

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

**October 6, 2016
Johnstown Community Center
101 Charlotte Street
Johnstown, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Gerry Horak-Chair -Fort Collins
Jennifer Baker -Berthoud
Kevin Ross -Eaton
John Morris -Evans
Tom Norton -Greeley
Troy Mellon -Johnstown
Joan Shaffer -Loveland
Don Brookshire -Severance
Paul Steinway -Timnath
Sean Conway -Weld County
Kristie Melendez -Windsor
Kathy Gilliland -Transportation
Commission

Absent

Chris Colclasure -CDPHE
Tom Donnelly -Larimer County
Paula Cochran -LaSalle
Linda Meisner -Milliken
*No member -Garden City

MPOStaff:

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

In Attendance:

Steve Adams, Dawn Anderson, David Averill, Jeff Bailey, Todd Blomstrom, Eric Bracke, Leah Browder, Wolfgang Dirks, Jim Eussen, John Franklin, Myron Hora, Mark Jackson, Scott James, Will Jones, Dave Kisker, Dean Klingner, Dave Klockeman, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Karen Schneiders, Fred Starr, Dennis Wagner, Martina Wilkinson.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mellon introduced Scott James, Mayor of Johnstown, to the Council. James welcomed the Council to Johnstown and encouraged everyone at the meeting to shop and dine in Johnstown.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

The Meeting Agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

*Norton **moved** to approve the August 4, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously. Gilliland abstained as she had not attended the August 4th meeting.*

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.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC):

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Horak opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, indicated that the October 2016 Director's Report Addendum had been handed out and then highlighted the following items from that report:

- CDOT Transportation Summit 2016
- Council/Board Presentations
- HOV 3
- NFRMPO Staff Changes
- NFRMPO and VanGo™ Websites
- The Coordinated Plan kick off at a joint meeting of the Mobility Committees

Report of the Chair:

Chair Horak reported that the Executive Director Evaluation survey had recently been distributed to MPO staff, TAC and Council members and would be closing on October 10th. He indicated that Blackmore and eight of nine staff members had completed the survey, but only a small percentage of the TAC and Council. He announced that Ross had not received the survey email and asked if there were other members who also had not received the information. No Council members responded affirmatively. He encouraged members of TAC and Council to submit the survey by the deadline to allow for the best feedback and guidance for Blackmore and the Council in setting future goals and completing the evaluation process. Horak noted he had served on the panel that reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications and indicated that recommendations had been made and CDOT staff would be formalizing those recommendations and would have information out to the public by the end of October, citing the recommendations would prove favorable for many MPO communities. He thanked Karasko for her review of the projects.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

Finance:

Ross briefly reviewed the August 18, 2016 Finance Committee Report bullet points and minutes with the Council and stated that the Finance Committee was recommending acceptance of the 2nd Quarter 2016 Unaudited Financial Statements and investment Report.

ACTION ITEM:2nd Quarter Unaudited Financials

Crystal Hedberg, Operations and Finance Manager, pointed out that the current investment report, which had been reviewed by the Finance Committee, had increased significantly for VanGo™ because the nearly \$700,000 from 2015 that was exchanged with Fort Collins for 5307 funds had been received.

*Ross **moved** to approve the CY 2016 2nd Quarter Unaudited Financial Statements. The motion was **seconded** and it **passed** unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:Schedule of Work-Quarterly Update

Blackmore briefly reviewed the updated NFRMPO Schedule of Work with the Council and stated that the Call for Projects recommendations would be presented later in the meeting. She also identified that once the call was complete work would begin on the TIP and noted that some modeling had already begun for the RTP amendments.

2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment

Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director, reviewed with the Council information from the 2040 RTP Amendment memo along with the two 2040 RTP Amendment Request letters and 2040 RTP Request Forms from CDOT for the North I-25: SH56 to SH14 project and City of Greeley/GET for the Greeley-Evans Transportation Center. She indicated that there were also copies available of CDOT's Benefit Cost Analysis. She noted that the RTP amendments would be an action item at the November 3rd Council meeting.

FY 2020-2021 Call for Projects Presentations

Dawn Anderson, TAC Chair and City of Evans Engineer, reviewed the Call for Projects Recommendations revised memo with the Council and indicated that there would be a two-minute summary of each individual project recommendation by the project sponsor and indicated that the funding programs for the 2020-2021 Call for Projects were the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and Transportation Alternative (TA).

Anderson introduced the project sponsors prior to presentations for each funding program. The following project recommendations were presented to the Council:

CMAQ Project Recommendations-Transfort Diesel Bus Replacement

David Averill, City of Fort Collins Capital Planning & Grants Compliance Manager.

Greeley Evans Transit Diesel Bus Replacement

Will Jones, Greeley Evans Transit (GET) Manager

Greeley Traffic Control System Replacement

Eric Bracke, City of Greeley Traffic Engineer

CNG Fast Fill Stations

Suzette Mallette, Larimer County Transportation Program Manager

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Norton asked how many vehicles Larimer County had. Mallette replied that the County was just beginning to build their fleet of CNG vehicles and were in the process of purchasing their first two which would be pickup trucks. They plan to purchase two heavy-duty vehicles in the next few months and continue to increase their fleet by two vehicles each year. The fill stations will also be accessible to the City of Loveland and the City of Fort Collins vehicles.

Traffic Signal Progression Improvements- US 34

Jeff Bailey, City of Loveland Engineer

COLT Diesel Bus Replacement

Jeff Bailey, City of Loveland Engineer

Loveland Diesel Fleet Replacement

Jeff Bailey, City of Loveland Engineer

FY20 & 21 Weld County Natural Gas Vehicles

Janet Lundquist, Weld County Traffic Engineer

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Norton questioned the funding of new vehicles versus upgraded vehicles stating they could not have possibly scored higher. Lundquist stated that the Weld County vehicles had, in fact, scored higher for CMAQ funding than the City of Greeley buses and that full funding can be requested for fully-dedicated transportation use natural gas vehicles according to the current scoring criteria. Norton argued that was not the same scoring criteria that had been agreed to previously. Lundquist explained that in previous years funding had been requested for vehicles that were not fully-dedicated, but what she called bi-fuel vehicles. She added that FHWA allowed for incremental costs of transportation -dominated vehicles and noted that an incremental cost over the cost-benefit analysis would be much higher than the full cost of the vehicles themselves, mainly due to the increased air quality benefit. Norton said he had understood that the scoring system allowed only the differential cost when changing to natural gas vehicles and that was based on miles removed from the system. When comparing the number of people who can ride on a bus and the emissions he did not see how the scoring would not favor the buses. He asked when the scoring system had changed to allow for this type of funding.

The Council engaged in a lengthy debate regarding the scoring criteria that had been followed by TAC for the current Call for Projects recommendations. Blackmore stated that the scoring process had not been changed from that of the 2014 Call for Projects, and although incremental cost had not been included then or for the current Call, it could be considered in future calls, but added she believed that cost-differential may be more feasible. She apologized that she had not been aware that the Council had established a policy that they would only fund the incremental value and assured the Council that the federal guidelines had been followed. Horak requested that the Council review the overall process more comprehensively at a future meeting and requested background material be provided to the Council on the current process that included the various parameters that have been previously set, as well as those being considered for the future. Norton said he would appreciate the opportunity to briefly review the supporting documentation. Blackmore clarified that the policies had not necessarily been changed, but the overall process had been simplified to eliminate some of the political process that

had kept smaller communities from getting funding and agreed to provide the requested information to the Council. Shaffer suggested that the policies be very clearly identified for future Calls. Several Council members expressed their support of the FY20 & 21 CMAQ Project recommendations. Morris added that it would also be beneficial to have a more thorough review of all of the projects prior to them going to TAC for recommendation.

Conway questioned if the TAC had used the scoring criteria or based the recommendations on a break down per community. Anderson responded that TAC had followed the scoring criteria. Blackmore reminded the Council that CMAQ funding must be based on emissions but STBG considers equity. Conway then asked if the CMAQ funding had been split into small and large community pots as in the last call. Anderson replied that it was not necessary to split the pots for this call because the scoring committee had chosen to fully fund three projects and partially fund five other projects, which allowed for eight of ten projects to receive funding and cited that the other two projects had other funding sources available to them. Conway commended the TAC and the scoring committee CMAQ for trying to maximize the dollars to impact the project funding as much as possible.

