

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

November 6, 2025

Hybrid Meeting in Loveland, CO

Voting Members Present:

Johnny Olson – Chair
Kristin Stephens – Vice Chair
Jon Mallo – Past Chair
Tricia Canonico
Mark Clark
Julie Cline
Paula Cochran
Dan Dean
Jessica Ferko
Cecil Gutierrez

Liz Heid
Bill Jenkins
Will Karspeck
Brittany Vandermark

-Greeley
-Larimer County
-Loveland
-Fort Collins
-Evans
-Windsor
-LaSalle
-Milliken
-APCD
-Transportation
Commission
-Eaton
-Timnath
-Berthoud
-Severance,
Alternate

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta
Scott James
Andrew Paranto

-Garden City
-Weld County
-Johnstown

MPO Staff: Elizabeth Relford, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Tanya Trujillo-Martinez, Mobility Director; Mykayla Graalum, Transportation Planner I; Jonathan Stockburger, Transportation Planner I; Tahjiba Tarannum, Transportation Modeler; Aaron Hull, Mobility Planner.

In Attendance: Brad Buckman; AnnaRose Cunningham; Piper Darlington; James Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Katrina Klobberdanz; Victoria Leonhardt; Helen Migchelbrink; Scott Pearson; Evan Pinkham; Erika Rasmussen; Josie Thomas; Keith Wakefield; Colleen Whitlow; Dena Wojtach

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

Public Comment

No comments were submitted.

Announcements

Gutierrez introduced Piper Darlington, the Executive Director of CTIO. Councilmember Jenkins announced Timnath's tax initiative to support a large recreation center in the city looks like it is going to pass. He stated they hope to have the design complete next year and to finish the project by 2028.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-chair Stephens **moved to APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2, 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)

Ferko provided updates on upcoming APCD public participation opportunities, such as emission control regulations for priority toxic air contaminants, potential changes to Air Quality Control Commission Regulation 27, and the first annual report for midstream fuel combustion equipment. Ferko stated the October APCD Commission meeting was a joint meeting with the Board of Health, and they discussed the Annual AQCC Report to the Public, the 2025 ozone season, data on air quality and public health, and a hearing regarding asbestos related noncompliance issues. Ferko stated that the items of note for the upcoming November Commission meeting include a briefing on lawn and garden equipment, open burning and fire permitting, and a hearing on the State Implementation Plan.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach provided summaries of the AQCC's 2024-2025 Annual Report to the Public and the summer ozone season. Wojtach stated that Arizona's 179B Analysis was created in partnership with the EPA and the analysis goes beyond looking at international contributions. Wojtach stated in addition to international contributions that wildfires, biogenics, meteorology, climate, and topology all contribute to raising air quality levels in the Phoenix area above the 70 ppb standard.

Stephens asked if Arizona's 179B Analysis is a statewide analysis or only for the nonattainment area around Phoenix. Wojtach clarified that the analysis is for the Phoenix area. Stephens asked if they were doing an analysis or if they were applying for an exemption. Wojtach responded if the 179B Analysis is ultimately approved by the EPA, it will keep them in a holding pattern by not downgrading them to a worse classification. Olson asked if the EPA agrees with this analysis, would the Phoenix area get to take off 15 ppb any time they are monitoring air quality. Ferko responded that this is tricky to answer, but this is a modeling exercise that will likely need to be repeated in the future. Stephens asked if the other factors such as wildfires, weather, and topography are considered as contributing to worse air quality. Wojtach stated that we will get more answers once the EPA proposes to approve the analysis, but the EPA will consider this analysis as the gold standard and Utah will be the next to do this kind of analysis. Ferko added that these additional analyses are being incorporated as the weight of evidence for why air quality levels in the Phoenix area are rising above the 70 ppb standard.

Olson asked if we will be providing comments on the ozone SIP rulemaking due November 19. Relford responded we did not submit written comments that were previously due on November 4 because the Planning Council did not see any issues with it and supported the rulemaking. Olson stated he would like

the organization to provide support for the rulemaking. Relford understood Council direction and will sign up to speak during public comment of the rulemaking.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens explained the RAQC Board has been focused on the Blueprint, which will be a living document and will be voted on November 7. Stephens asked the Planning Council if there is anything she needs to bring up as a concern, and Planning Council responded they are concerned about control strategies that increase costs for consumers with little to no improvement on ozone.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens announced NAAPME has approved their budget. Stephens stated a large grant program could potentially be out next year for BRT projects and for nonattainment areas.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Olson opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Olson announced that Canonico and Mallo will be leaving the Planning Council. Olson shared that one of the December 2025 Planning Council meeting agenda items will be focused on Canonico and Mallo's Front Range Passenger Rail District representative positions.

Planning Council members discussed the potential issues of having non-members representing the Front Range Passenger Rail District, and they agreed to continue this conversation at their next meeting.

Executive Director Report

Relford shared results of the VanGo Annual Survey. She reminded Planning Council to take the NFRMPO's Freight Survey. Relford announced that the First National Bank accounts are closed and moved over to Chase Bank, the migration from Great Plains to Acumatica is still in progress, the Travel Demand Model RFP is out, the organization has migrated over to the cloud and is working to get another access point, the NFRMPO building is in the process of being purchased by a new owner, and NFRMPO staff will have an off-site organization deep dive on November 18.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

Q3 2025 TIP Modifications

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATIONS:

North I-25 Managed Lanes Tolling Presentation

Darlington provided an overview of the CTIO background, mission, and revenue streams. She explained the operating policies of the I-25 North Express Lanes and announced tolling is currently estimated to go live in January 2026 with rates ranging from \$1.00 to \$4.75 for account holders and \$2.00 to \$9.50 for license plate accounts depending on time of day. Darlington provided background information on the Safety and Toll Enforcement Program (STEP), with the program's most important goal being safety. Darlington shared the STEP program has contributed to an 86% drop in express lane crossing violations and that money collected from violations gets reinvested back into the I-25 corridor mostly through communications and messaging related to safety and express lane crossing violations.

Stephens asked if the funds collected on the North I-25 Express Lanes will stay in the North Front Range region. Darlington responded that the money would stay on the corridor, so the money would stay along all tolled segments on I-25. She explained it would require legislation to change this.

ACTION ITEMS:

October 2025 TIP Amendment

Stockburger noted the October 2025 TIP Amendment includes one project addition and two project removals. The project addition is County Road 50E Corridor Planning & Design in Larimer County with \$1,160,850 Federal BUILD funding and \$290,215 Local Funding in FY26. The first project removal is On-Route BEB Chargers – STC in Fort Collins as part of MMOF reconciliation efforts, with a portion of the funding going towards the Foothills Transit Station project in Fort Collins. The second project removal is 10th Street Transit Vision in Greeley as part of MMOF reconciliation efforts, with a portion of the funding going towards the MERGE project in Greeley.

Cline **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-21 APPROVING THE OCTOBER 2025 AMENDMENT TO THE FY2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)*. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

2025 Ruby Bridges Grant

Trujillo-Martinez announced the NFRMPO is a recipient of a \$1000 Ruby Bridges Grant. Trujillo-Martinez explained the history behind the grant and how the NFRMPO will use the funds to host a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day event at Goal High School in Greeley on November 14, 2025. She stated the kids will participate in a walking tour, write about transportation challenges, and will be given prizes for participating.

Stephens offered support for accepting the grant funds and stated she would like to see what the kids write about transportation challenges.

Stephens **moved to** approve *RESOLUTION 2025-22 APPROVING THE 2025 RUBY BRIDGES GRANT*. The motion was **seconded** by Jenkins and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

TMO Call for Projects

Trujillo-Martinez discussed the upcoming TMO Call for Project. She explained TMO program goals, the call timeline, where the funding comes from, the scoring system, and the scoring committee. Trujillo-Martinez stated the TMO Guidebook is attached in the packet and \$400,000 of Carbon Reduction funding will be awarded for FY25-FY27. The Council will consider approval to release the Call for Projects at their December meeting.

Stephens asked if there will be enough interest from potential applicants to apply. Relford responded that there is interest. She explained that while there is currently only one TMO in the region, applications can also be submitted to create a new TMO. Stephens asked if there is a maximum award amount. Relford responded that the full amount available, \$400,000, is the maximum award amount but a local match is also required.

2025 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Hull provided an overview of the 2025 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. He provided background information on the plan and NFRMPO Mobility Program, shared what has changed since the plan was last adopted in 2021, shared municipal and volunteer transit options in the region, and demographic information for the region. Hull highlighted outreach efforts during the development of the plan, plan strategies, and suggested ideas and projects included in the plan.

WCR38 Functional Classification Change Request

Karasko explained that despite the Town of Mead being a DRCOG community, this portion of WCR38 is within the NFRMPO boundary. Therefore, they require NFRMPO Planning Council approval for this classification change request. Karasko stated WCR38 in the project area is currently classified as a collector roadway and they are proposing changing it to a major arterial roadway. Karasko described current conditions on WCR38 and explained upon NFRMPO Planning Council approval, they would submit a letter to FHWA in support of the classification change. Colleen Whitlow, the Town of Mead Mayor, added that this functional classification change would benefit the North Front Range region.

NFRMPO Executive Director Policies

Olson stated he did not see any issues with the proposed changes to the NFRMPO Executive Director Policies. Planning Council discussed that the proposed policy change does not include a dollar amount limit because the Executive Director is only allowed to execute contracts that do not exceed the financial authority already approved by the NFRMPO Planning Council.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission

Gutierrez stated that the original workshop for the 10-Year Plan was supposed to be in November with approval in December. He shared that the timeline has been updated, and two regions (3 & 5) will workshop in November, and 3 regions (1, 2 & 4) will workshop in January. He stated this means approval of the 10-Year Plan will not happen until February. Gutierrez stated the Transportation Commission did

not have a formal meeting last month. Instead of a meeting, they went on a tour and rode the train to Glenwood Springs and rode Bustang back. He shared they stopped at the Glenwood Tunnel, the Eisenhower Tunnel, and the top of Vail Pass.

STAC Report

Heid shared that STAC met this morning and they agreed to meet in person more often. She stated they are just getting started with legislative conversations for the upcoming year.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)

A written report was provided.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

Mallo shared information on the Front Range Passenger Rail District's new general manager, Sal Pace. Canonico added he has already shared a memo with the district's representatives on how they can get on the ballot next year and he has already issued several RFPs. Canonico stated finding funding for station area planning for Fort Collins and Loveland are a priority.

Host Council Member Report

Mallo provided project updates for the City of Loveland. The Downtown HIP Street Project will have two of the five blocks completed by the end of November. Loveland and Fort Collins have received a grant to study potential station locations for Front Range Passenger Rail service. Key intersection improvements include the completion of US 34 and Taft Avenue earlier this year, an ongoing US 287 and US 34 project funded with STBG dollars, and the completion of the Madison Avenue and 37th Street roundabout. Mallo shared that COLT's transit center building is under construction.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Mykayla Graalum, NFRMPO Staff