

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room
250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introductions

- ❖ Aaron Fodge, CSU
- ❖ Jamie Gaskill-Fox, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Jim Flesher, Weld County
- ❖ Katie Guthrie, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kelly Smith, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kenyon Neal, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Kyle Fehr, City of Evans
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, WCDPHE
- ❖ Nancy Nichols, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Sarah Martin, NFRMPO
- ❖ Shanen Weber, City of Loveland
- ❖ Suzanne Bassinger, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Tom Jones, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ Wade Willis, Town of Windsor
- ❖ Will Jones, City of Greeley
- ❖ Will Karspeck, Town of Berthoud
- ❖ Zac Wiebe, Larimer County

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The December 13, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Senior Thesis Presentation: Cycling to Work Health Risk and Benefits

This item was postponed to the February 14 meeting.

4. Potential Bike/Ped Counter Locations

Dusil reported the NFRMPO has two permanent counters available for installation in soft or hard surface trails. One counter must go in each county. Three locations were proposed in Weld County and one in Larimer County at the December meeting. The first Weld County location is along the Great Western Trail near a future community park in Severance. Willis asked whether locating near a park will account more for park users rather than regional trail users. Group members agreed that permanent counters would best serve regional data collection in more remote areas. Tom Jones proposed a more remote location may attract more vandalism. Dusil responded the counter would be inconspicuous and could include trail signage to mitigate concern. Will Jones asked if it would be useful to get before and after counts on the Poudre Trail that will be connected after the I-25 project. Dusil responded some of these counts might be captured by existing counters. Tom Jones added a counter at a mid-point location near the Severance Middle School might better capture inter-community travel if vandalism is not a concern. Fodge added there has been one instance of counter vandalism at CSU, but it was late at night along a highly-trafficked corridor. Martin asked if vandalism is more likely in highly-trafficked areas than rural areas. Willis asked whether the power line along the Great Western Trail would interfere with the inductive loops. Dusil mentioned he would ask Eco-Counter about this.

Dusil stated the second potential Weld Location, recommended by Sarah Boyd, would fill in data gaps along the Poudre trail near Greeley. Dusil concluded the third potential location is in Riverside Park in Evans. Fehr added the majority of the trail is also near electromagnetic interference and stated a location under or near the US85 bridge would be susceptible to vandalism and elsewhere on the trail might experience high sun exposure. Fehr mentioned changing the park project scope may be difficult given the FEMA funding.

Willis asked whether the MPO would continue to provide permanent trail counters in the future. Dusil responded that he wasn't sure, but that the network would be more easily expanded through the existing temporary counter program. Willis added that given the infrequent usage of temporary counters, the group may be better served by creating a list of future permanent locations for when funding becomes available. Fodge agrees that permanent counters are valuable to support the utility of regional trails.

Dusil noted the Larimer County counter would be located at the southern portion of Loveland's rec trail and is at the junction of two Regional Non-Motorized Corridors (RNMCs). Smith added the counter could provide valuable before and after data as multiple intersecting trail projects (the Big Thompson Trail and the Front Range Trail) get completed.

Willis asked if everyone was comfortable moving forward with the Larimer County location. The group agreed it was. Willis added the Evans location sounds unlikely and should be pulled from possible locations. Fehr agreed. Will Jones noted the Great Western Trail location would provide useful before and after data for future projects in the region. Willis added that the trail provides the region's first analysis of a soft-surface trail and data for a trail connecting three communities. Fodge asked whether the Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) should fund their own counter as part of the 2018-19 construction. Willis responded that since the data benefits the group and the region, not just the GWTA, it remains a viable investment. Will Jones noted it may be difficult to bring the project back to TAC to add a counter. Dusil reported on the cost of procuring, installing, and operating the counter. Willis asked if installing a counter was required at the beginning of project selection. Fodge stated that projects should budget for counters from the beginning. Wiebe added that if NoCo plans to recommend counters, the group should be flexible with the type of counter required. Dusil responded that NFRMPO funded counters will almost certainly be Jamar or Eco-Counter based on the RFP process they must go through. Fodge added that the State uses Eco-Counter. Wiebe added he sees value in consistency between counters.

Willis called for a vote between the Great Western Trail location and Poudre Trail location. There were ten votes for the Great Western Trail and three for Poudre Trail. Willis recommended the next step might be to develop a more comprehensive list of priority counter locations to provide to the NFRMPO. Will Jones recommended that as NoCo makes future funding recommendations, the group recommend counter locations as well. Smith noted that as Loveland applies for future grants, there will be a line item for permanent counters. Fodge noted roadway expansions are another opportunity to incorporate bike and pedestrian counts in a project. Dusil added the NFRMPO would like to play more of a guidance role in assisting with temporary counting throughout the region. Dusil recommended Nick

Heimann from the City of Fort Collins would be a good resource to talk with NoCo. Bassinger offered to share Fort Collins park practices for counting and will ask John Klingaman to come to a future meeting. Dusil recommended a joint presentation between Nick and John in March. Wiebe noted it isn't too late to add counters to the Long View project.

5. 2018 Walkability Action Institute

Dusil updated the Request for Funding Assistance (RFA) submission from NoCo was not selected this year. Dusil reported that though the application was strong, NoCo addressed the equity portion of the application as a geographic equity, while the Institute was looking for a greater focus on social equity. Dusil added next steps may include starting up workshops, planning meetings, and continuing work from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC). Dusil proposed resuming the Workshop Planning meetings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. starting in February. Fodge asked if there was encouragement to apply again. Dusil reported that there was encouragement and that the group would be ready to go in 2019.

6. Revised I-25 Memo to CDOT

Dusil stated the memo has been revised since the last group discussion. Dusil added the NFRMPO Executive Committee agreed to add the memo as a discussion item to February Council Meeting agenda. Dusil added CDOT has agreed to a contract on the project and the public should expect a notice to proceed on design in February and a notice to proceed on construction in June or July.

Fodge reminded NoCo the *2013 Regional Bicycle Plan* identified barriers to regional trail connectivity. The locations identified in the memo were identified as key locations to install connections at the time of I-25 expansion. Fodge added the group wrote a memo to CDOT to identify mechanisms for funding box culverts at these locations as part of the project. The memo received notes to more clearly identify crossing locations and to identify the documentation cited. Fodge reported he met with staff from the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative and was advised to get local letters of support, make sure local communities know what NoCo is requesting, and to present to the NFRMPO Planning Council. Fodge added that some funding may be available from an oil and gas settlement and this can be highlighted in the memo. Fodge added the language regarding the relationship between NoCo and the NFRMPO should be clarified.

Fodge recapped CDOT's response that there will be no work done at the locations identified in the memo, but Fodge added this type of equipment mobilization won't happen again for several decades with the necessary lane closures. Smith added City of Loveland staff is meeting with CDOT Region 4 later this afternoon to discuss location details and will provide summary of the meeting to Dusil on Thursday or Friday.

Dusil added that next steps include finalizing memo by January 19th for inclusion in the Council Packet. A written summary of what NoCo is asking of Council should be included as an Agenda Item Summary (AIS) in the Council packet, and be summarized verbally by the NoCo presenter at the meeting.

Will Jones asked how NoCo will present funding options given the project already came in over budget. Fodge responded the NoCo will highlight reasons why CDOT should fund the project but that there may be outside funding to pursue.

Willis clarified the first step is to ask Planning Council to support the memo to CDOT and the second step is to continue discussion with CDOT staff and America the Beautiful staff. Fodge stated he is not available to go to the February 1 Planning Council meeting and asked the group if anyone is available. Nichols recommend a non-profit or advocacy group, rather than a city employee. Smith added Loveland staff would have a better sense of availability to present after Region 4 meeting. Bassinger offered to speak with Mark Jackson to get Fort Collins staff more involved. Karspeck offered to represent the group and speak with Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly beforehand. Willis recommended taking the onus of funding off of the MPO communities and make clear that we are asking MPO to support asking CDOT to fund this project. Will Jones recommended NoCo present potential solutions to the Planning Council and be ready for questions on prioritization and next steps. Fodge asked if Tom Jones would be willing to represent the group and Jones responded he will already be asking for TA funding at the meeting and would like to only represent one item. Dusil offered to assist in the creation of the AIS and to speak with Smith following the meeting with CDOT Region 4. Smith requested more background information from Fodge prior to the meeting. Will Jones noted Becky Karasko might be able to advise on next steps.

7. Updates / Other Business

Fodge reported students return to class Tuesday. Willis recommended a meeting in the spring at Colorado State Stadium to receive a tour and discuss transportation planning for special events. CSU staff are commenting on bike infrastructure during the development review process for student housing developments.

Fehr reported Riverside Park is scheduled to reopen summer 2018.

Wiebe stated the Long View Trail is under construction and should be complete in summer 2018.

Bassinger stated the Fossil Creek Trail will go out to bid in April and should be completed late summer 2018. The City has had difficulty keeping trail system planning on pace with development in northeast Fort Collins as new proposals have surfaced. Willis requested breakdown of incoming bids and current unit pricing from Fort Collins and Larimer County as an agenda item for next month. Smith offered to join the discussion.

Nichols reported the city's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program team will perform training in Loveland in February with PE teachers on how to implement a bicycling PE program at the middle school level. The City of Denver's SRTS Coordinator recently visited Fort Collins for consultation on how to ramp up Denver's program. Nichols proposed having a representative present at a future NoCo meeting on the City's Vision Zero Initiative.

Tom Jones stated he presented the December TAC meeting and January Planning Council meetings on behalf of the GWTA. He stated he will be returning to TAC next week and to

Planning Council on February 1st for the final decision. GWTA board members met with CDOT regarding the old trestle bridge east of Severance. The bridge will require extra review due to its historical status, which may delay the construction start time, potentially pushing project completion out to 2020.

Flesher stated Commissioner Cozad has requested the Public Works Department be more involved in bicycle and pedestrian planning.

Gaskill-Fox stated she has set up a meeting with the City of Loveland for the Bicycle-Friendly Driver training and the class may soon be taught statewide pending a Request for Proposals (RFP). Gaskill-Fox will also return to League of American Bicyclists' National Bike Summit in Washington D.C. in March to continue the push for wider adoption of the Bicycle-Friendly Driver training. This will also be a topic at Bicycle Colorado's Moving People Forward conference in February.

Smith stated she is presenting a grant proposal to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) tomorrow to help construct a soft surface trail network at Prairie Ridge (65 miles of contiguous trail system to connect to Coyote Ridge Natural Area, the Rim Rock Trail, Blue Sky Trail, Devil's Backbone Trail, etc.) that will connect to the Loveland Recreation Trail. The RFP has gone out for design of the Recreation Trail underpass at Namaqua Avenue. Smith asked if any entities are planning to host events for National Trails Day on June 2. Gaskill-Fox reported the City of Fort Collins usually hosts a trail work day at Bobcat Ridge in conjunction with REI.

Beckstrom stated Greeley was selected as a recipient of the Designing Healthy Places grant, focusing on east Greeley. Early efforts will include an Urban Land Institute advisory panel from February to March.

Will Jones stated a bridge replacement project at the Sheep Draw Trail will go out to bid shortly. Jones will be presenting to Windsor on the regional transit route connecting Greeley, Windsor, and CSU after Greeley City Council gave the green light.

Karspeck stated Berthoud is working with Loveland to connect the Front Range Trail and bring their networks closer. The Town recently confirmed it has the necessary easements to accommodate the Little Thompson Trail and they hope to fund it as a part of development. There is currently a proposal for a 4000-unit development in the Town's eastern portion, closer to I-25.

Dusil stated there will be a webinar tomorrow titled "Communicating the Benefits of Trails," through American Trails, costing \$35 for non-members. Dusil was contacted by Kim Sharp asking NoCo members to share 2017 bike-related event pictures and 2018 scheduled bike-related events even if event details are not yet solidified.

8. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Will Jones offered to provide the monthly report to TAC for January.