STBG Project Recommendations-

37th Street Resurfacing Overlay

Dawn Anderson, City of Evans Engineer

Timberline Road Corridor Improvements

Dean Klingner, City of Fort Collins Engineer

O Street Widening - 11th Avenue to WCR 37

Eric Bracke, City of Greeley Engineer

North LCR 17 Expansion – Partial funding

Suzette Mallette, Larimer County Transportation Program Manager

US 34 (Eisenhower Boulevard) Widening - Boise Avenue to I-25

Jeff Bailey, City of Loveland Engineer

Intersection Improvements at SH 257 & Eastman Park Dr.

Dennis Wagner, Town of Windsor Director of Engineering

TA Project Recommendations

Little Thompson River Corridor Trail-Phase 1a – Doubled the request

John Franklin, Town of Johnstown Planner

North LCR 17 Expansion – Partial funding

Suzette Mallette, Larimer County Transportation Program Manager

Anderson thanked the Council for their time and the opportunity to present all of the recommended projects. She said she was very proud of the collaborative process TAC engaged in and that they were able to fully or partially fund fifteen projects. She announced that the 2020-2021 Call for Projects Recommendations would be an action item at the November 3rd Council meeting and asked that anyone with additional questions contact her or Becky Karasko.

Horak, Gilliland and Morris recognized Anderson and the TAC and complimented their efforts.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported on the following:

- Rocky Scott will be the new Colorado Springs area Transportation Commissioner.
- The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), the alliance of toll operators and associated industries, held their 84th Annual Meeting & Exhibition which was sponsored by E470. Tolling mechanism options and complexities was a very beneficial topic that was addressed at the meeting.
- I-25 Corridor Expansion process can include community's projects if they can contribute their portion of the funding. Design requests need to be made before January in order to be included in the Master Plan. She would encourage a presentation by Heather and/or Suzette to those interested.
- There will be Bustang service, in partnership with RTD, of round-trip rides from both Colorado Springs and Fort Collins to Mile High Stadium in Denver. The service will run for two Broncos' home games: Sunday, October 9th against the Atlanta Falcons and Sunday, October 30th against the San Diego Chargers.

CDOT Region 4

Karen Schneiders, Local Agency Planning & Environmental Manager, briefly reviewed projects from the Project Status Updates report dated October 6th. She expounded on a conversation Johnny Olson had with the Council in August regarding Urban Freight Corridors and explained that the CDOT regions are suggesting that when there is a project like I-25 that could potentially have a freight component to it, they will add that project to the Urban Corridors. They will designate corridors that have funding and freight projects on them to leverage federal funding opportunities and once those projects are complete and/or funded they will remove the designation and move it to another corridor. She reminded the Council that there can only be 80 miles of urban corridor on a freight network at a time and requested a head-nod consensus from the Council. The Council indicated they were in consensus and Schneiders confirmed that CDOT would proceed with the Colorado Freight Network as outlined and add and subtract the Urban Network as appropriate. Norton questioned what the benefit was of having a freight network. Schneiders responded that it was one way to qualify for Freight formula funding (15-18M 2016-2020), but was really somewhat of a shell game as it would simply be put on and then taken off simply to meet the requirements and receive the funding.

North I-25 Coalition

Melendez reported the following:

- Crossroads at I-25 construction kicks off October 8th.
- Berthoud Hill completion expected by the end of 2016
- US 34 closure October 17th through Memorial Day weekend. The alternate route is US 36 through Lyons.
- Fix I-25 legislative update from Sandra Solis indicated that the TLRC is getting the bonding issue in front of the legislature
- Funding for I-25
- December 7th Legislative Roundup – It is necessary to get the importance of funding I-25 to the legislature. Council participation is strongly encouraged at that meeting.

Mallette gave the following I-25 Build Project Process update:

- The letter of intent has been circulated. The next step is Requests for Qualifications (RFQ's) then Request for Proposals (RFP's) for a consultant.

- Base case criteria for the requested \$237M is currently being evaluated to determine what can actually be built with the allocated funding, how far the three lanes will go and whether it is in line with the current EIS or will it be slightly different.
- The goal is to have a consultant on board with a notice to proceed (NTP) by December 2017.
- Communities wanting locally funded projects included are strongly encouraged to make their requests to her or CDOT as soon as possible as there are several comprehensive time-consuming steps required by both CDOT and the community.

Highway 34 Coalition

Shaffer reported that the US 34 Expansion meeting would be held at the Weld County Service Center at 6:30 on December 7th. Everyone is encouraged to attend. She complimented Horak for his suggestion that signage with project explanations, benefits and dates be placed near the recent road improvements at Berthoud Hill, Crossroads and others and indicated that CDOT is looking at and considering the signage.

Conway reported the following:

- CH2M will be the contractor for the PEL. The schedule is 4-6 weeks for the scope of work-the goal is for contract approval in early December, this will also determine the date of their next meeting, but it is expected to be held at 4:00 on January 5th in Milliken, the location of the regular MPO Council meeting.

STAC Report

Conway briefly reviewed meeting information from the STAC Summary from September 23rd.

Johnstown (Host Council) – Mayor James thanked everyone for attending and expressed his excitement about all the progress on I-25 and the continued growth in the communities. Mellon acknowledged Johnstown's new public sculpture, created by Gareth Curtiss of Montana. The bronze, life-sized sculpture of three children enjoying a parade with the American flag waving behind them was installed on August 17th at the northwest corner of the Community Center. He encouraged everyone to view the sculpture before the leaving the building.

Severance- Brookshire reported that Severance was embarking on their first Parks Master Plan. He thanked MPO staff for attending one of their Open House events and indicated they would be holding others in the coming months.

Berthoud- Baker announced that Berthoud's new Mayor, Steve Mulvihill, was officially sworn in at the Berthoud Board of Trustees Meeting on August 16th, and he would be keeping the board appointments as they were currently and added he was doing a commendable job fulfilling his mayoral duties and will fulfill the CML appointment for Berthoud. There was a great turnout at their Third Annual Oktoberfest on October 1st.

Windsor- Melendez reported on the following:

- Windsor will hold their budget session on October 8th followed by a 3:00 Ribbon Cutting for their new Aquatics center and Tot Lot Playground along with a full-facility open house in celebration of their newly expanded Recreation Center.
- The new \$13M Public Works facility will have a ground breaking event on October 10th at 5 p.m.
- The Old Mill project is under contract and the details of the project will be announced soon.
- Railroad crossing project should have an update the first part of November.

Evans- Morris announced the following:

- Many construction projects going on throughout the City of Evans
- The access control project at 37th Street and US 85, which was MPO funded, has begun.

- 65th Street and 35th Avenue and Prairie View to 37th Street widening plans are moving forward.
- Recently began construction at the \$41M wastewater treatment plant as well as the road leading to it, which was damaged during the flood.

Loveland- Shaffer introduced Steve Adams, the new Loveland City Manager and commented on the progress of Loveland's many road projects and robust budget, indicating they are in the middle of their current budget cycle and hope to have it completed in November. She also mentioned Loveland is hiring snow plow drivers for the winter.

Timnath- Steinway announced that the Town of Timnath is now in both Larimer and Weld Counties due to some recent expansion in annexation. He also reported the 4-lane widening of Harmony Road east of I-25, to Club Drive was under construction and suggested using alternate routes as the speed limit would be only 25 mph and the project will take approximately nine months.

Greeley- Norton reported on the following:

- Greeley is finishing up their \$12M street improvement project and they look forward to doing more, including a project on 65th Street with the City of Evans.
- The city will meet for their budget session on October 8th.
- Several projects are advancing, including their downtown hotel project, Streetscape improvements, and their US 34 Business and US 85 Business improvements.

Eaton- Ross announced that after being behind schedule briefly, the Eaton Recreation Center is now ahead of schedule and hope to have it completed in June 2017. The new Eaton Town Square is completed and seeded.

Fort Collins- Horak commended everyone for working together on the North I-25 funding as featured in the *On the Move* newsletter.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Final Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Next Month's/upcoming Agenda Topic Suggestions:

- 1) Shaffer- VanGo success on US 34
- 2) Gilliland - CDOT Road X New Technologies

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff