

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

December 4, 2025
Hybrid Meeting in Timnath, CO

Voting Members Present:

Johnny Olson – Chair
Kristin Stephens – Vice Chair
Patrick McFall
Tricia Canonico
Mark Clark
Julie Cline
Jessica Ferko
Cecil Gutierrez

Liz Heid
Scott James
Bill Jenkins
Will Karspeck
Matt Fries

Voting Members Absent:

-Greeley
-Larimer County
-Loveland
-Fort Collins
-Evans
-Windsor
-APCD
-Transportation Commission
-Eaton
-Weld County
-Timnath
-Berthoud
-Severance

Fil Archuleta
Paula Cochran
Dan Dean
Andrew Paranto

-Garden City
-LaSalle
-Milliken
-Johnstown

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

In Attendance: Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Steve Conaway; James Eussen; Nicole Hahn; Omar Herrera; Will Jones; Kim Koivuniemi; Joshua Ma; Jon Mallo; Dr. Annareli Morales; Drew Pearson; Scott Pearson; Lynette Peppler; Adrienne Sandoval; Justin Stone; Josie Thomas; Eric Tracy.

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

Public Comment

No comments were submitted.

Announcements

Gutierrez noted he will be conducting Tuba Christmas on Saturday, December 9th at Oak Street Plaza in Old Town Fort Collins.

Public Hearing

Karasko stated that the regional emissions analysis for the FY2026-2029 TIP and 2050 RTP Amendment demonstrate conformity with the Northern Subarea budgets established for both the 2018 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards or NAAQS as well as the Northern Subarea budgets established for both the 2008 and 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Karasko continued, informing the Council that the FY2026-2029 TIP and the 2050 RTP Amendment meet all conformity criteria as identified in title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (or CFR) Section 93.109 (Criteria and procedures for determining conformity of transportation plans, programs, and projects) and meets all planning requirements identified in 23 CFR 450 (Planning Assistance and Standards). This Conformity Determination was deemed to be routine and does not require the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) to concur. No public comments were received on the Conformity Determination document during the public comment period, which opened on October 6, 2025, and closed on November 4, 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA

Stephens **moved to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. The motion was **seconded** by James 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)

Written Report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Written Report was provided.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens noted RAQC approved the Blueprint. Stephens stated there will be additional votes on the Blueprint as edits are made.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens announced NAAPME has approved their annual report. Stephens noted NAAPME will begin discussing the larger grant program in March. This grant program is aimed for BRT and transit projects.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Olson opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Olson noted there will be a ballot initiative in 2026 to redirect some sales tax revenue from vehicle-related taxes to transportation. Council expressed interest in having the group spearheading the ballot initiative to give a presentation to Council.

Executive Director Report

Relford noted the EPA posted the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) 179B analysis for public comment and asked if Council would like to submit a letter of support during the public comment period that ends on December 19th. James recognized Dr. Annareli Morales with Weld County. Dr. Morales provided a high- level overview noting there is a significant amount of ozone coming into the region from surrounding states and from other countries. James **moved** to direct the Executive Director to draft a letter of support to submit to EPA prior to the public comment period. The motion was **seconded** by Cline and passed by a vote of 9 to 2. Then, Relford noted the NFRMPO has three RFPs out to bid for the Regional Transportation Demand Model, IT Services, and Audit Services. The goal is to have contracts by the end of the year and early January. Relford stated the MPOs office lease goes out to February 2027 and Relford will work with Cushman & Wakefield to begin looking into other locations to use for lease negotiations. NFRMPO staff had an organizational deep dive on November 18th and will put forth strategic plan recommendations for 2026.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATIONS:

State Demographer Presentation

Demographer Watkins gave an overview of the relationship between people and the economy. Both the national and statewide fertility rates are lower than they have been historically, and the population is aging which is resulting in slower population growth. The projected population estimates for both Larimer and Weld Counties have gone down between 2023 and 2024 due to changes in net migration estimates. This is due to housing costs, immigration policy, and a slowdown in job growth. Watkins noted Colorado's population growth is still anticipating outpacing the nation in population growth, but this may change due to housing affordability. Watkins discussed Larimer and Weld Counties demographic estimates. Larimer County has a rapidly aging population with a slowdown in school aged children while Weld County is seeing significant net migration of young families and is anticipated to continue to lead

the state in births. Watkins outlined some of the factors that can change population forecasts and discussed alternate population scenarios.

ACTION ITEMS:

2026 officer Elections

Chair Olson opened nominations for 2026 Planning Council Chair. James nominated Stephens for Chair. The motion was seconded by Heid and Stephens was elected 2026 Planning Council Chair by acclamation. James nominated Heid for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Karspeck and Heid was elected 2026 Council Vice Chair by acclamation.

NFRMPO Front Range Passenger Rail District Board Members

Relford noted Canonico's term ends on December 31, 2025, and Mallo's term ends in 2027. Both Canonico and Mallo expressed interest in staying on the FRPR Board of Directors. Both Mallo and Canonico agreed to continue to attend Planning Council meetings to provide updates and both agreed to step down at any point if requested by the Council.

James **moved** to approve RESOLUTION 2025-28 APPROVING NFRMPO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The motion was **seconded** by Karspeck and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2022-2026 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance Measures

Graalum gave an overview of both Statewide and Regional crash trends. Graalum noted there are five federally required safety performance measures that are updated annually and are set based on a five-year rolling average. The NFRMPO can either support CDOT's targets or set regionally specific targets. Through 2023, the NFRMPO supported CDOT's targets. In 2024 and 2025, the NFRMPO set regionally specific targets. Graalum outlined three different options. These options are to support CDOT's targets, set regionally specific targets using a forecast equation, or set regionally specific targets using a percentage reduction. TAC recommended setting regionally specific targets using a forecast equation. Graalum outlined the NFRMPO Towards Zero Deaths Policy and noted TAC expressed interest in updating that policy. Council expressed support for setting regionally specific targets using a forecast equation and updating the NFRMPO's Towards Zero Deaths Policy.

Foothills Transit Station MMOF Match Relief Request

Joshua Ma, City of Fort Collins, discussed Transfort's request for local match relief on previously and newly awarded MMOF funding after the NFRMPO MMOF Reconciliation for the project Foothills Transit Station and Roundabout. Transfort is requesting a local match rate reduction from 50% to 25%. The reason for this request is because a majority of the project boundaries are within Larimer County, which only uses 25% local match rate compared to Fort Collins' 50% local match rate. Council expressed support for this match reduction request.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission

Gutierrez noted the Transportation Commission and CTIO will both be meeting remotely. The Commission will be doing an executive session for an update on negotiations with the North Rail Project with Burlington Northern. The Commission will be focusing on CDOT's 10-year plan. The Commission reviewed Regions 3 and 5 10-year plan at the November meeting. The Commission will be reviewing Regions 1,2, and 4 10-year plan in January. The Commission is expected to approve the 10-year plan in March.

STAC Report

Written report was provided.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)

A written report was provided.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

Canonico noted the FRPR was negotiating contracts. There was an amendment to the primary station locations to include Broomfield, Westminster, and Louisville. The FPPR Board adopted the District's 2026 Ballot Access Plan.

Host Council Member Report

Jenkins noted the Town has completed the first phase of the Timnath Parkway project which included bike lanes and a shared-use path. The Town will continue the project into 2026 which includes extending Timnath Parkway northward and adding a roundabout at LCR5 and Buss Grove. The Town is upgrading traffic signals on Harmony to include new detection controls and fiber to better coordinate signals and respond quickly to issues. The Town received a federal SS4A grant to prepare a town wide safety action plan. The Town is coordinating with regional partners on the I-25/Harmony interchange. Voters approved funding for a new recreation center near Timnath Parkway and Old Town Timnath.

Executive Session

Chair Olson requested a motion to enter an Executive Session.

Stephens **moved** the Council enter into an Executive Session pursuant to section C.R.S 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter regarding the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation Process for the current year and potential salary and benefits contract and not involving any specific employee who has requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies. The motion was **seconded** by Cline and **passed** unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:32. The Session ended at 9:16.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff