

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

February 4, 2016

6 p.m.

**Timnath Administration Building
4800 Goodman Street
Timnath, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Gerry Horak-Chair	-Fort Collins
Kevin Ross	-Eaton
Jay Schaffer	-Evans
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Don Brookshire	-Severance
Paul Steinway	-Timnath
Myles Baker	-Windsor

Absent

Jan Dowker	-Berthoud
Chris Colclasure	-CDPHE
Tom Norton	-Greeley
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Joan Shaffer	-Loveland
Jordan Jemiola	-Milliken
Kathy Gilliland	-Trans. Comm.
Sean Conway	-Weld County
*No member	-Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Merry Anne Hood, Financial/Administrative Specialist.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Leah Browder, April Getchius, Suzette Mallette, Gary Thomas, Martina Wilkinson.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

The meeting agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

*Ross **moved** to approve the February 4, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Horak opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division Report

A written report was provided. Donnelly requested that Colclasure provide more information on the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan at the March meeting. Horak added that it would be helpful and some point in the future to hear the perspective of Platte River Power and/or Xcel Energy since they will be working with the State of Colorado and providing some the generators for the plan.

Regional Air Quality Council –RAQC

Blackmore briefly reviewed information from the RAQC Meeting January 8, 2016 handout with the Council. Gary Thomas, Larimer County Mobility Council Chair, explained that the Land Use subcommittee spent the majority of the meeting interviewing finalists and making a recommendation for a new subcontractor to manage the Ozone Aware Program. The new contractor will be announced at the February 5th RAQC meeting. The program's objective is to be revitalized by the new management strategy. Horak added that measuring what impact the program's information was having on public behavior was now going to be a major focal point, not just awareness, therefore, the new subcontractor will be required to provide quantifiable data that supports that priority.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Horak opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed information from the February 2016 Director's Report handout with the Council. Horak questioned what action could be taken regarding CDOT's requirement that vans be identified two grant years before they can be sold. Blackmore indicated that FTA had informed her that since it is State money they cannot override or change the requirement. Horak requested that Blackmore prepare a letter to CDOT identifying the program and a possible process to address the issue at the March meeting. Donnelly asked if it may be necessary for Blackmore to hire consultants to help with projects until the new planners are in place. Blackmore replied that she may bring in a modeling consultant to provide training to new planners but otherwise it will depend on which planners are actually hired as some already have modeling experience.

Report of the Chair:

Chair Horak addressed the following topics with the Council:

- MSEC-Executive Director Salary Survey –Rena Steffen, Administrative Director, completed a preliminary review of Executive Director salary information provided by Mountain States Employers Council (MSEC) and determined that the data was not completely relevant, therefore, she will complete her own survey of regional MPO Director salaries in the fall in preparation for the next ED Evaluation Process.
- 2016 MPO Council Goals- it was requested that Council members, staff and the public provide suggestions and feedback for potential 2016 goals for a work session at the March 3rd meeting. Brookshire suggested addressing the need for widening CR 74 (Harmony Road) to US 85 due to traffic issues that have increased with new growth and development in the area. Ross added the need for long-range planning on the northern section of CR 49 and the west side of US 85. The Council discussed refining the planning models based on new project development and how proactive planning will help get projects ready for funding as it comes available.
- The FAST Act Summary was provided as a handout and briefly reviewed with the Council who were encouraged to become familiar with the Act and share the Policy Brief with their staff.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):

A written report was provided.

Finance Committee:

Ross reviewed the January 21 Finance Committee Meeting bullet points and minutes with the Council, highlighting that the goal for the MPO lease rate is \$18-\$20 per square foot. Horak mentioned that he and Hedberg would be meeting with Blue Ocean Enterprises' Director of Real Estate on February 8th to review the lease.

ACTION ITEMS:ICMA- Updated Governmental Money Purchase Plan & Trust

Steffen indicated that there was a memo in the packet and the resolution for the updated plan was in the Council handouts. Blackmore added that the update was required to be in compliance with new federal tax laws.

*Brookshire **moved** to approve Resolution 2016-05 approving to Amend and Restate the Money Purchase Plan in the Form of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Retirement Corporation Governmental Money Purchase Plan & Trust. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

COUNCIL REPORTS:Transportation Commission Report

There was no report.

CDOT Region 4

A written project update was provided to the Council.

North I-25 Coalition

Horak reported the following:

- A presentation was given on the FAST Act
- Johnny Olson, CDOT R4 provided an update on the project to get a temporary lane on I-25 from SH 402 to US 14 that will cost approximately \$192M. A temporary lane will help provide potential revenue data needed to gain support for CDOT or possibly a P3.
- Sandra Solin provided a legislative update from the FIX I-25 Coalition stating it looks like the transportation bill will be dropped in February and TRANS II will pass. The Colorado Contractors Association has been working toward getting a ¾ penny sales tax for transportation on the ballot, but it is not project-specific, has no set sunset, and does not include transit. Horak is not in favor of the sales tax as it is currently defined. Polling showed that although contractors generally favor the sales tax, they would prefer projects.
- The Berthoud Truck Climbing Hill and Crossroads projects will go forward even though CDOT did not receive funding from the Presidential Challenge. Horak confirmed that one of the HUD priorities was to return any money not used by Disaster communities for flood or other repairs back to the respective states originally awarded the funding.

Highway 34 Coalition

Donnelly reported that Olson was planning to initiate a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study on US 34, SH 402, and Crossroads Blvd. which is expected to cost \$2.3M. CDOT wants to use the NFRMPO allocation of RPP money beginning in FY 2016. Over the past four years this funding, which is approximately \$2.8M, has gone to I-25. Olson is expected to attend upcoming meetings with the MPO Council, the Upper Front Range Transportation Planning Region, as well as the local communities, and request a major portion of the \$2.3M needed for the corridor from the 2019 RPP funds. Donnelly noted that the section up to US 287 is complete but there are different levels of work that have been completed along the many sections of the corridor. He suggested the Council consider the proposal and requested that maps and a summary be provided to the Council by Olson prior to the March 3 Council meeting. Blackmore

advised the Council the Highway 34 Coalition would be meeting one week after the MPO's March meeting and would know then if they would be moving forward with the study. Horak suggested that the information also be reviewed by TAC. Brookshire inquired whether mapping done by MPO staff is often a duplicity or overlap of CDOT or other agencies' work. Blackmore replied that there could be some duplication, but she did not believe that CDOT Region 4 has GIS mapping ability.

Host Council Report

Steinway welcomed the Council to the Town of Timnath and introduced April Getchius, Town of Timnath Manager. Together they reported that the town had prioritized the need for improvements on Harmony Road citing the bridge expansion project and widening of East Harmony to four lanes all the way to the railroad tracks. Their next two phases will be widening to Three Bell Parkway, which is currently funded and then ultimately extend to Larimer County Road 1. They may require assistance of Senator Bennet, and possibly others, to acquire the proper approvals from OmniTRAX and the Union Pacific Railroad in order to move that project and the Boxelder floodplain improvement projects forward. A pedestrian underpass will be installed below Harmony Road to improve connectivity to Old Town and the City Windsor. The Poudre River Trail is now completed around Walmart and through the River Bend property near Harmony. The trail will be wider near Brunner Farm heading toward Greeley. There will also be a bridge connection to Fort Collins. Poudre River Trailhead improvements will be made at Gateway Pond and along the river as they continue to do their part to get the trail completed in the next four years. Timnath will be breaking ground soon on their new fire station which will have a full-time paid staff that will serve others around the region as well.

Windsor- Baker reported that Windsor is working with the City of Fort Collins on the I-25 and the SH 392 Interchange. The Windsor Recreation Center expansion is scheduled to open in August and the City will also be constructing a new Public Works building, which will be paid for with cash. Elections will be in April and there will be 3 new board seats as well as a new mayor.

Fort Collins- Horak informed the Council that the Mulberry Bridge is complete but will have some landscaping enhancements that will begin sometime over the next few months. The Woodward Governor campus is nearly complete and staff will begin moving in sometime in March. Lincoln Avenue from Lemay Avenue over the Poudre River all the way to the railroad tracks near Old Town Fort Collins will be improved. It includes bridge widening and some other improvements to help with pedestrian, bike and truck traffic and overall connectivity to businesses such as the breweries there. The project will take approximately 18 months.

Eaton- Ross reported that Eaton is setting aside budget money to add a traffic light to the intersection at CR 76 and US 85 as they have had several fatalities and multiple accidents there because the road is too close to the railroad tracks. Ross and Horak met with Ray Friedlob and Michael Fitzsimmons who requested MPO/local community funding for them to act as federal lobbyists for I-25 at a cost of \$15,000 per month. The services could not be paid for with federal funds. The Finance Committee did not feel it was an appropriate use of funds so they did not choose to bring it to the Council for approval. Some individual communities have chosen to contract with a state lobbyist on their own.

Evans- Schaffer announced on behalf of Mayor Morris, that in support of local workforce initiatives, Evans City Council voted to donate \$21,000 (which allows for seven scholarships) to the Weld County Bright Futures Grant Program which was established by Weld County commissioners in 2015; Evans is the first municipality in the county to invest in Bright Futures. High School Graduates, GED recipients and honorably discharged U.S. Veterans are eligible for \$3,000 per year for up to four years to help with on-going educational expenses. Mayor Morris is challenging other Weld County communities to donate also.

Timnath- Steinway questioned if the Council had an interest in air transportation since the Fort Collins-Loveland airport had recently been awarded with a new modern control tower that uses cameras and radar and control aircraft and there will soon be new commercial service there. Horak replied that it would be appropriate for both the Fort Collins-Loveland airport and the Greeley airport. He requested that information on the funding needs, the new air traffic control and other information be presented to the Council. He would welcome having a presentation on an upcoming Council meeting agenda.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

There was no comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

No topics were suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff