

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

**May 1, 2025**  
**Hybrid Meeting in Milliken, 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
Cecil Gutierrez	-Transportation Commission
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Scott James	-Weld County
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath

### 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:** Brad Buckman; Harold Collins; AnnaRose Cunningham; Michelle Edgerley; Jim Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Will Jones; Victoria Leonhardt; Suzette Mallette; Pepper McClenahan; Dee McIntosh; James Newberry; Heather Paddock; Evan Pinkham; Lynette Peppler; Melanie Potyondy; Mark Peterson; Caree Rinebarger; Eric Tracy; Mindy Wakeman; Dena Wojtach.

Chair Olson called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### CONSENT AGENDA

James **moved** to *APPROVE THE MINUTES*. The motion was **seconded** by Mallo 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)

#### NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach noted the state will be requesting a voluntary reclassification to Severe under the 2015 standard due to concerns that the state will not be able to show attainment due to modeled ozone levels not decreasing as anticipated. Wojtach stated the voluntary reclassification will give the state more time to demonstrate attainment and will avoid more stringent requirements and possible rescinding of federal highway funding. Council discussed other strategies to minimize impacts to the North Front Range.

*Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)* – Stephens noted NAAPME did not meet in April. Stephens stated the Community Clean Transportation Systems Grant Funding Program applications are closed, and NAAPME will be reviewing applications at the May meeting. The Call for Projects for the larger grant program is anticipated to begin in the fall.

### Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Olson opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

## REPORTS:

#### *Report of the Chair*

Chair Olson stated Executive Director Paul Sizemore will be leaving the NFRMPO due to personal family reasons. The Executive Director provided a four-week notice, and his last day will be May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Becky Karasko will serve as the Acting Executive Director until the position is filled. The NFRMPO has an existing contract with Suzette Mallette to provide support for MPO operations as well as assist with Executive Director recruitment. The Executive Committee has asked Sizemore to prepare a transition outline that lists out all the key things that need to be handed off over the next four weeks.

#### *Executive Director Report*

Sizemore noted the US34 Coalition wrote a letter to Planning Council to highlight key aspects of the US34 corridor and the corridors' importance to the region and is requesting the US34 Coalition to be prioritized in the NFRMPOs 10-Year Priority List. Sizemore stated VanGo Operations and Fleet Manager Shane Armstrong was given an award from CSU for sustainability. Sizemore noted MMOF reductions will likely be for FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 funds, and the NFRMPO will need to develop a strategy to address these reductions for impacted projects.

#### *Finance Committee: FY2024-2025 UPWP Budget Modification Memo*

A written report was provided.

#### *Legislative Report*

A written report was provided.

### *TAC*

Nicole Hahn, TAC Chair, Loveland, and Evan Pinkham, TAC Vice Chair, Weld County, noted TAC members held a work session on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss and define the scoring criteria for the NFRMPO 10-Year Prioritization List. TAC recommends US34 and I-25 projects be the highest priority; however, TAC members will be scoring all the projects on the Tier 1 list. TAC anticipates providing Planning Council with a scored and prioritized list at the June Planning Council meeting.

### *Q1 2025 TIP Modifications*

A written report was provided.

### *Mobility*

A written report was provided.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

#### *April 2025 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment –*

Stockburger noted the April 2025 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment included the addition of the Fort Collins and Larimer County Taft Hill Road Corridor project with \$653,440 in MMOF, the Greeley Neighborhood Safety Program with \$500,000 Federal EAR funding and \$103,938 local EAR funding, and the Greeley GET US34 Bus Expansion 80/20 with \$3,508,404 Federal FTA 5339 funding and \$877,101 local funding.

Canonico **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-12 APPROVING THE OFF-CYCLE APRIL 2025 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by James and **passed** unanimously.

*2025 NFRMPO Title VI Plan Update*– Karasko noted the Title VI Plan is updated every three years. Updates to the 2025 Title VI Plan include incorporating the 2022 Public Involvement Plan (PIP), updating the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, updating demographic information and strategies for ensuring non-discrimination in primary program areas, and includes procedures for identifying potential discrimination.

Stephens asked if the NFRMPO seeks out groups for public comment. Karasko noted NFRMPO staff posts online and on social media. Stephens recommended discussing the Plan with the NFRMPO region's three mobility committees.

James moved **to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-13 ADOPTING THE 2025 TITLE VI PLAN*. The motion was **seconded** by Stephens and **passed** unanimously.

*FY2026-2027 UPWP and FY2026 Budget* – Sizemore addressed concerns raised during the April Planning Council meeting discussion. Sizemore confirmed the vast majority of the NFRMPO's consulting budget is going towards the Regional Travel Demand Model update and the Land Use Allocation Model. Sizemore noted the NFRMPO signed the current lease on the NFRMPO office in 2022 and will begin evaluating the lease and engaging with the landlord well in advance of the end of the current lease in 2027. Karasko noted the TAC recommended Planning Council approve the FY2026-2027 UPWP tasks.

James **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-14 APPROVING THE FY2026-2027 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TASKS AND FY2026 BUDGET*. The motion was **seconded** by Jenkins and **passed** unanimously.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*CDOT Region 4 10-Year Plan Discussion* – Heather Paddock, CDOT Region 4, gave an overview of the history of the 10-Year Plan. Paddock noted 100 percent of the projects in the first four years of the plan are complete or under construction, and over half of the current 10-Year Plan is now complete or in progress. Paddock described major completed or in-progress Region 4 projects, including the I-25 North Express Lanes and Mobility Hubs. Paddock noted Bustang saw a significant increase in ridership on the North line after the Mobility Hubs opened, and there has been a 41 percent reduction in crash rates on I-25 between Fort Collins and Berthoud since the completion of the North I-25 Express Lanes project. Paddock noted CDOT is anticipating \$225M for the FY2027-2036 10-Year Plan which is about a 50 percent reduction from the current 10-Year Plan. Paddock noted Region 4 will receive 23.87 percent of the \$225M over the 10-year period. Paddock stated Region 4's draft 10-Year Project Lists are due to CDOT Headquarters on July 11, 2025.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS:

*Transportation Commission* – Gutierrez noted the April Transportation Commission meeting was brief. The Commission discussed the Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise and elected to put bonds on hold due to uncertainty in the bond market. CDOT held a town hall meeting for SB24-230.

*STAC Report* – A written report was provided. Olson noted Mayor Pro Tem Heid has replaced Olson as the NFRMPO representative on the STAC.

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

*I-25 Coalition* – James the I-25 Coalition did not meet this month and will be moving to quarterly meetings. The I-25 Coalition will be creating a funding subcommittee.

*Front Range Passenger Rail District* – Canonico noted the alternatives analysis has been submitted to the Federal Rail Administration. Canonico stated there will be an online open house beginning on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Front Range Passenger Rail District will be hosting a stakeholder meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jenkins asked if the FRPR District Board has discussed Representative Boebert's comments recommending allocated federal funding to be pulled. Canonico noted there has been no response yet.

*Host Council Member Report* – Dean noted the Via Mobility program has been valuable to Milliken residents. The WCR23.75 rehab project is complete and will improve stormwater quality and will allow for safer pedestrian access. The Center Drive Rehab Project is underway and will significantly reduce flooding on Center Drive and will provide additional pedestrian connectivity to Downtown and the Senior Center.

#### MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – 2025 Legislative Session Overview.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff