

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

June 5, 2025 Hybrid Meeting in Severance, CO

Voting Members Present:

Johnny Olson - Chair	-Greeley
Kristen Stephens – Vice Chair	-Larimer County
Jon Mallo – Past Chair	-Loveland
Tricia Canonico	-Fort Collins
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Andrew Paranto	-Johnstown
Julie Cline	-Windsor
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Liz Heid	-Eaton
Scott James	-Weld County
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Cecil Gutierrez	-Transportation Commission
Mark Clark	-Evans
Dan Dean	-Milliken

MPO Staff: **Becky Karasko**, Acting Executive 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; Jim Eussen; Hanna Feldman; Gina Fox; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Katrina Klobberdanz; Kim Koivuniemi; Suzette Mallette; Dee McIntosh; Heather Paddock; Scott Pearson; Lynette Peppler; Evan Pinkham; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy

Chair Olson called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Heid moved to *APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Cline 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)

Ferko noted an upcoming public meeting for the Guzman Energy Clean Energy Plan. APCD released the draft report for public review and feedback on the Clean Energy Plan for Guzman Energy. APCD will be holding an outreach meeting on June 11, 2025. Ferko also provided updates from the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC), which met in May and heard updates from the Energy and Carbon Management Commission and held a briefing on Regulation 27, which focuses on maintenance and manufacturing greenhouse gas requirements. In particular, this meeting focused on the Industrial Decarbonization Fund, which was directed by the commission to be stood up. This offers alternative compliance pathways for different maintenance and manufacturing operations. The AQCC also held a final discussion on their updated procedural rules guidebook. This guidebook directs how the AQCC undertakes business as well as provides details for the public on how to participate in commission activities. There have also been two requests for hearings: a modification to the building benchmarking and performance standards regulations (Regulation 28) and the proposal of health-based standards for the five priority air toxics to Regulation 30. Next month the commission will be taking their annual retreat in Salida to discuss business of the commission. Ferko mentioned two public meetings that were held to discuss a rulemaking meeting will be requested in July for the Serious State Implementation Plan (SIP).

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Karasko noted two key transportation and air quality bills. She mentioned the RAQC's control strategies concept paper on setting goals for on-road vehicles and off-road equipment. Karasko also noted Congress has withdrawn the California authority to regulate on-road vehicles and engines. Lastly, she noted there is an EPA action on Colorado elements to the previous SIP due to the voluntary reclassification.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens noted the meeting that will be held to discuss on-road and off-road emissions with the RAQC. She noted the APCD has asked for the voluntary reclassification of severe non-attainment in relation to the 2015 70 parts per billion (ppb) measure. Stephens noted the RAQC is continuing to work on a blueprint for control strategies as part of the voluntary reclassification to severe non-attainment. Stephens and Karasko noted the RAQC will come to the North Front Range region on August 18th for an all-day forum. Stephens noted one of the ideas being passed around for on-road emissions, which includes incentives for having companies change their fleet.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME) – Stephens noted NAAPME discussed funding applications at their last meeting. Stephens noted the high number of applications for NAAPME funding from the North Front Range. Final recommendations will be approved at the June meeting. Stephens noted there were more requests for funding than there was funding available.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Olson opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Chair Olson noted his attendance at the Region 4 TPR Chair meeting.

Executive Director Report

Karasko noted a response from the EPA regarding a letter from the Intermountain West Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The response stated the EPA is interested in a partnership with the Intermountain West Metropolitan Planning Organizations to learn more about background ozone issues. Karasko noted MPO staff and TAC members will be going through an early discussion about MMOF reconciliation at the June TAC meeting. She noted progress with the NFRMPO's Safety Dashboard, including a workshop held on May 23rd and mentioned Marek is working with the NFRMPO member communities to ensure the Dashboard includes the most recent crash data to better track progress towards the regional safety targets. She highlighted several bills from the legislative report, including SB 25-030, HB 10-07, and HB 25-1198. Regarding SB 25-030, she noted this bill requires CDOT and MPOs to create transit and active transportation inventories to help identify gaps in transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure. Regarding HB10-07, she noted that Transfort, COLT, and GET will have to establish a plan to communicate information and provide paratransit services for emergencies. Regarding HB 25-1198, she noted the NFRMPO is awaiting further guidance. Karasko noted new MPO staff, including a new intern who started on May 27th who will be helping the NFRMPO with accessibility and mapping through the summer. Lastly, Karasko noted the new modeler will start mid-June.

Executive Director Recruitment Process

Suzette Mallette, Compass Consulting, provided an update to the NFRMPO Executive Director recruitment process. Mallette noted that the Executive Director job posting time has been reduced from 45 days to 30 days, ending on June 16th. Mallette noted there are currently three good candidates, two in-state and one out-of-state. Mallette noted there is a fear the candidates may move on if the recruitment process takes too long. Mallette walked through the Executive Director hiring process and schedule. After June 16th, the following step will be phone interviews, which will be scheduled for the same week. Mallette noted that members of the council are welcome to participate in the interviews. When phone interviews are complete in-person interviews will then be scheduled.

Olson asked who was reviewing the applications. Mallette responded that she and Past Chair Mallo are, with Past Chair Mallo being the head of the HR Committee. Olson asked how many candidates there were last time. Mallette responded there were three in-person interviews. Olson asked if the listing was posted to LinkedIn. Mallette responded that it was, and it will be boosted again with the reduced application period. Canonico asked if the Council could be sent the LinkedIn post directly, Karasko responded she would send it out to the Council following the meeting.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

Legislative Report

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CDOT Region 4 10-Year Plan Discussion – Heather Paddock, CDOT Region 4, provided an update to the CDOT 10-Year Plan. Paddock noted the plan's vision, desired outcomes, and goals, which include fixing the roads, making transportation safer, providing more transportation options, providing quality over quantity, and being accountable and transparent. Paddock discussed strategic funding sources for the 10-Year-Plan, which includes an estimated delivery cost of \$225M. Paddock noted that the 10-Year-Plan does not cover the entirety of CDOT's project portfolio. She discussed the distribution targets, which are 23.87 percent for the NFRMPO within Region 4. She also discussed the distribution budget, which is \$900M for the entire state and \$209M for Region 4. The RPP percentage for the North Front Range is 23.58 percent, which results in planning totals of \$49,282,200 for FY27 – FY30 and \$74,041,200 for FY31 – FY36. Paddock discussed the process of adding new projects to the 10-Year Plan. She then discussed the next steps and where the plan is currently at in the development process and discussed the draft list for the NFRMPO region. She specifically noted the Region's Draft 10-year-Plan Project Lists are due to CDOT Headquarters on July 11, 2025. Paddock then walked through each project on the list, noted which projects were on the existing 10-Year-Plan, which projects are recommended, and which projects are recommended to not be carried forward.

Olson and Karspeck noted appreciation for CDOT's work on the plan.

NFRMPO 10-Year Priority List of Projects – Nicole Hahn, City of Loveland and TAC Chair, and Evan Pinkham, Weld County and TAC Vice Chair, walked through the TAC ranked recommendations for the NFRMPO 10-Year Priority Project List. Hahn noted the TAC focused on trying to complete the list with a data-driven approach. Hahn noted the repeated theme from TAC meeting that I-25 and US-34 are the region's main priorities; however, other projects ranked higher than those corridors due to the approach taken. Hahn noted the main factors the TAC reviewed, including safety, mobility, economic vitality, asset management, strategic importance, and regional priority. Hahn noted Regional Priority derived from a work session and those ranking came from the number of votes certain projects received. Pinkham noted some of the scoring criteria were difficult to quantify. Hahn noted that the NFRMPO's 10-Year Priority List was made to coincide with CDOT's 10-Year Priority List. She also noted that TAC wants to create a GIS tool that can track the project list and coinciding information.

James asked if the data was standardized. Hahn responded that all safety data was from CDOT. James noted concerns with some of the categories being subjective. Hahn agreed that some of the scoring could have been completed differently with more time. James asked why only 21 projects were brought forward. Karasko responded that this list only includes those projects which received votes at the January 2025 workshop. James noted he believes the list should be corridor specific. James questioned how SH392 outsourced some of the I-25 and US-34 projects. Hahn responded that SH392 gained a lot of points when it came to safety data. James inquired about a US-85 and US-34 project, which Karasko responded had previously been on the Upper Front Range's 10-Year Priority List. James stressed the need to take more time to think about the regional vision of the North Front Range.

Olson noted he was shocked to see SH-392 jump so high on the list. He noted how the NFRMPO previously prioritized corridors instead of projects. He noted concerns with the lack of projects that aligned with CDOT's list. Olson stressed the need for Council to think regionally and strategically, while also noting that every project on the list is important and should be completed eventually. The discussion also centered around impacts on small towns and potentially placing some of the projects on the list into different funding pools.

After discussion, it was determined that a second NFRMPO Priority List Workshop will be scheduled in June to continue work on the list.

Regional Active Transportation Corridors (RATC) Updates for 2025 Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – Rouser discussed two major updates to the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Corridors (RATCs). Rouser started by discussing the importance of RATCs as a network of low-stress active transportation facilities meant to be the “spine” of bicycle travel in the region. The full network is slated to be fully built out by 2045. He showcased the proposed RATC network with the updates by itself and then showed the updated network overlaid with job and household locations in the region. The first corridor Rouser discussed was the extension of RATC #8 to the Northern MPO boundary. This corridor would then extend to the Town of Wellington. This corridor alignment was outlined in the City of Fort Collins' draft Strategic Trails Master Plan. The other corridor Rouser discussed was the inclusion of a new corridor along WCR 17. This corridor would start at the Little Thompson River Trail and end at SH14 in Severance. Rouser noted the five RATCs that are impacted with this proposed corridor along with the local plans this corridor would align with. Council concurred with all the proposed changes.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

STAC Report – A written report was provided.

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

Front Range Passenger Rail District – Mallo noted the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board met on May 8th to discuss the project plan, the joint surface plan, and the district operating funds, which are targeted to deplete in 2026. Additional funding is likely needed to attract GM candidates, as that role is currently open and must be filled by September 30th. Karasko noted Front Range Passenger Rail District staff will be providing an update at the July Planning Council meeting.

Host Council Member Report – Fries noted two MPO projects in Severance. The first is the WCR 19 and East Harmony Road traffic signal, which Fries noted the engineering is complete and a construction team has been hired. The project is currently slated to be complete by December. The second project is the paving of the Great Western Trail. The project also includes trail crossing improvements.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None provided.

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

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jonathan Stockburger, NFRMPO Staff