

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

January 8, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Voting Members Present:

Kristen Stephens – Chair	-Larimer County
Liz Heid – Vice Chair	-Eaton
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Julie Cline	-Windsor
Dan Dean	-Milliken
Jessica Ferko	-APCD
Matt Fries	-Severance
Cecil Gutierrez	-Transportation Commission
Scott James	-Weld County
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Laura Light-Kovacs	-Loveland, Alternate
Andrew Paranto	-Johnstown

Voting Members Absent:

Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Jeff Crabtree	-Evans

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; Tahjiba Tarannum, Transportation Modeler; Aaron Hull, Mobility Planner; Lisa Deaton, Mobility Specialist.

In Attendance: Darin Barrett; Bill Becker; Brad Buckman; Rich Christy; Ian Chase; AnnaRose Cunningham; Hanna Feldmann; Nicole Hahn; Will Jones; Katrina Klobberdanz; Mallo; Dee McIntosh; Tony Milo; Scott Pearson; Lynette Peppler; Tom Peterson; Evan Pinkham; Annabelle Phillips; Justin Stone; Denise Staley; Josie Thomas; Dena Wojtach.

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

Public Comment

No comments were submitted.

Announcements

Jenkins noted there will be a Harmony Road Corridor Study. Nicole Hahn, Loveland, noted Will Jones will begin as Public Works Director starting Monday. Hahn introduced Loveland Council Member Laura Light-Kovacs.

CONSENT AGENDA

James **moved to** *APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** by Heid and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Stephens opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

Written Report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Wojtach noted the AQCC was briefed on Colorado's 2025 GHG Emission Reduction Progress Report to the Colorado General Assembly and reported the state did not meet its GHG reduction targets in 2025. Wojtach stated the Transportation sector has the most GHG emissions and anticipates that the state will be looking deeper in transportation to help meet future GHG targets. Wojtach noted the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to roll back USDOT's fuel economy standards for light-duty vehicles. Public comments for this NPRM are due January 20, 2026.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens noted RAQC went over the RAQC budget and did a review of RAQC-funded programs. Stephens stated the potential for a \$10 fee on gas powered lawn equipment and noted there is currently a 30% discount on electric powered lawn equipment and this discount will continue until the end of 2026.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

NAAPME did not meet in January.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Stephens opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Jenkins and Fries agreed to remain on the Finance Committee with Vice Chair Heid serving as Chair. James and Jenkins agreed to remain on the HR Committee with Past Chair Olson serving as the chair of that committee. The Council agreed to revisit committee assignments in the coming months as new

members join and adjust to their roles. Stephens announced she will be the STAC representative, and Jenkins will be the alternate. Stephens thanked Canonico and Mallo for serving on Planning Council. Canonico announced she will be representing the NFRMPO on the CTIO Board.

Executive Director Report

Relford noted she sent Planning Council members an email requesting support for a letter to CDOT to request improvements to Bustang service. These improvements include allowing for paper tickets to ensure all community members can access Bustang service. James moved to allow the chair to sign this letter on behalf of the Planning Council. The motion was seconded by Jenkins and passed unanimously. Then, Relford noted Cambridge Systems Incorporated was selected as the Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM) consultant. There were two bids for the Audit RFP, and the IT RFP closes on January 9. The NFRMPO completed the 2025 Performance Report for the 2023 Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

TAC

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided.

PRESENTATIONS:

Initiative #75 Ballot Measure: Restore Our Roads

Tom Peterson, Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association, and Tony Milo, Colorado Contractors Association, discussed the state of Colorado's roads and outlined the proposed ballot measure. This ballot measure would amend the Colorado State Constitution to require that revenue from all state sales, use, and excise taxes or fees on motor vehicles and fuel as well as two-thirds of state sales and use taxes collected on vehicle parts, equipment, materials, and accessories that are installed on vehicles be used to fund projects for automobile traffic on roads and bridges without raising taxes. These funds would be distributed according to the current Highways Users Tax Fund formula.

Canonico asked if this funding could be used for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects. Milo noted bicycle paths and pedestrian crossings associated with a roadway project would be eligible for these funds. Jenkins asked what the financial impact of these funds would be on the state economy and if this would generate additional revenue for the state. Milo stated the initiative supporters are considering a study that would investigate the financial impacts of this funding. Stephens asked if this would impact any other cash funds other than the general fund. Milo stated it is not the coalition's intent to impact other cash funds. Milo stated this would not impact enterprise funds.

ACTION ITEMS:

Foothills Transit Station MMOF Match Relief Request

Annabelle Phillips, 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 most of the project is within Larimer County, which only uses 25% local match rate compared to Fort Collins' 50% local match rate.

Jenkins **moved** to approve RESOLUTION 2026-01 APPROVING MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION AND MITIGATION OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) MATCH RELIEF REQUEST FOR THE FORT COLLINS TRANSFORT *FOOTHILLS TRANSIT STATION AND ROUNDABOUT* PROJECT. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

2022-2026 NFRMPO Safety Performance Measures Targets

Graalum reviewed the federal requirements for establishing the five safety performance measure targets. She noted that both the TAC and the Planning Council agreed that the preferred approach for the 2022–2026 period is to use regional targets based on an exponential smoothing (ETS) forecast equation.

Canonico **moved** to approve RESOLUTION 2026-02 TO SET REGIONAL TARGETS FOR THE 2022-2026 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES. The motion was **seconded** by Jenkins and **passed** unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

US34 Transit Study

Karasko noted this study took longer than anticipated due to contract issues. Ian Chase, HDR, presented an overview of the US34 Transit Study, including key considerations guiding its development. Chase outlined the history of this study and noted the US34 Transit Study is a result of the LinkNoCo Phase 1 Study recommendations that Planning Council approved in October 2022. This study recommended three priority corridors with US34 being the top priority. The US34 Transit Study (originally named LinkNoCo Phase II) kicked off in January 2024. Chase outlined the proposed alignment, which is mostly along US34 with its termini at the COLT Loveland Transit Center in Loveland and the GET Transportation Center in Greeley. Chase discussed proposed capital improvements with a ten percent (10%) design concept and cost estimates for the intersections of US34 and Larimer Parkway, WCR13/Colorado Boulevard, Promontory Parkway, 83rd Avenue, and 65th Avenue. Chase discussed first and last-mile connections, route expansion analysis, and funding and implementation strategies. The proposed capital improvements would cost approximately \$3,525,000. Chase outlined the transit service base and expansion operating scenarios. The gross operating cost for the base scenario would be \$5,270,000 and would be \$7,250,000 for the expansion scenario. The expansion scenario would allow for 15-minute headways during peak hours rather than 30-minute headways and would require 6 additional buses. Chase outlined the next steps and noted adoption is anticipated in March.

Light-Kovacs noted there were comments from the City of Loveland concerning Larimer Parkway not yet incorporated into the study and requested those to be included. She also expressed concerns about the proposed budget and asked if a more attainable budget was considered. Chase noted the budget can be adjusted, and service could still be implemented with a smaller budget. Stephens asked if this plan is consistent with the City of Greeley's plan for US34 transit service. Chase stated this does align with the City of Greeley to an extent but is a bit more expansive than the City of Greeley's plans. Hanna Feldmann,

City of Greeley, stated the City is focusing on commuter service along US34 due to financial restraints and that this initial service is anticipated to have 45-minute headways. James asked if the extension of Larimer Parkway is included in this study. This extension was not included in the study due to uncertainties around the project at the time. Chase noted the route could be changed to take the extension into account. Cline asked if there was a plan for the bus to stop at Aims. Chase noted a stop could be included if needed. Stephens asked why this service would not qualify as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Chase explained BRT is typically associated with a standalone bus right-of-way along a majority of the corridors, which is cost prohibitive for this project.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission

Gutierrez noted the December TC meeting was rather short. There will be a joint study session between TC and CTIO on the 10-year plans for regions 1,3, and 4. Gutierrez noted there will be no action taken at that meeting, but there may be changes due to feedback. The 10-year plan is anticipated to be adopted in either March or April. Gutierrez congratulated Canonico on joining the CTIO board.

STAC Report

Stephens noted there was a vote to send a letter to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) to protect MMOF funding. STAC discussed the 10-year plan development for regions 3 and 5 and learned about CDOT's camera and truck chain stations overview.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)

A written report was provided.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

Mallo noted the last board meeting was December 19th. Most of the time was spent on outsourcing contracts. The next Board meeting is January 23rd. There will be an additional In-person board meeting on January 29th to discuss oversight and what the board will focus on in 2026. Stephens asked if there were discussions about the loss of funding for the rail safety improvements. Mallo noted the Board has not had a discussion yet.

Executive Session

Chair Stephens requested a motion to enter an Executive Session.

Stephens **suggested** the Council enter into an Executive Session in pursuant to section C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) for discussion of a personnel matter regarding the Executive Director's Contract 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. James **moved** to enter the Executive Session. The motion was **seconded** by Canonico and **passed** unanimously.

Council entered the Executive Session at 8:35. The Session ended at 8:48.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff