

**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**

**January 16, 2019
1:03 – 2:54 p.m.**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Klockeman, Chair – Loveland
Mitch Nelson, Vice Chair – Severance
Dawn Anderson – Weld County
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Will Jones – Greeley
Tim Kemp – Fort Collins
Rusty McDaniel – Larimer County
Randy Ready - Evans
Karen Schneiders – CDOT
Dennis Wagner – Windsor

NFRMPO STAFF:

Ryan Dusil
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Medora Kealy
Sarah Martin

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephanie Brothers – Berthoud
Gary Carsten – Eaton
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Ranae Tunison – FTA
Johnstown
LaSalle
Milliken

IN ATTENDANCE:

Emily Alvarez – Michael Baker
Allison Baxter – Greeley
Drew Brooks - Transfort
Jennifer Carpenter – Michael Baker
Brett Higgins – Michael Baker
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Michael King – CDOT
Alana Koenig – CDOT
Jeff Kullman – Michael Baker
Long Nguyen – CDOT
Jake Schuch – CDOT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Klockeman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2018 TAC MINUTES

Jones moved to approve the December 19, 2018 TAC minutes. The motion was seconded by Anderson and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

2015-2019 NFRMPO Targets for Safety Performance – Schneiders asked if there were any comments or questions received following the December TAC meeting regarding targets for safety performance. Kealy reported there were none. Schneiders moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Wagner and approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Strategies – Martin noted all comments received during the December 19, 2018 TAC meeting were incorporated into the Strategies, which were presented at the January 3, 2019 Planning Council meeting for Discussion. Martin added no comments or questions were received from the Planning Council. Jones moved to recommend Planning Council approve the incorporation of the Strategies framework into the *2045 RTP*. The motion was seconded by McDaniel and approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Windsor Area Network Study Presentation – Consulting team Michael Baker International, in partnership with Stolfus and Associates, provided a project overview for the *Windsor Area Network Study*, including the project scope, process, and schedule. The feasibility study will evaluate corridor alternatives to improve traffic flow, connectivity, and safety within the Windsor area. The study area, bounded by I-25, US34, SH14, and WCR 31 will focus on changes to and impacts on US257, SH392, Crossroads Boulevard, and O Street/WCR64.

Jones noted O Street will be a major connection into the Study Area and asked why west Greeley was not included in the Study Area. Long Nguyen with CDOT Region 4 noted many corridors and communities outside the Study Area may be impacted, but the scope needed to be limited to make the *Study* meaningful and feasible given the time constraints of the project. Jeff Kullman, Michael Baker International, added the Study will use the NFRMPO 2012 Regional Travel Model, which includes O Street in the model network.

Klockeman noted Loveland has an Access Control Plan (ACP) completed from Centerra Parkway to LCR3 showing ultimate intersection configuration and offered to share the ACP. Fuhrman recommended meeting with Timnath early in the process, given existing Timnath plans for several corridors included in the Study Area.

Brett Higgins, Michael Baker International, provided an overview of task schedule, and noted first runs would be produced by the end of January with total Study completion anticipated in July. Jennifer Carpenter, Michael Baker, provided an overview of anticipated stakeholder coordination, which will include: *Feasibility Study* TAC meetings held prior to regularly scheduled TAC meetings, one-on-one meetings with affected NFRMPO TAC members and city and county elected officials, and public meetings.

McDaniel asked what the next step would be if a network configuration was identified as feasible. Carpenter responded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be included with the final report, identifying the preferred configuration; though not a legal document, the MOU would allow consultants to work with officials and land owners to begin preserving the Right-of-Way. Next steps may also include initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL) and identifying potential funding sources.

Kullman asked whether Council members would be available to initiate conversations in the following months and requested pre-meetings with TAC members to identify major community concerns prior to discussions with Council members. Karasko recommended Kullman reach out to Renae Steffen regarding Planning Council meetings.

DISCUSSION

Greeley STBG Project Adjustment Request – Allison Baxter with the Greeley Transportation Department presented a proposal to move funding awarded during the 2016 Call for Projects for an expansion project from 11th Avenue to WCR 37 along O Street to a roundabout at 59th and O Street. The originally-funded project is no longer expected to improve regional connectivity due to proposed closures along US85 recommended in the US84 PEL. More recently-completed conceptual designs demonstrate an alternative alignment of the O Street corridor to accommodate the proposed US85 closure; the new alignment would preclude the need for roadway improvements at the originally-proposed location.

Baxter proposed moving the original funding amount, \$1.4M of federal award, \$1.2M of local match and \$4.5M of local overmatch, to a different project and project location along the O Street corridor. The new project would convert an existing four-way stop sign controlled intersection to a two-lane roundabout with pedestrian refuges at 59th and O Street. Total project costs are anticipated to be less than the original project, while impacting a larger volume of traffic.

Jake Schuch, Local Agency Coordinator for Region 4, reported the CDOT Environmental Team identified potential historic resources on three of four corners and a dump site on the northwest side, which would need to be mitigated. Anderson asked if Greeley was prepared to pay additional costs associated with mitigating these impacts; Jones responded given the reduced project cost compared to the original proposal, these extra costs could be covered by the local overmatch.

Bustow asked whether the project proposed today was scored or prioritized through another NFRMPO process, if not, approving the proposal with no further information may run afoul of the FHWA sub-allocation prohibition. Klockeman recommended coordinating with CDOT, prior to returning to TAC, to ensure all concerns were addressed. Klockeman asked how this project was selected from all other improvements needed along this corridor and recommended creating a clear justification for why this project was chosen. Jones noted the project could be evaluated to determine how it would score compared to unfunded projects submitted during the 2016 Call. Anderson noted Weld County supported this project change and would be prepared to submit a letter of support. Kemp requested a side-by-side comparison of schedules.

Bustow noted a good next step would be to fill in the information gaps identified during this Discussion and bring it back for continued Discussion in February.

FY2022-23 Call For Projects Recommendations – Kealy reviewed the projects recommended for funding in the FY2022-23 Call. A total of 18 project applications were submitted: 11 CMAQ, six STBG, and one TA. The Scoring Committee recommended partially funding one CMAQ project, wait-listing two STBG projects, and fully funding four CMAQ projects and four STBG projects. The NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative recommended fully funding one TA project.

Klockeman asked why Greeley received \$10,000 fewer in funding than requested. Kealy responded several intersections included in the original proposal were not federal aid eligible and Greeley agreed to cover the cost of those intersections. Klockeman noted a significant portion of the CMAQ pool was allocated to Fort Collins to fund five electric buses and asked whether there were other funding pools available for this type of project. Brooks noted the only other Federal program was the Low-No program, which only offered \$55M for the entire country to fund low- and no-emission vehicle projects. Fort Collins applied to this funding pool last year, but was not awarded funding. Jones noted there were other pools available for transit more generally, including FTA Section 5339 funding. King added there was also limited funding available through the Volkswagen settlement; Brooks noted Fort Collins has applied for that funding as well.

Kealy described each CMAQ application briefly and noted whether they were recommended for funding. Klockeman clarified projects were scored using the criteria from the Call for Projects Guidebook. Schneiders noted several non-voting attendees were present to provide input and information, including representatives from CDOT, FHWA, and RAQC. Klockeman noted similar projects received different scores, which may indicate a need to provide a more objective scoring process in the future. Klockeman added future Calls could allow the scoring team to pre-score applications and send out scores for review. Anderson added there may be concerns regarding the consistency of input assumptions used to evaluate emissions benefit. Kealy clarified there was an opportunity for applicants and NFRMPO staff to review and ask questions about data inputs and outputs for similar project types. Kealy noted CDOT would like feedback regarding what worked well and what may need improvement regarding the CMAQ tools.

Kealy described each STBG application briefly and noted whether they were recommended for funding. Kealy noted the NoCo Bicycle and Pedestrian Collaborative received and reviewed one project, which was recommended for the full funding amount. Anderson asked whether there were any questions or feedback; Kealy responded no suggested changes or recommendations were submitted by NoCo.

Kealy reported applicants with projects recommended for funding or wait-listed will present their projects to Planning Council at their February 7, 2019 meeting in Eaton. Recommended projects will return to TAC in February for Action and to Council in March for approval.

2019 Public Involvement Plan (PIP) – Gordon provided an overview of the *2019 Public Involvement Plan (2019 PIP)*. The *2019 PIP* is required to be updated every four years and is being updated prior to the *2045 RTP*. The *2019 PIP*, which covers all NFRMPO programs and activities, including VanGo™, sets the goals and desired outcomes of the NFRMPO's public process for both NFRMPO staff and members of the public. Strategies to achieve desired outcomes include attending community events, developing and maintaining partnerships, distributing print media, and a movement toward interactive tools, such as social media, Community Remarks, and online surveys. NFRMPO staff will continue to assess outreach efforts, monitor public feedback, review the effectiveness of strategies, and evaluate trust and respect between the NFRMPO and the public.

Gordon noted the *2019 PIP* includes a more robust methodology for evaluating the success of NFRMPO outreach, as requested by FHWA during the 2018 Federal Certification Review. The *2019 PIP* also includes an updated Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis, conducted at the block group level, per FHWA recommendation. The *2019 PIP* is open for public comment through February 2, 2019. The *2019 PIP* will go to Planning Council for Discussion at their February 7, 2019 meeting.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS (verbal)

Regional Transit Agencies – Jones reported Darren Davis, Greeley's new Transit Manager, started on Thursday. Ridership has increased 10 percent over the last year. Schneiders reported Bustang posted an error in their schedule, there will not be a Rams Route from CSU to Denver on Friday, but it will be running on Sunday.

Senior Transportation – Gordon reported a draft version of the Bustang travel training video is now available and will be shown to the Larimer County Mobility Committee (LCMC) and the Senior Transportation Coalition (STC). Gordon added the Larimer County Senior Transportation Work Group will be applying for the next round of National Aging and Disability Transportation Centers and Innovations in Accessible Mobility funding.

RAQC – Karasko noted there will be three upcoming Strategy Committee Meetings: Transportation, Land Use and Outreach will be January 17th at 8:30 a.m. at the RAQC offices; Mobile Sources and Fuels will be January 23rd at 1:00 p.m. at DRCOG; and Stationary and Area Sources will be January 25th at 3:00 p.m. at the RAQC offices. Suzette will be attending Mobile Sources and Fuels on behalf of the NFRMPO.

REPORTS

Federal Inactives report – Schneiders reported the information in the agenda packet was incorrect and corrected information was provided as a handout. The handout showed current projects by phase, organized by amount of project cost remaining for that phase. Projects highlighted in red have not submitted a billing for that phase and must do so to be removed from the red.

ROUNDTABLE

Karasko noted the next Model Steering Team meeting would be held tomorrow from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the NFRMPO office. Anyone is welcome to attend; call-in and screen-sharing information can be provided.

Schneiders noted striping on I-25 North- and Southbound between Crossroads and Harmony is currently underway and may cause delays and heavy traffic. The striping is expected to be a short-duration project.

Kealy reported an email was sent out to communities potentially impacted by the change in criteria determining RSC eligibility. The deadline to submit requests for a functional classification change is this Friday. Kealy added staff will send out a notification that project sponsors can submit projects for inclusion in the FY2020-23 TIP. Any

projects on an RSC with funding should be submitted to the TIP. Projects can be submitted from January 22 through February 12. Finally, projects for the 2045 RTP are being incorporated into the model and staff will continue working with communities to ensure projects are reflected appropriately.

Kemp noted the partnership project with CDOT and Larimer County, the *North College Sidewalks and Pedestrian Bridges*, went out to bid. The bidding process will close on February 1, 2019.

Gordon reminded the group the 2019 PIP will remain open for public comment through February 2, 2019.

Fuhrman reported the last section of Harmony Road in Timnath to be widened started construction last week; main roadwork will begin in March and the project is expected to be completed in August.

Bustow noted the December TAC meeting minutes reflected FHWA was about to sign a continued resolution, however the government shutdown has precluded this signing. FHWA is operating as normal, but FTA is not. Kemp asked if FRA was included in the shutdown, Bustow responded it was.

Schneiders added INFRA, the Federal discretionary program targeting freight projects, released a Call for Applications two weeks ago; applications are due March 4th. Schneiders added communities considering applying should coordinate with CDOT; each agency is only eligible to submit three applications. Region 4 will most likely submit a project on the international designated freight route along SH71. Kemp noted Fort Collins was considering submitting a project.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no comment.

Next Month's Agenda Topic Suggestions – There were no topic suggestions proposed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

Sarah Martin, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room.