

**MEETING MINUTES of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council**

**Windsor Recreation Center - Pine Room
250 North 11th Street
Windsor, CO**

**May 18, 2016
1:05 – 3:18 p.m.**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dawn Anderson, Chair – Evans
Dennis Wagner, Vice-Chair – Windsor
Jeff Bailey – Loveland
Eric Bracke – Greeley
Amanda Brimmer – RAQC
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
John Holdren – Severance
Seth Hyberger – Milliken
Janet Lundquist – Weld County
Suzette Mallette – Larimer County
Gary Thomas – SAINT
Martina Wilkinson – Fort Collins

NFRMPO STAFF:

Aaron Buckley
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Medora Kealy
Jenna Levin

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 20, 2016 TAC MINUTES

Bracke moved to approve the April 20, 2016 TAC meeting minutes, Thomas supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

2016 Q2 TIP Amendment – Bracke moved to recommend Planning Council approve the 2016 Q2 TIP Amendment. Wilkinson supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Karasko asked TAC to recommend approval of the FY2017 UPWP tasks to Planning Council. She stated the Finance Committee will review and approve the budget at their May meeting. TAC was provided a handout of the local match numbers as a reference.

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud
Gary Carsten – Eaton
John Franklin – Johnstown
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Jessica McKeown – LaSalle
Karen Schneiders – CDOT

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Averill – CDOT
Christopher Barnes – COLT
Marissa Gaughan – CDOT
Will Jones – GET
Jeff Purdy – FHWA
Kurt Ravenschlag – Transfort
Kathy Seelhoff – CDOT
Wade Willis – Windsor, NoCo Bike & Ped

Thomas moved to recommend Planning Council approve the FY2017 UPWP, Wagner supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS (verbal)

Northern Colorado (NoCo) Bike & Ped Collaborative – Willis stated the May 11 meeting included an update on the permanent trail counter installations; Mallette and Jeffrey Boring from Larimer County presented updates on N I-25 plans and how they relate to the Poudre River Trail. The 2017 Northern Colorado Bike & Walk Conference committee held its first meeting prior to the regular NoCo meeting. Willis requested ideas from TAC members for the conference and stated the primary goal is to educate and engage elected officials on non-motorized transportation opportunities and about the November 2017 conference.

Regional Transit Items – Jones stated GET held the first meeting for the Greeley and Fort Collins via Windsor route last month. Travel behavior survey data will be collected from students at UNC, Aims Community College, and Front Range Community College in the fall. . GET completed their second annual 'Ride Free with ID' survey with positive results.

Barnes reported COLT staff will attend a special Loveland City Council session on June 26 to review COLT's Strategic Plan.

Senior Transit Items – Thomas reported Colorado State University and Columbine Health System have partnered to start The Center for Healthy Aging. The partnership will be research focused with community outreach components. Thomas was invited to interview candidates for the Center's director and will provide further details when they are available.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) – Brimmer stated the State Implementation Plan (SIP) will be posted on Monday, May 23. Written public comments will be due May 31, and oral comments can be provided at the June 3 RAQC Board meeting. Written comments may be submitted to SIPComments@raqc.org.

RAQC received their revised modeling, which shows attainment at 75.7 parts per billion (ppb) and 75.8 ppb, meeting the EPA standard of 75 ppb because the decimals are truncated. Only certain control measures receive credit in the SIP. Voluntary measures, transit, voluntary lawn and garden programs, and outreach programs, and all of the data that is built into the transportation model. These items, in addition to federally required measures, will be included in the SIP and will ensure compliance by 2017. The SIP is expected to be recommended to the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) on June 30. The AQCC is expected to review and approve the measures at an October hearing. Subsequently, it will be forwarded to the legislature and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in early 2017.

The 'Mow Down Pollution' events on April 30th and May 7th were successful, with 112 electric mowers sold and an 80 percent recycle rate. A 'Mow Down' event will be held in Denver on June 4. Thomas mentioned the NFRMPO is working with the RAQC to bring the Ozone Aware marketing initiatives to this region.

PRESENTATION

Rural Regional Statewide Bus Network Plan – David Averill, CDOT Division of Transit and Rail (DTR) presented a recommended change in the FTA §5311(f) funding distribution from a grant program to a competitive bid process. The goal is to increase the statewide transit network with a mix of private and public services to address regional and intercity mobility needs. The Plan will assess intermodal connectivity along the current network, recommend strategies to reduce VMT and emissions using existing services, and expand the network where possible.

The existing network is connected, but can be inconvenient due to varying bus route schedules and difficult travel times. Within Colorado, intercity bus carriers cut many routes a decade ago and the smaller network that resulted from these cuts is a primary concern in the Statewide Bus Network Plan. CDOT initiated a pilot program allowing Intercity Bus (ICB) Companies, such as Greyhound, to provide unsubsidized capital or operating miles as an in-kind match to encourage the reinstatement of services. Challenges include inconvenient schedules, a lack of shared branding, differing fare structures, operationalized capital, and a rural/urban disconnect. CDOT would like to maximize service for covering capital costs and wants to move toward the State of Washington's model, which transitioned from a grant program to a competitive bid process in 2007.

Jones stated the ICB route through Greeley is subsidized by WYDOT and asked if extending Bustang from Greeley to Denver is still being considered. Averill confirmed it is being considered. An application process will be used before rolling the money into §5311(f). DTR is studying transit service on US-85. Jones stated service from Greeley to Denver would be helpful.

Ravenschlag stated he is concerned with reducing private carrier subsidies for the interstate services. Averill stated he believes the private carriers would still bid due to the competitive framework, even if the routes may not be as profitable. Ravenschlag asked if the connections can retain their interstate service. Averill responded CDOT is seeking to maintain maximum connectivity.

In August, DTR will request Transportation Commission approval of the operating plan and procurement of 10 to 13 Bustang busses. Upon approval, CDOT will request bids. Some routes would be packaged for the bid to create a competitive approach for a two-year period. Averill requested TAC members contact him or Mike Timlin if they have comments.

DISCUSSION

2016 CMP Annual Report – Kealy presented changes to the Draft 2016 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Annual Report. The report title has changed to the 2016 CMP Annual Report and it will include 2015 data. The six page brochure will be the full CMP Annual Report and a technical supplement will provide background calculations.

The CMP Annual Report measures congestion using the regional Travel Time Index (TTI) with the adopted target of 2.5, which was set in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Targets (GOPMT). CDOT established and uses the Planning Time Index (PTI) after NFRMPO adopted its target, which displays more congestion. On May 5th, TAC received a memo from staff on travel time reliability thresholds and staff received feedback. Staff proposes the CMP Annual Report include analysis of the TTI measure of the adopted target, and supplement with the PTI. Data from the NFRMPO Regional Travel Demand Model shows the region meeting the target for the TTI. The region is not meeting the CDOT target for the PTI.

Based on FHWA's CMP Guidebook, congestion management strategies included in the report are grouped, into four categories: Travel Demand Management (TDM), public transportation improvements, traffic operations improvements/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and additional system capacity. Kealy requested TAC provide feedback by Friday, May 20th so comments can be included in the May 24th Council packet. The Annual Report will return to TAC for recommendation to Planning Council on June 15th, and to Planning Council for Action on July 7th.

Malette asked if the project list was taken from the TIP and the federally obligated projects list. Kealy responded they are congestion-related projects from the TIP and the Federally Obligated

Projects list. She added to let her know if any additional projects should be included. Bracke stated he believes there is still a mistake in the TTI data and the data does not identify the correct congested locations. He stated the analysis of VMT was not clear as the two data sources contradict each other. He stated he understands the two targets, but the brochure should state which one the region used and why. Kealy stated she would investigate the issue. Bracke requested clarification on the role the CMP has in the TIP selection process. Kealy stated the RTP performance measures were used in the TIP selection process. Lundquist requested the report restate the connection as between the performance measures and project selection process.

Jones stated 2015 transit agency information should be available and should be used. Kealy stated she will make the update. Mallette stated one of the highlighted bottlenecks is in a rural area. Wilkinson added she does not believe County Road 29 is within the NFRMPO region. Karasko stated staff will review the intersection.

Wilkinson asked how projects were divided into the categories. Karasko stated the four strategy categories and associated projects were from the FHWA CMP Guidebook.

FY2020-2021 Call for Projects – Gordon discussed the proposed CMAQ project categories, target category pools, and funding availability for projects not completely within the NFRMPO boundary. Discussion surrounded the proposed target percentages and funding availability. Following April's TAC meeting, staff investigated eligible CMAQ projects and FAST Act changes.

Gordon discussed the 17 eligible CMAQ project categories identified by FHWA, the staff proposed four project categories, and proposed target percentages. TAC members discussed projects benefiting air quality operating outside of the NFRMPO boundary. Lundquist stated Milliken should be removed from the land percentage element. She is concerned Larimer, Weld, and Milliken are being penalized. Karasko stated the NFRMPO is trying to keep funding and benefits equitable within the boundary. Mallette stated she would be comfortable making projects which go outside of the boundary less eligible. Wilkinson questioned the method for calculating the project percent within the boundary and how the outside benefits would be deducted. Ravenschlag suggested a lower rating if the project location is unclear. Karasko suggested applicants provide a map to document project locations in the application.

Wilkinson asked why staff is recommending using the same category percentages. Karasko stated the percentages are different. TAC members discussed the need for categories and percentages. Karasko responded equity could be increased by allowing additional project types in the call. Ravenschlag stated the funding category targets are helpful in ensuring a variety of project types are selected. Karasko stated projects would not be funded simply because a target percentage was set and indicated the target percentages could be removed. Lundquist approved of removing the percentages. Karasko responded the application can be modified for those entities with area outside of the NFRMPO. Mallette stated she agrees with the application modification and stated she understands staff would like to ensure one entity does not receive all of the funding.

Gaughan questioned if a cost-benefit analysis system is in place. Karasko replied an emissions benefit process is in place. Lundquist added there is a cost benefit analysis, but emissions reduction is weighed over cost. Air quality projects with the greatest impact should be prioritized in the scoring process; however, it should be acceptable if the benefit is outside of the region. Ravenschlag proposed keeping the project categories, but not the percentages. Wilkinson suggested using the same project categories as the last call. Karasko asked if TAC members wanted the four proposed project categories or the three project categories from the previous call for projects. Lundquist responded the four project categories and to establish percentages

later. Mallette agreed. Karasko confirmed the four project categories will be used without percentages.

Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) Update – Buckley presented the updated table of contents for the NMP, which is expected to be adopted by Council in December 2016. TAC feedback on the table of contents was requested by May 31. A NMP steering committee has been formed and additional participation was requested. The committee will meet the third Tuesday of the month at the Windsor Recreation Center from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Non-motorized transportation data requests were sent to communities to request additional data to incorporate into the Plan.

Wilkinson questioned if the existing conditions section of the Plan's table of contents is related to safety or performance measures. Bracke questioned if staff will be able to complete the plan within the proposed timeline. Karasko requested the TAC offer feedback on section appropriateness. Several TAC members asked if the deadline could be extended. Karasko stated the NFRMPO will consider extending the timeline for the plan.

Buckley discussed the mobile bicycle and pedestrian counter MOU. Communities using the counters will be assessed prorated fees for tubing and batteries in the yearly member dues beginning in 2017.

2040 RTP Summary Brochure – Levin discussed the draft 2040 RTP Brochure and requested comments by May 31. Bustow requested the federal mandate statement be removed and the website link be moved to the cover. Lundquist requested the statement about the 2007 NFRMPO border expansion be replaced with a statement regarding the member governments. Wilkinson requested Council and TAC information be added. Gaughan recommended the Air Quality Planning section be less technical and state how it impacts the public.

REPORTS

NFRMPO Counter Program Update – Buckley reported the permanent bicycle and pedestrian counters were installed at the River Bluffs Open Space and the Rover Run Dog Park along the Poudre River Trail.

Mobility Committee Update – Gordon reported on the April 21st Larimer County Mobility Committee meeting, which included a presentation on the Larimer County Workforce Center. The upcoming Weld County Mobility Committee meeting will have a presentation from GET on their new Strategic Plan and discussion regarding the NMP.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko stated the NFRMPO has additional STP-Metro, CMAQ, and TAP funds following CDOT's recent reconciliation adjustment. She asked TAC members if they would like to allocate the funds to remaining unfunded projects from the 2014 Call for Projects or roll them into the upcoming Call for Projects. Mallette asked if there are current projects eligible for and able to use the funding. Karasko responded staff will provide TAC with list of the eligible projects at the June TAC meeting.

Gaughan reported two trainings will be held on the Transportation Alternatives project applications. Participation in the workshop is encouraged for entities applying for these funds.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions

Anderson requested Bracke present on the Greeley Adaptive Signals project next month. Bracke agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

Jenna Levin, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room.