

**Meeting Minutes of the
NORTH FRONT RANGE TRANSPORTATION &
AIR QUALITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

August 6, 2015

6 p.m.

**Johnstown Community Center
101 Charlotte St., CO**

Voting Members

Present

Sean Conway-Chair	-Weld County
Jan Dowker	-Berthoud
Kevin Ross	-Eaton
John Morris	-Evans
Gerry Horak	-Fort Collins
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Joan Shaffer	-Loveland
Jordan Jemiola	-Milliken
Kathy Gilliland	-Trans. Comm.

Absent

Chris Colclasure	-APCD
Tom Norton	-Greeley
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Paul Steinway	-Timnath
Don Brookshire	-Severance
John Vazquez	-Windsor
*No member	-Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Crystal Hedberg, Finance Manager; Aaron Buckley and Josh Johnson, Transportation Planners.

In Attendance:

Eric Bracke, Leah Browder, Mike Chrisman, Dave Clark, James Eussen, Myron Hora, Dave Klockeman, Suzette Mallette, Wes McElhinny, Johnny Olson, Bob Sakaguchi, Karen Schneiders, Gary Thomas.

Chair Conway called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

Mellon ***moved*** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was ***seconded*** and ***passed*** unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Jemiola ***moved*** to approve the July 9, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was ***seconded*** and ***passed*** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Conway opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division Report

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Conway opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, stated that the August 2015 Director's Report was provided in the packet and added that an RFP would be going out for payroll and time reporting. She noted that staff is interested in Council's assistance with the selection process in choosing a consultant, either a staff or Council representative from one of the member communities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

A written report was provided.

Mobility

A written report was provided. Blackmore announced that the Mobility newsletter had a new format that will highlight the events of the Larimer County and Weld County Mobility Councils.

Finance Committee

Kevin Ross, Finance Committee Chair, briefly reviewed the Finance Committee Report and Finance Committee Minutes from July 21, 2015.

Donnelly asked if the Finance Committee would be proposing that STP funds be used to build the reserve. Ross replied that would not be their proposal as the Council's goal is for VanGo to be self-supporting. The money for the MPO reserve account might come from the member communities' existing match funding and the Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the Council at a future meeting. Blackmore added that there will be separate reserve accounts and bank accounts for the MPO and VanGo. Shaffer stated that any new programs would be phased in over time.

Chair Conway **reopened the public comment** period and introduced Wes McElhinny, Weld County Area Representative from the office of Congressman Ken Buck, and invited him to address the Council.

McElhinny thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and indicated he would be attending on a fairly regular basis and updating them on transportation news from Washington D.C., however, he did not have anything to report this evening.

CONSENT ITEM:

2040 Regional Transit Element (RTE)

*Jemiola made a **motion** to approve Resolution 2015-10 Adopting the 2040 Regional Transportation Element (RTE). The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

ACTION ITEMS:

2nd Quarter Unaudited Financials

Crystal Hedberg, Finance Manager, stated that the 1st Quarter Unaudited Financial were provided in the packet and had been recommended for approval by the Finance Committee. Horak commended Hedberg for her impressive work ethic.

*Shaffer **moved** to accept the 1st Quarter Unaudited Financials. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

TIP & RTP Open for Public Comment

Josh Johnson, Transportation Planner, reviewed information from the FY2016-2019 TIP and 2040 Regional Transportation Plan 30-Day Public Comment Period AIS with the Council.

*Shaffer **moved** to Open the Public Comment Period for the FY2016-2019 TIP and 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

Additional CMAQ Funding Allocation

Johnson reviewed information from the Additional CMAQ Funding Allocation AIS and tables with the Council.

*Jemiola made a **motion** to approve Additional CMAQ Funding Allocation. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2015 Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Aaron Buckley, Transportation Planner, gave the 2015 Congestion Management Process (CMP) presentation to the Council.

Gilliland asked for an explanation of how the Bluetooth counters will work. Buckley explained that the Bluetooth counters, which will be placed strategically at intersections throughout the communities, will ping devices with open Bluetooth signals such as cell phones, laptops, etc., as they pass by and then calculate the travel time between the counters. They will either tie into an Ethernet system or transmit over the cell network and will be in operation 24/7. The counters will pull a media access control (MAC) address from the device but have no way of relating that address to a specific user account.

