

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550

1. Introductions

- ❖ Aaron Fodge, CSU
- ❖ Adam Hill, City of Evans
- ❖ Everett Bacon, Weld County
- ❖ Katie Guthrie, City of Loveland
- ❖ Kelly Smith, City of Loveland
- ❖ Leslie Beckstrom, Weld County
- ❖ Liz Heid, Town of Eaton and Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ Mitch Nelson, Town of Severance
- ❖ Nancy Nichols, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Ryan Dusil, NFRMPO
- ❖ Sarah Martin, NFRMPO
- ❖ Suzanne Bassinger, City of Fort Collins
- ❖ Will Karspeck, Town of Berthoud

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The August 8, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Northern Colorado Leaders Ride

Dusil summarized the details of the event, scheduled for Friday, October 12, 2018. Registration will close this week to allow the planning team time to submit its budget and secure resources. Fodge asked if the media will be invited and offered contacts at specific outlets. Smith stated there should be media alert rather than a press release. Dusil added if there is inclement weather, the event will likely be cancelled or postponed to another season.

4. NFRMPO 2045 Non-Motorized Performance Measures and Targets

Dusil summarized the TAC's August decision on the performance measures and targets associated with non-motorized transportation that were discussed at the August NoCo 8 NoCo meeting. Dusil stated these targets can be revisited in four years, giving NFRMPO Staff and NoCo time to monitor the region's progress towards target achievement, and to use count data to draw a clearer connection between facility construction and use.

Smith asked how staff accounted for shifting preferences between the non-SOV modes, such as an increased affinity for carpooling over transit. Dusil stated he assumed the share of each non-SOV mode would remain consistent into the future to avoid making any major assumptions about preference changes. This approach could be adjusted as trends are monitored.

Fodge suggested NoCo monitor the non-SOV mode share performance measure for each community individually and identify the local programs, policies, and projects contributing towards the target, as well as communities with the most room for improvement. Martin stated there will be opportunity at the October 10, 2018 NoCo meeting to provide feedback on the *2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* policies associated with non-motorized transportation. Dusil added the TA scoring criteria may be a basis for this too. Martin and Dusil stated they will discuss how to incorporate these comments into NFRMPO plans and processes.

Smith and Fodge suggested the non-SOV mode share be broken down by community as a starting point. Nelson added it is helpful for the smaller communities to understand where they are at now.

5. NFRMPO Call for Projects: Transportation Alternatives (TA) Project Scoring Criteria

Dusil stated the TA project scoring criteria are based on CDOT's TA criteria. NoCo recommended several changes to make the criteria more specific to Northern Colorado. The changes, by section, include:

- Enhance Safety
 - Added that a 10-foot will ensure full points for criterion one
 - Removed the point value for crash history, but will still consider crash data provided by applicants and NFRMPO staff
 - Points were rearranged to eight, six, and six
- Maximize Transportation Investment / Network Connectivity Improvement
 - Added that the project sponsor will maintain and monitor the counter in addition to installing it
 - Added that collected count data will be shared regularly with the MPO and the State for the benefit of the region
- Expand Recreational Opportunities, Enhance Quality of Life, and Improve Public Health
 - Changed language from "Project is located in..." to "Project connects to..."
 - Removed "preserves or enhances downtown character"
 - Changed language from "Project is located in a Census Tract..." to "Project is within ½ mile of a Census Tract..."
 - Added an unscored criterion to incorporate Census Tract-level health metrics specific to each county. NFRMPO Staff will work with County staff to identify the appropriate metrics
- Provide Transportation Equity
 - Changed language from "Project is located in a Census Tract..." to "Project is within ½ mile of a Census Tract..."

6. Counter Data Trends

Heid reported the dramatic spikes in the Great Western Trail permanent counter observed in August can be attributed to cross country teams using the trail for practice and meets. Dusil added weekday counts at this location have increased 57% since the school year began, even when accounting for the cross-country runners. Heid added Eaton has been using the NFRMPO's mobile counter to monitor trail use on the unimproved section of the Great Western Trail.

Fodge stated the underpass at Shields Street and Elizabeth Street in Fort Collins averages 2,700 users on weekdays, 700 on weekend days, and 2,200 on football gamedays. Fodge added several safety precautions have been taken within and leading to the tunnel and overall it is a low per-capita crash location. Smith asked if the City will be making any improvements on the corridor leading up to the Elizabeth Street underpass. Fodge stated their City has identified it as an Enhanced Travel Corridor with significant transit and bike improvements consistent with the three types of improvements installed along Mulberry Street and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service similar to Tranfort's MAX route.

Nichols stated counts from the Mulberry Street protected bike lane project should be available soon. Fodge added these bike lanes can accommodate a pick-up truck with a snow plow attached.

9. NFRMPO Technical Advisory Committee

Dusil stated the 2018 Call for Projects opens October 9. Applicants will be encouraged to attend an informational session and presentation at the October 17 TAC meeting. Projects applications will be due November 16. Non-motorized TA projects will be scored by NoCo on December 12. More information will be released when the Call opens and NoCo members will receive that email.

10. Updates / Other Business

Guthrie reported Loveland is updating their Transportation Master Plan, Bike and Pedestrian Plan, and Transit Plan all at once for the first time. A major focus of the planning effort will likely be regionality and NoCo's involvement will likely be requested. The update should be complete by December 2019.

Nelson stated he plans to bring a Homeowners Association (HOA) president with him to the next meeting to discuss how other communities approach partnerships and trail design for non-regional trails.

Beckstrom stated the 2018 Weld County Health Summit will be held November 7 at the Hilton in Downtown Greeley. The theme will be health equity data and story-telling. Registration is now open.

Karspeck stated the Town of Berthoud is applying for its first ever Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant. The Town Board has expressed some hesitancy towards exploring bike share in the short term, but both trails and a new recreation center remain priorities for the Town. Karspeck added the grand opening of the Long View Trail was impressive.

Heid stated the Great Western Trail Authority and the Town of Eaton are partnering to apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant to bring the Youth Conservation Corps out for trail maintenance in the spring.

Fodge stated he received an e-scooter in the mail and would like to bring it to NoCo to have a discussion next month. The Fort Collins City Council will hold a Study Session on e-scooters in November.

Nichols stated November 10 is National Walk to School Day. Colorado SRTS grants are due November 1 and there is pre-application data collection required.

Bassinger stated Fort Collins and Larimer County are applying for funding to complete the Poudre Trail gap to the I-25 trail underpass. Larimer County is working to secure easements to finish their portion of the trail and anticipate a 2021 completion date. Bassinger added there have been complaints of two-way bike traffic on one side of the road.

Dusil reported the Fort Collins Bicycle Advisory Committee is sticking with its recommendation to the City to not adopt the "Stop-as-Yield" language from the State's Bicycle Operation Approaching Intersection Bill.