, 2025

Hybrid Meeting in Evans, 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
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Scott James	-Weld County
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Andrew Paranto	-Johnstown

MPO Staff: **Paul Sizemore**, Executive Director; **Becky Karasko**, Transportation Planning Director; **Tanya Trujillo-Martinez**, Mobility Director; **Tonja Burshek**, Controller; **Jerome Rouser**, Transportation Planner II; **Jonathan Stockburger**, Transportation Planner I; **MyKayla Marek**, Transportation Planner I; **Aaron Hull**, Mobility Planner

In Attendance: Dan Betts; Brad Buckman; Ray Cundiff; Richard Christy; AnnaRose Cunningham; Michelle Edgerley; Jim Eussen; Omar Herrera; Dana Hornkohl; Kim Koivuniemi; Victoria Leonhardt; Dee McIntosh; Lynette Peppler; Scott Pearson; Evan Pinkham; Cody Sims; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy; Keith Wakefield; Dena Wojtach; Peter Wysocki

Chair Olson called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Public Comment

No comments were submitted.

CONSENT AGENDA

James **moved to** *APPROVE THE MARCH 6, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Jenkins 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 discussed control strategies being considered for the Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP). She explained a potential strategy that was recently introduced that would limit the production and sale of large spark-ignition forklift emissions. Wojtach described mobile source emission targets and the timing of emission reductions.

James stated he does not understand the nexus between a transportation planning region and tractor equipment. Wojtach responded there are questions that need to be addressed before this strategy moves forward and the NFRMPO and DRCOG have set up meetings with the RAQC to discuss the strategy further. James stated NFRMPO Staff do not have the bandwidth or ability to measure emissions from off-road equipment. Sizemore responded that this has been communicated to RAQC. Olson stated that any questions or concerns should be directed to Sizemore or Commissioner Stephens.

Wojtach provided information on ozone reduction efforts and meetings. She explained that despite these efforts, we are not seeing corresponding reductions in ozone levels. Wojtach mentioned that the APCD has recently announced their own ozone stakeholder meetings and control strategies.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens explained the nonattainment area is currently required to create a SIP to lower the ozone levels. Stephens discussed the difficulties in identifying new strategies and backup strategies to reduce ozone levels. Stephens explained some of the differences between the RAQC and the APCD. Stephens stated that the RAQC will need to come up with new strategies to reduce the ozone levels.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens stated the Community Clean Transportation Systems Grant Funding Program is currently accepting applications, which are due April 30th. Stephens mentioned that the NAAPME Board is contemplating the potential increase of funding for the Large Grant Program. Stephens explained that the Board is considering designating this grant money towards bus rapid transit projects.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Olson opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair Olson provided information on the state's budget deficit currently being discussed by the Joint Budget Committee. Chair Olson stated he has heard the Bustang program has a \$30 million shortfall every year.

Executive Director Report

Sizemore discussed the evolving information from the Joint Budget Committee on the state's budget. Sizemore stated that there is a possibility that FASTER Safety, Revitalizing Main Streets, or MMOF funding could be reduced but this has not been finalized. He explained the current proposal evolving over the past few days could cut \$70 million from MMOF, but we are a few weeks out from knowing if that is the finalized budget cut plan. Sizemore explained that this is relevant because an action item later in the agenda is for a TIP Amendment which includes projects from the latest round of awarded MMOF funding. He stated that after discussing with CDOT, there is not a downside to continuing with this TIP Amendment as-is and it could be amended again if needed.

James asked if this could affect in-progress projects. Sizemore responded that CDOT will make every effort to have no impact on projects that are already far in the process. Olson brought up the idea that the NFRMPO could potentially not have a new call for projects and instead award money to the projects already selected this last round if they do not receive their full funding.

Sizemore introduced the NFRMPO's new Controller, Tonja Burshek, and the new Mobility Director, Tanya Trujillo-Martinez. Sizemore mentioned that the NFRMPO is recruiting for a Transportation Modeler position.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

Legislative Updates Report

Canonico mentioned that proposed bill HB25-1303 is working through the State Capitol to create a crash prevention enterprise. She explained the proposed bill would levy a \$3.50 surcharge on each insurance policy in Colorado. Canonico stated 80% of the surcharge would go to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and the remaining 20% would go to wildlife crossing infrastructure. Canonico mentioned the bill is anticipated to raise around \$92 million in the first five years.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

ACTION ITEM:

March 2025 TIP Amendment

Stockburger presented the March 2025 TIP Amendment, which includes four additional projects and three revisions. Additional projects include Greeley's 10th Street Transit Vision project, the Greeley Active Modes Plan project, Loveland's US34 Transit Sidewalk Connectivity project, and the Weld County On-Demand Transit Program project. Projects being revised include Greeley's US34 and 35th

Ave Interchange project, Greeley's US34 and 47th Ave Interchange project, and the Fort Collins Foothills Transit Station & Roundabout project. Stockburger stated all additional projects and one project revision are funded by the most recent MPOF Call for Projects and CDOT has advised the NFRMPO to proceed as normal with these projects.

James **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-11 APPROVING THE MARCH 2025 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Jenkins and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2025 NFRMPO Title VI Plan Update

Karasko discussed the 2025 Title VI Plan update, which happens every three years. She stated that the draft version of the plan is included as a link in the memo. Karasko explained that the updated plan includes the 2022 Public Involvement Plan, the updated Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, updated demographics, strategies and procedures for potential discrimination. Karasko stated the Title VI Plan only goes to Planning Council and not TAC. Karasko asked for any comments on the plan to be sent to her before the May Planning Council meeting.

FY2026-2027 UPWP Tasks

Karasko discussed the tasks of the updated FY2026-2027 UPWP. Karasko explained that four of the tasks are for Planning program area, one task is for the Mobility program, and one task is for Administrative items. Karasko stated that mid-year and year-end reports are created to report on progress of these UPWP Tasks. Karasko explained that there are no new tasks included in the UPWP and described the tasks that have been removed due to completion.

Stephens asked if there are any tasks NFRMPO Staff do not have to complete due to the current administration's direction. Karasko explained the NFRMPO will not be completing an update to the EJ Plan and there are small wording changes that have been made to the TIP Amendment process.

FY2026-2027 UPWP FY2026 Budget

Sizemore discussed the FY2026 budget for the FY2026-2027 UPWP. Sizemore stated the fiscal year for the NFRMPO matches the calendar year. Sizemore explained the VanGo™ portion of the budget, which is separate from the rest of the MPO's budget because VanGo™ operates as an enterprise. He explained VanGo™ revenue sources, the proposed budget and provided the reasons behind an increase in the budget.

James asked what a comfortable amount of money is to keep in VanGo™ reserves. Sizemore responded at least six months of operational costs is what is recommended, and the VanGo™ program currently has enough in its reserves to operate for years with no additional FTA funding.

Stephens asked what type of vehicles get purchased. Sizemore responded Toyotas. Stephens asked if the potential increase in vehicle costs due to tariffs has been accounted for. Sizemore responded a budget amendment could be completed if vehicle costs increase.

Sizemore then explained the MPO budget, which includes the Planning program, Mobility program and the Administration program. He explained MPO revenue sources, the proposed budget and provided the reasons behind an increase in the budget. Sizemore summarized the Finance Committee's discussion on the budget and discussed the next steps in the budget process.

Jenkins asked if there would be an advantage to move the MPO fiscal year to align with either the state or federal fiscal year. Sizemore responded there is not an answer to this, but the new NFRMPO Controller will be modernizing the budget process this year.

James brought up specific budget line items, including how long the lease term is for rent and the amount allocated for consultants. Sizemore responded he is unsure how long the lease term is for rent and most of the money dedicated to consultants in the budget is due to a planned update to the Regional Travel Demand Model.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission

Commissioner Gutierrez discussed the process of the Joint Budget Committee. Gutierrez highlighted the state legislature passed two bills last year that could have funding for transit related projects in the future. Gutierrez explained SB24-184 will likely be used for statewide rail projects in the first few years but could be used for other projects in the future. Gutierrez explained SB24-230 includes a rail funding program cash fund, a local transit grant program cash fund, and a local transit operations cash fund. Gutierrez stated this grant process is still not in place.

STAC Report

A written report was provided.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)

A written report was provided.

I-25 Coalition

James mentioned there was an I-25 Coalition meeting the night before. He explained the I-25 Coalition is focused on SH14, SH1, Segment 4, Segment 3B, and Segment 3. James mentioned the I-25 Coalition will meet on a quarterly schedule and announced the reemergence of the I-25 Coalition funding committee.

US34 Coalition

Cline discussed key points of the most recent US34 Coalition meeting. Cline explained the report from US34 TAC, projects along US34, and the effort to create a centralized database for sharing GIS resources. Cline mentioned the US34 Coalition will bring a letter to the next NFRMPO Planning Council

meeting about prioritizing the US34 corridor. Cline provided updates on the GoNoCo34 TMO. Cline stated the US34 Coalition will meet again in July and continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

Canonico discussed last week's Front Range Passenger Rail District meeting in which the newest director, Jon Mallo, was introduced. Canonico mentioned strategies for the 2026 ballot were discussed with an emphasis on economic benefits. Canonico stated the Front Range Passenger Rail District sent a letter to state legislators to highlight their achievements so far. Canonico mentioned that funding from the FRA is starting to loosen up and make its way to the states again.

Mallo announced he was appointed to the Front Range Passenger Rail District finance committee. Mallo mentioned the finance committee is discussing the need to be prepared for upcoming elections, so they are moving more money towards marketing and outreach.

Host Council Member Report

Clark discussed roadway projects going on in Evans which include roadway and sight improvements on the corner of US85 and 31st Street, summer construction on 42nd Street at 23rd Avenue all the way down to 35th Avenue, widening Freedom Parkway to four lanes, improvements on 17th Avenue, and adding a light on 23rd Avenue and 34th Street. Clark mentioned the new development projects going on in Evans.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Mykayla Marek, NFRMPO Staff