

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Windsor Recreation Center, Pine Room

250 11th St. Windsor, CO 80550



1. Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Buckley**, CSU Parking and Transportation Services
- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, CSU Parking and Transportation Services
- ❖ **AnnaRose Cunningham**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Betsy Jacobsen**, CDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Section
- ❖ **Bob Hinderaker**, Poudre River Trail Corridor
- ❖ **Dave Dixon**, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ **Evan Pinkham**, Weld County Public Works
- ❖ **Justin Scharton**, City of Greeley Natural Areas
- ❖ **Kathy Davis**, Greeley Citizen Transportation Advisory Board
- ❖ **Kelly Haworth**, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- ❖ **Kelly Zuniga**, City of Loveland Open Lands Department
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans Parks and Recreation Department
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Maureen McCanna**, Bicycle Colorado
- ❖ **Paul Sizemore**, City of Fort Collins FC Moves Department
- ❖ **Mitch Nelson**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Parks Department

2. Berthoud Walk Audit: Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Dusil summarized participant observations and outcomes from the Berthoud Walk Audit held on October 9, 2019. The 20 Walk Audit participants included elected officials, residents, community advocates, non-profit organizations, Thompson School District staff, Town staff, and other Berthoud stakeholders, as well as NoCo members. Participants had access to wheelchairs and a stroller to experience the route from different perspectives. Common observations from the walk audit included impressive street art, ample shade, good amenities at Fickel Park, missing or heaving sidewalk segments, sidewalks obstructions and trip hazards, inconsistent sidewalk surface type, severe driveway side slope, obstructed sight lines for drivers or pedestrians, unsafe unmarked crossings, and poor at-grade railroad crossings.

Town leaders intend to convene Walk Audit participants, additional Town staff, and other stakeholders to potentially create a Citizen's Mobility Committee (CMC) that could work to align other recommendations with current/anticipated Town budget, initiatives, and plan cycles. The CMC will likely help plan a biking audit for Spring 2020.

Haworth suggested the Walk Audit summary and recommendations be incorporated into the Town's next Comprehensive Plan update and other relevant plans. Dusil stated this will be added to the existing

recommendation of aligning CMC efforts with the Town's annual sidewalk improvement budget and [Mountain Avenue Corridor & Signage Plan](#).

Jacobsen asked if the Town's development codes and standards require developers to construct adequate walking and biking infrastructure. Beckstrom stated the new developments do seem to have better walking infrastructure than older parts of town. Dusil added Mayor Karspeck mentioned regional trail construction or easement acquisition opportunities have been lost with past development and there may be room to adjust town code to prevent it from happening again.

Fodge stated the bike audit should focus on identifying quick-win solutions to create a safe east-west biking route near Old Town. Solutions could include wayfinding and signage elements, bike lane striping, intersection and sight line improvements, and more. Fodge added it is great that Berthoud welcomed feedback from NoCo members from other communities. Dusil stated town stakeholders outnumbered NoCo members two to one, which proved a good ratio for encouraging local ownership of the event and its outcomes.

Sizemore stated the Walk Audit seemed to have involvement from Town staff, which is crucial to successfully moving forward with recommendations. Other NoCo members concurred.

In summary, Dusil stated technical assistance from NoCo members would be appreciated in identifying pilot project examples and other temporary walkability solutions, highlighting best practices for effectively engaging partners such as CDOT and BNSF early and often, developing a list and schedule of relevant grant opportunities, and compiling examples for including active transportation considerations in relevant town code.

3. NFRMPO Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) and CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Dusil outlined the basic project eligibility requirements, timelines, and funding details for the [MMOF](#) and [TAP](#) Programs. NoCo members from various agencies shared the projects they may submit for MMOF and/or TAP funding:

- **Fort Collins:** The Harmony Road/Power Trail grade-separated crossing (Regional Non-Motorized Corridor [RNMC] #7) will likely not be submitted to either program due to the increasingly high cost of the project. Instead, the town is considering submitting a grade-separated railroad trail crossing near Keeneland Drive, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Improvements along LaPorte Avenue, and/or a West Elizabeth Street Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study. The City is yet to decide which submissions would best fit each program.
- **CSU:** There are trail projects that connect to RNMC #12 at the Foothills Campus and RNMC #8 at the South Campus that CSU may submit in partnership with the City of Fort Collins to one of the programs.
- **Loveland:** The Open Lands Department will apply for the South Boyd Lake Trail (RNMC #11) to the MMOF and TAP programs.
- **Greeley:** The Natural Areas and Trail Division may submit a project that would be part 1 of 2 to connect the Larson Ditch Trail to the Poudre River Trail (RNMC#6) to either or both programs.
- **Severance:** The Town plans to submit a SRTS project to both programs for pedestrian improvements along the roadway connecting to Severance High School where students currently walk in the vehicle travel lane.

Other agencies considering applying for MMOF or TAP funds include Larimer County (Engineering and Open Spaces) and the City of Evans. Prospective applicants are encouraged to talk with their [NFRMPO TAC representative](#), [NFRMPO staff](#), and [CDOT Region 4 staff](#) on various aspects of the application, scoring process, and administration of funds.

4. NFRMPO Non-Motorized Plan Update (2020 – 2021)

Dusil highlighted various updates to the Regional Non-Motorized Corridor (RNMC) visions that NoCo members have proposed since the adoption of the [2016 Non-Motorized Plan](#). Dusil stated NFRMPO Staff would like NoCo members to consider the following factors for their respective corridor segments:

- Extending or realigning preferred RNMC alignments based on updated local plans
- Adding RNMCs where there are major gaps between communities
- Solidifying and updating RNMC visions
- Improving the [10-Year Non-Motorized Project Pipeline](#)

NoCo members agreed the RNMC updates should be made via corridor-specific workshops that include the affected communities as well as partners outside the region who plan to connect to the RNMCs. NoCo members also agreed projects within the 10-year Non-Motorized Project Pipeline that have a nexus with the State Highway system should be identified in the NFRMPO's 10-Year Strategic Pipeline of Projects to be submitted to CDOT along with any other projects identified by local agencies that would impact potential RNMC connectivity. For the Non-Motorized Plan update, this list should be expanded to match the plan horizon and should identify all RNMC project opportunities, including key local connections, significant infrastructure required, and other important elements by segment, regardless of where the projects are in local planning processes. This list could also be incorporated into upcoming statewide plan updates, and to reflect the significance of projects as part of state- or nationwide corridors, high-demand bike corridors, or other noteworthy corridor designations. Dusil requested NoCo members send project information to him on a rolling basis and refer him to the appropriate community plans.

Scharton stated there have been discussions between [Poudre River Trail Corridor](#) partners about developing standardized regional wayfinding that consistently orients users and provides confirmation on direction, nearby destinations and amenities, and potential emergency response markers. While design and marketing style may differ between communities, the messaging users receive should remain consistent. NoCo members expressed interest in potentially coalescing around a regional trail wayfinding guidance project to be submitted for the NFRMPO's next Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects. Because the TA funds typically only cover small infrastructure projects, NoCo members would like to explore the feasibility of submitting a collaborative project with more immediate regional benefits.

Dusil stated he will begin scheduling RNMC update workshops and requested anyone interested in serving on the Non-Motorized Plan Steering Committee let him know.

5. Roundtable Updates

Fodge stated CSU recently reached a joint agreement with Bird Scooters and the City of Fort Collins on a scooter-share system and he was happy with the bidding process. Fodge will plan to present lessons learned to NoCo in early 2020.

Jacobsen stated the CDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Section is working to fill an engineer position, as Ken Brubaker moved away. Bryan Meyer, an engineer, joined the team earlier this year. CDOT is working with regional engineers to summarize the differences in the new American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) [Green Book](#) compared to previous versions and will soon be working with regional planning partners to update the State's [Roadway Design Guide](#).

Bassinger stated the City is working to progress the Poudre Trail towards I-25. The Parks Department is kicking off an update to its [Parks and Recreation Policy Plan](#) and will focus on opportunities to obtain trail easements through new development.

Davis stated the [Poudre Express Regional Bus Route](#) between Greeley, Windsor, and Fort Collins will begin operations on January 2, 2020.

Pinkham stated Weld County Public Works is updating its Transportation Plan, which will feature stronger multimodal transportation components and the Planning Department is updating the County Comprehensive Plan.

Scharton stated the City of Greeley is in discussions with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) about conveying the Brower State Wildlife Area (SWA) over for local use. The City is also looking to construct a trailhead for the Poudre River Trail at Island Grove Regional Park in 2020 and will be updating its Greenway Plan focused on the South Platte and Poudre River corridors.

Nelson stated Severance is starting its Comprehensive Plan update and has been dealing with some use and access issues on the Great Western Trail regarding motorized vehicles.

Haworth stated the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) Built Environment Program has been convening a Data Working Group (DWG). A subcommittee of the DWG recently completed a Multimodal Index (MMI) that quantifies the variation in access to safe biking, walking, and transit options between neighborhoods in Fort Collins and Loveland. Liz Young-Winne submitted an article concept to the American Planning Association (APA) and was accepted for the 2020 State of Transportation Planning Report. Young-Winne will co-author the article with Dusil and Nick Heimann with the City of Fort Collins.

Haworth stated LCDHE will be hosting a forum on the nexus between transportation and public health on January 24, 2020.

Zuniga stated Prairie Ridge Trail that will connect the City of Loveland to Coyote Ridge Natural Area is under construction and the City is looking into possibilities for grade-separated wildlife roadway crossings throughout the community following recent crashes involving bear and elk.

McCanna stated Bicycle Colorado is advocating for hands-free driving legislation at the state level. Their annual Moving People Forward Summit will be held February 10, 2020 in Denver and McCanna will send registration information as it becomes available.

Beckstrom stated the Weld County Community Health Survey is out now and results will be compiled in the coming months. Beckstrom will update NoCo on results pertaining to bike and pedestrian issues.

Sizemore stated there has been some negative public feedback regarding the new e-scooters but the City has not yet received any safety-related complaints or reports. The City is kicking off its 2020 Strategic Plan with a survey out now.

6. Future Agenda Items

A small group of NoCo members is working to draft formal NoCo Bike & Pedestrian Collaborative Operating Procedures. This group will likely bring to the larger group for discussion in December.