

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

**July 6, 2017
Severance Town Hall
3S Timber Ridge Parkway
Severance, CO**

Voting Members

Present

Kevin Ross- Chair

Jennifer Baker
Chris Colclasure
Gerry Horak
Robb Casseday
Paula Cochran
Joan Shaffer
Linda Measner
Don Brookshire
Sean Conway
Kristie Melendez
Kathy Gilliland

-Eaton
-Berthoud
-CDPHE
-Fort Collins
-Greeley
-LaSalle
-Loveland
-Milliken
-Severance
-Weld County
-Windsor
-Transportation
Commission

Absent

John Morris
Troy Mellon
Tom Donnelly
Paul Steinway

-Evans
-Johnstown
-Larimer County
-Timnath

*No member
-Garden City

MPO Staff:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director; Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner II/Mobility Coordinator.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Julie Cozad, Danny Giltinan, Matthew Gordon, Butch Hause, Joel Hemesath, Wayne Howard, Janet Lundquist, Suzette Mallette, Mitch Nelson, Johnny Olson and Jed Scott.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA:

*CASSEDAY **MOVED** TO APPROVE THE JULY 6, 2017 MEETING AGENDA. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

*CONWAY **MOVED** TO APPROVE THE JUNE 1, 2017 MEETING MINUTES. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Ross opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division

Chris Colclasure, APCD Deputy Director, gave the 2017 Summer Ozone Update presentation to the Council. He noted the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 70 ppb was due to be designated in September of 2017 by statute but Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Scott Pruitt, identified another section of the statute which allows EPA to delay the designations by one year; therefore the EPA will wait until Fall 2018 to make new designations. Because the EPA is currently dealing with multiple related grievances, some which will lead to litigation, the timing of designating non-attainment areas is uncertain, but Colclasure believes the geographic boundaries will remain the same. He indicated it is possible the 75 ppb standard will be met in the North Front Range, but is uncertain whether the new standard of 70 ppb is attainable. With the top priority being public health, his department will do everything possible to assist in meeting the new standard, although often contributing factors such as extreme heat and wind, are out of their control.

Regional Air Quality Council

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Ross opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

REPORTS:

Executive Director Report:

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director, briefly reviewed information from the July 6 Director's Report Addendum with the Council. She noted that a public involvement brochure had been developed and would be available at Eaton Day. She also noted that the Larimer County Commission would be considering the Larimer County Senior Transportation Needs Assessment on July 11.

Report of the Chair:

Ross stated he did not have a report but indicated he would discuss the Professional Development Program with the Council during the Executive Session.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

ACTION ITEMS:

FY 2018-2021 TIP Readoption

Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director reviewed information from the FY 2018-2021 TIP Readoption memo and resolution with the Council. Melendez asked if only the effective date was changed in the new resolution. Karasko replied the TIP tables had also been updated with Policy Amendments approved by Planning Council and Administrative Modifications completed since March 2, 2017.

*CONWAY **MOVED** TO APPROVE REVISED RESOLUTION NO. 2017-08 ADOPTING THE FY2018-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP). The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

Transit Benefit Letter of Support

Blackmore reviewed information from the Commuter Tax Benefit Memo with the Council explaining this letter was in support of retaining the current tax benefit.

*GILLILAND **MOVED** TO APPROVE SENDING THE TRANSIT BENEFIT LETTER OF SUPPORT TO EACH OF THE NORTHERN COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.*

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Report

Gilliland reported she, Mark Jackson, Gerry Horak and David May gave a presentation titled Transportation and Regional Collaboration where they explained how in northern Colorado, municipalities, counties, and private organizations partnered to put \$55 million in local funds on the table to leverage additional federal and state monies for infrastructure projects along the North I 25 corridor. They discussed the various mechanisms used to leverage funding, the key partnerships formed, and the effective coalition that gained state and federal support as well as how to use regional collaboration models on an issue and take a similar approach to other parts of the state. The interactive presentation was very well received and drew a large audience.

CDOT Region 4

A written Project Status Update was provided.

I-25 Update

There was no report.

US 34 Coalition

A written report was provided.

STAC Report

A written report was provided. Conway highlighted the Colorado Road Usage Charge (RUC) study, a pilot program researching how a pay-by-mile system compares to current gas tax paid, stating there were surprising results for many rural pilot program participants who would have potentially paid less in the road usage charge than with the gas tax according to their reported miles and many in urban areas would have paid more. This was the preliminary report for the alternative funding research, the final report is expected sometime in July and Conway expects it to lead to some interesting conversations on alternative transportation funding. Gilliland added CDOT will begin another pilot program working with fourteen other states on exploring ways the program can cross state lines.

Host Council Member Report- Brookshire welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to Severance. He recognized John Holdren, Jr. for providing the barbeque meal and noted Holdren had recently purchased The Dugout Bar and Grill in Greeley. Brookshire reported Severance is doing well and experiencing a lot of growth.

Weld County- Conway reported WCR 49 is on time and budget.

Windsor- Melendez reported the Town of Windsor broke ground July 6th on a neighborhood center, which will include a coffee shop, convenience store and diner at the southeast corner of SH 257 and SH 392. A roundabout has also been approved for the intersection.

Fort Collins – Horak reported he had contributed to an opinion article in the Coloradoan regarding express lanes on North I-25. The article can be found here:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/story/opinion/2017/07/06/opinion-look-forward-express-lanes-reliability-choice>

Greeley- Casseday reported Freedom Parkway Committee will hold an Access Control Plan Open House event on July 13 at Johnstown Town Hall and July 19 at the Evans Community Complex, both events are from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Loveland- Shaffer reported the City of Loveland is going strong on their road projects and activities.

Eaton- Ross reported many construction projects are under way in the Town of Eaton. He recognized Johnny Olson, the CDOT crew and hired contractors for the speed and professionalism he witnessed at the intersection of WCR 74 and US 85. The Eaton Area Community Center grand opening celebration will be held July 9th from 1 – 6 p.m.

MEETING WRAP-UP:

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions:

There were no suggestions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

BROOKSHIRE MOVED THE COUNCIL GO INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-6-402(4)(F) OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES FOR DISCUSSION OF A PERSONNEL MATTER INVOLVING THE MPO'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FEEDBACK REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE COACHING PROGRAM AS CALLED FOR UNDER THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

***The Council took a seven minute break and reconvened at 6:50 p.m.
The Council entered into an Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. The session lasted approximately one hour and fourteen minutes.***

Chair Ross reopened the regular MPO Council meeting at 8:07 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION:

Professional Development Funding -

CONWAY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2017-14 DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO A COACHING CONTRACT TO BE PAID OVER TWO YEARS UP TO \$32,000 PER YEAR FROM THE MPO RESERVES FUND.

Shaffer stated the importance of having the Executive Director, Executive Committee and coach, Christina Haxton, discuss openly the potential for contractual reduction. Ross asked Conway if he would amend his motion to state a total maximum of \$61,480 split over two years. Conway and Casseday, who seconded the original motion, both agreed to the amendment.

CONWAY MOVED TO APPROVE AMENDING RESOLUTION 2017-14 DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO A COACHING CONTRACT TO BE PAID FROM THE MPO RESERVES FUND TOTALING UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$61,480 SPLIT OVER TWO YEARS.

Conway stated he viewed the professional development program and coaching as an investment in the Executive Director as well as the staff and provides the ability for the NFRMPO to become the best MPO in Colorado. He also stated for the record entering into this contract for the professional development program was not an insinuation, or in any way, shape, or form meant to state the Executive Director is

not doing a good job, yet simply a follow-through of items discussed during the Executive Director Evaluation process for the current year. Melendez stated with respect to Blackmore and members of the Council, she felt for the program to be a valuable investment it required buy-in from all participants but she was not convinced they had that buy-in, therefore, she could not support the motion. Brookshire stated he agreed with Melendez adding he was not completely convinced everyone involved was invested in the opportunity to improve as an organization. Ross stated for the record the program was an investment in the overall organization and he feels Blackmore and her staff perform at an exceedingly high level and Blackmore has met with all the communities and been very positive for the MPO as far as outreach and building the MPO's standing with the public through STAC, RAQC, TAC, and other groups. He believes in Blackmore as she has done a great job achieving the goals set for her and her staff, and the coaching program is not a negative but a way to hit new achievable heights. The Council engaged in a brief discussion regarding the need for the full contract and whether everyone involved in the coaching process would be invested enough for a measurable result.

*A **roll call vote** was requested on the amended motion. Chair Ross called roll.*

*Sean Conway – yea; Jennifer Baker – yea; Kristie Melendez – nay; Don Brookshire – nay; Linda Measner – yea; Kathy Gilliland – nay, Joan Shaffer – nay; Robb Casseday – yea; Paula Cochran – yea; Gerry Horak – yea; Kevin Ross – yea. **The motion passed 7 to 4.***

Conway stated for the record his appreciation to the Executive Committee for their time and effort on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff