

Northern Colorado Bike & Ped Collaborative

Minutes – Wednesday, September 9, 2020

GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting



Introductions

- ❖ **Aaron Fodge**, Colorado State University
- ❖ **Abdul Barzak**, Town of Severance
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Kristen Debo**, City of Evans
- ❖ **Leslie Beckstrom**, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- ❖ **Mark Heidt**, City of Brighton
- ❖ **Nancy Nichols**, City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- ❖ **Ryan Dusil**, NFRMPO
- ❖ **Tom Jones**, Great Western Trail Authority
- ❖ **Zac Wiebe**, Larimer County Natural Resources
- ❖ **Matt Ruder**, City of Loveland Public Works
- ❖ **Suzanne Bassinger**, City of Fort Collins Park Planning

Favorite Unique Word

Derecho, Dilly Dally, Bivouac, Bamboozled, Awesomesauceness, Peloton, Velleity, Epitome, Pau (Hawaiian), Wanderlust, Acyclica, Aplomb, Exacerbate, Unique, Onomatopoeia, Catawampus, and using nouns as verbs (such as “I am calendaring that”).

Roundtable Updates

Dusil stated NoCo will likely plan to hold meetings remotely at least through the end of 2020 since the Windsor Community Recreation Center is closed. At their September 3, 2020 meeting, the NFRMPO Planning Council adopted a Towards Zero Deaths Policy which will commit the NFRMPO to do more with crash data and prioritized safety in its plans and programs.

Fodge stated CSU received a Colorado Revitalizing Main Streets grant and is wrapping up a wayfinding and trail expansion project on campus.

Barzak stated Severance is hosting an open house for its Transportation Master Plan update on September 23 and Town Staff are working on various other projects and code updates related to transportation.

Dixon stated Bike Fort Collins (BFC) is supporting a Ride for Racial Justice beginning from Spring Canyon Park at 10:00am Saturday, September 12, 2020. BFC is also cohosting the 2020 Virtual NOCO Bike Summit on Monday, September 14, 2020 via Zoom and space is limited. BFC also just launched a raffle to win a Niner gravel bike as well as \$7,500 in other prizes. Registration information for all these initiatives is available on the BFC webpage. BFC is also working with Wish for Wheels to find business sponsors to provide bikes to all Title 1 schools in the Poudre School District (PSD), totaling about 400 students. Any interested businesses should contact Dixon.

Pinkham stated Weld County is working on its Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Plan updates. Weld County also just completed its first roundabout at the intersection of Weld County Road (WCR) 54 / State Highway (SH) 402 and WCR 17.

Heidt stated the City of Brighton is updating its Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan and tying it into its Comprehensive Plan. The City's portion of the Front Range Trail was recently completed, which now connects as far south as Chatfield Reservoir. The City is also working on ditch agreements for the Speer Canal Trail and Circular Trail, which is a half completed 22-mile loop around Brighton. The City recently received a grant for the Aichelman Open Space, land belonging to an 1800's historic farm with an existing farm house that will serve as the City's outdoor education office. Elected and appointed leadership positions at the City are turning over rapidly.

Paulmeno stated he is interested in learning more about bicycle and pedestrian project in the region so he can promote them within Loveland and stay up to date.

Guthrie stated the City of Loveland is cosponsoring the Northern Colorado (NoCo) Active Transportation Challenge to encourage people across the region to switch one car trip to biking, walking, or riding the bus the week of September 20-26. For Loveland, this initiative will replace the traditional Bike to Work Day events. Anyone is welcome to join. The Connect Loveland Plan is still on pace for City Council adoption in early 2021.

Zuniga stated bid opening for the trail over BNSF railroad at Sunset Vista Natural Area is October 15. The City is also working on the Namaqua to Wilson Avenue Trail connection, which will involve an at-grade road crossing; seeking grant funds for additional parking at Oxbow Natural Area, which has had parking constraints since the COVID-19 pandemic began; in the design phase of the Centerra / South Boyd Lake Trail; looking at alignment options for the for the Eagle Vista Trail that will connect to Berthoud; and, is working through some easement issues for the Big Thompson River Trail crossing at I-25 due to some waterway and land conflicts.

Debo stated the City of Evans is starting its 37th Street widening project soon; closing out the 35th Avenue project; waiting to hear back on the grant for a new open space near Arrowhead Reservoir; has selected a consultant for their Transportation Master Plan; and, is conducting surveys of residents and business, with a focus in September on trails and parks.

Beckstrom stated Weld County will be hosting a virtual town hall on October 28 to discuss the results from their 2018 Community Health Survey.

Ruder stated 37th Street just opened with new bikes lanes and sidewalks at the bridge over Dry Creek. "Bikes May Use Full Lane" signs were recently installed on 57th Street where no shoulder currently exists.

Nichols stated the City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program will be operating virtually and is working on more videos for education. The City is also working with the Fort Collins Bike Co-Op to give away 40 bicycles that would otherwise be discarded. The bike/ped improvements at the intersection of Hampshire Road and Drake Road that received and Colorado SRTS grant in 2018 should break ground by the end of the year. The City may also apply for SRTS funds to connect K-8 students in southeast Fort Collins from the Power Trail across Timberline Road. The City has kicked off its Shift Your Ride campaign for September and Tessa Gregor will be leaving the City to become the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Manger for the City of Boise. FC Moves is asking for permission to fill the vacancy.

Bassinger stated CDOT plans to work on the I-25 bridge over the Poudre River in late Spring 2023, at which point they will provide the trail underpass. The City is debating when to construct their section of the trail connecting to it. The City is planning for 2022 construction of the Siphon Overpass trail over the Union Pacific Railroad and connecting to the Power Trail between Harmony Road and Trilby Road. The City has also recently decided revenue from the Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) can be used for grade-separated trail crossings.

Jones stated the Great Western Trail Authority (GWTA) is finishing up construction of the 5.5-mile section of trail between Severance and Eaton. They will be installing signage at county roads, working on the trestle bridge over Roulard Lake, seeding and mulching, and installing a permanent counter in Eaton to wrap up the work. The GWTA will also be pursuing a non-motorized trails grant through Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) to construct trailheads in Severance and Eaton that were designed pro bono by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The designs are being reviewed by an area wildlife biologist.

Wiebe stated Larimer County is working on design of the Poudre River Trail gap between Timnath and Windsor and recently completed environmental and cultural surveys. They would like to align their construction with CDOT's I-25 work. Much of 2020 has been focused on trail maintenance due to increased use during the pandemic.

Approval of August Minutes

The August 12, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

NoCo Active Transportation Challenge

Guthrie and Dusil stated the NoCo Active Transportation Challenge is a partnership between the NFRMPO, the City of Loveland, and the City of Greeley to encourage people to switch one car trip to a bike, bus, or walk trip between September 20-26. Participants who take the #SwitchATrip pledge and a survey at the end of the week are entered into a drawing for various prizes, including gift cards, transit passes, hats, shirts, bike lights, water bottles, and more. Any agencies who would like to partner should contact Dusil and/or help by promoting and sharing social media content about the Challenge. More information can be found at <https://nfrmpo.org/noco-switch/>.

Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant: FY 2021 Applications

Dusil stated this is an opportunity for the Collaborative to discuss application plans, ask questions, and offer advice for approaching various grant opportunities

Wiebe stated the various grant programs through CPW have varying requirements and more strings are typically attached to the larger funding pots, such as dedicating land for recreation in perpetuity. Wiebe stated Larimer County is considering applying to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the Poudre River Trail project.

Heidt stated the LWCF grant requires Davis-Bacaon wages because it is a federal program, while the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant and other state funding sources do not have these requirements

Jones stated when the GWTA received a CPW Colorado the Beautiful grant a few years ago, they were able to match it using the CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding.

Fodge stated it is important to speak to how the benefits of the project meet the intent of the funding program; for instance, for CPW grants it is more important to emphasize the recreation benefits of a trail project before commuting benefits. It is also important for applicants to establish why they are in need of the funding.

Nichols stated the City of Fort Collins intends to apply for SRTS funds for a project to construct the Siphon Overpass and Timberline Road underpass, as well as a trail connection between them.

Zuniga stated the City of Loveland is applying for funding through the GOCO Resiliency grant to add parking near the new Oxbow Natural Area and asked if others are applying to this program. Heidt stated the term trailhead will be preferred by the review committee and that the City should focus on how the project brings recreation and wellness benefits in the time of the pandemic. Fodge added that it is helpful if the City can demonstrate that the project improves equitable access to the trail and recreation network. Wiebe stated there is a lot of funding left in this program.

Call for Projects Recommendations

The Leadership Team stated the recommendations were revised following the July 15, 2020 TAC meeting to address TAC member questions and concerns. Revisions include making the memo more concise, including alternative options, and providing more clarity where needed. The revised memo will be included in the September 16, 2020 TAC meeting packet to help guide parts of the Call for Projects conversations moving forward. The intent of the memo remains unchanged: to increase the competitiveness of bicycle and pedestrian as well as other projects that encouraging travel shift towards non-single occupant vehicle (SOV) modes.

Heidt asked if the memo addresses state funding programs. Dusil stated it is only addressing The NFRMPO Call for Projects.

Bassinger made a motion to approve the revised memo. Wiebe seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Final Words

Future agenda ideas:

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