

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Minutes – Wednesday, August 12, 2020

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting



Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Buckley**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Abdul Barzak**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **Adam Olinger**, Town of Berthoud
- ❖ **Allison Baxter**, City of Greeley
- ❖ **Dave Dixon**, Bike Fort Collins
- ❖ **Evan Pinkham**, Weld County Public Works
- ❖ **Jim Paulmeno**, Loveland Transportation Advisory Board
- ❖ **Katie Guthrie**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Kelly Zuniga**, City of Loveland Open Lands
- ❖ **Kim Meyer**, Town of Johnstown
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Liz Young Winne**, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- ❖ **Mark Heidt**, City of Brighton
- ❖ **Nancy Nichols**, City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Sophia Maes**, NFRMPO/AmeriCorps
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Park Planning

Bike to Work Day Plans and Roundtable Updates

Dusil stated the NFRMPO will have some sort of unofficial social media campaign to encourage active mode trips throughout the month of September and will promote local campaigns. If partners are interested in working together on a campaign, they can contact Dusil.

Buckley stated CSU will focus more on digital resources throughout September about low-stress bike routes around town in lieu of in-person events/stations. CSU is still planning to hold Smart Cycling classes, mostly online with some in-person components that will follow social distancing guidelines. CSU will follow the City's lead for Bike to Work Day.

Barzak stated the Town is working with schools to encourage biking to school. The Town is currently working on updates to its Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan, with more focus on promoting trails and safe routes to school. The Town is also working on a quick win project to improve access and aesthetics on the Great Western Trail near Weld County Road 74.

Olinger stated the Town of Berthoud is planning to encourage participation in Bike to Work Day in its fall newsletter that is mailed out with utility bills.

Baxter stated the City of Greeley plans to support the any Bike to Work Day events via social media, but will take a hands off approach compared with previous years. Plans for promoting active modes across the month of September are still undetermined.

Young Winne stated she will be leaving LCDHE to be a Town Planner with the Town of Wellington later in August. Brooke Bettolo will attend NoCo next month on behalf of LCDHE. The Built Environment Program's Technical Assistance Survey is out to understand partner needs. The next Built Environment Learning Series will be held September 3rd from 9:15am to 10:45am. Kimberly Davis from the US Census Bureau will speak about changes in the 2020 Decennial Census compared with previous Census' and when the public can expect information to be released, among other topics.

Pinkham stated Weld County is finalizing its Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan updates. Dusil will send out links for public comment.

Heidt stated the City of Brighton held a Bike to Work Day event in June called the "Brighton Bike-In Burrito Bash" and there was good turnout and social distancing. The City will be doing the same thing again on September 22nd. There was also a virtual bike ride in May, and Full Moon Bike Rides in June and July. The City recently opened a section of the Colorado Front Range Trail from Highway E-470 to State Highway 7. The trail now extends from Brighton to the Chatfield Reservoir.

Guthrie stated Loveland's Bike to Work Day plans are not set, but they will be tying into the efforts of other organizations, such the Cycle September campaign through the League of American Bicyclist, the Bike to Wherever Week pledge by DRCOG and Way to Go, and the City of Fort Collins Shift Your Ride campaign. Loveland will combine various elements of these efforts across the month of September. Connect Loveland should be adopted by the end of the year. The Plan will be brought back to public again soon. A CDOT-funded Safe Routes to School project will break ground this fall along Wilson Avenue.

Meyer stated Johnstown is still working on Comprehensive Plan updates. The Town has received many comments about parks, trails, and better overall connections for active transportation. The Town is trying to work more closely with the school district on these issues and is budgeting for a Transportation Master Plan update in 2021. The Town would like to work more closely with developers on creating safer active mode connections.

Debo stated the City of Evans typically provides a breakfast station along 35th Avenue for Bike to Work Day, but is unsure of plans for this year. The City recently submitted a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant application for improvements to the recently acquired open space near Arrowhead Reservoir and the Tuscany subdivision. An asphalt patching project was recently completed and the Transportation Master Plan surveys are out now.

Beckstrom encouraged people with longer commutes to park their vehicles short of their destination and bike in from a shorter distance during September. WCDPHE will be promoting any community plans for Bike to Work Day. Beckstrom encouraged anyone who lives or works in Weld County to provide feedback on the Transportation and Comprehensive Plans.

Nichols stated the City of Fort Collins will encourage biking to work as part of the Shift Your Ride campaign, which will carry over into October and is part of a larger citywide initiative. The City recently held a northwest trails completion ribbon cutting event to celebrate a new spur trail from the Poudre River Trail and another trail in the new Puente Verde Natural Area that improve access to Lincoln Middle School, Putnam Elementary School, and Irish Elementary School. The City held twelve summer bike camps this year, reaching over 100 children. Poudre School District is planning for remote learning for the first couple months of the school year. The City is increasing its focus on providing digital content. Educational videos are available for anyone to use. The program will be presented during remote physical education classes. The City also hopes to break ground on a CDOT-funded Safe Routes to School infrastructure project before end of year along the Hampshire bikeway.

Maes stated she is working on marketing plan for the One-Call One-Click Center as well as an inventory of community resources for accessibility to provide assist client with additional needs.

Bassinger stated the City is finishing up its Parks and Recreation Master Plan and it will be presented to the City Council soon for adoption. Throughout the Plan's development, the trails system was near top of many lists as a favorite/important component. The City plans to submit a couple Safe Routes to School project applications to CDOT's Call. The 60 percent design plans for the Poudre Trail are available now, and the City hopes to go to bid next year. The City has a Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) fund that helps with alternative mode improvements along arterial roadways by putting an additional charge on development. The City recently approved the use of those funds for trail underpasses.

Dixon stated Bike Fort Collins will be working with City on promoting the Shift Your Ride campaign and Bike to Wherever Day. Bike Fort Collins also has a new website and other programmatic things in the works for update at a future meeting. Bike Fort Collins will also be supporting at least one Safe Routes to School grant application.

Approval of July Minutes

The July 8, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

Call for Projects Recommendations: July TAC Meeting Recap and Next Steps

Guthrie stated the Memo went to TAC in July with mixed response and mild support. The Leadership Team is working to address concerns raised by TAC members, including:

- Would the percentage allocation include any project with a bike/ped component or only project on or consistent with the Regional Active Transportation Corridor (RATC) network?
- How would projects that would be used more for recreation than for commute/utilitarian trips be considered and scored?
- Are there compromises within NoCo's original recommendations that would be amenable, given the many other recommendations up for consideration?
- What is the best way to quantify induced single-occupant vehicle (SOV) travel demand on a project-by-project basis?

Fodge stated the idea of flexibility within the Call for Projects seemed to be a new topic for many TAC members and the July meeting was a good opportunity to highlight that. NoCo should follow up at a future meeting to address the concerns raised.

Barzak stated there was mixed feedback but bringing the topic back is important and encouraging more conversation should be a focus.

Dusil stated the next steps are to consider how to account for these concerns in preparation for a larger Call for Projects discussion at TAC on September 16. NFRMPO staff will be looking for guidance from TAC members on which changes to prioritize now, which to explore further, and which can be revisited as the Call gets closer. The Leadership Team will prepare considerations to share with NoCo at their September 9 meeting.

Heidt suggested continuing to promote NoCo and the group's work at TAC meetings. Dusil stated NoCo plans to do this and has increased such efforts in recent months, creating and sharing promotional materials that highlight the group and what it does.

Baxter asked if the group is open to compromises on the requests.

Fodge stated the group is definitely willing to work with TAC to compromise or refine the proposal. The Leadership Team will work with NFRMPO staff to identify various options that address the concerns raised by TAC. NoCo would like to continue highlighting how the recommendations are consistent with existing processes in other regions. The Leadership Team also understands TAC members will need time to consider whether they are representing their community's best interests when recommending changes to the Call.

Regional Active Transportation Corridor (RATC) Project Updates: Corridor Segments and Important Local Connections

Dusil stated the RATC Project Pipeline is useful in preparation for the Call for Projects, Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) development, and general coordination and prioritization efforts ahead of funding opportunities.

Dusil requested NoCo members update the RATC Project Pipeline with the latest project information or contact Dusil to discuss further. NoCo members discussed:

- Potential realignments to RATC #11 between 71st and 83rd Avenues in Greeley;
- Potential realignments or interim alignments to RATC #11 near Kendall Parkway in Loveland;
- Extending RATC #10 from Greeley to Eaton via bikeable shoulders along Weld County Road 35 or another parallel route; and,
- Extending RATC #5 in Windsor to connect to RATC #4.

NoCo members also discussed establishing standards for bikeable shoulders on regional routes and would like to see improved promotion of these corridors and upcoming projects to the public. Several NoCo members will review alignments internally and reach out to Dusil with updates. Dusil will begin scheduling meetings with community staff soon.

Final Words

Future agenda ideas:

- Training: How to Perform a Walking Audit
- Presentation: Pedestrian counts using data from GPS-enabled devices
- Presentation: Protected bike/ped infrastructure options
- Presentation/Discussion: Larimer and Weld County Health Survey Data