Conway expressed his concern over the accuracy of this type of real time data collection compared to the more traditional volume or Average Daily Traffic (ADT) data collection. Blackmore explained that the TAC decided two years ago that using the volume to capacity (V/C) ratio was not a good measure for traffic congestion. The Bluetooth counters will use a travel time index to measure whether a road is congested. Joe Olson, Fort Collins Traffic Engineer, has done analysis on this process and has led the movement to use Bluetooth counters. Fort Collins has counters spread throughout their downtown area. Both CDOT and the federal government have invested in the INRIX travel time data set, which uses similar methodology but does not require the Bluetooth counters. Blackmore indicated that there will be a more precise map once all of the data is collected from the Travel Time Data Sources listed (INRIX, HERE and Bluetooth) as the model used was not a good measure of the data. She added that the V/C ratio will still be used, just not for congestion. Eric Bracke, TAC Chair and Greeley Traffic Engineer, explained that the volume to capacity ratio is not specific but travel time is accurate; therefore, planning decisions should be based on travel time. Horak added that the Bluetooth technology provides precise congestion data with all of the temporal aspects which allow for productive planning. He believes even better measurements and statistics will become available as the technology is developed over time.

Conway inquired why the 18 System Performance Measures were pared down to three. Buckley responded that there had been a consolidation of some of the measures, but primarily there was no way to collect data for many of them, so they were removed.

2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Bracke briefly reviewed information from the 2040 RTP AIS and the 2040 RTP Executive Summary and began the 2040 RTP presentation to the Council. Karasko continued the presentation and identified that the same travel time index measurement used for the 2015 CMP is being used for the 2040 RTP. She then reviewed new information and items now required by MAP-21 with the Council.

Ross questioned whether the impact of driverless cars had been factored into the Plan. Karasko replied that they were included as autonomous vehicles in the Emerging Trends section since there is currently no

data that can be modeled. Blackmore added that the Plan will be updated in four years. Conway reminded the Council that the 2040 RTP will be on the September Council Agenda for adoption.

Executive Director Goals & Accomplishments Report

Conway handed out the 2015 Executive Director Goals Annual Report- August 2015 and explained that the ED Goals & Accomplishments Report is the first step in the new formalized Executive Director Evaluation process. Blackmore identified that because it is only August, not all of the goals for the year have been reached. Then she reviewed her report with the Council.

Conway asked what minor changes were recommended by FHWA for the 2040 Plan. Blackmore replied they recommended that a map for Environmental Mitigation that combines all of the projects and shows the number of environmental impacts they had. That map has now been completed and approved and will be added to the plan. FHWA had originally requested that the goals, objectives, performance measures and targets be changed for compliance with what they speculated their regulations will be when they are adopted in 2017, but have now retracted that request.

It was noted that although Evans was not on the communities list for annual presentations, they did have a date scheduled in August. Shaffer suggested that the value of the presentations to the community groups will likely change as the results from other goals come to fruition, therefore she did not feel it was reasonable to expect Blackmore to reach the goal of twelve for the current year, and cited that goal was more about the overall benefit offered to the communities and region, not the number of presentations done. Blackmore stated that not all of her valuable community work has been in giving presentations and noted that she has been working with the Larimer Collaboration Team every month for the past 2 ½ years and just recently completed a one day strategic planning effort with them. Blackmore clarified that she had presented to the Loveland Sertoma Club. She offered to give any presentations requested by the Council.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission

Kathy Gilliland, Transportation Commissioner, District 5, reported on the following:

- Freight traffic concerns were a main topic at the joint meeting with Heartland Expressway Association and Heartland South in Fort Morgan on July 30, 2015. CDOT looking at options for freight modeling across the state. Encouraging that more money may be put into the State infrastructure.
- Bustang program running well, 18% ridership. I-70 west is running at near capacity, a second run is being considered. Northern Colorado has the 2nd strongest ridership. It is increasing enough that other options like weekends and special event service is being considered. The south routes currently have the lowest ridership but are expected to increase. Ridership numbers will be posted on the website.
- North I-25 Coalition meeting with Senator Bennett, Carl Maxey and others was well attended, showing great support for the Coalition.
- Johnny Olson will be giving a presentation to 10-15 states on community-based resiliency approaches for ASHTO.

CDOT Region 4

Johnny Olson, CDOT R4, briefly reviewed the Project Status Updates (August 6, 2015) with the Council. He mentioned that the 85 route from Greeley to Ault and the Wyoming border, which was not on the update, may have an overlay done as a temporary fix and US 34 east is scheduled to open at the beginning of October. Olson also conveyed relevant information from the July 30 DRIVE ACT and Colorado's Success Policy Brief with the Council. The complete brief will be sent out to the Council and posted on the MPO website. He highly praised the efforts of the North I-25 Coalition, citing their significant participation in the advancements made thus far.

Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) Report

Conway briefly reviewed information from the STAC minutes and highlighted the Federal and State Legislation Update and Johnny Olson's presentation of the Presidential Challenge on Risk & Resiliency. Blackmore commented that immediately following the July STAC meeting, the MPO's issue with delayed CPG and Transit funds was resolved.

North I-25 Coalition

Shaffer reported that the coalition had a very productive meeting and it was recognized that the Coalition's efforts are being recognized on a federal level as well as a State level. The six long-term transportation funding options discussed at the meeting were as follows:

- Trans Bond II
- General Fund money
- Add maintenance to allowable costs for SB 228 tied to TRANs Bond II approval
- Allow extension of SB 228 for a minimum of full \$1B transfer
- New revenue stream tied to TRANs Bond II and SB 228
- Tax Credit (proposed by Total Spectrum at Transportation Summit) –requires Statutory change with Arizona and Utah as examples

Conway added that staff members from both Senator Gardner and Congressman Polis' had given presentations at the meeting and indicated that the focus of the coalition is to now take the model of success they have had at the federal level to the State Legislature. They hope to have several legislators at the September meeting. According to David May of the FIX I-25 Coalition, the focus of the 2016 Legislative Session will be transportation. Barbara Kirkmeyer, North I-25 Coalition Chair, will be providing talking points from the meeting.

Blackmore thanked the MPO staff for creating the Funding Sources for the North I-25 Corridor brochure in response to David May's request for a list of viable funding sources for the next five years and specifically recognized Josh Johnson for his work on the graphics.

Host Council Report

Mellon thanked everyone for coming to Johnstown for the meeting. He reported that their downtown streetscape project was complete and will include a patriotic display on special holidays. The South Trail project along Parish Avenue, which is approximately five miles long and connects downtown to housing developments south of town, is near completion. The project included a bridge widening and rail work and will have a final cost of \$1.1M.

Other Council Reports

Butch Hause- (Sound Engineer) invited everyone to attend the 13th Annual Farm Concert, Sunday, August 30th from 4:30-9p.m at Butch & Sarah's, 0236 East Hwy 56, in Berthoud. This year features John McEuen, and special guest Runaway Express. Tickets are \$30 per person. He handed out several fliers with all the information.

Evans- Morris announced there will be a Safety Awareness Fair at Sam's Club in Evans on Saturday, August 8th. A tour of remaining flood damage will take place Saturday also. There is still a lot of road construction being done in Evans, 37th Street was their last big project and there are still many smaller projects.

Eaton- Ross reported that Eaton Days was July 10-12. The ribbon cutting for the new library was August 1st and the Eaton Industrial Rail Park Grand Opening was July 16th. A new railroad crossing is going in at 10th Street (WCR 76) and US85.

Milliken- Jemiola invited everyone to attend Beef & Bean Day on Saturday, August 8th.

Loveland- Shaffer reported the resurfacing project on US 287 looks great and is a pleasure to drive on. River's Edge Natural Area will be reopening soon, for the first time since the flood. She invited

everyone to attend Sculpture in the Park August 8th and 9th. Shaffer congratulated Kathy Gilliland, Transportation Commissioner, for being reappointed by Governor Hickenlooper.

Fort Collins- Horak thanked TAC and MPO staff for their collaborative efforts on the various projects at the MPO.

Larimer County- Donnelly stated that the Larimer County Fair concluded on August 5th with over \$507,000 in livestock sales, a 12% increase over last year. He mentioned that 1 1/2 % of the population provides all of the food for the country and stressed the importance of showing the next generation the importance and viability of agriculture by supporting the industry in both Larimer and Weld counties. Donnelly was chosen by 4-H members as the winner of the Celebrity Round Robin Livestock Event, an elected official's livestock showing.

Weld County- Conway reported that the Weld County Fair had record numbers of livestock sales this year. He is very proud of all the kids who participate each year. All are invited to a ribbon cutting and dedication for WCR 49 Parkway Project on Wednesday, October 7th, an invitation will also be extended to Governor Hickenlooper. The design/build team will be announced soon, updated details can be found at <http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/PublicWorks/WeldCountyRoad49Corridor/DidYouKnow/>

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment: There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions: There were no suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff