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

October 1, 2026

Hybrid Meeting in Fort Collins, CO

Voting Members Present:

Kristin Stephens – Chair	-Larimer County
Liz Heid– Vice Chair	-Eaton
Nicholas Bashford	-Johnstown
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Chris Conway	-Fort Collins
Jason Hallett- Alternate	-Windsor
Scott James	-Weld County
Bill Jenkins	-Timnath
Patrick McFall	-Loveland
Johnny Olson	-Greeley

Voting Members Absent:

Mark Clark	-Evans
Jessica Ferko	-CDPHE-APCD
Matthew Fries	-Severance
Cecil Gutierrez	-Transportation Commission
Will Karspeck	-Berthoud
Michael Orcutt	-Milliken

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

In Attendance: Drew Brooks; Brad Buckman; Amanda Cabot; Tricia Canonico; AnnaRose Cunningham; Jim Eussen; Hanna Feldmann; Patti Garcia; Dana Hornkohl; Macie May; Lynette Peppler; Evan Pinkham; Denise Staley; Justin Stone; Eric Tracy; Keith Wakefield; Dena Wojtach.

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

Public Comment

Councilmember Announcements

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A written report was provided.

NFRMPO Air Quality Program Updates

Dena Wojtach, Two Roads Environmental, provided an update on the Ozone Exchange Conference, noting more than 200 participants have signed up thus far. Late registration begins at midnight on October 5th. She stated the conference planning team has approved more than $18,000 in stipends for presenters and more than $28,000 in scholarships. The scholarship application process is open through October 16th or when scholarship funds are fully depleted.

Wojtach reported the region experienced a particularly bad ozone season. She noted wildfires did have an impact on ozone monitor's readings but are not the sole reason for the high monitor values. She stated stratospheric intrusions in the spring also lead to high monitor values. Wojtach provided an overview of the ozone monitor readings in the North Front Range region. She noted the monitors captured very high values within the region, with some monitors reaching above 80 parts per billion (ppb). Outside of the North Front Range region, some monitors reached above 90 ppb. Wojtach then noted the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) is set to roll back CAFE standards from the current standard of 50.4 miles per gallon (mpg) to 34.9 mpg. She noted this final action has not been published in the Federal Register yet. She highlighted this would make it more difficult for transportation planning organizations who must rely on federal standards to meet air quality standards and regulations. This will also have impacts on motor vehicle emission budgets.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

Stephens noted the RAQC met last month and had an extensive discussion on the Blueprint. She highlighted the RAQC is required to present control strategies to be adopted into the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP must outline what strategies the state is doing to bring the nonattainment area into attainment of federal air quality standards. The RAQC will adopt the Blueprint in November knowing that there are still updates that will happen to the Blueprint.

Nonattainment Area Air Pollution Mitigation Enterprise (NAAPME)

Stephens stated the Community Clean Transportation Assistance Program (CCTAP) grants are beginning to be distributed. She noted many MPO communities are receiving a portion of these funds and NAAPME is looking to award more small grants next year. NAAPME is working on a larger grant program that will primarily fund Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects and the Enterprise is looking at the proposed Federal Boulevard BRT project. NAAPME would provide funds in conjunction with the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and CDOT.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Stephens opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Report of the Chair

Stephens stated she and Relford were invited by the Wellington Town Board to provide a presentation on the MPO and discuss the process for the Town of Wellington to join the MPO. They discussed whether it makes sense for Wellington to join the NFRMPO considering Wellington is just north of the current MPO boundary and is in the same nonattainment area as the rest of the North Front Range. Stephens noted she attended a National Association of Counties (NACO) meeting where they discussed the merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, which would create an additional coast to coast railway.

Executive Director Report

Relford reported the NFRMPO Mobility Team received another $1,000 Ruby Bridges Walk and Bike to School Day mini-grant for a November event with GOAL Academy. The team will meet with the Milliken community before conducting a Senior Center Walk Audit on October 16th. The RideNoCo website migration added an online ride-referral request form which led to a 48 percent increase in calls and 99 percent increase in website visits year over year. Staff will begin testing a closed-loop referral platform this month that will confirm whether requested rides were completed.

Relford reported that a draft lease for the JFK building is currently under review. The NFRMPO received comments from the MPO's attorneys and submitted an amended lease with proposed changes. Relford anticipates hearing back from the landlord soon. The FLSA review of the new job descriptions was completed, with employee notifications on exempt and non-exempt classifications to follow. Employers Council is currently working on a compensation plan, which is anticipated to be complete by mid-October.

Relford provided an overview of the MPO's CPG and SPR contracts for FY27. She noted the additional $150,000 in SPR funds are being used to partially fund the Transportation Modeler position as well as fund the model software and ArcGIS subscriptions. She noted $30,000 will go towards a new e-TIP software platform RFP. Relford discussed a proposed rule from the Census Bureau that could have impacts on the 2030 Census counts, which may impact data used for formula funding amounts. She requested Council to support submitting a letter to the Federal Register to request a 60-day extension for public comment. The current public comment period ends on October 13th, and the rule was released on September 9th.

HR Committee Report

Olson noted the HR Committee met to discuss the Executive Director's Annual Review. Olson reported the review will include the full Council, Relford's direct reports, and outside planning partners such as CDOT. TAC members will not receive a separate survey. Olson encouraged Council members to consult

their TAC Representatives for feedback while completing the survey. Olson stated the survey will be sent out in late October. He proposed establishing three professional performance goals and one person goal for the Executive Director to discuss during Relford's evaluation in December.

STAC Report

Stephens noted there was only one action item on the agenda. STAC received an update on the upcoming Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Call for Projects which will open on October 30th. CDOT staff gave a status update on MMOF. STAC discussed contacting the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and other legislators to discuss the importance of MMOF funding. STAC received an update on CDOT rest areas and an update on the Clean Transit Enterprise (CTE). Relford noted Craig Secrest CTE will be giving a presentation to Planning Council in December to discuss Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs). Stephens noted STAC will be in person in November.

Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO)

Canonico noted the rental car congestion impact fee revenues in July are down two percent over last year. Collective toll revenues are also down across all corridors in July compared to 2025; however, overall toll revenue has increased due to North I-25 Segments 6,7, and 8 coming online. The CTIO board approved a second budget amendment to the 2026-2027 budget. This amendment includes a new commercial back office, project staffing, and software implementation. This amendment also included funds that will be used for 10-year plan project advancement, particularly for work on North I-25 Segments 2,4, and 5 as well as work on I-270. CTIO board was presented with recommended updates to the dynamic pricing algorithm criteria. The recommendation is to tie the dynamic pricing algorithm rate directly to operation and maintenance costs to help alleviate cost burdens on consumers. Canonico noted North I-25 Segments 6,7, and 8 toll lane pricing will go from time of day to dynamic pricing starting on November 1st.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

Canonico stated the board referred the funding question to the ballot in August. All Board meetings were cancelled in September and October. The Board will meet again after the November election. Canonico noted the FRPR Open House in Fort Collins was well-attended, and City of Fort Collins staff were happy with the turnout.

Finance Committee

A written report was provided.

September 2026 TAC Executive Summary

A written report was provided.

Mobility Program Updates

A written report was provided.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NFRMPO Regional Travel Demand Model and Land Use Allocation Model Update

Tarannum provided an overview of the Land Use Allocation Model (LUAM) and Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM). She explained the LUAM forecasts the location of households and employment using state control totals from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The LUAM outputs are then assigned to traffic analysis zones (TAZs) and become an input in the RTDM. She noted the RTDM is a four-step model which estimates trip generation, trip distribution, mode choice, and route assignment. Tarannum noted the NFRMPO has requested local agency staff submit future development projects that are expected to add population or employment into the UrbanSim online platform. Jenkins requested NFRMPO staff to investigate opportunities to collect this data more regularly to lessen the work burden on local agencies. Relford discussed the NFRMPO boundary and noted the Town of Severance has annexed land outside of the current NFRMPO boundary, and the Towns of Kersey, Platteville, and Mead annexed land within the NFRMPO boundary. She said as planners the MPO needs to understand the growth occurring in the region's communities to ensure the 20-year planning boundary is reflective of that growth and outlined the process to make boundary changes if that is the communities preference.

Jenkins asked how often the RTDM is updated. Tarannum said every four years. Jenkins asked if it is possible to change the process so planners can include the data through the building approval process. NFRMPO staff will investigate whether that is possible for the next LUAM and RTDM model updates.

2027 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Kick-off

Graalum provided an overview of the 2027 CMP update, including the purpose of the CMP, why the NFRMPO is required to develop a CMP, and its role in monitoring transportation system performance and identifying congestion-reduction strategies. She explained the distinction between a required congestion management process and an optional congestion management plan and noted the NFRMPO's CMP is updated every four years with periodic assessments of performance. Graalum reviewed the proposed objectives for the 2027 CMP. Staff proposed consolidating the existing six objectives into five: optimize the transportation system using smart technologies, reduce congestion, improve travel time reliability, expand access to transportation choice, and improve safety. TAC members supported the proposed objectives, but recommended the objective improve safety should be listed first while recognizing they are not ranked.

Graalum reviewed the proposed performance measures, including measures carried forward from the previous CMP and proposed changes and additions. The proposed change is to modify the existing fiber performance measure to percent of Regionally Significant Corridors (RSCs) connected by fiber. Proposed additions included the percentage of the regional active transportation corridor network built out. Graalum reviewed the CMP development timeline, with the updated CMP anticipated to be finalized and adopted in the third quarter of 2027. There was a discussion about the importance of capacity and safety projects. Staff clarified the CMP allows capacity projects; however, FHWA requires other strategies to be evaluated prior to constructing capacity projects.

FY2026 TIP Delay Review

Stockburger provided an overview of TIP projects with milestone deadlines in FY2026 or earlier which are subject to the Annual Delay Review. Of the 17 projects subject to the Delay Review, 10 requested extensions. Stockburger reviewed the status of each project and explained the approval process for first through fourth delay requests. Project sponsors from Greeley, Fort Collins, and Loveland provided

additional information on their projects requesting second, third, or fourth delays. The discussion included project schedules, right-of-way issues, design and construction schedules, and steps needed to advance projects.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Host Council Member Report

Conway noted the College and Trilby intersection project is complete. This project will improve safety for all users and will accommodate future traffic levels. The City is replacing traffic signals along College Avenue at Mountain Vista Drive, Trilby Road, and Vine Road.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jerome Rouser, NFRMPO Staff