

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

**June 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

Voting Members Present:

Dave Clark- CHAIR	-Loveland
William Karspeck	-Berthoud
Lanie Isbell	-Eaton
Wade Troxell	-Fort Collins
Brett Payton	-Greeley
Troy Mellon	-Johnstown
Tom Donnelly	-Larimer County
Don McLeod	-Severance
Kevin Ross	-Weld County
Paul Rennemeyer	-Windsor
Kathleen Bracke	-Transportation Commission

Voting Members Absent:

Dena Wojtach	-CDPHE
Mark Clark	-Evans
Fil Archuleta	-Garden City
Paula Cochran	-LaSalle
Elizabeth Austin	-Milliken
Lisa Laake	-Timnath

MPO Staff:

Suzette Mallette, Executive Director; Becky Karasko, Transportation Planning Director; Renae Steffen, Administrative Director; Lisa Gagliardi, Accounting Manager; Alex Gordon, Mobility Coordinator/Transportation Planner II; and Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II.

In Attendance:

Dawn Anderson, Jeff Bailey, Frank Basler, Dan Betts, Chad Crager, Maureen Dower, Jim Eussen, Jamie Grim, Butch Hause, Omar Herrera, Myron Hora, Wayne Howard, Will Jones, Rick Kaufman, Josie Langhorst, Shoshana Lew, Dan Mattson, Mitch Nelson, Heather Paddock, John Putnam, Randy Ready, Karen Schneiders, Eric Tracy, and Robin Stoneman.

Chair Clark called the MPO Council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Move to Approve Agenda:

Donnelly **moved** to approve the June 4, 2020 Meeting Agenda as Submitted. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Move to Approve Minutes:

Donnelly **moved** to approve the May 7, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Lead Planning Agency for Air Quality Agenda

Chair Clark opened the Air Quality portion of the meeting.

Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

A written report was provided.

Greenhouse Gas Roadmap

John Putnam, CDPHE Environmental Programs Director provided the *Council with the Colorado Roadmap to Greenhouse Gas Reductions* presentation, explaining the Greenhouse Gas Roadmap

was a statewide effort created in response to the passing of HB 19-1261 which required a statewide reduction in emissions of 26% by 2025; 50% by 2030; and 90% by 2050. APCD along with several other agencies have hired a nationwide consultant to create a program and help navigate the process which will enable the State to comply with the statute. The Roadmap shows the trajectory the process will take without additional policy or investment. Transportation emission reductions required are second only to the electricity sector, third is Agriculture, Waste, and Coal Mine Methane. State Agencies will lead public engagement efforts and public meetings through the spring and summer. The final GHG Roadmap is due to the Air Quality Control Commission September 30, 2020.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)

A written report was provided.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda

Chair Clark opened the MPO portion of the meeting.

Reports:

Report of the Chair:

Chair Clark asked for COVID-19 updates from Larimer and Weld Counties. Larimer County Commissioner, Tom Donnelly reported Larimer County was successful in getting a State waiver which allows for dining in restaurants, gatherings up to 50 people, religious services and others to now take place in person with the requirement of wearing a mask and/or other protocols chosen by the establishment. The County continues to work towards restarting youth sports, and opening health clubs, and wedding venues. Additional funds through the State of Colorado may be used to assist businesses with expenses such as providing expanded outdoor space for outside dining. Donnelly feels Larimer County has done a good job controlling the spread of COVID-19. The higher percentage of deaths has been people over 75. The County is working hard to safeguard these older citizens, while also balancing public safety and the economic wellbeing of all its residents.

Weld County Commissioner, Kevin Ross reported Weld County is relying on their municipalities to set precautions. There will be a meeting June 5th to discuss the allocation of CARES funding to local businesses in Weld County. They are working diligently with leadership on both sides of the isle to delay property taxes to the County until October, if desired. The County is also prepared to backfill districts with a shortfall. A COVID-19 testing program is being set up to test 10% of the Weld County's population to get a snapshot of where they stand.

Executive Director Report:

Director Mallette reported on the following:

- The Legislative session was suspended but has now gone back into session. The MPO will resume monitoring the bills, many of those being tracked have been killed. HB20 -1151 which allows TPR's to obtain the powers of a regional transportation authority, has not been taken up since March, and is still on the table. HB20 -1376 to postpone the Bonding Ballot Question for Transportation until 2021 rather than holding it in the fall.
- 2020 Executive Goals and review of the U.S. DOT Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book's six core functions
- Transportation Reauthorization Proposal Review
- Conflict of Interest forms- Council Members were reminded to sign the annual Conflict of Interest form sent via email. Electronic signatures and email responses as signature replacements may be emailed to SMallette@nfrmpo.org or RSteffen@nfrmpo.org.
- MPO staff will continue to work remotely and MPO meetings will continue to be held virtually through August.
- AmeriCorps VISTA Mobility Volunteer, Sophia Maez will be at the MPO June 12th through the end of the year assisting with One Call/One Click and other projects.

FINANCE:

A written report was provided. Lisa Gagliardi, Finance Manager, briefly reviewed the report with the Council.

TAC:

A written report was provided.

Mobility:

A written report was provided.

Consent Agenda:

Donnelly **moved** to *APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda included the following three items:

- CY2020 Q-1 Unaudited Financial Statements
- FY2020 UPWP Budget Amendment #3- Resolution 2020-15
- FY2020-2021 UPWP with FY2021 Budget- Resolution 2020-16

Action Item:

May 2020 TIP Amendment

Medora Bornhoft, Transportation Planner II, explained the revisions to the May 2020 TIP Amendment which came in during public comment from CDOT staff, stating the Easter Seals' Vehicle Replacement projects was lowered by \$2000. Bornhoft reviewed the other six requests for adding projects to the May 2020 TIP. Council action is contingent on no additional public comment being submitted from June 4, 2020 through June 11, 2020.

Donnelly **moved** to *APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-17 APPROVING THE MAY 2020 TIP AMENDMENT*. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Presentations:

Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Local Transportation Revenues

Bornhoft explained how MPO staff compiled the impacts on revenue for transportation due to COVID-19, and shared a regional picture of that impact. The estimate was evaluated in a range of low to high or approximately \$15M to \$45M. Transit was omitted from this estimated impact due to expected funds through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These estimates were provided to the Transportation Recovery Working Group. Council was asked to provide feedback on the estimates provided.

Transportation Commission Funding

Heather Paddock, CDOT R4 Transportation Director, presented *Smart Planning- Strategic Investing-Strong Project Management* to the Council which outlined how the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an immense reduction in transportation revenues, including a loss in gas tax and managed lane revenues and general fund dollars with an anticipated unfunded program that could exceed \$1.2 billion over the next three years. She explained CDOT is hoping for the best but planning for the worst. CDOT is pursuing a low-interest TIFIA Loan Agreement package for the completion of North I-25 segments 2-8. Funding identified on North I-25 segments 7 & 8 future years (3rd and 4th) will be redistributed to projects in regions 1, 2 and 3.

Shoshana Lew, CDOT Executive Director, said CDOT is dedicated to the Statewide Transportation Plan and North I-25. She believes this 7-12-month loan process is worth carrying out to secure funds to complete the corridor, adding the low-risk loan is not very competitive and believed it could move quickly. Even with the possibility of needing to backfill other project's funds, she said it was justifiable with the current low rates. There is a meeting in mid-June to discuss the process further.

Discussion Items:

Transportation Recovery Workgroup Update

Mallette explained she was a member of Transportation Recovery Workgroup which is supplying information into the larger statewide effort titled the Governor's Council on Economic Stabilization and Growth (CESG). She then briefly reviewed the five areas of change from the May 2020 *Colorado Ready: The Role of Transportation in Colorado's Economic Recovery*, noting these are guidelines the Workgroup is focusing on to support economic recovery through infrastructure investments. Mallette highlighted that part of Advocating for Federal Funding to Stimulate the Economy included the elimination of state and local match requirements for all federal stimulus funding, allowing the money to be used toward much needed projects.

NFRMPO Boundary Focus Group

Jamie Grim, CDOT Government Liaison, explained the CDOT Boundary Designation Guidebook would provide the legal requirements (State and Federal) involved in the process of establishing or modifying MPO and TPR boundaries. The Guidebook is being prepared internally at CDOT and should be ready for release by the end of June. She also stated there would no longer be a consultant portion as the project would be completed through her department to help reduce cost.

Council Reports:

Transportation Commission Report

Bracke reported on the following:

- The Transportation Commission approved a resolution (a copy was provided) for \$4.1M in MMOF grants so that CDOT can partner with local communities to repurpose public streets, including state highways, to implement pilot projects to support biking, walking, and outdoor dining/retail in response to COVID19 community impacts. She requested the application process for these “quick win” projects be streamlined and that there be a flexibility with local match funding, that the amount be low when required, and that it inspire in-kind services as well. Bracke suggested innovative types of partnerships may be formed and encourage all communities to consider applying. More information will be posted on the CDOT website.
- A 60-day review period was approved for the Statewide Transportation Plan, adding an additional 30 days.

CDOT R4 Update

A Project Status Update was provided for June 2020. Paddock reported the following:

- Progress continues daily on I-25, even with increasing traffic volumes.
- LCR 20 Bridge and the frontage road at Ronald Reagan and SH 402 are both expected to be open by August, before school starts.
- Pegging at Crossroads and SH 392 is complete.
- There has been a good amount of progress at Prospect Road.
- There are still negotiations to get I-25 sections 7 & 8 to the full EIS alignment.
- Section 6 (SH 56 to SH 402) will have a couple construction packages in the fall. There may be pricing negotiations needed once COVID-19 ramifications are known.

Karen Schneiders, CDOT R 4, reported new cable rails will be installed as part of a safety project to reduce crossover accidents north of SH 14.

I-25 Coalition

Clark reported there was discussion regarding acquiring full funding for I-25 Segment 6 from SH 402 to SH 56, including the Johnstown interchange.

STAC Report

Written reports for April and May were provided.

Host Council Member Report-

Paul Rennemeyer, Mayor of Windsor, said he looked forward to the time Council could meet in Windsor, and in person. He then reported on the following Town of Windsor transportation projects:

- Windsor’s Transportation Master Plan, an 18-month process, was adopted March 23rd.
- The construction plan for the widening of LCR 5 (Fairgrounds) and SH 392 has gone to CDOT for construction beginning this year.
- The City is working with CDOT on, a utility relocation, and design, workflow, and right-of-way acquisition at SH 257 and Eastman Park Drive. They did receive a \$1M Grant to fix buckled asphalt in that area.
- SH 392 at WCR 13 (Colorado Blvd.) intersection is getting overhauled, including new north bound and south bound turn lane.
- Windsor has two “Quick Win” projects 1) Study and design for a new intersection at 7th Street and SH 392 and the 7th Street MPO multimodal corridor improvement design project with a pedestrian crossing and different modes of travel included in the scope.

Meeting Wrap-Up:

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions:

There were no suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:42 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Renae Steffen, MPO Staff